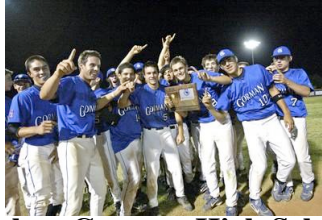


**Team**  **Watching**



**Bishop Gorman High School  
Las Vegas, Nevada**

As the regular season finishes up in the West Coast, its time for the defending champs to prepare for the second season. It is always difficult to defend a title; it is even harder when going for three in a row. Bishop Gorman is the two-time state champion in Nevada's largest conference 4A, and they are favored to win it all again.

With a 32-2 record, Bishop Gorman is ranked third nationally and leads in several team stats. The Gaels have scored 420 runs, with three players ranked as number 1, 2 and 7. Bishop Gorman also carries a team batting average of .430. Six out of nine starters are hitting over .400 and two others are in the high .300's for batting average. Coach Chris Sheff reports, "This is the best team I've had in my five years here."

The proof is in the pudding. Starting with the outstanding seniors, Donn Roach, RHP, 6-2, 195 has an 8-0 pitching record with a 1.27 ERA. He has 57 strikeouts in 39 innings. Brandon Garcia, OF, 6-1, 205, is currently hitting .409 with 9 homeruns, 47 RBI.

Then there is John Rickard, C, 6-0, 195 currently hitting .452 also with 9 homeruns, 53 RBI. John has been the starting catcher for the last three years. He has committed to Dixie State College (Division II), but there is much interest by D-1 schools lately. He also received the Gorman Defensive Player of the Year the past two seasons.

Rounding out the senior class is Paul Sewald, OF-RHP, 6-4, 170 hitting .383 with 3 homeruns, 38 RBI. He is 5-0 with 2.12 ERA this season. All the seniors with exception of Rickard are four-year lettermen and are the solid nucleus of the team.

Sheff a former major leaguer, played 10 years of professional ball, six in Triple A. He played with the Florida Marlins, Oakland A's, New York Mets and Cincinnati Reds, is proud of his team. He believes in a strong work ethic and team mentality.

"We work extremely hard and the results show. I think our summer program and our fall program have helped immensely," Sheff is quoted as saying.

Some other players worth noting are Jeff Malm junior 1B-LHP, 6-3, 225. He is currently hitting .579 with 59 RBI, 62 hits, 25 doubles, 6 homeruns. Jeff played on the U.S.A. 18-and-under team last summer as a 16-year-old. He was first team All-Nevada as a sophomore.

Joey Rickard junior CF-LHP, 6-1, 175 is currently hitting .534 with 72 runs, 40 RBI, 9 homeruns. He has 55 hits, and is 31 of 32 in stolen bases. Like Jeff, Joey was a first team All-Nevada selection last year. From the bump, Joey is 6-0, with 2.33 ERA. Also a junior, Stephen Manthei RHP 6-1, 205 has a 7-0 record with 2.65 ERA.

Neil Lawhorn is a sophomore C-OF, 6-0, 200, and is hitting .434 with 3 homeruns and 32 RBI. Neil was as a starter as a freshman last year, hitting .477. Then there is Johnny Field also a sophomore, 2B-OF, 5-10, 175. He is hitting .418 with 50 runs, and 3 homers. He also was a starter as a freshman last year, hitting .380.

It seems as if Bishop Gorman will dominate for the coming years. Coach Sheff has established a good reputation as a coach with a 143-36-2 record. Bishop Gorman being his first coaching post.

Great job coach! Good luck Gaels! The path to championship is through you!

**By David Himmelstein**