

Island Sports

North baseball team has their eyes on state title

By Stephanie Heelan Cotsonas

When asked about the possibility of winning the Division I baseball state title, North Kingstown High School Head Coach Kevin Gormley plays it cool. "I would say it is a possibility. We have always had strong teams here. I have been here for the last 12 years and we have made it to the finals four times. We have not made it over the hump yet. We compete for the state title every year but we have just not been fortunate enough to get it done yet," he said.

After winning the Division I-South regular season title last year, North went 20-5 and lost in the regional finals to Cranston West. Hendriken captured the state title. It has been 42 years since North has won a state title in baseball.

After only seven games into this season, the scores have been high and the Skippers are 7-0. "We have had a nice start. Usually the games are not as one sided, so we have been very fortunate. Our pitching has been very good and we have not been making any errors. We have not walked many people and have been able to take advantage of others mistakes," Gormley said. In their division this season, Gormley said that South is one of the strongest teams. "We had a really good battle with them in the first league game of the year and won 4-1."

In addition to the southern division, North plays crossover games against the Eastern Division teams. "Moses Brown, Portsmouth and Middletown are off to a good start. East Greenwich is always a well

coached team and Narragansett is very strong," Gormley said.

North's roster includes seniors Dave D'Errico and Cody Normand, who received All-State honors last year and are two of the best pitchers in the state in addition to being outstanding hitters according to Gormley. Seniors Jamale Horn in the outfield, Connor Walsh, Nick Savickas and islander Ryan Morris at shortstop round out the veteran infield.

"Ryan is in his second year as a captain, which speaks volumes. In my 12 years here I have only named four juniors as captains. He is a special kid, and I think he is a tremendous baseball talent because of his character. I am fortunate to have him in my honors business class and what I see in the field I see in the classroom. He is very consistent and has a good work ethic. Right now he is number two in the line up and at shortstop things are going very well for him. He is an important asset for our team and for our program more importantly," Gormley said.

Islander and senior Nate Vigneault is another strong member of the team. "Nate really helps out in the outfield and he is probably the fastest guy on the team. He leads by example on and off the field and he is one of the top 10 academically in the senior class. He is a great outfielder and the designated hitter," Gormley said.

Most of the players on the team have been playing since they were freshmen and some started playing together in little league. "They are a special bunch of guys and they really enjoy each other's company. They carry the torch and hold the program in high regard and want to keep the program at the elite level it was at when they came in," Gormley said.

As one of the leading contenders for the Division I state title, the Skippers can't help but think of the post-season, but for now Gormley said he is just going to enjoy the success of his program and his players. "It is a lot of fun to show up and coach these guys every day."

Help needed to get fields in playable condition

Parents, coaches and community members can help get the Jamestown baseball league's fields ready for the season at the annual Field Clean Up Day.

The clean up will take place this Sunday, April 26, starting at 9 a.m.

Volunteers are asked to bring shovels, rakes, measuring tapes over 60 feet, and rotary tillers.

Baseball season will officially open on Saturday, May 2, with an opening day parade. Players and coaches should meet in uniform at the community center at 9:30 a.m. The parade will start at 10 a.m.

For more information, contact Steve Cirella at 742-4199.

Trollbeads
TrollbeadsUS.com



This Mother's Day give her flowers she will treasure forever.

every story has a bead™

Gold Lady
JEWELERS

SERVICE, SELECTION, SATISFACTION SINCE 1980

Open Tues. - Sat. 9:30-5:30
One Brown Street, Wickford, RI • (401) 294-4695
Visit us at www.goldladyjewelers.com
Precious Metal License # 80105

Need something printed?

The Jamestown Press can help!

Business Cards • Flyers • Brochures • Posters

Graphic Design Services Available

Call 423-3200!

NOW OPEN
Daily 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.
915 MITCHELL'S LANE • MIDDLETOWN
401.847.3912 • sweetberryfarmri.com

Narragansett Bikes
sales • service • bike rental • autotracks
1153 boston neck road
narragansett . ri . 02882
401-782-4444
Ride for the FUN of it!

EIGHTH ANNUAL
Ali's Run
SAVE THE DATE
Sunday, June 7, 2009
1 PM
Fort Getty Park, Jamestown, RI
5K USATF-CERTIFIED RACE ♥ 5K WALK ♥ KID'S FUN RUN
For online registration and information log on to alisrun.com

Full Service Marina on Scenic Ninigret Pond with easy access to Block Island.
OPEN HOUSE
APRIL 25th & 26th
in water demos!
Family owned and operated for over 25 years.
888-219-5602
60 Town Dock Road, PO Box 1399, Charlestown, RI 02813
www.oceanhousemarine.com
Sales & Service
YAMAHA
HYDRA-SPORTS
Hurricane MARITIME