



SOUTH BASEBALL

Tradition Never Graduates!

Dan Griesbaum,
Head Coach

State Champions
2001, 2018

State Runner-Up
2014

State Final Four
1987, 1996, 2001,
2003, 2005, 2014,
2015, 2018

State Elite Eight
1987, 1992, 1996,
2001, 2002, 2003,
2005, 2014, 2015,
2018, 2019

State Sweet 16
1987, 1992, 1996,
1997, 1998, 2001,
2002, 2003, 2005,
2009, 2012, 2013
2014, 2015, 2018,
2019

District Titles
1986, 1987, 1992,
1994, 1995, 1996,
1997, 1998, 2001,
2002, 2003, 2004,
2005, 2006, 2008,
2009, 2010, 2011
2012, 2013, 2014,
2015, 2016, 2018,
2019

Conference Titles
1987, 1988, 1992,
1993, 1997, 1998,
2001, 2002, 2003,
2004, 2008, 2010

To: All Baseball Players, Parents
From: Dan Griesbaum
Re: Off-Season/Misc.
Date: 11/4/20

I hope you are all well and enjoying this great fall weather! As we concluded our 16 fall practices, I was thinking how great it would be if this became a permanent thing, as far as the MHSAA allowing us to do it every year! It has certainly been beneficial to teach skills and to see our players in live game situations OUTSIDE and not in a crowded gym! On behalf of the entire coaching staff, I want to thank all the players who attended and worked so hard this fall. It was a great experience for all of us!

We have, at this point, 88 players who have indicated at some point that they are interested in trying out for baseball in 2021. I'm sure more could decide in the spring to try out, especially freshmen. That breaks down to 28 frosh, 32 sophomores, and 31 juniors and seniors. Of those 88, we saw 72 players total at some point this fall, even though 13 players attended 5 times or less. Most, but not all, of those players were involved in a fall sport, so it was understandable that their attendance was limited.

Suffice to say, that as a program, we are not able to keep anywhere near 88 players next year on the 3 squads. Even though South has always kept more players than virtually all of our opponents, having almost 30 players on each team would be impossible. Therefore it is extremely important that players do as much as possible to give themselves the best opportunity to make their respective team next March.

It is crucial that all players continue to improve their strength and conditioning by engaging in a baseball specific program. One such program is on our website: gpsouthbaseball.com, which was developed by South Alum, Mike Hackett, the founder of Syphus Training. Doing so can only have a positive effect on bat exit velocity, conditioning, endurance, throwing speed, etc. There are certainly other good programs, such as 2SP in Madison Heights, and others that are baseball specific. Whether a player works out at home, the Neighborhood Club, The MAC Dome, or elsewhere, it is imperative that we do as much as possible to improve our strength and conditioning.

Regarding the players who have aspirations of playing in college, we have a very unusual situation as far as recruiting and scholarships are concerned. All college players were given an extra year of eligibility due to COVID. Therefore, seniors who did not get to finish their careers in 2020 will have another opportunity to play in 2021. Seniors, as well as underclassmen, this coming year will all have the opportunity to stay for another season to obtain their 4 years of eligibility if they

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desire. As a result, college coaches are uncertain of who will stay and who will leave, roster sizes, and also are uncertain as to what aid they will have to offer. This puts the class of 2021 high school player who has not yet committed to a college in a very precarious situation.

Since the 2020 season was lost, and college coaches were not able to actively go out and recruit this past summer, again due to COVID, it is important that any player with college aspirations do

as much as possible to get noticed. You can accomplish this by attending college camps/showcases, especially at colleges you may be interested in attending, as well as PBR (Prep Baseball Report) events this fall/winter as they are permitted to occur. Of course, anything we can do to help just let us know.

For instance, I have sent out video to several colleges for a few of our players. Many of the PBR and other events also take video and skill measurements of their attendees and will send them out to colleges of your choice. You can also attempt to do your own video. Anything you might have that shows off your skills, especially in a game-type situation would be beneficial.

As I mentioned previously, we usually do keep more players than most schools, but also play more games than others, especially at the frosh and J.V. levels. But still, for large squads to work, it is imperative that everyone understands their role. Obviously only 9 or 10 players can be called “starters” and will get most of the playing time, especially at the varsity level in our conference games and play-offs. With that being said, we still need other role players to complete the squad and to add depth.

It may be very difficult for some players to accept a minor role on a team: (pitching or playing the field only in weekend doubleheaders or invitationals, pinch-hitting, defensive replacement, pinch running, etc.) I would suggest that if an individual player is not comfortable doing that, if it's not worth their time, then they should reconsider even trying out next spring. Or if asked to accept a minor role next spring after tryouts and during the player evaluation meetings, they should decline the opportunity. In 2018, we had 26 players on the team and it worked, having resulted in a State Championship. Were all players 100% satisfied, 100% of the time? Probably not, but I think most of that dissatisfaction disappeared as we hoisted the championship trophy and they were presented with their championship rings! All players were important to that team.

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At this point, it is advisable that anyone who was a pitcher this past season, or had any arm issues, take some time to rest their arm, not to mention, to get any issue evaluated by a professional. Collin Karcher, our trainer can be a valuable resource in that regard. We will start up in January with hitting at Lakeside Baseball and pitching at South, if the pandemic allows! Also, Lakeside will be offering programs on hitting, catching, and improving throwing velocity this fall and winter. You should have received information on that recently. However, do as much as possible to get your work in on your own. Do long toss outside, weather permitting, rent the cage or turfed area at Lakeside or elsewhere, go to camps/showcases, throw, hit, pitch, sprint, strength train, etc. to be in great baseball shape next March.

Lastly, players, make sure your academics receive first priority, you get adequate sleep, and eat a proper diet. Stay physically, mentally, and morally fit!

Periodically, I will be sending you information over the fall/winter, so please make sure we have your correct email and cell numbers for both players and parents. If you ever have any questions, please feel free to contact me at: griesbd@gpschools.org, or my cell: 313-347-3672.

As always, remember, "TRADITION NEVER GRADUATES!"

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