

Team  Watching



*Barbe High School
Lake Charles, Louisiana*

Watching high school baseball around the country is exciting. Rare is it to find a team that has dominated their league and region like Barbe High School. The Buccaneers have been district champs for the last twelve consecutive years, and are one game away from repeating. Coach Glenn Cecchini is proud of his 2007 team all things considered.

“We lost seven starters, three of them pitchers, and we were expecting to reload this year,” commented coach Cecchini.

Currently Barbe is 32-4, and performing well above expectations. In a tough district where four out of the top ten players are drafted out of high school, Barbe is tied for the region championship.

The Buccaneers success can be attributed to their ability to swing the stick, and keep their opponents off the bases. The top hitter on the squad is Carmen Angelini, who is hitting .424 with 56 hits, 12 doubles, 6 triples and 6 home runs. He also has 46 RBI's and 35 stolen bases. Not only is Angelini a gamer, he gets in done in the classroom with a 4.0 grade point average. Barbe's shortstop, Angelini, has already signed a letter of intent for Rice University.

Helping him out are Thad Griffen, 88th top catcher in the nation, hitting .365, with 35 hits, 8 doubles, 11 home runs, and 37 RBI's; Ryan Doiron, hitting .381, with 40 hits, 7 doubles, 1 triple, 9 home runs, and 46 RBI's. Doiron also has 20 stolen bases. Let's not forget Tanner Mathis, hitting .400, with 10 doubles, 1 home run, 23 stolen bases and 32 RBI's; and Josh Levert hitting just around .400, with 8 doubles, 3 home runs, 20 RBI's and 20 stolen bases.

Backing up the offense is a core of strong pitchers. Heading up the staff is Spencer Mathews with a record of 11-1, followed by Trey Brown 8-0, and Ryan Boiron 7-3. Coach Cecchini reports, “Our pitching staff is good.” With those numbers one can see good is an understatement.

“I'm really proud of our guys, its been 10 years in a row with 30 or more wins. It's a real tribute to our kids they really stepped up. Now with one game left we're right there, we just have to win,” Coach commented.

Keep swinging and it'll get done. Good luck Bucs!

By David A. Himmelstein