

WEST PENN BASEBALL PROSPECTS

Volume 4, Issue 3

June 2007

WBCA All-Star Weekend

The WPIAL Baseball Coaches Association (WBCA) held its 4th annual All-Star Weekend on June 15 and 16. *West Penn Baseball Prospects* was pleased to continue its working relationship with the WBCA throughout an activity-packed weekend.

The All-Star Weekend would not be possible without the support and hard work of many people. Varsity Gold was the principal sponsor of this year's event. Other major sponsors included Dick's Sporting Goods, the Pittsburgh, Pirates, BWP Bats, Crons and West Penn Baseball Prospects.

Additional support was provided by a number of others including AD Starr, the Altoona Curve and State College Spikes, Sean Casey, Matt Clement, Brian Graham of the Pirates, JD Engraving, Mizuno, the Mt Lebanon Baseball Boosters, Nike, Pro-Nine, Sporting Goods of New Castle and The Game.

Many of our local high school coaches also supported their event through their participation and hard work. Last and certainly not least, everyone owes a great debt of gratitude to Mark Saghy for his continued efforts in support of this weekend and local high school baseball.

The Weekend included three major events:

- Awards Banquet
- Underclassmen Showcase
- All-Star Doubleheader

Awards Banquet

This year's Awards Banquet was held on June 15 at the Radisson Hotel in Green Tree. Over 250 people attended to honor the WBCA All-Star teams as well as the Players and Coaches of the Year. Former Major Leaguer Sid Bream was this year's Guest Speaker. Mark Saghy served as the Master of Ceremonies for the night.

BWP Bats/Dick's Sporting Goods Players of the Year were **John Thomas** (Laurel High School) in Class A, **Cole Taylor** (Burrell High School) in Class AA, **Zak Sinclair** (West Allegheny High School) in Class AAA and **Cory Mazzoni** (Seneca Valley High School) in Class AAAA. All but Zak Sinclair were on hand to be receive their awards.

BWP Bats/Dick's Sporting Goods Coaches of the Year included **Don Hartman** (California High School) in Class A, **Mark Spohn** (Burrell High School) in Class AA, **Bryan Cornell** (West Allegheny High School) in Class AAA and **Eric Semega** (Seneca Valley High School) in Class AAAA. Coaches Hartman, Spohn and Semega all attended the banquet and received their awards.

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The crowd at the Awards Banquet listens to Sid Bream

Underclassmen Showcase

The Underclassmen Showcase was once again co-sponsored by the WBCA and *West Penn Baseball Prospects*. The Showcase was held for the third time at Ross Memorial Park in Washington, PA and was limited to 2008 graduates who were varsity starters. At least 48 colleges from 11 states were in attendance at the Showcase. (There is a listing of the colleges and pro teams represented at the Showcase on page 6).

The top times and clockings at the showcase are listed on pages 3 and 4. Not reflected in the numbers is the hitting display put on by Jordan Jankowski of Peters Township who hit 5 balls out of the ball park (including one over the scoreboard at Ross Memorial Park) and 2 against the fence. This was clearly the most impressive hitting performance in the three-year history of the Showcase.

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Scouts watch the pitching action at the showcase

The leading performances at the Underclassmen Showcase included:

60s (seconds)

1.	Tyler Savisky, West Allegheny	6.56
1.	Aaron Williams, Quaker Valley	6.56
3.	Carter Haponski, Ford City	6.66
4.	Frankie Matarazzo, Montour	6.68
5.	Jacob Pack, West Mifflin	6.77
6.	Matt Diehl, Greensburg-Salem	6.83
6.	Jim Rider, Peters Township	6.83
8.	Michael O'Neill, North Allegheny	6.84
9.	Nicholas Berdine, Moon	6.86
9.	Anthony Ciafre, Mars	6.86
11.	Brian Billigen, Canevin	6.87
12.	Troy Besterce, Plum	6.90
12.	Nick Erminio, Laurel Highlands	6.90
14.	Scott McGough, Plum	6.91
15.	Ryan Fairbrother, North Hills	6.95
16.	Jordan Steranka, Mt Lebanon	6.98

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Pitching Velocity (MPH)

1.	Samuel O'Neill, North Allegheny	89
2.	Scott McGough, Plum	88
3.	Clint White, Plum	87
3.	Derrick Zeroski, West Allegheny	87
5.	Jim Devine, Central Catholic	86
5.	Jordan Jankowski, Peters Twp	86
5.	Cory McGinnis, Hampton	86
5.	Mike Pelekanos, Franklin Regional	86

Infield Velocity (MPH)

1.	Derrick Zeroski, West Allegheny	90
2.	Tyler Beitel, Kiski Area	88
2.	Mark Diskin, West Allegheny	88
4.	Scott McGough, Plum	87
5.	Jordan Steranka, Mt Lebanon	86
5.	Clint White, Plum	86

Outfield Velocity (MPH)

1.	Eric Isler, Mt Lebanon	89
2.	Carter Haponski, Ford City	88
3.	Brian Billigen, Canevin	87
3.	Ryan Fairbrother, North Hills	87
3.	Pat Glass, Upper St Clair	87
6.	Troy Besterci, Plum	86
6.	Cam Olsen, Serra Catholic	86
6.	Steve Yakopec, Burrell	86

Catcher POP (seconds)

1.	Jordan Jankowski, Peters Twp	1.87
1.	Matthew Kirkwood, New Castle	1.87
3.	Tyler Beitel, Kiski Area	1.88
4.	Anthony DeFabio, Plum	1.95
4.	Cam Olsen, Serra Catholic	1.95

A lengthier list of top performers is available on the website (www.wpabaseball.com) under "WBCA All-Stars". There is also a listing of each player and his best result in each of the categories on the website under "On-Line Newsletters" (Volume 4, Number SC)

All-Star Doubleheader

The weekend concluded at Ross Memorial Park with a doubleheader featuring Class AA vs. Class A and Class AAAA vs. Class AAA. This year's doubleheader was played in beautiful weather but traffic was heavy due to a concert featuring Trace Adkins next door at Console Energy Field. A nice crowd braved far from than ideal parking conditions to give a final salute to this year's senior all-stars. The All-Star Committee and the Washington Wild Things worked together to try to minimize parking headaches. A special thanks goes out to Wayne Herrod of the Wild Things for his help.

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All-Star Doubleheader (continued)

In game action, Class AA defeated Class A by a 2-0 margin in the opener. Offense was in short supply as Class AA pitchers carried a no hitter into the last inning with Mike Cercone of Our Lady of Sacred Heart breaking up the no-hitter. Class AA scored two runs on a wild pitch for their only scores. Jon Bastian (Deer Lakes) of Class AA was selected as the Matt Clement Most Outstanding Pitcher and Anthony Venditti (Greensburg Central Catholic) won the Sean Casey Most Outstanding Offensive Player Award.

The nightcap ended in a 5-1 win by the Class AAA All-Stars. Mars High School dominated the awards with D J Cannon winning the Matt Clement Most Outstanding Pitcher hardware and Zach Zollner winning the Sean Casey Most Outstanding Offensive Player Awards.

Congratulations to Local MLB Draftees

A handful of local players were selected in the recent Major League Baseball Draft. Peters Township's Jimmy Gallagher of Duke was the first local player selected. Gallagher went to the Chicago White Sox in the 7th round. Jimmy has signed with the White Sox and will be playing for Great Falls (Montana) in the Pioneer League. Duquesne University's Keith Meyer, a product of Schenley High School, was the next local player selected with Seattle taking him in the 15th round. Keith is unsigned at this writing.

Pine-Richland's Dale Mollenhauer, attending East Carolina, was selected in the 17th round by the Chicago White Sox. Dale signed with the White Sox and will join Jimmy Gallagher at Great Falls. Brownsville High School grad Chad Rice, attending VMI, was grabbed by the Pirates in the 24th round. Chad has signed with the Pirates but hasn't been assigned to a team yet.

Seton Hill's Rick Austin, from North Hills High School, was drafted by the Phillies in the 27th round. Rick has signed with the Phillies but hasn't been assigned to a minor league team yet. Riverview High School's David Kaye was selected by the Toronto Blue Jays in the 30th round. It looks like Kaye will pass up professional baseball at this time to attend the University of Pittsburgh and hopes to be drafted higher down the road.

Seneca Valley's Dom Duggan, who attended Coastal Carolina, was chosen by the Giants in the 32nd round. Dom has not yet signed with the Giants. Greensburg Central Catholic's Warren Schaeffer, a Virginia Tech product, was selected by the Colorado Rockies in the 38th round. Warren has signed with the Rockies and has been assigned to Tri-City in the Northwest League. Finally, Jordan Tanner of Neshannock High School was picked by the Milwaukee Brewers in the 40th round. Jordan, the grandson of former Pirates manager Chuck Tanner, has not yet signed.

Congratulations to Seneca Valley

Behind the strong pitching of Cory Mazzoni and Kyle Helisek, Seneca Valley rebounded from a third place finish in the WPIALs to win the state Quad A title. Mazzoni led Seneca Valley to a 9-1 extra inning victory in the finals against Souderton. The game was scoreless after seven, tied at 1-1 after 8 and then Seneca Valley exploded for 8 runs in the 9th. Mazzoni went the distance for the win.

Blackhawk (Class AAA) and Seton LaSalle (Class AA) fell a step short with losses in the semi-finals. Congratulations to both teams on a very successful state playoff run.

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Colleges, Junior Colleges and MLB Teams Represented at the Showcase

DIVISION I

Buffalo
Cincinnati
Delaware
Duquesne
Elon
Gardner-Webb
George Mason
High Point
Lafayette
Marist
Niagara
Penn State
Pitt
Richmond
Temple
Towson
VMI
West Virginia
Xavier

DIVISION II

IUP
Mercyhurst
Ohio Valley
Seton Hill
Slippery Rock
Wheeling Jesuit

DIVISION III

Allegheny
Bethany
Grove City
Guilford
Hiram

DIVISION III (continued)

LaRoche
Marietta
Mount Union
Mt Aloysius
Penn State - Behrend
Piedmont
Pitt-Bradford
Pitt-Greensburg
Stevens Tech
Washington & Jefferson
Waynesburg
Wooster

NAIA

Geneva
Point Park
St. Vincent's

JUCOs

Mercyhurst Northeast
Penn State - Fayette
Potomac State

MLB Teams

Brewers
Dodgers
Indians
Major League Scouting Bureau
Orioles
Royals
Yankees

Other

National Scouting Report

Congratulations to this Year's WPIAL Champs

Class AAAA: Peters Township (Runner Up: Bethel Park)
Class AAA: West Allegheny (Runner Up: Blackhawk)
Class AA: North Catholic (Runner Up: Seton LaSalle)
Class A: Springdale (Runner Up: Seton LaSalle)

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College Decisions

Most local players have made college decisions by now. The following list includes all the decisions we know about where the player is likely to continue playing baseball at the college level. Inclusion on the list does not mean the player has received an athletic scholarship, just that it is likely they will be playing college baseball. Please let us know who we have missed.

Bethany	Jonathan	Angel	Albert Gallatin
Indiana Wesleyan	Jon	Bastian	Deer Lakes
Penn State - Behrend	Robbie	Baumgartel	Deer Lakes
Bucknell	Dave	Bergstrom	North Allegheny
California (PA)	Eddie	Beveridge	Seton LaSalle
Case Western Reserve	Steven	Bills	Hempfield
Wheeling Jesuit	Kenny	Blackwell	Waynesburg
Duquesne	Jared	Bowser	Kittanning
Geneva	Steve	Bowser	Beaver
California (PA)	Billy	Brady	Gateway
John Carroll	Calvin	Buerkle	Greensburg Cent Catholic
Charleston Southern	Tom	Burkett	Yough
Westminster	Andrew	Burlett	Ambridge
John Carroll	Jim	Burry	Seneca Valley
Seton Hill	D J	Cannon	Mars
Westminster	Michael	Cercone	Our Lady of Sacred Heart
Penn State - Beaver	Ryan	Chiapetta	Beaver Falls
St. Vincent	Michael	Christiansen	Our Lady of Sacred Heart
Mercyhurst Northeast	Corey	Collins	Laurel
LaRoche	Marcus	Cook	Laurel
Marietta	Tom	DeAngelis	Moon
Thiel	Mike	Deems	New Brighton
Bethany	Ty	Dillinger	McKeesport
Slippery Rock	Derek	DiRuscia	Blackhawk
Penn State - Beaver	Jake	Ellis	Seneca Valley
Sussex County Comm. College	Elmer	Engle	Albert Gallatin
West Virginia Wesleyan	Gene	Franks	Albert Gallatin
Washington & Jefferson	Ian	Gabos	Vincentian Academy
Grove City	Michael	Galis	California
Oakland University	Pat	Gannon	Upper St. Clair
Point Park	Sean	Gaughan	Baldwin
Marietta	Bryce	Goldbach	Moon
Maryland - East. Shore	John	Goray	Seton-LaSalle
IUP	Gabe	Grinder	Seneca Valley
Point Park	Brian	Grise	Steel Valley
PSU - Behrend	Adam	Hartwig	North Allegheny
West Virginia Wesleyan	Josh	Haubrich	Norwin
Duquesne	Andrew	Heck	North Hills
Waynesburg	Nathan	Helster	Charleroi
Waynesburg	Steven	Hubsch	Brentwood
Allegheny	Ryan	Huebner	West Allegheny
Elon	Ryan	Hulme	Center
Louisburg College	Zachary	Jeney	California
Kenyon	Mike	Kalis	Sewickley Academy
Ohio Wesleyan	Zack	Kaminski	Mt Lebanon
Notre Dame	Matt	Katich	Mohawk
Pitt	David	Kaye	Riverview
California (PA)	A J	Kerr	Chartiers-Houston
Penn State - Behrend	Eddie	Kessler	Bethel Park

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College Decisions (continued)

Grove City	Andrew	Klimek	South Fayette
Mercyhurst Northeast	David	Klocek	Serra Catholic
Bethany	Mike	Kochman	Serra Catholic
Seton Hill	Pat	Kohl	Kiski Area
PSU - Behrend	Andy	Kountz	Bethel Park
Grove City	Butch	Kruger	Montour
Point Park	Jordan	Lang	Seton LaSalle
Furman	Ryan	Lang	Mt Lebanon
Piedmont	Casey	LaValle	Chartiers Valley
Pitt	Joe	Leonard	Connellsville
Xavier	Shane	Liska	Central Catholic
Seton Hill	Jared	Littler	West Allegheny
Duquesne	Joe	Lombardo	Shaler
Penn State - Beaver	Steve	Lowry	Riverside
Seton Hill	Ed	Lynch	Kiski Area
Mt. Aloysius	Matt	Mangery	Greensburg-Salem
Allegheny	Isaac	Marx	North Allegheny
St Vincent's	Anthony	Mattei	Greensburg Central Catholic
Seton Hill	Dave	McCarthy	Baldwin
Concord	Nick	Merolillo	North Allegheny
Slippery Rock	Mitchell	Monas	Waynesburg
Penn State - Behrend	Rick	Moyer	Ambridge
Xavier	Brian	Muransky	Canon McMillan
Southern Illinois	Chris	Murphy	Fox Chapel
LaRoche	George	Nahay	Thomas Jefferson
Washington & Jefferson	Justin	Napper	North Allegheny
Bethany	Matt	Nemec	Riverside
Calhoun Comm. College	Joe	Noro	Fox Chapel
Wheeling Jesuit	Andrew	Onufrak	Butler
Mercyhurst Northeast	Dennis	Ovesney	Keystone Oaks
PSU - Behrend	Tom	Pasinski	West Mifflin
PSU - Behrend	Blake	Pavlik	Kiski Area
Point Park	Bryce	Pfueffer	Montour
Mercyhurst Northeast	Logan	Phillips	Carmichaels
Seton Hill	Rick	Rareigh	North Allegheny
Bethany	Zane	Reese	Kiski Area
Mercyhurst Northeast	Reed	Schwetz	Freedom
Grove City	J T	Seelman	Thomas Jefferson
IUP	Jacob	Shaffer	Kiski Area
Xavier	Tommy	Shirley	Norwin
PSU - Altoona	Andy	Slifko	West Allegheny
Gardner-Webb	Brett	Stackhouse	Chartiers Valley
Penn State - Beaver	Zach	Stobart	Center
Grove City	Steve	Stombaugh	Mt Lebanon
Allegheny	Mike	Susi	Hampton
Pitt	Cole	Taylor	Burrell
Thiel	Jim	Teyssier	Montour
Slippery Rock	John	Thomas	Laurel
Bethany	Aaron	Thompson	Carmichaels
West Virginia	Rich	Toal	Montour
Seton Hill	Curtis	Tucak	Penn-Trafford
James Madison	Alex	Valadja	North Catholic
Johns Hopkins	Anthony	Venditti	Greensburg Cent Catholic
Seton Hill	Brian	Warheit	Butler

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College Decisions

Seton Hill	Matt	Whiteman	Norwin
West Virginia	Matt	Wier	Mohawk
John Carroll	Brian	Wisniewski	North Hills
PSU - Behrend	Ryan	Zamiskie	Penn-Trafford
Grove City	Adam	Zimmerman	Hopewell
Waynesburg	Derek	Zofchak	Canon McMillan

Contact Info

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Website

WEST PENN BASEBALL PROSPECTS' website address is www.wpabaseball.com. Please visit the website and tell us what you think. Back issues can be downloaded from the website.

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