

WELCOME TO EHS BASEBALL - 2007

CONGRATULATIONS! Your son has been selected to be a member of the Escambia High School Baseball Program. This is not as easy task as many young men would love to have their opportunity.

I am really looking forward to getting this year started as many exciting things are happening. Escambia High is changing classifications, along with Pine Forest and Washington, as Woodham High School closes. The new classification for spring sports has not been released yet but in football we move from class 3A all the way up to class 5A. That is quite a jump in enrollment and should bring some interesting challenges to our school.

We have a new football coach that is stirring up a lot of excitement. Many of you know Coach Nichols as he was born and raised in Myrtle Grove and has decided to come out of retirement to bring his alma mater back to its glory days. Say Hi and wish him your best when you see him.

Many thanks to the coaches, players, parents, and community supporters that continue to give of their time to get our complex ready for the season each year. We are almost completely back to pre-Ivan condition as well as some key upgrades. We now have a web site for Baseball that will provide a means of information for all to see. (www.escambiabaseball.com)

Now its time to play some baseball. Our staff will strive to provide your son the opportunity to improve in baseball, improve in the classroom, and grow in every aspect of his development as a young man.

"WINNING isn't EVERYTHING.But WANTING TO is!!!"

Our program is financially self-supporting each year. This year the anticipated expenses will be over \$35,000 not counting the summer program that costs around \$10,000. Because these funds are generated through fundraisers by the booster club and the team, it takes a tremendous effort from all involved. It is not just a coincidence that the programs that are the most successful "off the field" are also the ones that are successful "on the field". This program has been truly blessed with hard working, committed parents, and boosters over the years.

One of my favorite sayings is that "It takes absolutely no athletic ability to hustle, just pride and desire." The players hear this from me quite frequently. With a little twist this could apply to parents as well. "It takes absolutely no special talents to support your son, just pride and desire. I would like to personally challenge each of you to support your sons by becoming active in their program. Everyone can't build fences, foul poles, dugouts, dig, rake, sell signs, sell ads, etc. but I can guarantee you that there is *SOMETHING* that everyone can do if it is only working the concessions, collecting at the gate, or just making phone calls. Each of you should strive to be a vital part of your sons' activities. EHS needs your support, but more importantly, your sons need your support!

These young men today are faced with much more than we ever had to deal with when we were growing up. Every day they deal with choices about alcohol, drugs, sex, street violence, declining family values, and many other moral issues. I feel stronger than ever that these young men need to know that you are involved, and that you care and support what they are doing.

By being involved, you can help us teach your sons two very important lessons about life:

1. IMPORTANCE OF TEAMWORK! When everyone pulls together and carries his own load, no goal is unattainable.
2. LIFE IS NOT ALWAYS FAIR! Just as only nine can start, sometimes it is the other guy that gets the promotion. You can't just quit your job every time things don't go your way. Instead you roll up your sleeves and work harder to prove them wrong.

Escambia baseball is well known throughout the state not just because of the 5 state championships or the many outstanding players that have played here, but also because of the great successes that this program has had "off the field". When I came here 19 years ago, I had visions of what this complex should become and where the program should be. Many people told me many of the things that have been accomplished could never be done and that I was crazy to waste my time trying. So I keep telling our players that "You succeed by setting high goals and meeting challenges head on." So with the teamwork of many coaches, players, parents, boosters, and other community people we have proven that anything is possible if you work hard enough.

There have been many great accomplishments over the years that parents just like you have worked to achieve. Many times the parents that worked on these projects did so knowing that their sons would very likely never even get to enjoy them as they would graduate before the project was completed. Listed below are just some of the highlights that past booster clubs contributed to the program.

1. Installation of 8 ft. fence around the outfield. (1987)
2. Installation of fences down left field and right field sidelines. (1989)
3. Purchase of lawn tractor(s) to maintain field. (1988, 1990, 2000)
4. FIELD WAS LIGHTED. \$150,000 PROJECT (completed in 1993)
5. Marquee sign was installed.(1994 and a new one in 2000)
6. Jugs pitching machine(s) purchased. (1989, 1996)
7. Iron Mike pitching machine purchased. (2000)
8. 3200 sq.ft. CLUBHOUSE COMPLETED AND FURNISHED. (1995-1999)
9. New sprinkler system for field installed. (1999)
10. Newer golf cart purchased. (2000)
11. Batting cages renovated (concreted, carpeted, new netting,) (2000)
12. Infield re-sodded (Dec. 1999) Outfield renovated (Aug-Oct 2000)
13. Home dugout and equipment room enlarged. (2000)
14. Computer system purchased for office. (1999)
15. New windscreens and fence cap installed. (2000)
16. Concrete and turf installed in front of dugouts and around homeplate. (Oct. 2000 - Jan 2001)
17. New foul poles installed. (Jan 2001)
18. Two sets of uniforms purchased. (2001)
19. Backstops installed for each bullpen area. (Jan 2001)
20. Played in national tournament, Westminster Classic. (Spring 2001)
21. Concrete work completed around building. (Jan 2002)
22. PERMAMENT BLEACHERS INSTALLED. (Fall 2002)
23. Pavilion (20' x 30') with lighting constructed to house picnic tables. (Jan. 2002)
24. New state of art scoreboard installed. (Feb 2002)
25. ROOFS INSTALLED over the new permanent bleachers. (June 2002)
26. A second Iron Mike pitching machine installed. (Fall 2002)
27. A \$35,000 reel mower purchased jointly by EHS booster clubs and school. (spring 2003)
28. New rolling bating cage purchased for \$3,000. (Fall 2003)

29. New set of uniforms purchased. (Fall 2003)
30. \$5,000 in Ivan repairs. (Fall 2004)
31. Purchase a \$5,000 John Deere Infield Groomer. (Spring 2005)
32. Purchase an \$8,000 John Deere Gator. (Spring 2005)
33. Purchase and installation of new commercial grill and deep fryer for the concession stand. (Fall 2005)
34. Installation of hood and fire suppression system for grill and fryer. (Jan. 2007)
35. Purchase of new uniforms. (Jan 2007)

If you feel that a lot is being asked of you this year (players and parents). Please just look at the facilities that your sons have to use the players, parents and other boosters before you worked so hard to provide. So not only do the players have the challenge of a great tradition to uphold, but parents and other boosters have just as great a tradition to maintain.

Our staff is very excited about the upcoming season and is looking forward to a great year working with your sons. Please feel free to call or come by anytime if you have any questions or concerns about your son's progress.

Yours in Baseball,

Roger Mayo

