



# The All-Star

Official Newsletter of the Illinois High School Baseball Coaches Association

## It's a family affair for Voss, JCA

Joliet Catholic's head coach Jared Voss bleeds brown and gold. This might sound cliché, but it's the best way to describe the man who led the undefeated Hilltoppers to the 2014 Phil Lawler Summer League State Championship.

Joliet Catholic Academy has been part of Voss's life since he was 14. He attended the school from 1988-92 where he was a three-sport athlete, competing in golf, wrestling, and baseball. On the diamond, he played for

IHSBCA Hall of Famer Joe Rodeghero. "I learned a lot from Coach Rodeghero," said Voss. "He has been one of my long-time mentors."

After college, Voss returned to his alma mater in 1996 and accepted a position as social studies teacher and assistant baseball coach. "It's funny how things worked out, but I actually took Coach Rodeghero's teaching position when he left Joliet Catholic to coach baseball at Providence." Two years later, Voss was named head

coach of the Hilltoppers.

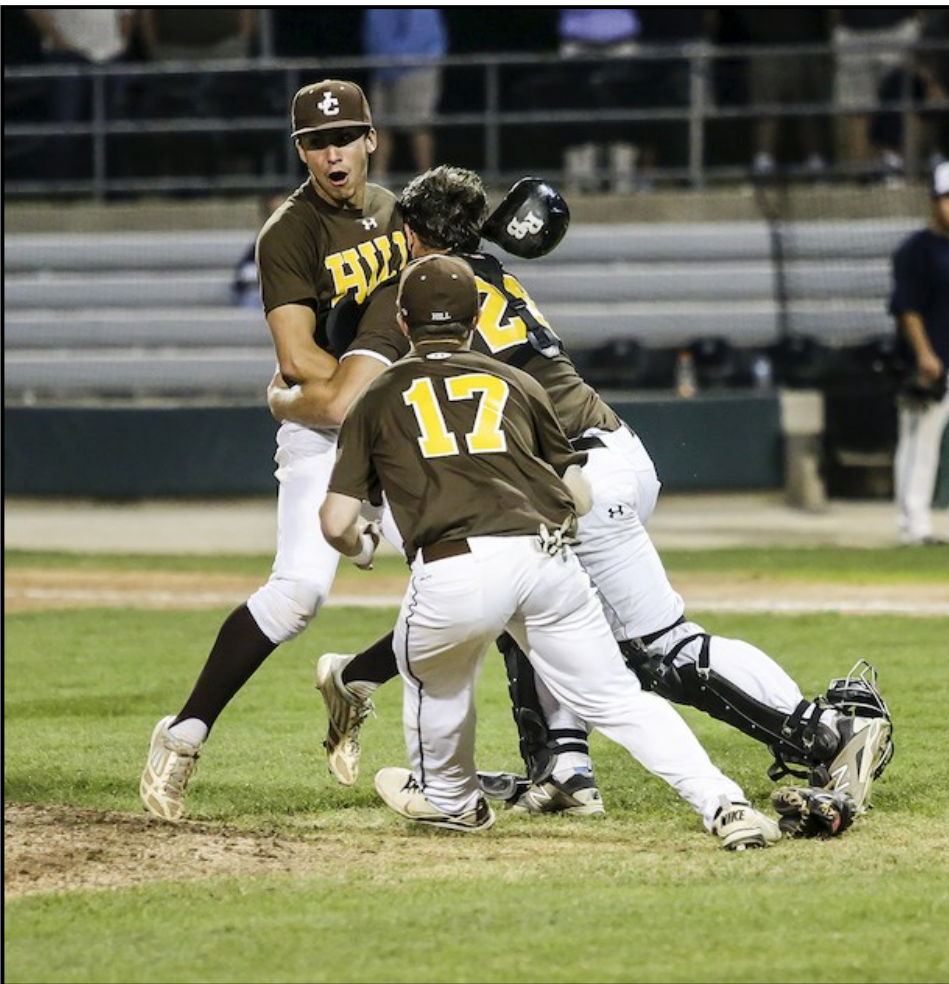
"This is really the only high school I've ever known," commented Voss. "I love it here and it's a big part of my family. It truly is a great place to work."

As much as Voss loves JCA, the feelings must be mutual. His success at the helm of the baseball program over the past 16 years is tough to match. Besides this year's summer championship, Voss brought home spring 3A titles in both 2009 and 2013. His teams also placed in State four other times (4<sup>th</sup> in 2010, 3<sup>rd</sup> in 2008, and 2<sup>nd</sup> in both 2000 and 2004) and won 11 Regional titles during his tenure.

With all his success, you might think capturing titles has gotten to be "old hat" for Voss, but nothing could be further from the truth. "This year's summer championship was just as fulfilling and exciting as the others. Watching the kid's reactions to being champs and watching them jump on the dog pile never gets old."

Going through the 2014 summer season and play-offs undefeated was special for Voss and his team, but at the same time, it certainly was not expected. "We did the typical mixing and matching throughout the summer season with so many players going in different directions because of our kids playing other sports or working," he said. "As a matter of fact, none of our kids threw more than two innings in any one outing and we always had a different team out there. I'm o.k. with this because more of the players get a chance to play. I only asked that we had a full squad during the play-offs."

Voss would definitely need "all hands on deck" when the play-offs started, as JCA had to navigate its way through



JCA players celebrate after defeating Nazareth to win summer title.

Continued on page 3

# 2014 All-State Teams

## CLASS 1A

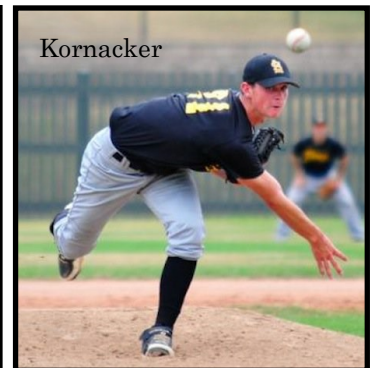
Zane Austin	SS/OF	Bluford-Webber
Josh Crist	SS	River-Ridge
Tyler Engel	2B	Astoria - South Fulton
Grant Farmer	3B/P	Illinois Lutheran
Sam Geraci	SS/P	Illinois Lutheran
Cale Hennemann	SS	Pawnee
Mitchell Janssen	P	Princeville
Jordan Johnson	SS	Sandoval
Michael Lowery	SS/P	Argenta - Oreana
Aiden McMahan	C/P	Shawnee
Tyler Meyer	IF	New Athens
Zach Moore	P	Cobden
Lane Moser	C	Bluford - Webber
Jake Perreira	C/P	Grant Park
Adam Peters	SS/P	Decatur - St. Teresa
Kevin Schuh	SS/P	Edwards County
Jon Stockton	C	Lena-Winslow
Cole Taylor	SS/P	Sidell - Salt Fork
Christian Vonderheide	SS/P	Windson - Stewardson
Keegan McHood	SS/P	Argenta - Oreana

## CLASS 3A

Jake Bartels	P	Nazareth Academy
Connor Etheridge	P	Saacted Heart Griffin
Danny Gerke	P	Burlington Central
Will Kincannon	P	Riverside Brookfield
Jake Latz	P	Lemont
Ryan Netemeyer	P	Mascoutah
Ben Rashid	P	Illinois Valley Central
Collin Ridout	P	Johnsburg
Clay Shourd	P	Springfield
Kevin Ulrich	P	East Peoria
Nathan Haaker	C	Sycamore
Mike Papierski	C	Lemont
Mitch Trees	C	Sacred Heart Griffin
Tyler Banovich	IF	Bremen
Cole Daily	IF	Sacred Heart Griffin
Tanner Kehrer	IF	Belvidere North
Tanner McClain	IF	Rantoul
Luke Morgan	IF	Lincoln-Way West
Drew Nichols	IF	Manteno
Ethan Skender	IF	Metamora
Mike Wisz	IF	Lemont
Chris Whelan	IF	Benet Academy
Semaj Patterson	IF	Harlan
Nick Delasandro	OF	Joliet Catholic
James Davison	OF	Morgan Park
Brian Hobbie	OF	Chatham Glenwood
Corey Mason	OF	Sacred Heart Griffin
Rayce Singbush	OF	Geneseo

## CLASS 2A

Christian Bolhuis	P	Chicago Christian
Charlie Donovan	SS	Westmont
Matt Dwyer	P	Brimfield
Cole Hamilton	3B	Pleasant Plains
Jordan Harre	C	Nashville
Brock Immke	3B/P	St. Joseph - Ogden
Matt Jenkins	P	Annawan - Wethersfield
Jeff Klamam	P	Herscher
Mitch Koehler	P	Pleasant Plains
Jon Kramer	OF/P	Beardstown
Hunter Morris	C	Paris
Tyler Nunez	SS	Byron
Tyler O'Shea	P	Williamsville
Nate Peterson	1B/P	Byron
Trystin Raikes	SS	Ottawa - Marquette
Kody Silverthorn	SS/P	Eureka
Nick Stokowski	OF	Monticello
Cooper Thompson	1B/3B	Harrisburg
Bobby Wenthe	OF	Teutopolis
Nick Yung	IF/P	Freeburg



## CLASS 4A

Blake Deatherage	P	O'Fallon
Matthias Dietz	P	Sandburg
Bryan Hudson	P	Alton
Mike Kornacker	P	St. Laurence
Connor McCarthy	P	Glenbrook South
Ryan Nutof	P	South Elgin
Kyle Ostrowski	P	Lincoln-Way North
Bobby Pennington	P	Maine South
Kyle Strepek	P	Plainfield North
Mitch Vogrin	P	Minooka
Simeon Lucas	C	Grant
Mark Skonieczny	C	Huntley
Evan Skoug	C	Libertyville
Chad Spanberger	C	Granite City

Continued on page 4



# Voss, JCA: 2014 Summer State Champions

Continued from page 1

the always tough Lockport Sectional. JCA's first round opponent, Lincoln Way North, wasn't the cake walk one would expect after finishing the regular season with a perfect record. "The Lincoln Way game might have been the toughest game we had in our play-off run and it was the opening game!" said Voss. The Hilltoppers, led by a superb outing from junior right-handed pitcher Drake Fellows, beat the Phoenix 1-0. After wins against other perennial powerhouse programs Plainfield North and Sandburg, JCA advanced to the final eight teams.

"We had some very exciting games in pool play, including two incredible walk-off wins," said Voss. Senior Connor Brandon provided the fireworks in the first game, driving in Nick Dalesandro with the game-winning run in the bottom of the seventh against Prairie Ridge. In the semi-final game, Fellows was the hero, knocking out Prospect High School 3-2 with his own walk-off RBI hit.

"I would love to say it was all coach-

ing," joked Voss, "but we are blessed to have such a talented group of kids at JCA." Four players – shortstop Mitch Boe (Iowa), pitcher Drake Fellows (Vanderbilt), pitcher Danny Ehrsam (SIU Edwardsville), and pitcher/catcher Nick Dalesandro (Purdue) – are already committed to Division I schools, and Keegan Tyrell, who Voss says is just as talented as the others, has yet to commit.

While there certainly is no dearth of talent at JCA, it is Jack Kaiser Summer League Tournament MVP Dalesandro that "stirs our drink," according to Voss. "The team feeds off Nick's energy, and I have all the confidence in the world in his leadership abilities." Voss has showed his faith in Dalesandro over the past few years as he gave his captain the ball to pitch in the summer finals game in 2012, the IHSA spring title game in 2013, and this summer's championship game, in which he recorded a complete game 3-1 victory over Nazareth Academy.

Voss also extends much of the credit for JCA's undefeated summer season – the first in the 39-year history of the



Coach Voss

tournament – to three of his assistant coaches in particular: Kevin Campbell, Mark Siefert, and Jake Jaworski. All three of these coaches played for Voss at JCA.

Campbell, who played on the 2008 Hilltopper squad that finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in State, coached third base throughout most of the summer season. Siefert, a 2006 graduate of JCA, coaches the sophomore team during the spring and "was really involved in preparing the hitters, both physically and mentally, especially during the summer," said Voss. Jaworski, Voss's pitching coach and member of the 2000 State runner-up team, "does an incredible job teaching the pitchers composure in competitive situations and has developed an off-season conditioning program that is on par with D-1 colleges."

Keeping with the Joliet Catholic family theme, Voss recently brought back former JCA skipper, Rodeghero, to serve as varsity hitting coach.

"I've learned so much from baseball guys like Coach Rodeghero," said Voss. "I was young [24 years old] when I got this job and IHSCBA Hall of Famers like Rodeghero, Jim Hall [retired Lockport coach], Frank Ganser [retired Andrew coach], and Chuck Gandolphi [retired Carmel coach] taught me how to succeed in this great game and helped me to grow as a coach."



Dalesandro delivers a pitch in the championship game.

## 2014 IHSBCA Phil Lawler All-Tournament Team

P	Drake Fellows	Joliet Catholic Academy
P	Danny Ersham	Joliet Catholic Academy
P	Tyler Plako	Prospect
P	Pasquelli Atteo	Prospect
1B	Lucas Karz	Prospect
2B	Conner Schneider	Prairie Ridge
SS	Mitch Boe	Joliet Catholic Academy
3B	Chris Campagna	Nazareth Academy
C	Shane Gipson	Nazareth Academy
OF	Trey Compton	Prospect
OF	Kyle Kane	Nazareth Academy
DH	Nick Schmidt	Prairie Ridge
U	Ben Cilano	Prairie Ridge

## JACK KAISER MEMORIAL MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

Nick Dalesandro  
Joliet Catholic Academy

## 2014 Class 4A All State Team

### Continued from page 2

Brock Weimer	C	Edwardsville
Nick Goldsmith	IF	St. Rita
Cody Grosse	IF	Joliet West
Colin Holderman	IF	Bradley-Bourbonnais
Thomas Norton	IF	Notre Dame
Dylan Rosa	IF	Providence Catholic
Anthony Santos	IF	York
Erik Schurtz	IF	Rolling Meadows
Ako Thomas	IF	Mt. Carmel
Neal Tyrell	IF	Minooka
Brad Wood	IF	St. Laurence
Cody Carroll	OF	Glenbrook South
Darius Day	OF	Simeon
Laren Eustace	OF	Batavia
Brad Harrison	OF	O'Fallon
Bobby McMillen	OF	Naperville Central
Ryan Noda	OF	Grant
Gehrig Parker	OF	Maine South
Jake Shepski	OF	St. Rita

## Recently upgraded your baseball facility? Tell us about it!

Over the past few years, many coaches have made amazing renovations/improvements to their program's facilities. The IHSBCA would like to showcase these programs and the work the coaches, players and community members have put into their fields. If you have recently completed any work on your baseball facility (ie. new infield, batting tunnels, bull pens, dug outs, storage buildings, etc.), please send Don Erickson from Reavis High School a list/description of the improvements you have made. You can e-mail the information to [derickson@d220.org](mailto:derickson@d220.org). Also, if you have any photographs of the completed work, please send them in an attachment to the e-mail. An upcoming newsletter will have the compiled list of teams who have upgraded their facilities, a short description of the improvements, and photographs of some of the renovations.

## Recent Milestone In Victories?

The IHSBCA would like to continue to recognize high school and college head coaches who have recently reached a milestone in career wins (ie 100, 200, 300, etc). The names of these individuals will be published in our winter newsletter. If you reached a milestone in the spring of 2014, please e-mail Don Erickson at [derickson@d220.org](mailto:derickson@d220.org). Please include the following information: name, school, number of wins, and number of years coaching.



# 12 PRINCIPLES OF COACHING

By Phil Fox

1. It is not what the coach knows, but what the player knows.
2. Get the right player in the right position to be successful. Don't ask a player to do something that he cannot do.
3. Teach Technique...Make a player technique conscious.
4. Repetition – repetition day after day after day
5. Preparation = performance Talk In meetings – Act on the field – Coach on the run
6. 4 Parts of Learning...
  - A. Explanation
  - B. Demonstration – walk through
  - C. Practice – repetition
  - D. Walk through – correct mistakes
7. Mistakes – Learn from your mistakes
  - A. See a mistake – correct it...Ask yourself why and how?
  - B. Look for better ways to teach players...Drills should always have a purpose.
  - C. Don't complain about your players...they are the only ones you have. Be positive – make them the best they can be.
8. Check after practice
  - A. Discuss Attitude, Effort, and Accomplishments after each practice.
  - B. Never allow a player to loaf in any baseball related activity.
9. Chemistry and Team Morale
  - A. More important than ever
  - B. Coach needs to show his players that he cares about them
  - C. Honesty, Trust, Communication
  - D. Door is always open to meet with players...Schedule formal meetings each year.
  - E. Strive to make players better – Commitment
  - F. Make every player feel a part of the team...Everyone is important...  
Everyone is treated in the same manner
  - G. Do not give up on your players
10. Evaluate players daily
11. Never fail to talk with anyone about something that could help the baseball team
12. Strive to take yourself to the next level.

**About the author:** Phil Fox, a retired head baseball coach from Downers Grove South, is a member of the IH-SBCA Hall of Fame. Currently, Fox works as an instructor for the Bulls/Sox Academy and speaks at various area baseball camps and clinics.

## Spring Break trip in 2015?

The winter edition of the IHSBCA newsletter will feature an article on the growing trend of high school baseball teams taking out-of-state Spring Break trips. To accompany this article, we would like to put together a list of all the Illinois teams who will be traveling out of state this upcoming spring. If you are planning a trip with your team, please e-mail Don Erickson at [derickson@d220.org](mailto:derickson@d220.org) with your head coach's name, school name, and trip destination so you can be included on this list.

