



# LAKEVILLE NORTH PANTHER BASEBALL

Lakeville North High School 19600 Ipava Ave. Lakeville, MN 55044

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MN State Champs 2005 MN State Runner-up 2000  
Lake Conference Champs 1999, 2008, 2009

## 2011 PANTHER MEDIA GUIDE

### 2011 SEASON OUTLOOK

For the third year in a row, the Panther baseball team graduated 10 seniors. It seems that Coach Tony Market would have a rebuilding project, but if 2011 is anything like the last couple seasons, the team won't need to rebuild; they will just reload. While there are plenty of unanswered questions around the diamond, there is no doubt that the 2011 Panthers will be strong on the mound. Number one starter Sr RHP **Tyler Brekke** (All-Lake Conference, 5-2, 2.37 ERA in 2010) returns, along with powerful 6'4 Sr RHP **A.J. Moore** (3-0, 21K in 23IP, 2.40 ERA) and experienced bullpen help from Sr LHP **Jake Berg** (5 appearances, 0.00 ERA). While the lineup does have holes to fill, anchoring the order again will be 2010 All-Lake Conference Hon.Mention Sr 1B **Travis Evanson** (.319, 4 HR, 21 RBI in 20 games) and Sr SS/3B **Gordon Kappers** (.273, .386 OBA) will continue to give us patient at-bats at the top. Also returning to the lineup will be Jr C/OF **Austin Streit**, who went 8-16 with a double, a home run and 5 RBI when called up for the last 5 games of the 2010 season as a sophomore. Many newcomers are going to be competing for time in the lineup or on the mound including Sr P/OF **Bret Piekarski**, Sr C **Jordan Kath**, Sr P/OF **Evan Cordell**, Jr P **Joel Klinkhammer** & Sr Utility **Alex Hanneman**. Track the Panthers 2011 season schedule and statistics at [www.ihigh.com/school24770/index.html](http://www.ihigh.com/school24770/index.html).

### GOODBYE TO THE LAKE CONFERENCE

In 2010, the Lake Conference, once again, sent multiple teams to the large-school state tournament including the two teams (Eden Prairie & Burnsville) who played for the championship at Target Field. In the last 7 seasons, 7 different conference member schools have made state tournament appearances, with a Lake Conf team appearing in 6 state championships and winning state 4 times (including our Panthers in 2005). With this record of success, it is sad to see the Lake Conference break up. The Lake will leave a legacy in Minnesota baseball as one of the most competitive conferences ever and a breeding ground for college and professional prospects. **New Beginnings-** The 2011 season will mark the first for LNHS in the new South Suburban Conference. This new conference is made up of 9 former Lake Conference teams (all but Chaska, Chanhassen & Eden Prairie) with the addition of former Missota Conference member Prior Lake. It is the early perception that the South Suburban will now become the state's most competitive baseball conference.

## PANTHERS 2011 STARS & PROSPECTS



### SR RHP TYLER BREKKE

Brekke returns to the top of the rotation with his 86-mph fastball, dropping curveball & plus slider. He has reliable control with all three pitches and induces groundball after groundball. In 2010, he was 5-2 with a 2.37 ERA. He had 24 strikeouts and only 11 BB in 42 IP.



### SR 1B TRAVIS EVANSON

All you have to do is watch him take BP and you'll see the overflowing potential. In 2010, T.J. hit .319 with 4 HRs and led the team with 21 RBI. He has power to all fields when he is hitting well and has quick hands. The 6'3 Evanson has improved steadily with the glove at 1B as well.



### SR RHP A. J. MOORE

At the American Legion state tournament in 2010, the radar guns hit 89 with A.J. on the mound. At 6'4 and growing, the long, lanky righty has potential off the charts. Moore went 3-0 last season with 21 strikeouts in 23 innings pitched. Big things are expected of him for the 2011 season.



### SR 3B GORDON KAPPERS

Kappers numbers as a junior were modest (.273, .386 OBA, led team in walks), but he showed maturity at the plate when thrust into the leadoff spot and flashed the leather at whatever position needed all season long (3B, SS, 2B, OF). Has potential to be an offensive difference maker in 2011.



### SR LHP/CF JAKE BERG

In limited time as a junior, Berg showed the potential to grow into a complete player. He has great speed in the outfield, a perfect temperament for a left-handed reliever and a stick that has shown signs of power. He'll be asked to fill multiple roles for the team in 2011.

## 2010 SEASON RECAP

Another season is in the books for the Panthers and Coach Tony Market, whose 5-seasons as head coach at Lakeville North have resulted in a 77-42 career record. The 2010 Panthers (12-9) were 9-7 in the Lake Conference-good enough for a fifth place finish in the 12-team conference. The statistics reflect another successful season both offensively and on the mound, as the team compiled a .330 batting average and a 2.93 ERA. The team felt that its depth on the mound and improvements defensively toward the end of the season would lead to playoff success, but the new section format (single elimination) and a great pitching performance from Eagan's #1 starter sent the Panthers home having played the least amount of games in a season (21) in over 20 years. Despite the disappointing conclusion, the team showed progress all year and the individual accolades were, once again, many. Sr OF **Ben Skelly** hit .465 and led the team in hits, runs and stolen bases while finishing second in RBI. Skelly took home Team MVP honors and was named All-Lake Conference before heading to Augustana in South Dakota to play college football. Other All-Lake Conference performers included Jr P **Tyler Brekke** (5-2, 2.37 ERA, only 11 BB in 42+ IP) and Sr OF **Tim Kuzniar** (.405, 17 R, 18 RBI), who will be playing this spring at the University of St. Thomas. SR C **Zach Braun** (.319, 2 HR, 11 RBI) made strides defensively and his bat came alive at the end of the season. Braun was named All-Lake Conference Honorable Mention before heading to play at Bemidji State. Senior pitchers **John Hayes** and **David Hanson** and Jr 1B **Travis Evanson** (.319, 4 HR, 21 RBI) were also recognized as All-Lake Conference Honorable Mention.

## 2010 MLB DRAFT

The 2010 Major League Baseball Amateur Draft provided some additional excitement for the Lakeville North baseball coaching staff this past year. Two former Panthers were drafted during the three-day event. 3B/OF **Michael Kvasnicka** (LNHS '07) was drafted in the 1<sup>st</sup> round (Compensatory A) as the 33<sup>rd</sup> pick overall by the Houston Astros. He played last summer for the Tri-City ValleyCats in the NY-Penn League after completing his junior season for the University of Minnesota Golden Gophers. RHP **Bret Mitchell** (LNHS '07) was the second Panther to be picked when drafted in the 12<sup>th</sup> round (pick #362) by the New York Mets. After completing his junior season for the Minnesota State University Mavericks, Bret played for the Kingsport Mets of the Appalachian League. Bret and Mike were two of the most dedicated players to ever wear the Panther uniform, and the entire Lakeville baseball community couldn't be more proud of them.

## FORMER PANTHERS PLAYING IN COLLEGE IN 2011

<b>NCAA DIVISION I</b>		
Third Baseman	Nick Johnson (LNHS '08)	Bethune-Cookman University Wildcats
Infielder	Nick Judkins (LNHS '08)	Creighton University Blue Jays
Pitcher	Glenn Parker (LNHS '08)	North Dakota State University Bison
Outfielder	Nick Altavilla (LNHS '09)	North Dakota State University Bison
<b>NCAA DIVISION II</b>		
Catcher	Zach Braun (LNHS '10)	Bemidji State University Beavers
<b>NCAA DIVISION III</b>		
Pitcher	Collin Baker (LNHS '09)	St. John's University Johnnies
Pitcher	Josh Englund (LNHS '08)	Northwestern College Eagles
Infielder/Catcher	Andrew Kappers (LNHS '06)	University of St. Thomas Tommies
Outfielder	Ben Freitag (LNHS '09)	North Central University Rams
Outfielder	Tim Kuzniar (LNHS '10)	University of St. Thomas Tommies
Infielder	Nick Kulla (LNHS '10)	St. Olaf College Oles
Catcher	Derek Hahn (LNHS '08)	University of Wisconsin-Superior Yellow Jackets
Infielder	Evan Lucius (LNHS '06)	University of Wisconsin-Superior Yellow Jackets
<b>NJCAA DII</b>		
Pitcher	Andy Yetzer (LNHS '09)	Iowa Central Community College Tritons
Pitcher	John Hayes (LNHS '10)	Iowa Central Community College Tritons
Pitcher	Dylan Thomas (LNHS '09)	Des Moines Area Community College Bears