



Blaine High School Baseball Q&A with Coach Kyle Iverson



Where did you grow up? Blaine, attended Spring Lake Park HS

What was your baseball path? I started when I was four and continued to play through high school. I chose not to play in college, and instead focused on coaching where I began at Spring Lake Park as the JV head coach and then moved over to Blaine where I am now the JV coach.

How do you motivate players? I like to get players energized and desire them to be “all-in” every inning. Sometimes energy can wane in a baseball game, especially if the walks are adding up and the score does not look promising. Players need to understand that baseball is a game that is dependent on momentum, and being able to create your own is vital to being a great teammate. As a coach, I will always be positive and will motivate my players to become the best ball players they can be.

What motivates you? I am motivated by how my players play. If they are constantly determined to do their best and motivate others to do the same, I do not see them for very long because they are being promoted to the varsity team. It can be a challenge to stay motivated in some games and weather, but having a dedicated team that motivates one another is influential in becoming a high caliber team.

How would you describe your coaching style and philosophy? I like to stick with what works and I rely on playing the game the right way for every repetition. I do not try very many trick plays. I want my pitcher to throw strikes and I want my team to hit the ball. Most coaches agree if you hit it, pick it and throw it better than the other team you are going to come out with a victory.

What do you expect out of your players? I expect everything they can give me. They should be in the weight room getting stronger in the off-season, and they should be giving everything they can to the team during the season. When players leave everything, they have on the field, they know in their hearts they gave it their all and can be proud of their effort. If they do not buy in to the team, it really shows quickly and has a negative effect on everyone.

What impresses you most? Players that go out of their way to become better. Practice doesn't have to be the only time to pick up a baseball or to take some batting practice. You need to genuinely love the game in order to play at your best. Players that willingly do the extra things for their teammates; it's especially nice to see an excellent player also making sure all the equipment is picked up.

What role does character play in how you think about Bengals baseball and player selection?
That should be what we take pride in the most.