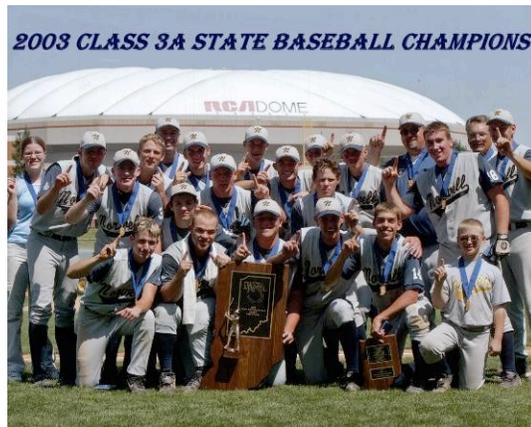


Team



Watching



*Calvert Hall College High School
Baltimore, Maryland*

By David Himmelstein

The Cardinals have started their season off in the same fashion in which it ended, by winning. After playing only one game this spring Coach Lou Eckerl can see good things on the horizon and keeps his winning streak alive.

The 2007 Varsity Baseball Team broke the 2005 record for consecutive game win streak of 31, and set the current Maryland state record of 33 wins. Not only was the varsity team undefeated the whole program was 75-0. This is considered a triple crown for the Calvert Hall College Cardinal baseball program.

Coach Eckerl was asked about his program's philosophy. He shared that in particular the varsity team's work ethic is extremely good. He believes that the Cardinals, out work other teams. One of the defining points of his team is how hard each guy hustles.

"Every game is 50/50. Someone is going to win and someone is going to lose. We feel we are going to win. Every day we go out there and work to get better. The better we get, the better chance we have to win," reports Eckerl while discussing a team motto.

It doesn't hurt to have a little talent as well. The Cardinals have three top players that will lead this team to victory. As the Baltimore Sun 2007 Baseball Player of the Year, third baseman and pitcher Kevin Lingerman has already displayed his dominance. Lingerman a four year starter posted a batting average of .390, in 100 at bats, with 39 hits, 11 doubles, 2 triples and 3 home runs. Lingerman also stole 7 bases and had 47 RBI's. As a pitcher Lingerman had a 1.49 ERA in 47 innings, with 53 strikeouts. He held his opponents to a batting average of only .200 while winning 7 games.

Next to help lead the Calvert Hall Cardinals is Patrick Blair, who coach Eckerl thinks could be the best player to come through the school. Blair is a junior, three year starter at shortstop. In 2007 he had a batting average of .534 in 103 at bats. He had 55 hits, 15 doubles, 4 triples, and 4 home runs. Blair drove in 31 runs and had 28 stolen bases. Not to mention an impressive fielding percentage. Coach Eckerl has high expectations for this young man.

As the number one starter, right handed pitcher Michael Dillon was a big reason why the Cardinals dominated in 2007. He returns this year to pick up where he left off.

Dillon had a 2.05 ERA in 65 innings. He was undefeated with 9-0 record and had 85 strikeouts.

Patrick Blair, Kevin Lingerman, and Mike Dillon were named to All MIAA Teams and All Metro Teams in 2007. These are the guys Eckerl knows the rest of the team will follow.

“We’ve got six or seven returning pitchers, who could all start. It’s a great nucleus of guys!” states Coach Eckerl.

Maryland watch out! The Calvert Hall Cardinals are not going away. They will continue to be the team with the target on their back.

“The point is everyone out here loves the game of baseball. But the challenge is what can you do to get better? Well I tell my guys, you better come out and work hard. ‘Cause if you don’t then you’re gonna get beat. And we’re the team people wanna beat!” Eckerl expresses.

While the weather is getting nicer in Maryland the Calvert Hall Cardinals are preparing for a season to match 2007. With a preseason national ranking of #2 from Baseball America and #9 from Collegiate Baseball, Eckerl reminds his team they have proven nothing.

“Those rankings have nothing to do with this team. The ranking is all about the past teams,” repeats Eckerl.

The Cardinals have won three Maryland Interscholastic Athletic Association Championships in a row 2005, 2006, and 2007. This is an impressive feat.

The Calvert Hall College Cardinals look to make it four in row with a championship in 2008. Watch this team closely as they have multiple talents and a good core of players.

We’ll all be watching. Good Luck!