

“Molding Young Men into People that can also Play Baseball”



By Tim Saunders
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After being a high school varsity head coach for 22 years, I agree it is great to walk into the season with outstanding natural talent. However, those seasons are an exception for most of us at the high school level when recruiting is not an option. I have come to enjoy the challenge that high school aged players bring into opening day of their freshman year—knowing that these are the players I have to build my program around for the next four years.

All players are going to improve through mental and physical maturity. They are going to learn more about the game through game situations and repetitions in practice. Most of our players would love to play professional baseball but with their God given skills, they become satisfied with being able to play at the collegiate level. Knowing that more of our incoming freshman will not play college baseball than those who will shows me that these kids need more than weight room work, repetition in practice, and numbers of games per year. They need a positive experience that will last them a lifetime. That is the ultimate goal we strive for at Dublin Coffman High School.

We try to instill the importance of program over individual. In order to have a fun season you must have players, parents, and coaches all on the same page trying to accomplish the same goals. My first objective is to find good people to work with. During our fall parent meeting and at our first winter player weightlifting meeting, I pass out my list that outlines what I am looking for in player that wears the Dublin Coffman Baseball uniform. To me these are common sense things that every person should inspire to do and be. They do not make you win games but they do make you winners and I believe that is what the amateur baseball experience is all about.

Once the kids see what I am looking for, I review our chances for next year and what it takes to be a competitive club for the spring season. My intent is to show them that if you prepare properly and do the little things right, then you will win on the field. Many times we get so caught up with who the other programs are we seem to overestimate what they have. After understanding what those good teams really have and do not have, I try to stress that we can look around the room and find those same type players right in front of us. You just have to go out and work for it.

To win championships take talented players, consistency, good chemistry, and a little luck. With good kids who love the game you have a better chance of accomplishing those championship goals.

Dublin Coffman Baseball Program

What the Coaches are looking for:

- Kids who make good decisions and try to do the right thing in all situations,
- Kids who have a positive personality.
- Kids who are confident but not arrogant.
- Kids who are polite and use good manners.
- Kids who make people smile.
- Kids who are able to make someone's day.
- Kids whom other people root for.
- Kids who are part of the solution, not part of the problem.
- Kids who dress neatly and act appropriately.
- Kids who are clean cut and like being who they are.
- Kids who show respect for adults and authority.
- Kids who root for our school and our students, not kids that insult others.
- Kids who give all-out effort and don't avoid work.
- Kids who show their ability on the field, not ones that talk about it.
- Kids who know how to handle success and know how to accept defeat.
- Kids that love to play the game of baseball and want to be part of a team.

****I want our players to fear the consequences of not playing and be disappointed when they let the other players down.

****I want our players to want the same things as our coaches.

- We must be unselfish.
- We must respect each other.
- We must respect the opponent.
- We must respect the game.

Relax, Have Fun, Play your Hardest Physically and Mentally!

How Do We Compare?

Take a look at this Year's Best Teams...

They will not:

1. Have more than one All State Player.
2. Have draft picks.
3. Have more that 3-4 players go on to play college baseball.

They will:

1. Get on base regularly with a high team on base percentage.
2. Bunt and hit and run consistently when the situation allows.
3. Field and throw without a lot of mistakes.
4. Have pitchers that get ahead in the count and not walk a lot of batters.
5. Be contact (line drive) hitters, putting pressure on the defense.
6. Work as a unit and get along with each other.
7. Have players who are also good students and good kids.
8. Have fun and play relaxed.
9. Have many kids who over achieve during the season

Results:

1. Players in the area top stats columns.
2. Lots of wins.
3. They will be your League Champions, Sectional Champions, and District Champions.
4. They will be in the area and state rankings.
5. They will have overall school, parent and community support.
6. They will have accomplished their goals and will have a memorable season.