

2009



Team to Watch



**Naples High School
Naples, Florida**

By David Himmelstein

2009 is the year of the newly crowned champion. The Naples Golden Eagles won the Florida Class 4A championship, in a pitching duel. Naples held Bishop Moore to just three hits in this title fight.

Lead by Tyler Koronos the Golden Eagles went 33-1. Koronos, senior SS/2B, hit .380 with 41 hits, 4 doubles, 3 triples, 2 home runs and 14 RBI's. He scored 39 runs and had 16 stolen bases.

"Tyler was elected captain as a junior. He is a true leader, on and off the field. As a coach I didn't have to say much, he knew the routine," Coach Rick Turner speaks proudly.

This team had a great mix of great players. The combination of speed and strength training and competing against each other during practice raised the desire to win.

Good pitching was also a big component of the Golden Eagles nearly perfect season. Senior Josh Patton dominated from the hill. He was 12-0 with a 0.90 ERA in 77.2 innings. Patton had 97 strikeouts giving up only 47 hits and 20 walks. Josh also helped out from the plate, hitting .355 with 22 hits, 2 doubles and a triple.

Patton was also awarded the Class 4A Player of the Year.

Adding to the pitching staff was Ryan Sadler, P/1B, who was 9-1 with a 1.18 ERA in 59.1 innings. He had 62 strikeouts, only 38 hits and 34 walks. Sadler also hit .375 with 21 hits, 4 doubles and 4 home runs.

Then there is Cameron Griffin, junior P/OF, who would come in to games and take over. He was 5-0 with 5 saves and a 1.21 ERA in 29 innings. Griffin fanned 35, giving up 20 hits and only walking 12.

Griffin added to the offense as well. He hit .390 with 16 hits 4 doubles, 3 triples, a home run and 12 RBI's.

Brad Fieger, senior 3B, added to the Golden Eagles offense. He hit .452 with 47 hits, 18 doubles 3 triples, 6 home runs, 44 RBI's and 39 runs. Fieger showed his skill in the championship game going 3 for 4 with a double, scoring a run and 2 RBI's.

Another big piece of the Golden Eagles offense this year was Kyle Zech, junior OF. He hit .447 with 42 hits, 4 doubles, 3 triples, 26 RBI's, and 28 runs.

“We set out in the beginning with personal goals and team goals. We worked together to achieve this. Practice was important we were all on the field, JV and Varsity,” reports Coach Turner.

“When we were 25-0 teams were trying to put the pressure on. We just stuck to our goals, and enjoyed playing as a team.”

Coach Rick Turner was awarded Coach of the Year by the Florida Dairy Farmers. He attributed his success to the assistant coaches and the players. It is obvious that this team had chemistry.

In his five years at Naples, Coach Turner's teams have won four district titles, made one Final Four appearance and won a state title He has a career record of 119-45.

Great job this year!