

## VARSITY BASEBALL 1996

We began the season with a "Two Year Plan". We knew we had baseball talent, but we also knew that the team would be young and inexperienced at the varsity level. The experience gained this year will be expected to carry the team to the sectionals and competing for the league title next year.

There were not enough upper-classmen for cuts to be made in selecting the team. Fourteen players were selected to make up our team. Senior David Kelley was the only returning starter from last year. Juniors Brendon Ives, Lester Livermore, Howard Reeve and Brayton Wicks moved up from the J.V. squad. The sophomores with both the physical prowess and baseball talent were also moved up from the J.V. squad. They were Justin Frost, Shawn Kelsey and Brent Vincent. Two other players with baseball experience in other schools (sophomore Donald O'Halloran and junior Jeremy Button) were selected. The remainder of the team was filled with senior non-starter David Chesnut and 3 other players with no previous organized baseball experience (exchange student Christian Bigos, seniors David Harford and Ron Genter).

The team won their first league game of the season against Oxford by a score of 5 to 4, but were only able to win two other games. Except for one 3 game stretch, they were very competitive.

The cold and wet Spring caused many scheduling changes in practices as well as games. If the cold and snow didn't postpone games then the rain did.

Our defense which includes fielding and pitching did not get properly prepared for the beginning of our season. I must take responsibility for this and will make it one of my priorities for next season. By the second half of the season our fielders and pitchers finally got into game shape.

Four games into the season Ron Genter decided to leave the team for lack of playing time. I felt I had been "up front" with him in regards to his playing time. He did play in the first two games batting four times and striking out each time. He did not play in the next two games which were very close and difficult to get in subs. I told him again that there were players ahead of him with more experience and I could not guarantee him a lot of playing time. He then chose to leave the team.

After 8 games we lost Jeremy Button to an injury. Jeremy hurt his knee when he and Leater Livermore collided while playing a fly ball. He had just returned from a game suspension due to grades and now he was lost for the remainder of the season.

We concluded our season with 12 players.

With 8 returning starters back next season, there will be high hopes. If they can stay focused and play with passion their experience and ability will carry them to success.

Three of our players were selected to the SUS EAST  
 Second Team: Brendon Ives Outfield  
 David Kelley Shortstop  
 Brayton Wicks First Base

The team awards are as follows:  
 Spirit Award David Chesnut  
 Most Improved Player Lester Livermore  
 Most Valuable Player David Kelley

Team Roster

Christian Bigos	OF
Jeremy Button	OF/Pitcher
David Chesnut	OF
Justin Frost	Catcher
David Harford	Catcher
Brendon Ives	OF/SS/Pitcher
David Kelley	Pitcher/SS
Shawn Kelsey	OF/Pitcher
Lester Livermore	2nd Base/Pitcher
Don O'Halloran	OF/Pitcher/Catcher
Howard Reeve	OF/Catcher
Brent Vincent	3rd Base
Brayton Wicks	1st Base

Game Schedule

Hornets 4	S.V. 12	L
" 3	S.V. 7	L
" 5	Oxford 4	W
" 3	B-G 5	L
" 3	Deposit 15	L
" 4	Unatego 22	L
" 6	Hancock 18	L
" 2	Oxford 3	L
" 1	Delhi 9	L
" 12	Afton 4	W
" 8	Unatego 11	L
" 8	Hancock 10	L
" 1	B-G 2	L
" 12	Afton 8	W
" 3	Windsor 7	L
" 4	Delhi 7	L
" 1	Deposit 8	L

Needs for next year: New Field  
 Catcher's Shin Guards  
 Catcher's Glove  
 Soft Toss Batting Net  
 4 Game Pants

June 3, 1996

Respectfully submitted,

Russell Ives

