



Blaine High School Baseball Q&A with Coach Zinselmeier

Where did you grow up? Johnston, Iowa

What was your baseball path? I started playing baseball when I was a young kid and played AAU and school ball until my 10th grade year of high school. Shoulder injuries ended my playing career but I was still very in touch with the game. This is my first year at Blaine where I teach social studies, coach football, and now I am very excited for the upcoming baseball season with the 9th grade squad (9b).

How do you motivate players? I motivate players through the combination of building relationships, being positive, focusing on what the player is doing well and then throwing in a few coaching tips. I want to keep the players confidence at a high level but still hungry to improve each and every day. I like to bring energy to practice and try to keep it loose. I do not want to stress the players out in any way shape or form at this level. The kids are playing the game because they love it and I want to keep it that way.



What motivates you? Seeing the kids improve is what is the main driving force in coaching for me. When I say improve I am not only talking about as a player but also as a person. I would like everyone to develop a selfless attitude where they are not in it for themselves but instead for the team because baseball is a team sport. You cannot get down on your teammates and they best teams build bonds that will last a lifetime.

How would you describe your coaching style and philosophy? My coaching style is very much relationship based. I want to mold athletes into good teammates, students, and people. To do this, you need to always have a positive attitude but have the ability to get real with the athletes from time to time and let them know how they are doing what they really need to work on.

What do you expect out of your players? Effort and knowing no one is perfect. Every baseball player has something they can improve on and effort is what will keep the players improving day in and day out. If an athlete is present but does not have the right mindset it is essentially a wasted day.

What impresses you most? Coachability, determination, love for the game and their teammates, and energy.

What role does character play in how you think about Bengals baseball and player selection?

Character is everything to being a Bengal. You need to be an example of good character not only out on the field but in the classroom and in the community. Most often kids with the best morals and character make the best teammates and will be important in player selection.

What's the most important lesson baseball taught you? Optimism and the fighter mentality no matter the situation. It doesn't matter how many runs you are down or how far you are down in life, you can always put together a rally and come out on top.

Favorite baseball player? Jim Edmonds

Favorite baseball movie? 42

Favorite baseball expression or quote? It's a beautiful day, let's play 2!

Favorite baseball rival? Cardinals vs. Cubs

Favorite baseball field? Busch Stadium

Favorite baseball position? Catcher, pitcher, center field