



Dear Alumni and Friends of Amherst Baseball:

I hope that this newsletter finds you well. The summer was an exciting time for Amherst College athletics and the baseball program. Beginning with the Red Sox drafting Kevin Heller '12 and ending with Fred Shepard '14 pitching in the Cape Cod League Championship Game, this has been an exciting summer for Amherst Baseball. This year, we return a group of experienced players and welcome many talented first-year students who will help us keep our place atop the NESCAC West Division. This newsletter recaps all that the players, alumni, and program have done this summer and discusses the alumni events scheduled for this fall.

Follow us on Twitter @AmherstBaseball



We have many ways for our alumni and friends to stay informed about the team and events. The latest addition to our communication is the Amherst Baseball Twitter account, which will send you updates about players, alumni, and events.

To follow us, go to: @AmherstBaseball

The best form of communication is the newsletter that is sent out in the summer, fall, winter, and spring. The newsletter is sent to our email distribution list. If you no longer wish to receive communication from the baseball program, please reply to this email and I will take you off the distribution list.

1st Annual Alumni Golf Outing

Hickory Ridge Golf Club ♦ September 21, 2012

With the success of our January Networking Nights and the strong attendance at the Alumni Game during Reunion in May, we are holding a golf outing to provide an activity for alumni in the fall. The event is scheduled during the weekend of football's home opener against Hamilton in hopes that alumni can participate in golf and attend the football game the following day.

To learn more about the golf outing, go to:

<https://www.amherst.edu/athletics/teams/spring/baseball/golf>

Summer Baseball

All of our players participate in summer baseball; some had success in the top summer leagues in the country. The highlight of the summer was Fred Shepard's '14 start in the Cape Cod Championship Game. With the best-of-three Championship Series tied at 1-1, the Wareham Gatemen looked to Fred to be their starting pitcher. Fred led the Gatemen to a championship with a strong performance: 5 IP, 2 R, 1 ER, 2 H, 6 K, 0 BB



Fred Shepard '12 warming up in this summer's Championship Game of the Cape Cod League

Our pitching coach, Bryan Adamski, was the head coach for the North Adams SteepleCats in the NECBL, one of the country's top summer league teams. Bryan led the SteepleCats into the playoffs, an improvement on the previous season.

<http://www.steeplecats.com/Roster/2012-Roster/Bryan-Adamski.aspx>

Also coaching summer baseball was Mark Manning '80. Mark coached with the Falmouth Commodores in the Cape Cod League.

Kevin Heller '12 & Mike Samela '12 First Summer in Pro Baseball

Kevin and Mike continued their baseball careers in professional baseball this summer.

The Red Sox drafted Kevin in the 40th Round of the June MLB Amateur Draft. He reported to Rookie Ball and played in the Gulf Coast League before moving to Class A Short-Season in the New York-Penn League where he finished the season with the Lowell Spinners. The highlight of the summer for Kevin came in his final game of the season against the Brooklyn Cyclones, in his hometown. In this game, Kevin hit his first professional home run in his second at bat and his second professional home run in his last at bat!



Kevin Heller '12
playing in the Gulf
Coast League

Mike Samela '12 signed with the Worcester Tornadoes of the Can-Am League. Mike played in seventeen games before his season was cut short due to a wrist injury.



To learn more of Kevin and Mike's experiences, listen to the NESN podcasts at the links below:

<http://www.nesn.com/2012/08/kevin-heller-making-seamless-transition-from-yankees-fan-to-hard-working-red-sox-minor-leaguer.html>

<http://www.nesn.com/2012/08/mike-samela-amherst-college-graduate-and-worcester-tornadoes-catcher-discusses-mlb-draft-process.html>

AMHERST LEADS

With 73 captains from the department's 27 intercollegiate programs in attendance, Amherst LEADS, the leadership development program for Amherst Athletics, recently kicked off the 2012-2013 athletics calendar with its third-annual Captains Symposium. The three-day event focused on team building and leadership development exercises, while also featuring four guest speakers. Amherst LEADS features three programs: First-Year Initiative (FYI) Program, Futures Program, and Captains Program. For more information on Amherst LEADS, visit: www.amherst.edu/athletics/amherst_leads

On the Road . . .

We continue to extend our recruiting reach to bring the strongest student-athletes to Amherst as possible. The Class of 2016 includes players from a range of academic and personal backgrounds who hail from Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Kentucky, Massachusetts, New Jersey, North Carolina, and Tennessee. This year, we added a second recruiting trip to California. Thanks to the many alumni who refer players, doing so helps Amherst Baseball attract the "right fit" for the College and baseball program.



Brendon Hardin '15, Coach Hamm, Rob Elwood '96, Max McKenna '11, & Justin Cronk '97 at a Headfirst Showcase recruiting event in Long Island this summer.

Stay in Touch with Coach Thurston

Coach Thurston enjoyed spending the summer at home in Sunderland, Mass. and on the beach near Wells, Me. He and Hanna are doing well. Coach enjoys staying in touch with his former players - you can reach him via email: billthurston5@gmail.com

2012-2013 Coaching Staff



Brian Hamm
Head Coach



Bryan Adamski
Pitching Coach

Mike Armstrong
Hitting & Catching Coach



Chris Boyko
Strength Coach



Maria Rello
Sports Medicine

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Captain Profiles



Bob Cook

Position: RHP/1B
Hometown: Winnetka, Ill.
High School: New Trier
Interesting Fact: Bob and his younger brother John were our starting pitchers during double-headers.

Accomplishments: 2012 Most Valuable Player, 2012 NESAC Player of the Year, 2012 NECBL Sportsmanship Nominee



Nolan Stewart

Position: 3B
Hometown: New Canaan, Conn.
High School: Choate
Interesting Fact: Nolan has been the

starting third baseman in every game Amherst has played since his freshman year.

Honoring Tradition

Amherst Baseball coaches and players have always taken pride in the equipment and facilities provided for them. In keeping with tradition, the Amherst team took time this fall to help the grounds crew maintain the baseball field for the Fall Instructional Clinic. In addition to fieldwork, the players continue to manage parking for home football games to fundraise for the Florida Trip.

