



## Blaine High School Baseball Q&A with Coach Alex Walz



**Where did you grow up?** Monticello, Minnesota

**What was your baseball path?** I started playing baseball when I was five. I played throughout high school and into college. I coached last year at St. Cloud Tech High School.

**How do you motivate players?** It's all relationship based. Players will go the extra mile if they understand that the coach believes and cares about them. Also, build a team first culture. The players are motivated by their teammates to do their best every chance they get and knowing that their teammates are relying on them to do their job.

**What motivates you?** I am motivated when my players enjoy baseball as much as I do. I want to give them an experience that they will never forget and cherish for days to come.

**How would you describe your coaching style and philosophy?** I have a specific set of expectations for players and many opportunities for second chances. I build a level of trust with my players that they believe my coaching decisions are correct and best for the team.

**What do you expect out of your players?** I expect my players to give their best effort every day, just like I do. I expect players to make mistakes and to learn from those mistakes to become a better baseball player. I expect players to be coachable and to understand that us coaches are doing what's best for the team.

**What impresses you most?** Leadership, toughness and believing nothing is out of reach.

**What role does character play in how you think about Bengals baseball and player selection?** Character is everything. Each day you wake up as a Blaine baseball player and you need to show good character not just on the field but also in the community, at home and at school.

**What's the most important lesson baseball taught you?** Baseball has taught me how to be patient and how important it is to be a part of a team. Also, that you can be really good at your craft if you fail 7 out of 10 times.

**Favorite baseball player?** Jorge Polanco

**Favorite baseball movie?** Benchwarmers

**Favorite baseball expression or quote?** There's no crying in baseball.

**Favorite baseball rival?** Yankees vs. Red Sox

**Favorite baseball field?** Wrigley Field

**Favorite baseball position?** Middle Infield