

# On the Spot:

2002 HART BASEBALL

# Chris Giordano

written by ADRIANNE GYORFI  
photos by JESSICA YOM and KRISTEN ANDERSSON

The hopeful eyes of a little boy with a bat and a ball stared out from a picture. At that moment, Chris Giordano's ambitions were set on the next practice, the next game, the next home run. Giordano dreamed of his future, which started on the sandy ground and short, green grass of a baseball field.

Giordano began playing baseball twelve to thirteen years before entering his senior year of high school. His parents initiated his baseball interest, from Little League to playing on the school's varsity team his freshman year. There were probably several memories Giordano would remember about his high school baseball career, but the most vivid that remained in his memory was when he

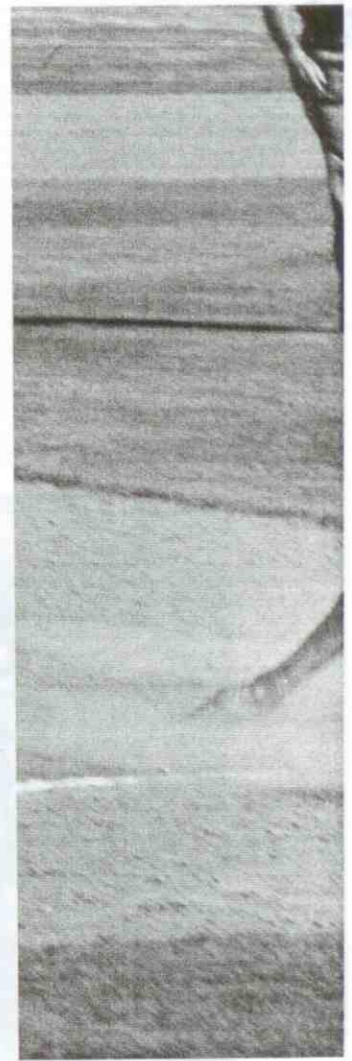
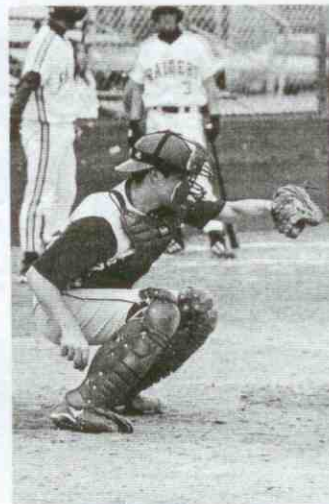
won CIF freshman year.

Giordano decided that he most likely wanted to pursue baseball into his college years, and even to the pro level if the opportunity came. "The competition, pressure, and playing with friends" were Giordano's favorite aspects of baseball, and led him to think he would not like to lose them as the years went on.

Giordano moved on from his first game to play many more successful ones. His initiation into the game put him on the road to a sporting passion and commemorated his high school years with several victories, personal as well as prominent.

## Fast Facts

**Favorite Cartoon:** Taz  
**Role Model:** sister Jeanine  
**Favorite Movie:** The Natural  
**Breakfast Food:** maple and brown sugar oatmeal with raisins

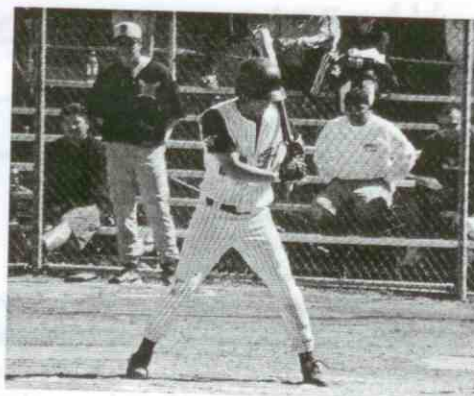
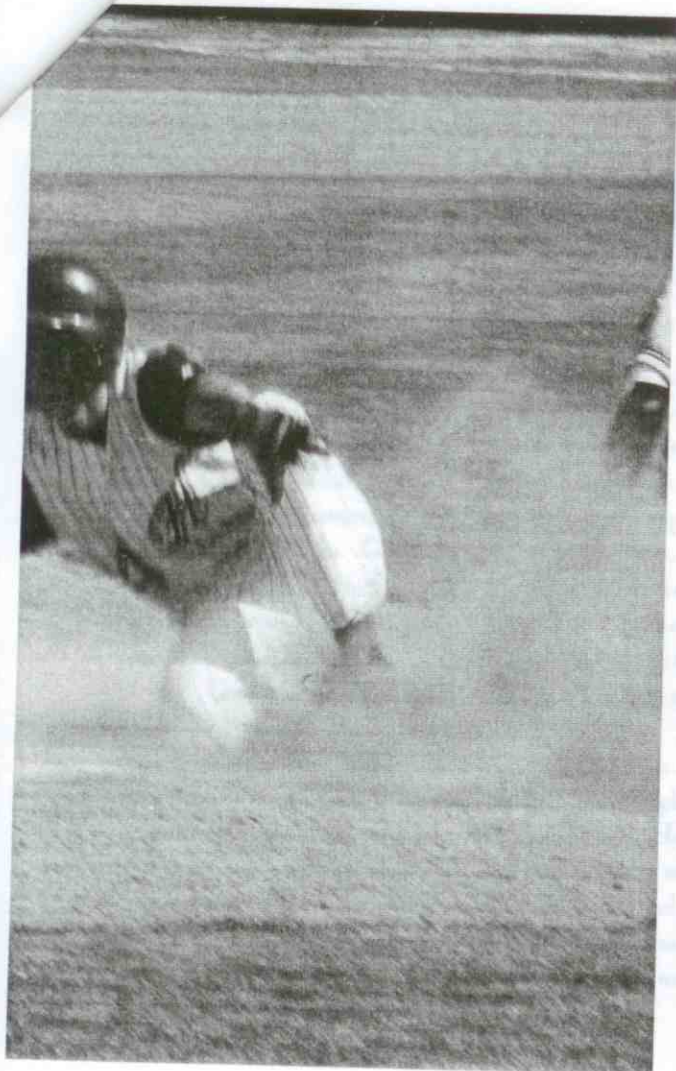


**Varsity Baseball:** Front Row K. Boggio Second Row: J. Brown, P. Howard, C. Cohen, C. Valaika, A. Sevanian, T. Wilson, W. Yoo Back Row: K. Boggio, R. Ozella, I. Feldman, C. Steck, C. Giordano, J. Curtis, J. Blauenwhite, J. Icenogle, D. Williams, J. Gollanon, M. Alvarado, C. Smith



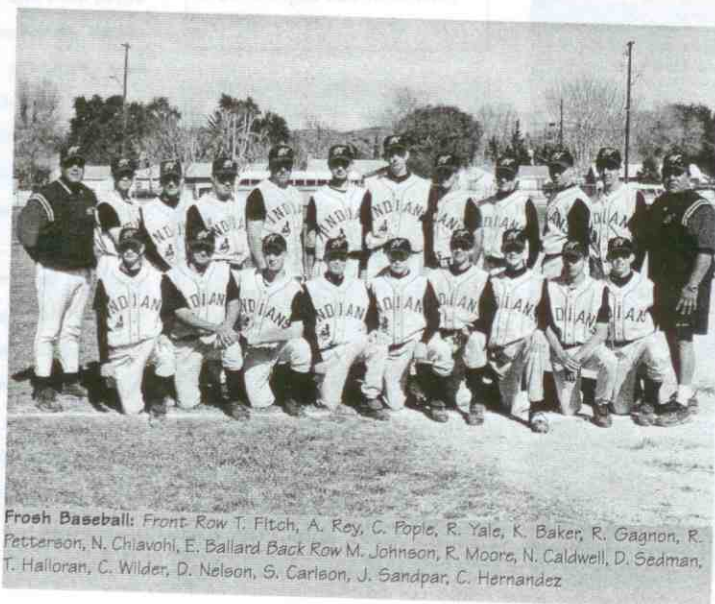
**JV Baseball:** First Row B. Edwards, A. Montes, C. Valancius, R. Wright, Z. Oascheim, Sreden Back Row: Coach Alessia, Coach Crawford, R. VanScoyoc, B. Loeb, T. Fitch, J. Ingu, T. Collier, S. Susdorf, Coach Hernandez

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**FAR LEFT:**  
Kicking up a cloud  
of dust, senior  
John Curtis  
slides onto the  
base.

**LEFT:**  
Senior Jason  
Brown prepares to  
score points as he  
steps up to bat.



**Fresh Baseball:** Front Row T. Fitch, A. Rey, C. Pople, R. Yale, K. Baker, R. Gagnon, R. Petterson, N. Chlavohi, E. Ballard Back Row M. Johnson, R. Moore, N. Caldwell, D. Sedman, T. Halloran, C. Wilder, D. Nelson, S. Carlson, J. Sandpar, C. Hernandez

# Diamonds are a Boy's Best Friend

by ADRIANNE GYORFI  
by JESSICA YOM and KRISTEN ANDERSSON

Dozens of movies commemorated them, thousands of people emulated them, and Marilyn Monroe married one of them. The stories of a child growing up in the streets, being placed in an orphanage or a school, and then being taught baseball with the very basic of material, attracted even more boys than ever thought possible. A dirt lot, four bases, several spirited boys set the scene for a box-office success and achieved in bringing more players. As more and more baseball players entered onto a field and sandy lot every day, the school boys with bats showed how to stand out to the ball game and keep them there.

Although the baseball players had their role models and examples of how to be the best athletes possible, they also had their own reasons for wanting to play baseball. Brian Loeb, a freshman on JV, decided one thing he would do in the future about his baseball career, and a reason he participated on the team was "the dedication needed to play." Senior Jeff Icenogle appreciated the "hard work, perseverance, and the great feeling of success in a game after hard work went into each practice." Chad Smith, a junior on the JV team, wanted to play baseball because of "the competition and hard but

rewarding work."

All of the teammates had their most memorable game, which was a product of the sometimes seemingly endless hours of mentally and physically taxing practices. Junior Todd Wilson, a baseball player of ten years, remembered how his team "overcame a ten point deficit and won league." Loeb remembered how his "team beat Hawaii in a national championship."

Many factors played a part in bringing the teammates closer together, not only their victorious games, but also their pre-game rituals. "The night before every game we all went out to dinner as a team," Wilson remembered. The time spent together outside of school could seal the empathy everyone felt for each other, for the game, and to just to get to know each other better. Won Yoo, a freshman on the baseball team, was a new edition to the school's list of baseball players. A baseball player for five years, he came to California from Korea and immediately showed his talent in baseball. Although he came from the other side of the world, no interpreter was needed for the baseball players to know why they were playing. Baseball was a universal language.