

# Coach Jim Ozella

compiled by RENATA LOMBARDO  
photo by QUINCY FEBRE and  
GENEVIEVE ESPINOSA

**When were you first introduced to baseball?**  
I have been playing since I was in little leagues. My dad, who also played in a semi-pro league, coached me in pony league.

**How long have you been coaching?**  
I have been coaching for over twenty years. I coached at the University of Illinois, Alemeney, as well as Danville Schlaman High School. I also coached at C.O.C.

**How did you decide to become a coach?**  
My high school coach always told me I would make a good coach. I later went on to coach side by side with him. My dad also coached for over thirty years.

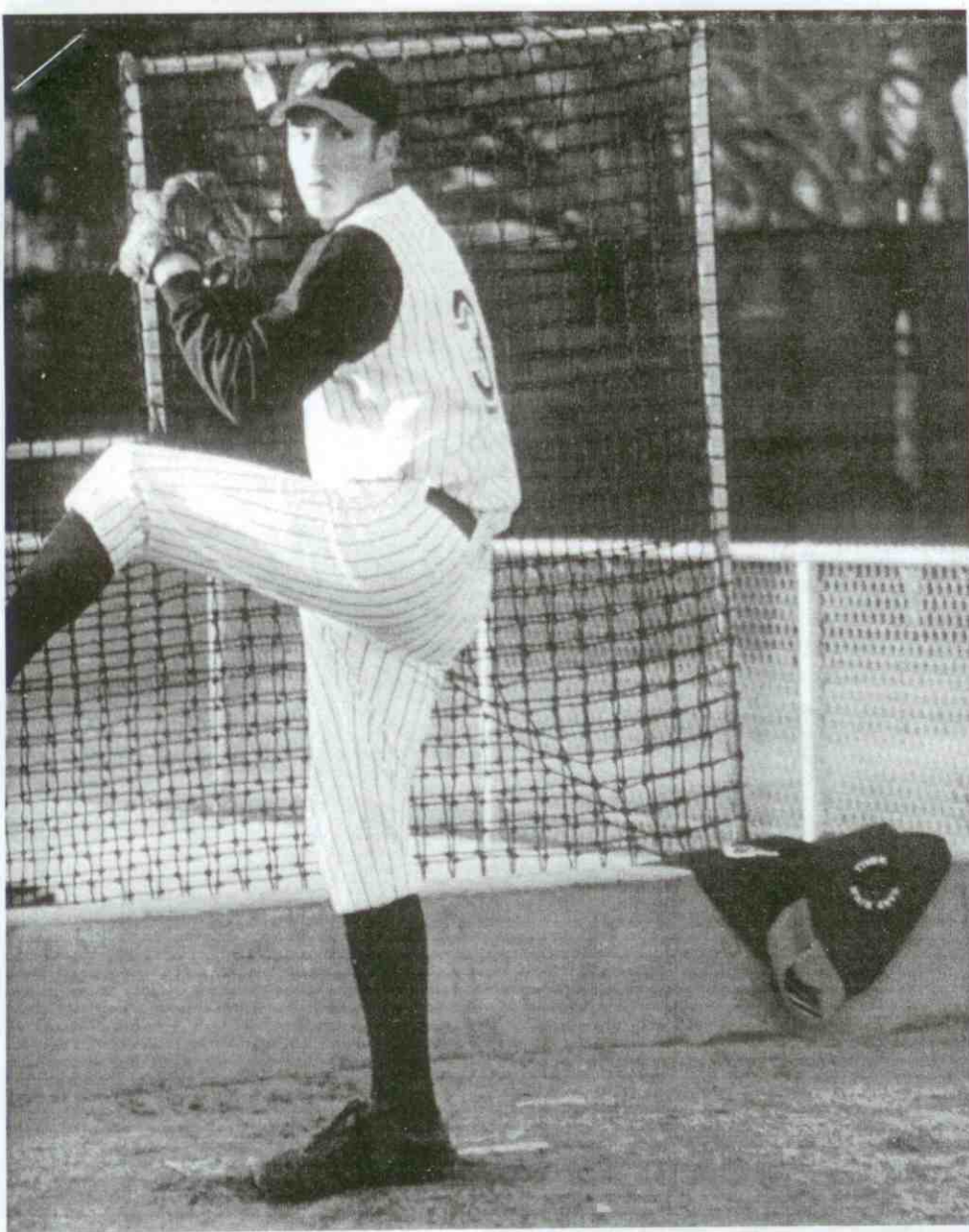
**What is your favorite aspect of coaching?**  
Molding twenty-one individuals into a team. And to improve the skills of the players. And to win a few games. Well, more than a few.

**What is it like coming into an already well known program?**

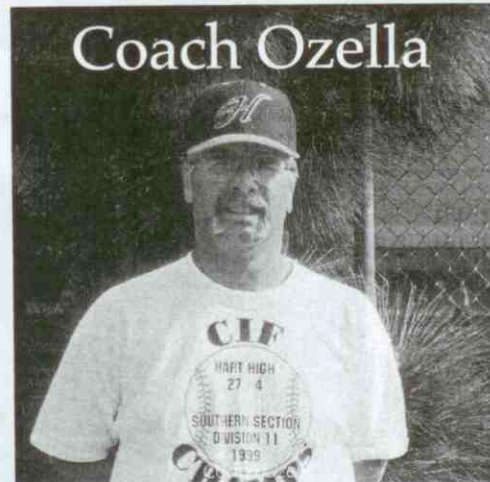
The biggest challenge is mixing the returnees with the newcomers. And installing a new system. We have a great tradition of success and a high standard to be the best.

**Do you think we can take the league title again?**

We will definitely make every effort to achieve in the championships. We will put as many hours in as we need. We will do what we are capable of.



**Frosh Baseball:** Front Row: S. Winter, W. Rios, J. Tabak, B. Beckman, A. Murillo, K. Sisneros, T. Sachs; Second Row: C. Valaika, M. Scott, C. Smith, R. Bayer, T. Wilson, P. Howard, K. Newman; Back Row: R. Ozella, K. Boggio, D. Williams, C. Piligian, K. Boggio, J. Gollahon, I. Feldman, A. Capitelli



HART BASEBALL 2000

VARSITY + JV TEAM PHOTO  
NEXT PAGE ↓

## 2000 HART BASEBALL

To boost the teams' spirits, coaches gave baseball tips and motivational speeches before games and tried to keep a positive atmosphere through congratulating team members for good performance. Junior Phil Tognetti related, "Our coach gets us fired up by setting goals for us and helping us achieve them."

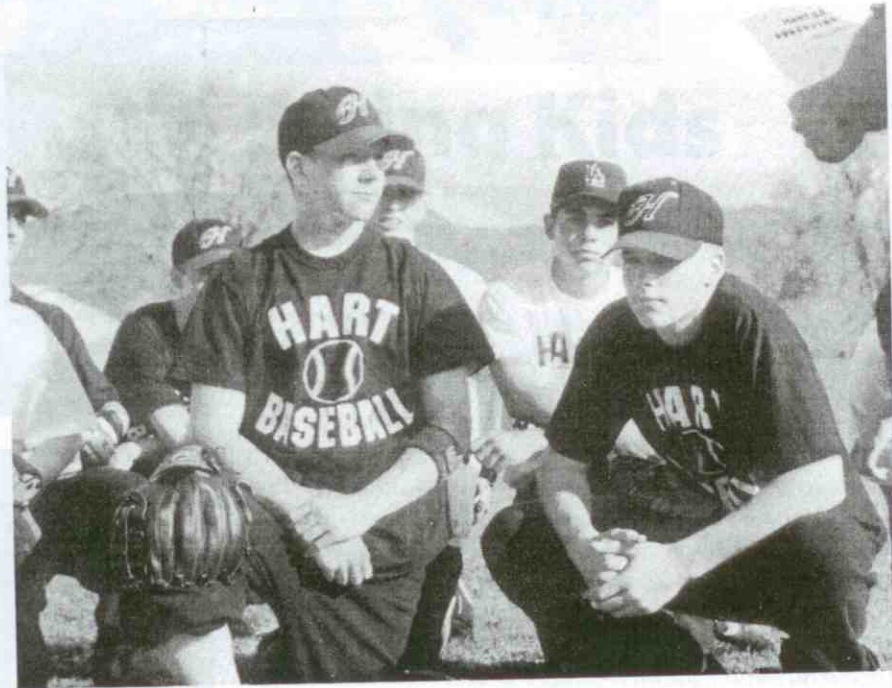
While most enjoyed actually playing the game, many had fun watching movies about the sport as well. Sophomore Chris Steck preferred the movie *The Natural*. "The guy reminds me of myself, a natural," he commented. Senior Jason Daniel, however, liked *Major League* because "it was funny and a little different, not a hero type movie." At the same time,

Daniel enjoyed following the games of professional teams, his favorite being the Dodgers. "They're the hometown favorite," he pointed out. Junior Evan Anderson's favorite team was the Russian National Team. "They have won the East European title for the last eight years," Anderson explained.

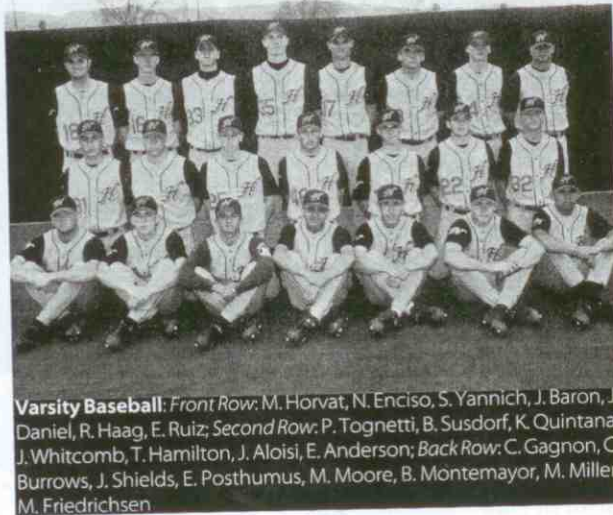
Baseball was not only watching others play in movies or in professional games. It had its challenges. Senior Scott Yannich disliked the position of catcher. He described, "You have 90 mile per hour balls coming at you constantly." But many agreed with junior Eric Posthumus that "there was no bad position except bench warmer."

Crouched on the grass, freshmen Todd Wilson and Kaulin Boggio (right) listen to the coach discuss the daily practice plan.

Taking a step across the pitching mound, junior Phil Tognetti (far right) prepares to fire the ball.



## 2000 HART VARSITY PHOTO



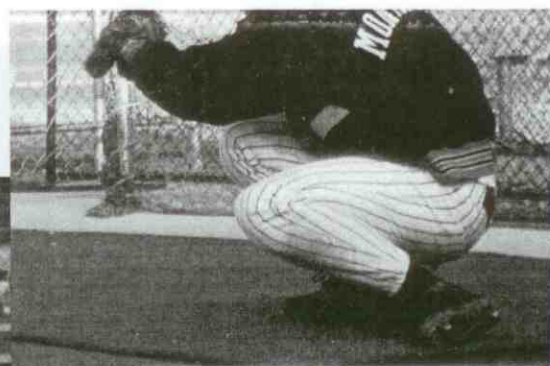
**Varsity Baseball:** Front Row: M. Horvat, N. Enciso, S. Yannich, J. Baron, J. Daniel, R. Haag, E. Ruiz; Second Row: P. Tognetti, B. Susdorf, K. Quintana, J. Whitcomb, T. Hamilton, J. Aloisi, E. Anderson; Back Row: C. Gagnon, C. Burrows, J. Shields, E. Posthumus, M. Moore, B. Montemayor, M. Miller, M. Friedrichsen

## 2000 HART JV PHOTO



**JV Baseball:** Front Row: D. Powers, M. Markenson, A. Cohen, J. Neill; Second Row: K. Pople, R. Valenziano, J. Brown, A. Sevanian, A. Chavez; Back Row: M. Alvarado, T. Lloyd, J. Cu J. Slauenwhite, J. Amelang, J. Icenogle

Crouching in ready position, senior Brandon Montemayor (right) awaits the pitch.



Freshmen baseball players Danny Williams, Scott Winter, Brandon Beckman, and Todd Wilson (below) kneel as they listen to the wisdom of their coach.

Awaiting bat, juniors Billy Susdorf and Kyle Quintana (far below) stand looking like cool cats.



With the agility of Mark MacGwire, sophomore Matt Moore (left) blasts one out of the park during a game against Thousand Oaks.



# Swing Kids

story by SWATI RAO  
photos by GENEVIEVE ESPINOSA, QUINCY FEBRE, and KATIE SKIPPER

HE STEPPED UP to bat, his shoes leaving a cloud of dust behind him as he sauntered towards the base. When the small white square was below him, he held the bat loosely in his fingertips, feeling its full weight, and squinted at the pitcher. Slowly, he lifted the instrument to ready position and watched the pitcher turn tense with concentration. The pitcher drew back his arm and flung the ball with incredible force. The batter, letting instinct take over, felt his arms responding to the stimulus, and the bat surged forward, colliding with the white leather ball and sending it to high heaven...home run.

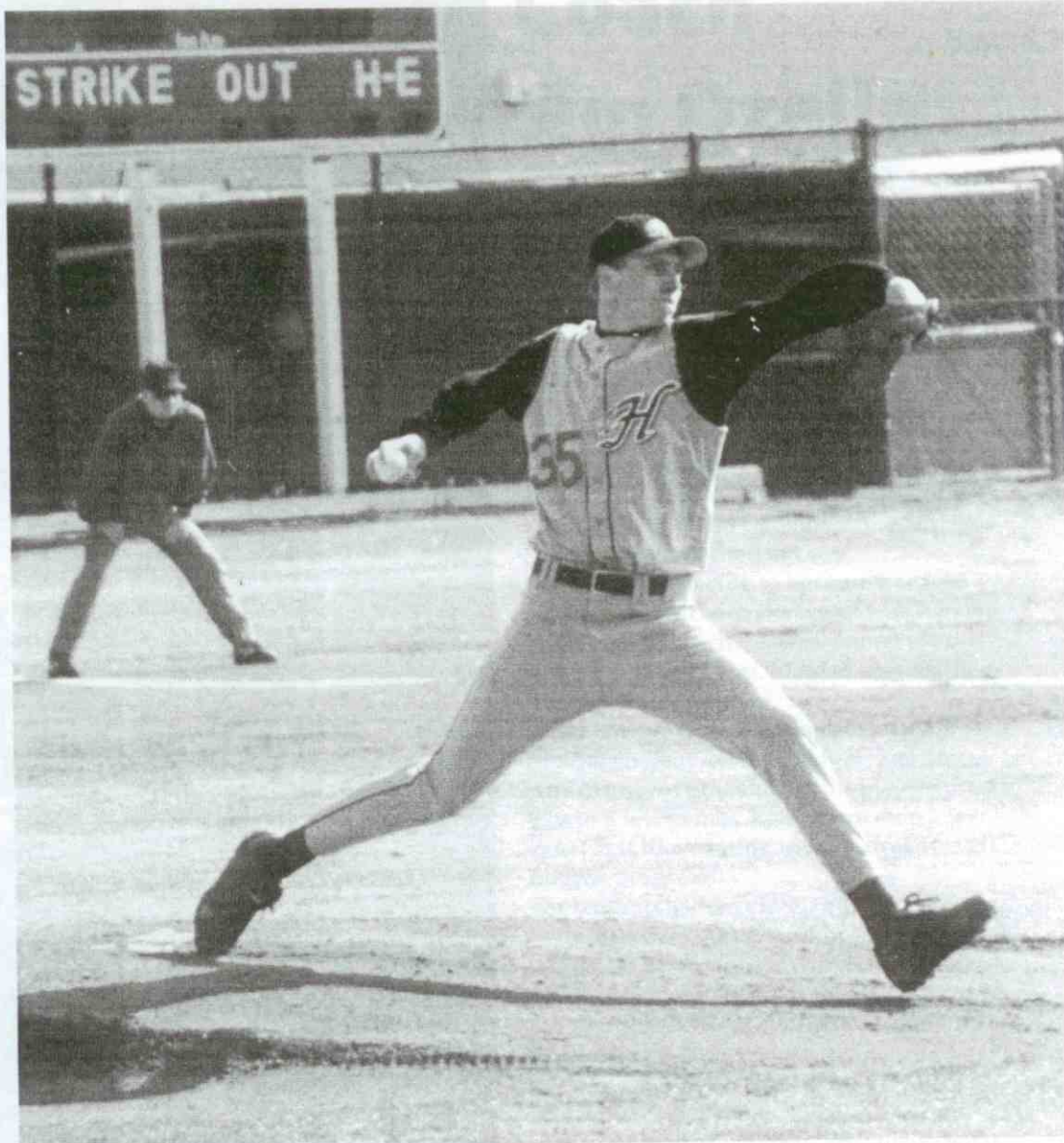
For freshman Ian Feldman, one of the most unforgettable experiences was "hitting a game-winning home run when [he] was eleven." Like many, he started playing the sport at a young age. His interest in baseball was launched when, at age four, "[he] got a plastic bat and ball for [his] birthday." Similarly, freshman Todd Wilson was fascinated by the game as a boy and began playing on his first team at age five. Wilson, along with others, continued his commitment to the sport up through high school, where he encountered daily three hour practices. These workouts consisted of warm-ups, drills in hitting and pitching, running, and weight lifting.

Because baseball required sacrificing time for practices and games, many looked to other players for inspiration to continue. Wilson admired Sammy Sosa. He elaborated, "He's so little, and he still competes with Mark McGuire in the home run race, and his attitude about the game is good." Sophomore Jeff Amelang, on the other hand, admired a family friend who played baseball. "He had some troubles in his life and was seriously injured many times but still played pro ball," Amelang explained. Junior Billy Susdorf looked up to a fellow teammate. "I think the most inspirational player is Brandon Montemayor because, during the game, he can get so excited that, in turn, it makes you excited," he said.

Additional encouragement came from the coaches.

*(continued on page 74)*





Hurling his arm forward, junior Eric Posthumus (right) throws a fireball pitch toward the plate.



Swinging with all his might, sophomore Kyle Pople (right) hits the ball during a practice.

Practicing his batting techniques, sophomore Mike Alvarado (far right) prepares to take a swing.

