

2004 HART BASEBALL

Around the Bases

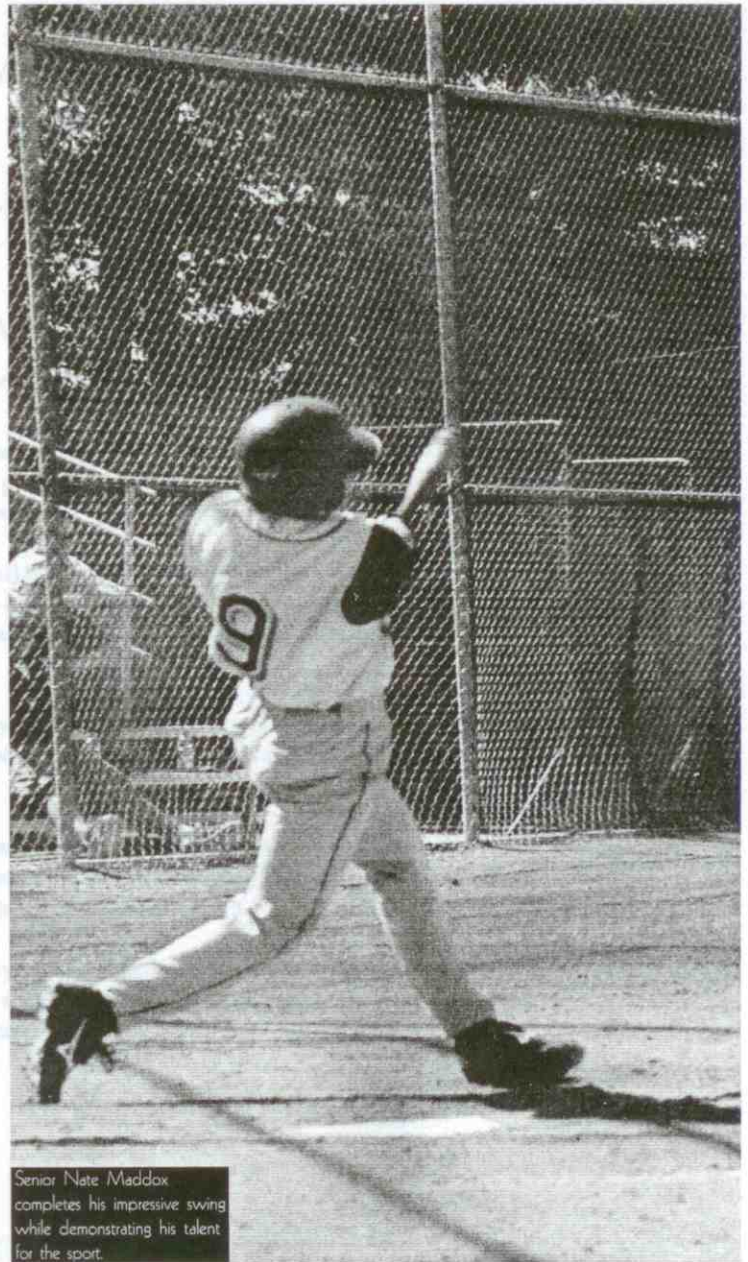
Written by Lindsey Hinebaugh
 Photos by Devon Beebe

The sun beat down upon the enthusiastic faces as they stared intently at the players racing proudly onto the field in anticipation of another successful defensive inning. A glance around the bleachers depicted supporters of all sorts. Spirited siblings grabbed onto the dusty fence, mothers and fathers watched with mixed emotions, and fathers with sheer expectancy. One may also have noticed friends enjoying a hot spring afternoon while they shared a bag of sunflower seeds. Junior Ryan Gagnon is quoted to have said, "I wouldn't be anywhere else in the world." The members of the 2004 varsity baseball team made these types of days a weekly tradition.

The importance of teamwork was described as a necessary power that helped to unite the entire team. Junior Shane Carlson stated, "You depend on your teammates completely. It is a team sport, you cannot do it alone." This statement was an obvious truth as the game played out. The strength of the group was indeed dependant on the interaction between players, whether on the field or in the dugout. "We expect each other to play our hardest," stated junior Ryan Petterson. The expectations set in place by Coach Ozella inspired the players not only to exist as completely dedicated competitors, but also to form supportive relationships for years to come.

This team played with their love of the game, but each player brought with him an individual perspective of the sport. Senior Ben Edwards stated that he felt "fearless, excited, and ready" going into a heated competition. Unlike most sensations experienced by the varsity team, junior Ryan Gagnon expressed he felt "sexy" while suited up on the diamond.

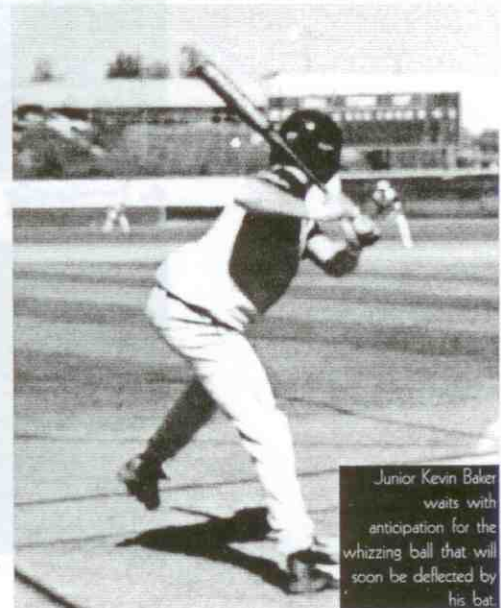
As the season progressed, the boys all settled into their designated positions and prepared themselves for the challenges ahead. The sound of metal meeting leather reached their ears as the ball soared into the right field. A player tracked the ball while he dove into reach and closed his mitt around the familiar object for the third and last out of the game. Defining moments such as those were what the players anticipated and would strive to make each game that much more intense.



Senior Nate Maddox completes his impressive swing while demonstrating his talent for the sport.



Varsity Baseball: Front Row: C. Valancius, P. Sarkissian, N. Maddox, K. Baker Row Two: S. Sanchez, R. Van Scoyoc, R. Gagnon, S. Carlson, R. Petterson, M. Sredlen, M. Valaiko Row Three: J. Iniguez, B. Edwards, S. Burton, T. Lyon, S. Susdorf, T. Fick



Junior Kevin Baker waits with anticipation for the whizzing ball that will soon be deflected by his bat.

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de•fin•ing: Stephen Susdorf

[see also: competitive, hard-working, loving]

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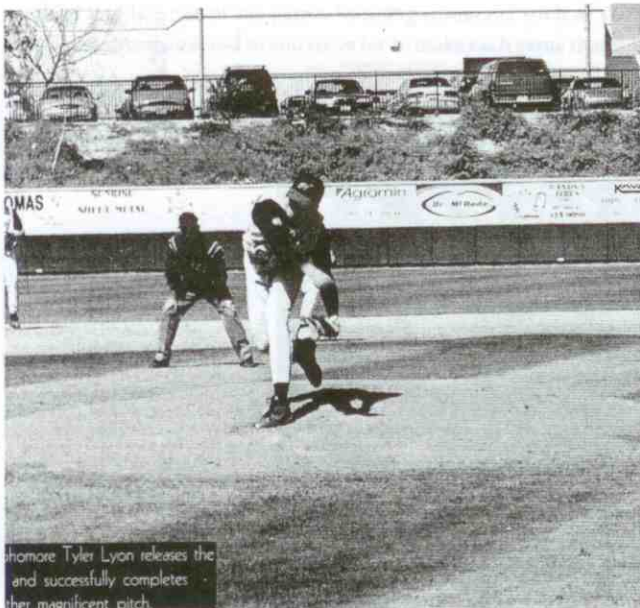
I have been playing baseball for 13 years. When I was young I loved going to my older brother's baseball games. I decided that when it was my turn to play, I wanted to be just as good as he was.

I enjoy playing baseball because of the thoughts racing through my mind as the seventh inning approaches. With two outs, trailing the other team by one run, I step up to the plate with a chance to get the game's winning point.

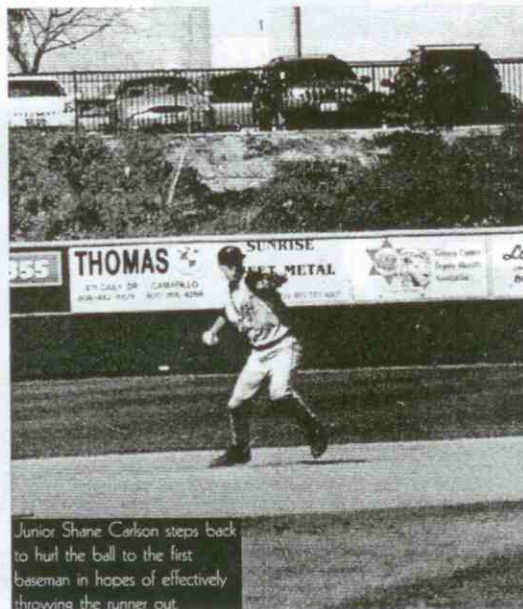
My inspiration to play my best is my older brother. I look up to him because he has been very successful in baseball and now has a chance to play in the big leagues.

My future plans for baseball are to play for Fresno State. I am excited because it is my dream since I have entered high school to play for Division I baseball and now I have a chance to live that dream.

I owe my success to my parents. Whether it was my mom's helpful advice, or all of the hours my dad spent with me in the batting cage, they were always there to make my dreams come true.



Senior Tyler Lyon releases the ball and successfully completes their magnificent pitch.



Junior Shane Carlson steps back to hurl the ball to the first baseman in hopes of effectively throwing the runner out.