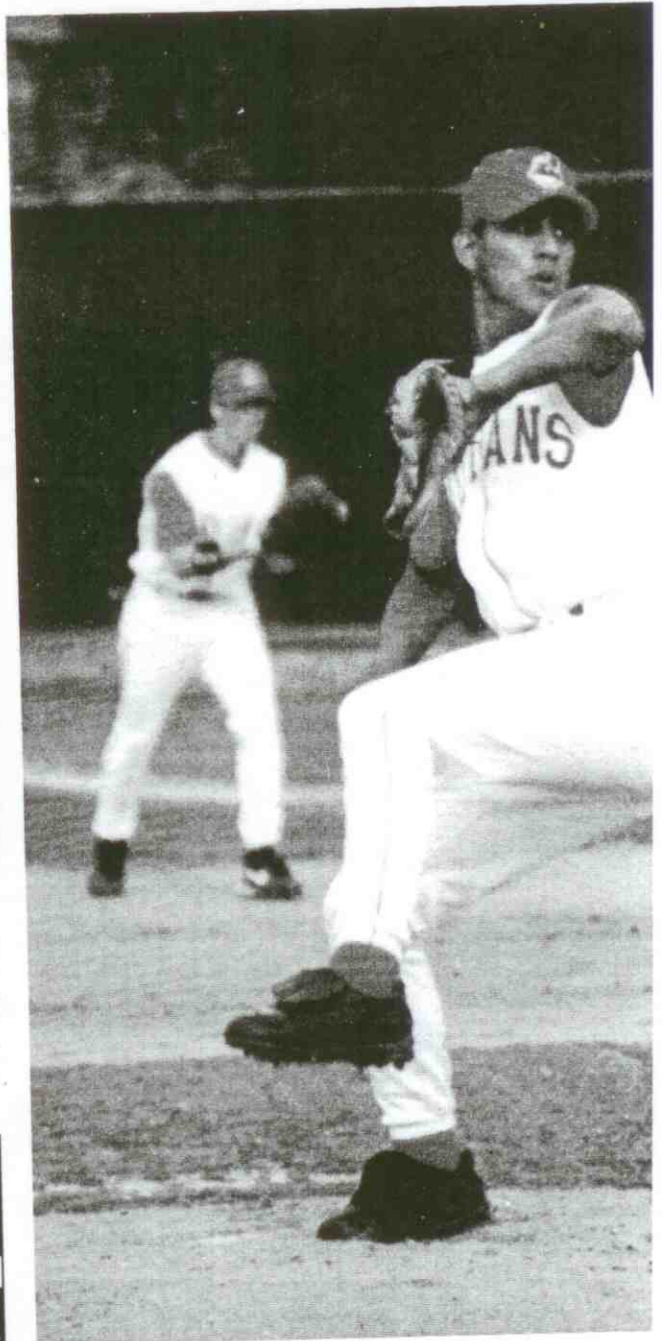
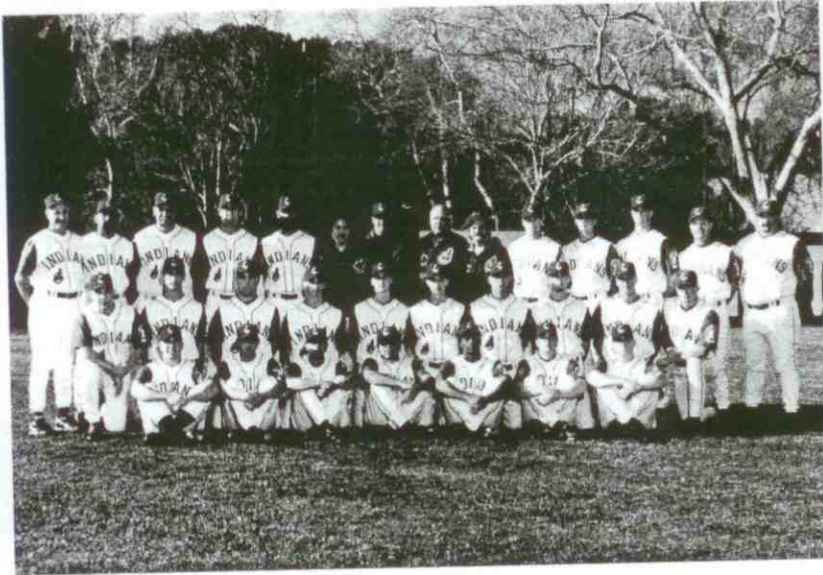
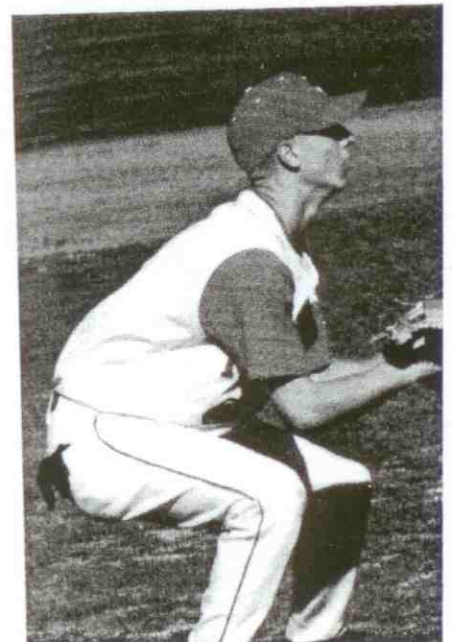


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1997 HART VARSITY BASEBALL

With one more strike to go, senior Brian Hernandez winds up for the final pitch.



Prepared for any ball hit his way, junior J.T. Stotts waits in the ready position.



Varsity Baseball: Front Row: Bobby Graves, Louis Zuccari, Nicky Mercado, Eli Carrasco, Chris Wright, Eric Horvat, Marke Horvat; Row 2: Cameron Mencuri, Bobby Potruch, Wesley Davis, Jeremy Shields, J.T. Stotts, Mike Granger, Travis Richardson, Eric Ballew, Andy Davidson, Toby Coe; Row 3: Coach Murray, Coach Hernandez, Coach O'Brien, Cody Joyce, Brian Hernandez, Desiree Ramirez, Coach Wallace, Larry Fiscus, Kevin Bell, Matt McAfee, Jeff Gaeta, Coach Graff, Coach Halcovich

Eric Horvat



What was going through your mind when you hit a home run right after hitting a grand slam [at your first game]?

"At first, I didn't realize they were going over the fence, but Coach O'Brien let out a small 'yelp,' and it sunk in. I've worked extremely hard on improving my swing and I guess it worked."

What is your nickname and why were you named it?

"My nickname is 'Hor.' The name was given to me the summer of my sophomore year, and people thought it was funny, so it stuck."

When did you begin playing the game of baseball and why?

"I started playing baseball when I was five years old, because my older brother played."

What was one of the cruelest pranks played on you by one of your teammates?

"The cruelest prank played on me was Brian Hernandez putting shaving cream in my ear when I was sleeping."

--as told to Jelene Daney



HART VARSITY



1997 VARSITY BASEBALL ROSTER

NO.	PLAYER	HEIGHT	WEIGHT	B/T	POS	YEAR
					IF	98
2	NICK MERCADO	5-9	141	L=R	IF	98
3	J.T. STOTTS	5-11	149	R-R	C	97
4	ELIAS CARRASCO	5-8	170	S-R	OF	97
5	CODY JOYCE	6-2	189	R-R	IF	97
7	WESLEY DAVIS	6-0	180	R-R	C	00
8	MARK HORVAT	5-10	165	R-R	IF	97
9	MIKE GRANGER	6-0	180	R-R	P	97
10	BRIAN HERNANDEZ	6-1	204	R-R	OF	97
11	KEVIN BELL	6-2	195	R-R	IF	98
12	TRAVIS RICHARDSON	6-0	183	R-R	OF	97
13	CAMERON MENCURI	6-0	200	R-R	C	97
15	ERIC BALLEW	6-0	180	R-R	IF	97
18	ERIC HORVAT	5-9	162	R-R	IF	97
20	MATT McAFEE	6-0	170	L-L	P	97
21	BOBBY GRAVES	5-10	177	L-L	OF	98
22	CHRIS WRIGHT	5-11	163	L-R	OF	97
23	TOBY COE	6-1	190	R-R	IF	98
25	JEFF GAETA	6-2	200	R-R	OF	98
27	LOU ZUCARRI	5-10	171	L-L	P	98
33	ANDY DAVIDSON	6-2	178	L-L	P	97
35	JEREMY SHIELDS	5-11	162	L-L	P	97
42	BOBBY POTRUCH	6-0	190	R-L		



TP



Grand Slam Season

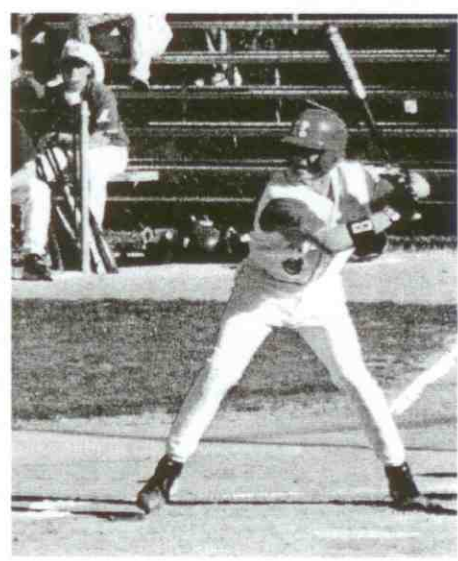
From the beginning of the season, the Boys' Varsity Baseball team had expectations to capture league. The team had to beat burroughs at two away games, and in order to have a good chance at league champions, the team had to beat Burroughs at their field twice and once on their home field.

The players put out all they could during the season, and just like other athletes, they too had to overcome certain obstacles: the heat, the supplies, and the dead grass. Senior first baseman Matt McAfee commented, "There are so many little things that could go wrong, and believe me Coach Murray caught them all, but the good thing was that the coaches were very informative. I listened to what they had to say and really tried working on it." Although the coaches served an important part of the game, the teammates were also a major influence.

With a helping hand from the school's former student, Todd Zeile, the players were able to add a little shine to their game by wearing brand new uniforms. Junior short stop J.T. Stotts admitted, "We were thrilled to receive new uniforms, especially from a Pro-Baseball player. At first I didn't know how the new colors would look, but I got used to them and personally I felt that it made us look more professional." The new colors were white and red for home games, and gray and red for away games.

The uniforms weren't the only factor that would help the team achieve a successful season. Third year Varsity seniors, Eric Horvat and Eric Ballew, and fourth year Varsity senior Bobby Graves also led the team to victory. All three players stepped up their game and tried to improve to their fullest. They agreed that being on the Varsity team for so many years had really helped them get to where they wanted to be. Senior pitcher Bobby Graves added, "The thing I enjoyed most about playing baseball was burying a team that was supposed to be good, but not good as us, of course."

—Jelene Daney



Swing batter, batter, batter swing!" Senior Matt McAfee waits for the perfect pitch.

Schedule

- Montclair Prep
- Notre Dame
- Hueneme
- Saugus*
- Burroughs*
- El Dorado Canyon*
- Burbank*
- Valencia*
- Saugus*
- Saugus*
- Burroughs*
- Burroughs*
- Canyon*

* - League Games

Baseball Then

A current professional baseball player, Andrew Lorraine (left), a rising star in 1988, pitches another great game. All Golden League First Team member Jim Van Cott (below left) makes contact in the 1982 CIF Finals game at Dodger Stadium. "You're out! Just kidding." Superstar Harry Bedker (below) slides safely into the base during a 1953 game.

