



LAKEVILLE NORTH PANTHER BASEBALL

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

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MN State Champs 2005 State Runner-up 2000 State 3rd Place 2014 State Consolation Champs 2013
Section Champs 2000, 2005, 2013, 2014 Conference Champs 1999, 2008, 2009, 2013, 2014

2015 PANTHER MEDIA GUIDE

2015 SEASON OUTLOOK

21 pitching wins and most of a potent starting lineup graduated with the class of 2014, but the 2-time defending Section 3AAA and South Suburban Conference champs don't see this as a rebuilding year. All-Conference switch-hitting Sr SS **Angelo Altavilla** (*committed to D-1 University of Nebraska*), set a school record with 37 RBI last season, collected another 43 RBI for Lakeville North's state champion American Legion team, and will return to the heart of the order. And two-thirds of the team's state tournament outfield returns in All-Section 3AAA Sr **Kyle Rhodus** (.362, 10 RBI) and All-Section 3AAA Jr **Drew Stewart** (.400, 17 R, 10 RBI). Sr RHP **Wes Ahlers** (2-0, 1.89, 26K *committed to NJCAA Iowa Central*) returns to the starting rotation while others returning with varsity experience include Sr P/OF **Bret Herber** (3-0, 2.94, 29K for Am. Legion and *committed to D-II Winona St*), Sr 1B/P **Grant Gunderson** (3-1, 4.82, 14K for Am. Legion), and Jr IF/P **Joey Larson** (.293, 26 runs, 8 SB/3-0, 0.65 in 26 IP for Am. Legion).

Several prospects will compete to fill in the rest of the line-up card. Impressive pitching prospects include Jr RHP **Billy Riach** (5-1, 1.27 ERA, .209 OBA for Am. Legion) and So RHP **Ross Bastyr** while Sr IF **Nathaniel Anderson**, Jr IF **Mitch Frederick**, Jr C/1B **Jake Peterson**, and switch-hitting Fr C **Nick Juare** will be joined by many others this spring hoping to crack the line-up.

THE SOUTH SUBURBAN CONFERENCE



In 2010-2011, 9 former Lake Conference teams joined Prior Lake HS to create the new South Suburban Conference. Immediately it became the state's most competitive baseball conference. In its first **four years**, the conference has had five **different** programs qualify for the large-school State Tournament (including 2 teams in 2014), has won two state championships, placed 13 players on the All-State Tournament Team and 22 conference players have been awarded All-State honors from the state coaches association.

This year, the SSC says goodbye to original member schools Jefferson & Kennedy and replaces them with Farmington & Shakopee high schools. The SSC looks to cement its reputation as the best baseball conference in the state in 2015 with college & professional prospects competing in every game.

PANTHERS 2015 STARS & PROSPECTS

Sr SS Angelo Altavilla

University of Nebraska

This switch-hitting SS was best known for his slick glove, crazy range and rifle arm before last year's season began. But in one early season victory versus rival Eastview, Altavilla showed off his D-I potential with the bat as his 3-HR performance set an all-time MN state mark with 12 RBI in a game. Angelo's 2014 offensive numbers continued to impress, as he compiled (between HS and Legion seasons) a .423 BA w/ 35 XBH, 70 runs & 80 RBI in 64 games played.

Sr RHP Wes Ahlers

Iowa Central Community College

Always calm and with confidence in multiple pitches, Ahlers throws a low-80s fastball with the determination that you will eventually hit his change-up off-balanced and produce outs. As a junior in '14, Ahlers played the role of #3 starter and finished the season 2-0 with a 1.89 ERA in 30 IP. Wes struck out 25 while walking only 7. The Honorable Mention All-Conference pitcher then anchored the Legion staff, throwing 44 innings and finishing 3-1 with 2 saves & 28 Ks.

Sr RHP/OF Bret Herber

Winona State University

A power-pitcher in the upper-80s who also possesses control, Herber has had to wait his turn behind other power pitchers for the Panthers. But when given the ball for Lakeville North's state champion Legion program, Bret performed brilliantly finishing 3-0, w/2 saves, 2.94 ERA, 29 Ks in 35 IP and a .218 OBA. Bret has shown great potential with the bat as well, with 14 RBI while platooning in the Legion outfield.

Jr RHP Billy Riach

With no varsity experience, expectations were conservative when a 6'2 sophomore RHP was asked to start on the bump for a top-ranked Legion team. The team would end up, however, riding Riach's arm to the state championship. In seven Legion starts, Billy went 5-1 with a 1.27 ERA in 44 IP. He struck out 28 while walking only 9 and held opponents to .209 batting average. Look for the tall right-hander to impress in 2015.

Sr OF/IF/RHP Kyle Rhodus

Rhodus went from role-player at the start of the 2014 varsity season to a stalwart in the lineup and an All-Section 3AAA player. His stability with the bat (.362 with 10 RBI in 21 games) and ability to play LF, RF, CF, 3B, 2B along with leading the team in saves on the mound, demonstrates his value. Kyle led the charge for the Panthers in the post-season with multiple hits in FIVE of the Panthers nine games in sections and the state tourney.

SR RHP/1B Grant Gunderson

Another hard-thrower who has been waiting his turn, Gunderson possesses power potential on the mound and at the plate. Able to touch the high-80s with his fastball, and working hard on developing reliable off-speed, Gunderson made 4 starts for the American Legion team (3-1, 14 K in 18 IP) and is expected to play a big part on the Panthers 2015 pitching staff and in the lineup at first base as well (.286 in 20 Legion games).

2014 SEASON RECAP

The 2014 baseball season was one of the most successful in Lakeville history. The Panthers and 2-time Section 3AAA Coach of the Year Tony Market, whose nine seasons as head coach at Lakeville North have yielded a 149-69 career record, tied the school record for wins and set school records for team on-base percentage & team earned run average. The 2014 Panthers (23-5) plowed through the regular season with sixteen wins against only three losses and repeated as South Suburban Conference champions. The Panthers came into postseason play as the top seed in Section 3AAA, but after a loss to Bloomington Jefferson by an 8-5 score in the semifinals, had to fight back through the loser's bracket and defeat Jefferson twice, which was accomplished in impressive fashion by scores of 10-0 and 6-0. The Panthers then headed to the MN large-school State Tournament for the second consecutive season, this time as the favorite. Behind the performance of all-everything LHP Dalton Lehen, the Panthers dispatched of Brainerd High School 10-0 and headed into a semi-final match-up with defending state champion Mounds View HS. In one of the best-played games in tournament history, Lakeville North came up on the wrong side of a 7th inning RBI bloop-single that plated the winning run in a 2-1 game. Mounds View would go on to defend their state championship successfully, while the Panthers had to be content with a 12-4 victory in the 3rd place game over Lakeville South.

The records set and awards earned are too many to list in this space. Sr LHP/1B/DH **Dalton Lehen** (10-3 1.39 ERA, 99 K) finished his career with a school record 18 wins and was named Team MVP, All-Conference, All-State Tournament and All-State. He was joined on the All-Conference and All-State teams by fellow pitcher Sr Nick Dorfman (9-1, 0.84, 62 K). Sr OF/P **A. J. Sayer** (.386, .546 OBA, 40 R, 2-0, 0.84 ERA) was named All-Conference (for the second time), All-State Tournament and All-State Academic. Jr SS **Angelo Altavilla** rounded out the All-Conference team and was named All-Metro 2nd team by the StarTribune. Jr OF **Kyle Rhodus** and So OF **Drew Stewart** were honored, along with Lehen & Dorfman, on the All-3AAA Section team. And for the second consecutive year, Coach Market's squad registered a team GPA over 3.4, which earned the team All-State Silver recognition for academics. In the summer that followed, Lakeville North's American Legion program, with the majority of players coming off their 3rd place high school performance, won their first state championship.

FORMER PANTHERS PLAYING IN 2014-2015

PROFESSIONAL

Outfielder	Michael Kvasnicka ('07)	Minnesota Twins (AA- Chattanooga Lookouts)
Pitcher	Bret Mitchell ('07)	New York Mets (A- St. Lucie Mets)
Pitcher	Dylan Thomas ('09)	St. Paul Saints (Independent)

COLLEGE

Pitcher	Dalton Lehen ('14)	University of Cincinnati Bearcats
Infielder	Jake Braun ('13)	Bemidji State University Beavers
Pitcher	Nick Dorfman ('14)	University of Minnesota-Duluth Bulldogs
Infielder	T.J. Evanson ('11)	Winona State University Warriors
Pitcher	Tyler Brekke ('11)	Concordia University Golden Bears
Outfielder	A.J. Sayer ('14)	University of St. Thomas Tommies
Infielder	Gordon Kappers ('11)	Augsburg College Auggies
Infielder	Connor Christenson ('13)	St. Mary's University Cardinals
Infielder	Adam Alexander ('12)	St. Olaf College Oles
Outfielder	Evan Cordell ('11)	Hamline University Pipers
Pitcher	Sam Petrick ('13)	Hamline University Pipers
Outfielder	Neil Engler ('12)	Gustavus Adolphus College Gusties
Infielder	Sam Dunnett ('13)	Luther College Norse
Pitcher	Joel Klinkhammer ('12)	Arizona Christian University Firestorm
Catcher	Ben Jensen ('14)	Grand View University Vikings
Pitcher	Jordan Jacobson ('13)	Iowa Central Community College Tritons

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