



LAKEVILLE NORTH PANTHER BASEBALL

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

Head Coach **Tony Market**
Assistant Coach **Eric Gassman**
Pitching Coach **Jake Groff**

Email: tony.market@isd194.org
Email: eric.gassman@isd194.org
Email: jake.groff@isd194.org

MN State Champs 2005 State Runner-up 2000, 2015 State 3rd Place 2014 State Consolation 2013
Section Champs 2000, 2005, 2013, 2014, 2015 Conference Champs 1999, 2008, 2009, 2013, 2014

2016 PANTHER MEDIA GUIDE

2016 SEASON OUTLOOK

While the outlook for Panther baseball is annually filled with questions because of the loss of 10+ graduating seniors, 2016 is markedly different. With a focus on rebuilding with youth during the 2015 season, the team grew by leaps and bounds from March to June- improving all the way to the state championship game at Target Field. The 2015 MN State Runners-Up have lost only six players to graduation, and while All-State SS Angelo Altavilla & three members of the pitching staff have moved on to play collegiately, the solid core of a talented defense remains in place to press for a 4th consecutive trip to the state tournament (while moving from Section 3AAA to 1AAA in 2016). Leading the charge for another section championship will be last year's team batting champ Sr 3B/SS **Joey Larson** (.384, .477 OBA in '15 & committed to *DII Augustana*) and defensive stalwart Sr 2B **Mitch Frederick** (committed to *DII Minnesota State-Mankato*). 2015's #1 starter Sr RHP **Billy Riach** (8-1, 1.43 ERA in '15 & committed to *NJCAA North Iowa Area CC*) will once again be throwing to switch-hitting So C **Nick Juaire** (.354, .438 OBA, All-Conference & All-State Tournament as a freshman) and keeping things solidified up the middle will be 3-year starter Sr OF **Drew Stewart** (.319 in 176 career varsity plate appearances). Seniors **Nate Klehr**, **Nick Fossey** & **Jake Peterson** all bring varsity experience to Spring Training and younger talent returning to the A-squad includes Jr RHP **Ross Bastyr** and Jr 1B/3B **Tyler Fietek**.

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 just **five years**, the conference has had five **different** programs qualify for the large-school State Tournament, has won two state championships, placed 16 players on the All-State Tournament Team and 26 players receiving All-State honors from the state coaches association. Farmington & Shakopee joined the SSC in 2015, and quickly made an impact with Shakopee earning the conference championship. With alumni playing for NCAA D1 programs including Nebraska, Oklahoma, Memphis & Minnesota and five alums in professional baseball, the SSC looks to cement its reputation as the best baseball conference in the state in 2016 with college & professional prospects competing in every game.

PANTHERS 2016 STARS & PROSPECTS

Sr 3B/SS Joey Larson (R/R)

Augustana University

Larson made a smooth transition to playing 3B everyday last season and will be asked to move to SS this year after the departure of SS Angelo Altavilla. Hitting leadoff for the Panther Varsity & American Legion programs in '15, Joey's production was through the roof, hitting .359 with a .489 OBA & scoring 47 runs in 54 games played over the two seasons. Joey has displayed power with 10 XBH and 2 HRs and proved useful on the mound as well posting 3-0, 2.00 ERA in 21 IP.

Sr RHP Billy Riach

North Iowa Area Community College

A big game pitcher with an easy-going demeanor, Riach will return in '16 to be the #1 starter once again. Billy followed his All-SSC '15 season for the Panther Varsity (8-1, 1.43, 36 K/7 BB) with an even more impressive one for American Legion- finishing the summer 5-0 and allowing only 1 ER in 33 innings pitched (0.21 ERA). The 6'2 righty possesses a mid-80s fastball and fine-tuned control of two off-speed pitches. With these tools, he began 2015 season with 32 IP without a walk.

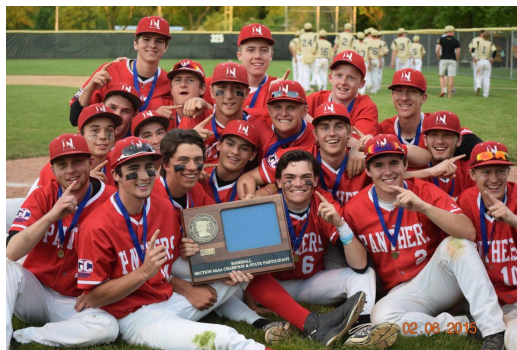
Sr 2B Mitch Frederick (R/L)

Minnesota State University-Mankato

Frederick, who earned the 2B job last spring after a successful conversion from SS, demonstrated impressive range, a solid glove and quick hands all year. He successfully turned 32 double plays between Varsity & Legion in '15 and committed only 3 errors over 27 Varsity starts. His left-handed bat proved worthy of Varsity too- as he hit .310 between the two teams in '15 and flashed gap-to-gap doubles power repeatedly.

Sr OF Drew Stewart (R/R)

Perhaps the most remarkable athlete in Lakeville sports history, Stewart is a 3-year starting left-handed QB on the Panther football team where he has led the team to State all three years. He is also a guard on the basketball team, where he hit a crucial 3-pointer vs. Hopkins to win the 2014 state championship as a sophomore. And now the right-handed baseball player returns for his third year starting in the outfield as a two-time All-Section 3AAA performer and team leader to attempt to add to his staggering eight state tournament appearances across the three sports.



So C Nick Juaire (R/S)

The coaches of the South Suburban Conference will likely be dreading three more seasons of Juaire at the heart of the Panther line-up after they selected him as All-Conference as a freshman in '15. The switch-hitting catcher is a defensive workman with a quick release and is the picture of consistency at the plate, hitting over .330 in conference play from each side. A patient hitter with a discerning eye and a gift for fouling off the opposing pitcher's best stuff, Nick hit .354 for varsity and .425 for Legion in '15.

2015 SEASON RECAP

The 2014 Panther baseball season was one of the most successful in Lakeville history with a third place finish at State and a 23-5 record. With all but three starters and one pitcher graduating, the 2015 season began mostly with questions over who would fill the roster. Three-time Section 3AAA Coach of the Year **Tony Market**, whose ten seasons as head coach at Lakeville North have yielded a 168-77 record, knew the group had talent, but finding the right lineup with a young and inexperienced team takes time. The two-time defending South Suburban Conference champs would hit highs and lows along the way to a 2nd place finish with a 10-7 conference record and came into Section Playoffs as the 3rd-seeded team. The Panthers dispatched of St. Thomas Academy 7-2 and #2-seed Eastview 3-0, and next faced the red-hot Apple Valley Eagles. Valley scored in the 4th, 5th & 6th innings to lead 3-0, but the Panthers put together a walk and four consecutive hits in the bottom of the 6th, capped by Jr OF **Drew Stewart**'s 2-run double to take a 4-3 lead, which is how the game would end. The Eagles fought back through the loser's bracket to get one more shot at the Panthers, but were downed 4-2 behind the pitching of Jr RHP **Billy Riach** and the Panthers headed to the MN large-school State Tournament for the third consecutive season. Riach and Sr RHP **Grant Gunderson** combined to shut out #4-seed Anoka 3-0 with two clutch RBI hits by Sr RF **Kyle Rhodus** and dropped Northfield in the semi-finals 5-3 (after a 3½ hour rain delay) behind the bats of Stewart, Fr C **Nick Juaire** and Jr 2B **Mitch Frederick**. An unexpected trip to Target Field for the state championship followed in front of 9600 fans. Facing senior-laden #2-seed Chanhassen, regarded as the best offensive team in the state, All-State Tournament Sr RHP **Brett Herber** and the Panther defense held strong allowing only 4 hits, but with the Storm scoring two runs on a seeing-eye groundball single, the Panthers finished as state runners-up, victims of a 2-0 shutout loss.

Sr SS **Angelo Altavilla** finished his career with a school record 76 RBI and 63 BB. He was named Team MVP, All-Conference, All-State Tournament, All-State and All-State Academic. Altavilla was joined on the All-Conference team by three underclassmen; Jr Billy Riach, Jr **Joey Larson** & Fr Nick Juaire (who was also named to the All-State Tournament Team). For the third consecutive year, Coach Market's squad brought hardware home from the AAA State Tournament and for the third consecutive year our student-athletes registered a team GPA over 3.4, which earned the team All-State Gold recognition for academics.

FORMER PANTHERS PLAYING IN COLLEGE 2016

Pitcher	Dalton Lehnen ('14)	University of Cincinnati Bearcats
Infielder	Angelo Altavilla ('15)	University of Nebraska Cornhuskers
Pitcher	Joel Klinkhammer ('12)	Arizona Christian University Firestorm
Catcher	Ben Jensen ('14)	Grand View University Vikings
Infielder	Jake Braun ('13)	Bemidji State University Beavers
Pitcher	Nick Dorfman ('14)	University of Minnesota-Duluth Bulldogs
Pitcher	Brett Herber ('15)	Winona State University Warriors
Outfielder	A.J. Sayer ('14)	University of St. Thomas Tommies
Pitcher	Grant Gunderson ('15)	University of St. Thomas Tommies
Infielder	Connor Christenson ('13)	St. Mary's University Cardinals
Pitcher	Sam Petrick ('13)	Hamline University Pipers
Outfielder	Neil Engler ('12)	Gustavus Adolphus College Gusties
Pitcher	Wes Ahlers ('15)	Iowa Central Community College Tritons

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