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# NEW ENGLAND BASEBALL JOURNAL

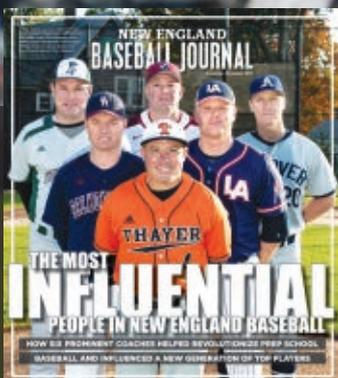
November-December 2018

# UNDENIABLE

**Dominant playoff run caps Red Sox' fourth World Series title this century and cements their place among all-time greats**

**+ MVP PEARCE:** Unlikely hero relishes Massachusetts roots

**LOCAL IMPACT:** Babson coach, players soak up lessons from champs



**INSIDE:  
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November-December 2018



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Founded 2010

Volume IX, Number 9

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Billie Weiss/Boston Red Sox/Getty Images (Red Sox wrap);  
Dave Arnold/New England Baseball Journal (main)

### FREQUENCY

New England Baseball Journal is published eight times per year by Seamans Media, Inc. It is distributed free of charge to select baseball training facilities and baseball specialty retailers throughout New England. Subscription rates: \$34.99 (one year), \$64.99 (two years). All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reprinted or otherwise reproduced without the written permission of Seamans Media, Inc.

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## RED SOX: 2018 WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONS

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**RED SOX** | Fueled by Alex Cora's confidence, David Price and a host of heroic pitchers personify the Sox' team-first attitude to win the club's fourth World Series in 15 years.

## THE MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE IN NEW ENGLAND BASEBALL

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## PREP POWER

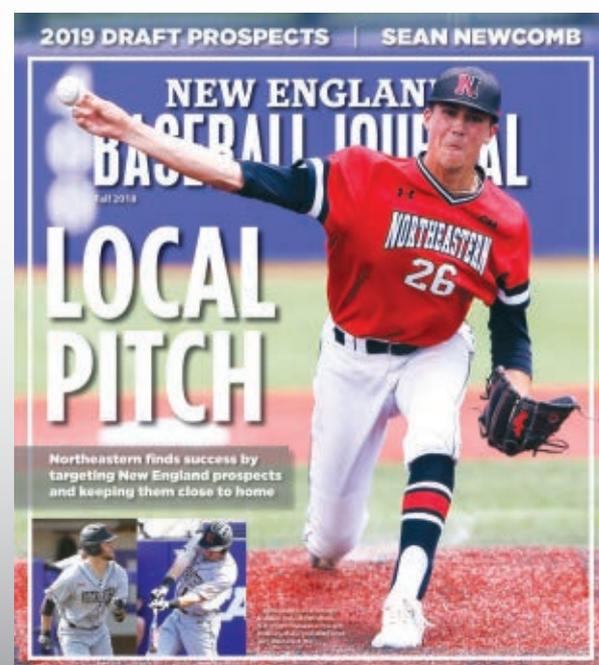
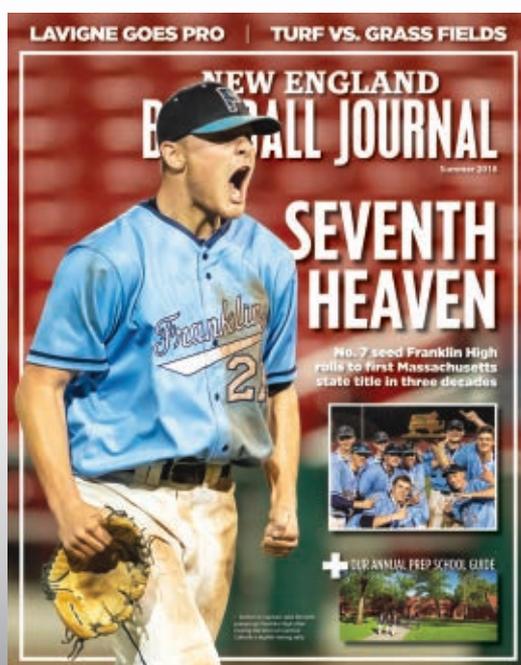
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# NEW ENGLAND BASEBALL JOURNAL

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## AROUND THE REGION

# Pawtucket's Mike Tamburro awarded 'King of Baseball'

**M**inor League Baseball announced Nov. 6 that **Mike Tamburro**, vice chairman of the Pawtucket Red Sox, has been named the 2018 "King of Baseball."

The "King of Baseball" is a longstanding tradition in which Minor League Baseball recognizes a veteran of professional baseball for longtime dedication and service.

Tamburro will receive the King of Baseball Award at the Baseball Winter Meetings Banquet on Dec. 9 at the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino in Las Vegas.

"I am flattered and honored to win such a prestigious award," Tamburro. "It really is an honor that is shared with everyone associated with the Pawtucket organization, past and present, as it has been all of their hard work that has allowed me to receive this honor."

Tamburro, a current co-owner of the PawSox, served as president of the PawSox for 31 years (1985-2015) after serving as general manager of the club for eight years (1977-84). He began his career in Pawtucket in 1977 at the urging of the Boston Red Sox, who teamed him with **Ben Mondor** to save the Boston Red Sox' troubled Triple-A affiliate in Rhode Island.

In August, the PawSox announced plans to relocate the franchise to Worcester, Mass., in 2021.

### Portland's Eshbach stepping down

Portland Sea Dogs team president **Charlie Eshbach** announced recently that he is stepping down from leadership of the team following a 45-year career in baseball, including the last 25 seasons with the Sea Dogs.

Executive vice president and general manager **Geoff Iacuesa** will assume the role of president and GM, while Eshbach will serve as a senior advisor.

"Charlie has been a remarkable leader of our organization, combining great vision with a strong business sense and commitment to our fans and our community," team chairman **Bill Burke** said.

Iacuesa, a graduate of the University of Massachusetts, will be entering his 19th season as a member of the Portland organization in 2019. He originally started his career with the Sea Dogs as an intern in 2001 before being hired as the director of group sales in 2002.

### Nichols College names Mayo coach

Nichols College announced the hiring of **Timothy Mayo** as head baseball coach

in early November.

Mayo (Enfield, Conn.) has spent the past three years at Trinity College (Conn.) as a full-time assistant coach and recruiting coordinator, helping the Bantams to a 57-50 record during that span and an appearance in the NESCAC championship game in 2016.

Prior to his arrival at Trinity, Mayo was the lead assistant and pitching coach at Eastern Connecticut State (2014-16). The Warriors posted a two-year mark of 55-26 and earned the No. 1 seed in the NCAA Division 3 regionals in 2014, when his pitching staff was ranked No. 12 in the country in ERA.

### Fisher Cats unveil dinner lineup

Hall of Fame pitcher **Steve Carlton** will headline the annual Granite State Baseball Dinner, which is slated for Saturday, Nov. 17 at the Manchester Downtown Hotel Expo Center.

In 1982, Carlton became the first pitcher ever to win four Cy Young Awards. He ranks second among left-handers with 329 career wins, achieved with the Phillies and Cardinals.

He will be joined by New Hampshire legend and former Cy Young Award winner **Chris Carpenter** (Raymond, N.H.), Red Sox greats **Bill Lee**, **Luis Tiant**, **Rich Gedman** and **Bob Stanley**, and local minor-league sensation **Grant Lavinne** (Bedford, N.H.), among others.

Since 2007, the event has donated more than \$1.65 million to its three beneficiaries: the Children's Hospital at Dartmouth-Hitchcock (CHaD), the Ted Williams Foundation and the Fisher Cats Foundation. Tickets are available at NHFisherCats.com.

### Around the horn

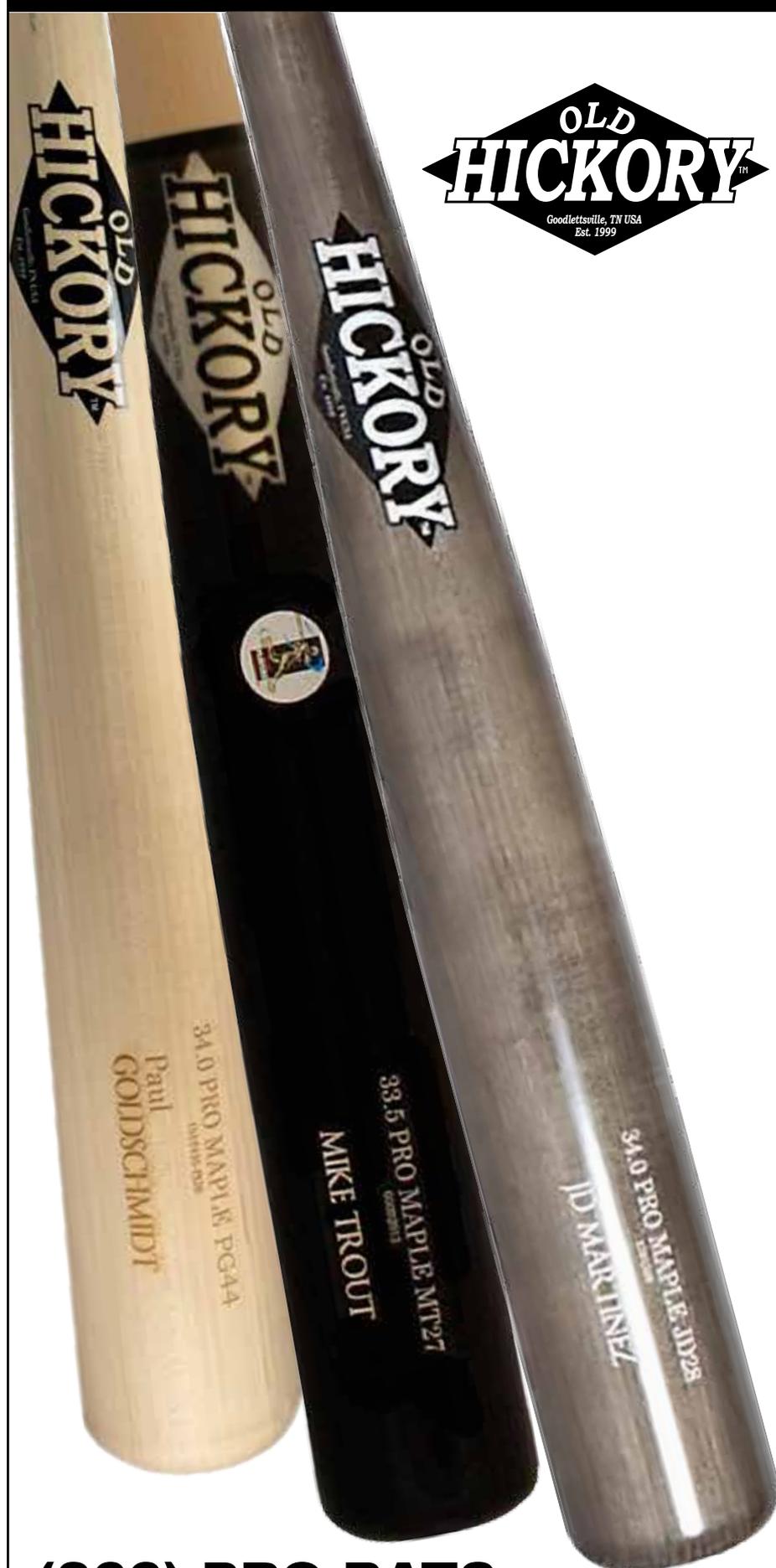
The Massachusetts Baseball Coaches Association recently announced its 2019 Hall of Fame class: **Mark Baldwin** of Northampton High School, **Patrick Forbes** of Whitman-Hanson High School, **Bill Mahoney** of Brighton High School and **Rick Foresteire** of Thayer Academy. For more on Foresteire, read our cover story, starting on Page 22. ...

The 2018 Cape Cod Baseball League Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will be held Dec. 11 at the Chatham Bars Inn. This year's inductees are **Arthur "Ace" Adams**, **Barbara Ellsworth**, **Peter Gammons** (Groton, Mass.), **Craig Hansen**, **John Schiffner** and **Mark Sweeney**. Limited tickets are on sale now for \$90. To purchase tickets and for information about the event, call Mary Hender-son 508-432-4298.



▶ Tamburro

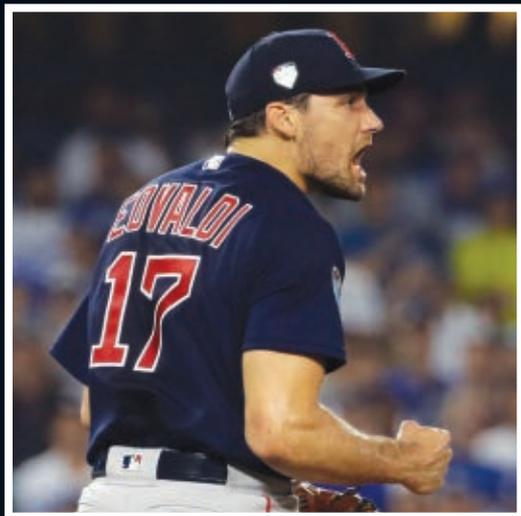
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# WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONS



By Ian Browne

**T**HE MOST SYMBOLIC ANECDOTE from what emerged as the greatest Red Sox team ever took place after, of all things, a loss.

That's surprising considering how rare it was for this 2018 juggernaut to lose — just 54 times in the regular season and only three in October on the way to its remarkable fourth World Series championship in just 15 years.

But it would have been cool to be a fly on the wall of manager Alex Cora's office at Dodger Stadium following that agonizing, 3-2, 18-inning loss to the Los Angeles Dodgers in Game 3 of the World Series.

It was a game that took seven hours and 20 minutes to play — the longest in World Series history by innings and time. Ian Kinsler had the winning out in his hand in the 13th inning and instead threw the ball away. It seemed like a loss from a different Red Sox lifetime, say, for example, 1986. Typically, it is the type of game that buoys the team that wins it and crushes the one that loses it.

But this was the night it became clear forever that the '18 Sox were uncrushable. Max Muncy's walk-off homer to left-center had landed just a few minutes earlier, and

Continued on Page 8

# ALL IN

**Fueled by Alex Cora's confidence, David Price and a host of heroic pitchers personify the Sox' team-first attitude to win the club's fourth World Series title in 15 years**



► David Price emerged as a dominant postseason ace, pitching the Red Sox to their fourth championship in the past 15 years. His performance, coupled with his workhorse mentality, epitomized a Sox staff that took the ball in any situation — oftentimes requesting to pitch on short rest or out of the bullpen — and then dominated, including (insets clockwise from top left) Rick Porcello, Chris Sale, Eduardo Rodriguez and Nathan Eovaldi.

*Getty Images photos: Harry How (Price and Porcello); Billie Weiss/Boston Red Sox (Sale and Rodriguez); Alex Trautwig (Eovaldi)*



# WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONS

Continued from Page 6

Cora had a line of pitchers outside his office.

Surely, they were coming in to commiserate and make sure their manager was holding up OK? Wrong. The line that formed included Chris Sale, David Price and Rick Porcello. The three most accomplished members of the starting rotation all were volunteering to start Game 4.

For Sale, a Game 4 start would have been on three days' rest, and coming off his less than spectacular performance in Game 1. Price would have been taking the ball on two days of rest since his Game 2 start, and zero days' rest from when he came out of the bullpen for two outs in that Game 3 marathon. Porcello? He had just started Game 3, throwing 61 pitches. It would have been storybook stuff for him to take the ball again the next day.

Cora thanked all the pitchers for their team-first attitude but decided to go with Eduardo Rodriguez, who hadn't started in more than a month. But the offers made by Sale, Price and Porcello illustrated a clear picture of the unwavering, "all-in" attitude that developed during that championship month.

Naturally, the 2018 Red Sox never lost again. Rodriguez was stellar in Game 4 until Cora admittedly left him in too long and the lefty served up a three-run homer to Yasiel Puig to pin the team in a 4-0 hole. Cora redeemed himself rather swiftly by calling on Mitch Moreland to pinch-hit, and all the left-handed hitter did was clock a three-run homer. Steve Pearce — the unlikely World Series

MVP — tied it in the eighth. A collection of heroes, including 22-year-old third baseman Rafael Devers and Pearce again (three-run double) busted it open in the ninth.

Then it was time for another pitching decision for Game 5. Sale was scheduled to take the ball on regular rest. But the way Cora read the situation is that Price was "locked in." So he went with him on short rest, just as he had done in Game 5 against the Astros in the ALCS. To the surprise of no one, Price was magnificent. In the ninth inning, with the Dodgers down by four runs, Cora stomped on his opponent one last time by bringing on Sale to close it. The World Series ended with Manny Machado on one



▶ **ABOVE:** Manager Alex Cora, who utilized starting pitchers as 'rovers' out of the bullpen, clutches the World Series trophy at the championship parade.

▶ **BOTTOM LEFT:** Mitch Moreland blasts his pinch-hit home run to begin the Sox' come-from-behind rally in Game 4.

▶ **BOTTOM CENTER:** Christian Vazquez starts celebrating after Manny Machado strikes out on the final pitch by Chris Sale.

▶ **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Eduardo Nunez rounds the bases after his clutch three-run home run in the seventh inning of Game 1.

knee trying unsuccessfully to make contact with an unhittable slider.

Pretty much everything Cora touched all month turned to gold, and that was in large part due to the confidence he instilled in his entire roster.

Price had never been successful in the playoffs as a starter before this season. In fact, he was winless in 11 straight starts before he stifled the Astros in that close-out game. But before this season, Price had never played for a manager like Cora. After Price was shelled in Game 2 of the Division Series against the Yankees, it would have surprised no one if Cora had shuffled his rotation for the ALCS and bumped Porcello or Nathan Eovaldi up to the No. 2 spot. But Cora went with Price again, and the lefty hung in just enough (4 $\frac{2}{3}$  innings, 4 ER) in a game the Red Sox won, 5-4.

"All in" became the rallying cry for a team that checked egos

at the door before the postseason started.

"If AC had asked me to start every game, I would have done it. I wanted to be out there," said Price. "I wanted to be special for my teammates. And we all stepped up this year and in the playoffs. That was huge."

Also huge is the way Price has set himself up to succeed for the final four years of his contract with the Red Sox. Before the duck boats had even left Fenway Park, Price informed the media he would not be exercising the opt-out clause in his contract. For the first time in his Red Sox career, he will oper-

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Getty Images photos: Adam Glanzman (Cora); Billie Weiss/Boston Red Sox (Moreland); Stan Grossfeld/The Boston Globe (Vazquez); Elsa (Nunez)

**'If AC had asked me to start every game, I would have done it. I wanted to be out there. I wanted to have that baseball. I wanted to be special for my teammates. And we all stepped up this year and in the playoffs.**

**That was huge.' — DAVID PRICE**



Jim Davis/The Boston Globe via Getty Images



# WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONS

Continued from Page 8

ate without baggage. The questions about October are gone, and so is his ability to handle all the pressure that comes with pitching in Boston. The only demon Price has left to exorcise is his struggles against the Yankees. But that shouldn't be a problem given the confidence he just gained.

As much of a revelation as Price the pitcher was in these playoffs, his selflessness and willingness was perhaps an even bigger storyline.

"He was the first one in the clubhouse; most of the time, he was the last one in the clubhouse," Cora said. "He just wanted to compete."

Cora sent the magical playoff run in motion with his liberal use of the "rover." That was his term for the pitcher who could bounce back and forth between the rotation and bullpen. Porcello set the tone in Game 1 of the AL Division Series with two outs against the Yankees on the one night that bullpen seemed sure to fold. It was Sale's turn in Game 4 against the Yankees, as he stifled them with a 13-pitch eighth inning. Porcello did it again with a shutdown eighth inning in Game 2 against the Astros. It was Eovaldi to the rescue in the close-out of the Astros in Game 5 of the ALCS. And Eovaldi again in the first three games of the World Series.

Eovaldi's Game 3 performance was the most heroic effort in World Series history by a Red Sox pitcher. He was supposed to start Game 4 but instead fired six utterly brilliant innings out of the 'pen in Game 3. His magic finally wore off when Muncy took him out of



the yard in the 18th. But there was no taking away from what Eovaldi did because it was the ultimate 2018 Red Sox type of performance.

"That was the most incredible pitching performance I've even seen," Porcello said. "Actually, after the game was over I started crying because that was — I mean, he's grinding. Every pitch. He literally gave everything he had on every single pitch and it was special."

If you didn't expect Eovaldi to become the hero of heroes in October, you probably were even more surprised by the dominance of Joe Kelly. The reliever jeopardized even making the postseason roster by his rough finish to the regular season. But he dominated in the

month when it mattered most. The joy and the fire on Kelly's face when he struck out Cody Bellinger to end the eighth inning in the World Series clincher should keep Red Sox fans warm throughout the winter. Kelly is a free agent — one who every Sox fan suddenly wants to see back in Boston next year.

Then there was Matt Barnes. The reliever from Bethel, Conn., had a sore left hip that left him sidelined for a significant portion of September. When the bullpen struggled, Cora continually said the return of Barnes would make a big difference. The hard-throwing righty with the devastating curveball made his manager look smart during his sparking October, posting a 1.04 ERA and holding opponents to a .103 average over 10 outings.

If the pitching staff took center stage in the playoffs, the performance of the offense is not to be overlooked, either. Each night, it seemed like there

was a different hero. Jackie Bradley Jr., who is known for his glove, was the MVP of the ALCS with nine RBI. Eduardo Nunez was relegated to the bench for one of the few times this season against a lefty starter (Clayton Kershaw) in Game 1, and all he did was mash the game-breaking, three-run, pinch-hit homer later that same night.

The 2018 Red Sox were "all in" from the start, and that never was more evident than in October. **B**

Ian Browne is the Red Sox beat reporter for MLB.com.

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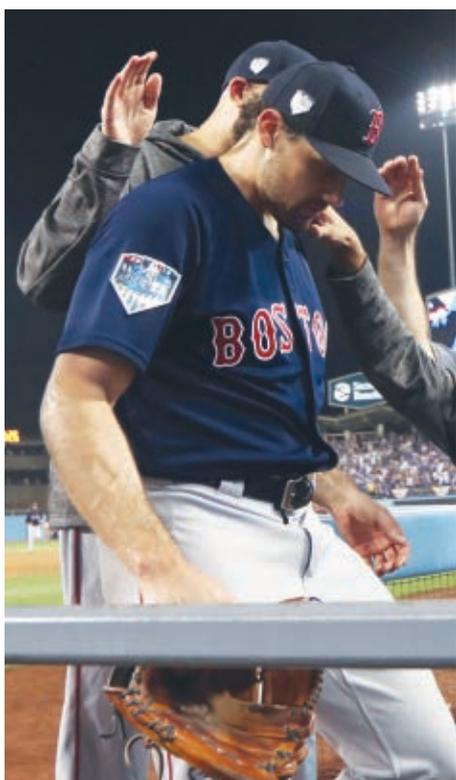
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▶ **ABOVE:** Mookie Betts, the likely AL MVP who homered in the clinching game of the World Series, shows off the hardware.

▶ **BOTTOM LEFT:** Nathan Eovaldi is consoled with highly deserved pats on the back after his heroic, six-inning effort in the marathon, 18-inning Game 3.

▶ **BOTTOM CENTER:** Jackie Bradley Jr., the ALCS MVP, high-fives Christian Vazquez after his home run in Game 3.

▶ **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Alex Cora puts the exclamation point on the Red Sox' historic season.



Getty Images photos: Billie Weiss/Red Sox (Betts and Bradley); Jim Davis/The Boston Globe (Eovaldi); Ezra Shaw (Cora)

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# WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONS

**Steve Pearce — whose family hails from Rehoboth, Mass. — proves he can hit anyone, powering his childhood team with award-winning effort in Games 4 and 5**

# MVP PEARCE

By Ian Browne

**S**TEVE PEARCE NOT ONLY GREW UP a Red Sox fan, but he also was once drafted by his favorite team. So the fact that he was the World Series MVP of Boston's latest championship was your ultimate storybook script, right?

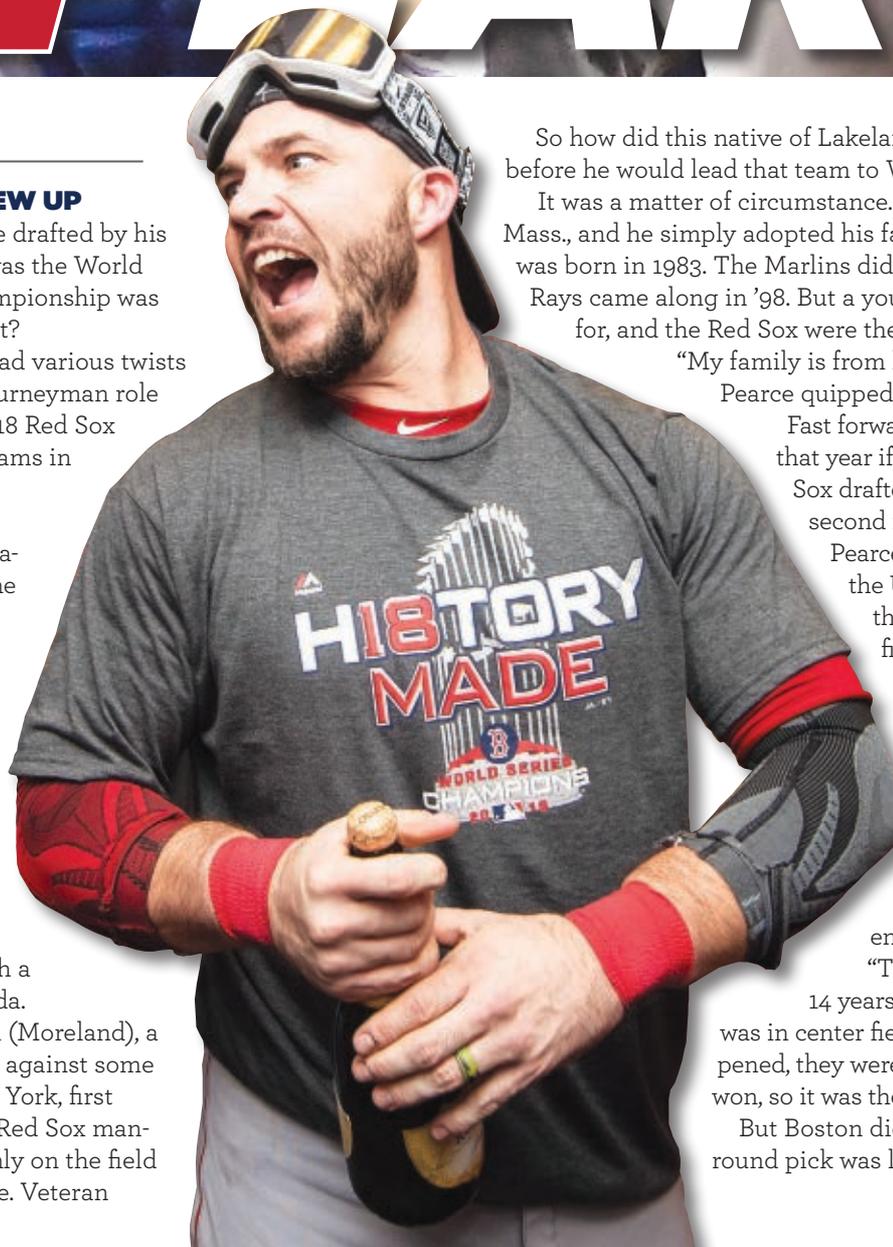
Well, let's put it this way: It was a script that had various twists and turns along the way before the invaluable journeyman role player could be a driving force in helping the 2018 Red Sox cement their place as one of the all-time great teams in MLB history.

Pearce's surreal October was made possible by dealing Dave Dombrowski's first move of trade season. It was June 28 when Dombrowski patched one of the few holes this juggernaut of a team had — a professional right-handed bat who was known for crushing lefties to come off the bench.

Dombrowski said at the time that Pearce also could hit righties. It was a throw-away line that proved prophetic when it mattered most.

There Pearce was in Game 4 of the World Series, mauling a game-tying homer in the eighth inning against Dodgers closer Kenley Jansen, who is a righty. And there Pearce was again, breaking open Game 4 in the ninth inning — a game his team once trailed, 4-0 — with a bases-clearing double against righty Kenta Maeda.

"We were looking for a complement for Mitch (Moreland), a right-handed bat, to play against lefties and play against some righties. And from Day One when he got to New York, first pitch he saw, he hit a double off CC (Sabathia)," Red Sox manager Alex Cora said. "And he's been great, not only on the field but in the clubhouse. He's been a great teammate. Veteran guy. He's been through a lot."



So how did this native of Lakeland, Fla., grow up a Red Sox fan, long before he would lead that team to World Series glory?

It was a matter of circumstance. Pearce's father, Steve, is from Rehoboth, Mass., and he simply adopted his father's favorite team. Remember, Pearce was born in 1983. The Marlins didn't even have a team until 1993 and the Rays came along in '98. But a young Steve Pearce needed someone to root for, and the Red Sox were the natural fit.

"My family is from here so I was brainwashed as a kid," Pearce quipped. "Had no choice."

Fast forward to 2004. You might have heard of that year if you are a Red Sox fan. In June, the Red Sox drafted a player named Dustin Pedroia in the second round. Eight rounds later, they selected Pearce, who developed into a big-time hitter for the University of South Carolina Gamecocks that spring. That summer, Pearce got his first taste of the Fenway experience while attending a Red Sox-Yankees game with his Cape Cod Baseball League teammates. That date was July 24, the day when Jason Varitek and Alex Rodriguez went at it, and Bill Mueller belted a walk-off homer against Mariano Rivera. Pearce was hooked on the Fenway experience and easily could have envisioned a career with the Red Sox.

"That was epic. It was awesome," Pearce said 14 years later, talking as if it had just happened. "I was in center field, I was far away, but when the fight happened, they were down five or six runs and came back and won, so it was the most epic game I'd ever been a part of."

But Boston didn't come up with the money the 10th-round pick was looking for and he went back to South

Continued on Page 14

Kevin Djansezian/Getty Images (right and above); Billie Weiss/Boston Red Sox (left)



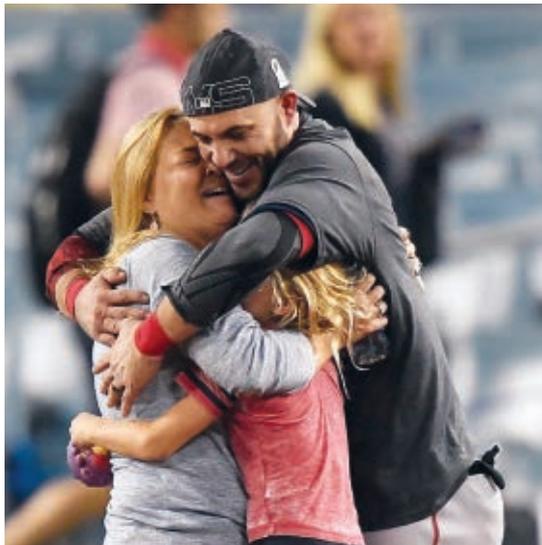
**‘You know, baseball is a funny game. You never know where the game will take you.**

**And I’ve gone through a lot in my life or in my career to be here, and I couldn’t**

**be more thankful.’ — STEVE PEARCE, WORLD SERIES MVP**



# WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONS



▶ Steve Pearce seals the Red Sox' World Series title with a home run in the eighth inning of Game 5. Then the MVP celebrates with his family (left).



Continued from Page 12

Carolina for another season of mashing. The Pirates were the third team in three years to draft Pearce (the Twins picked him first in '03), and he signed with Pittsburgh. For five consecutive years (2007-11), Pearce found himself on a shuttle between the Pirates and their minor-league affiliates. In 2011, Pearce became a free agent and it seemed he would come full circle. The Twins — that team that first drafted Pearce — signed him Dec. 15, 2011. The marriage with Minnesota was even shorter the second time around.

Pearce's 2012 season was simply amazing — at least in terms of the transaction wire. The Twins released him March 27. Two days later, the Yankees signed him. Two months later, the Orioles paid cash considerations to their AL East foe for Pearce. Six weeks later, the Astros claimed him off waivers. It got even more ridiculous two months after that, when the Yankees paid cash to bring him back — from the Astros. A month later, the Orioles decided they hadn't had enough of Pearce, and they claimed him off waivers from the Yankees.

Finally, Pearce found a home in Baltimore, becoming an important contributor to the 2014 American League East champions. Pearce played for the Orioles from 2013 to '15 before signing with the Rays on Jan. 28, 2016. But as was usually the case for Pearce, the marriage didn't last long. The Orioles decided a third time was a charm with Pearce and acquired him at the July 31 trade deadline in '16. Again a free agent after the '16 season, Pearce found yet another AL East home and signed with the Blue Jays. He would

stay there for a year-and-a-half — until Dombrowski made a move that would change Pearce's career and life forever.

Pearce wasn't simply completing his tour around the AL East. He was about to get the ultimate reward for all the unsettling bouncing around he had done for so many years. He had a few nights to remember even before October, including the three-homer performance against the Yankees on Aug. 2 at Fenway.

Pearce got clinching Game 5 of the World Series off to a rollicking start for the Red Sox when he smashed a two-run homer off Clayton Kershaw just three batters into the game. And it was Pearce who completed Boston's scoring in an historic season when he mauled another homer against righty Pedro Baez.

"He's a gamer. He's a grinder," Red Sox ace Chris Sale said. "And he waits for moments like this. We grew up a quarter-mile from each other, I grew up playing Little League with his youngest brother. Two guys from Lakeland were here in the World Series, I get to hold this championship trophy, he's got another trophy, and probably a Corvette, too. I get to ride shotgun with Pearce. It's unbelievable. What he did was incredible."

As Pearce took it all in, it was hard for him not to think about all it took for him to finally get to the pinnacle of his sport.

"You know, baseball is a funny game," Pearce said. "You never know where the game will take you. And I've gone through a lot in my life or in my career to be here, and I couldn't be more thankful."

A free agent, Pearce hopes he will not be on the move again. Boston seems too perfect a fit. And the way the roster is set up, Pearce could again complement Moreland at first base next season.

"I would definitely love it. We're world champions," Pearce said. "To be able to be open up next season at Fenway Park with the ring ceremony and everything that goes along with it and to drop the banner for the 2018 world champions, I would love that." **B**

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Kevin Djansezian/Getty Images



► Red Sox principal owner John Henry (left) and chairman Tom Werner got their hands on a fourth World Series trophy under their leadership.

# HENRY'S HEROES

**T**

**HERE SEEMS** to be an elementary way to settle the worthy debate over where the 2018 Boston Red Sox fit in terms of franchise hierarchy.

With a combined 119 wins between the regular season and playoffs — more than any other Red Sox team in history — the '18 World Series champions deserve the billing to be “Best Red Sox Team Ever.” That’s despite the argument that says the club feasted on weak competition during the regular season en route to a 67-21 mark against teams below .500. It’s a stipulation that gets tossed out when you consider that the Sox went 11-3 during its postseason run, including the demolition of a pair of fellow 100-win teams in the Yankees and Astros.

Ah, but how could any team ever be

## COMMENTARY by Eric Wilbur

considered better than the 2004 club? That team defied its dire situation in order to create an entirely new narrative for the franchise, ending the aggravation and torture that came with an 86-year championship drought. There could be something said for the other two titles (2007, 2013) of the new millennium, but each pales in comparison to the lofty annuals set by the leaders.

So, it stands logical to consider the 2018 Red Sox to be the best team Boston has ever witnessed, while saving the title of “Most Important Team Ever” for the 2004 crew. That seems an easy enough settlement that we all can get behind.

Except maybe for John Henry.

***Best Sox club ever? Probably. Most important? That’s reserved for the '04 crew. But this title team just might be the most meaningful for John Henry, the best owner in franchise history.***

The Red Sox owner didn’t take much time to weigh the 2018 team’s place on his trophy mantle, calling it “the greatest Red Sox team in history” moments after accepting the World Series trophy on the field in Los Angeles, where his Red Sox had just completed a convincing series win over the Dodgers in five games.

But one also gets a sense that this might represent something deeper for the 69-year-old owner aside from record and trophy.

“This team, this year, showed what unity, diversity, a sense of purpose and determination ... I mean, it showed all of us,” Henry said.

Granted, Henry understood what 2004 meant to all of New England, but the man also grew up a fan of the St. Louis Cardinals, meaning he never could have possi-

Continued on Page 16



# WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONS

► Patriots owner Robert Kraft (left) and Sox owner John Henry may have different public personas, but they share a commitment to success.



Billie Weiss/Boston Red Sox/Getty Images

Continued from Page 15

bly felt the magnitude that all dedicated Red Sox fans did 14 years ago. Combine that with the seeming satisfaction that Henry had with the construction of the 2018 club, and the significance of the latest edition just might be his apex.

**I**T'S BEEN 16 YEARS now since Henry's ownership group — the only constant amid all four titles — came to town, and probably only about a handful of years since a majority of fans stopped referring to Henry and Tom Werner as the team's "new owners."

The Red Sox always have been a team deeply immersed in the fabric of the city, which says much about the hardened, persistent nature of Bostonians, not to mention an unfortunate bit about Boston's racial temperature. Former owner Tom Yawkey was infamously the last owner in baseball to employ an African-American ballplayer, and despite all the good the Yawkey name has given to the city, those racial undertones struck a particular nerve in Henry last year af-

ter Baltimore Orioles outfielder Adam Jones was the alleged target of racial slurs at Fenway Park.

One month after hiring Alex Cora as the team's first minority manager last November, the Boston Globe, owned by Henry, published a sprawling, seven-part series on the image and reality of racism in the city. Then, in February, the team petitioned the Boston Public Improvement Commission to change the name of Yawkey Way outside Fenway Park, a move that became official last spring.

"Restoring the Jersey Street name is intended to reinforce that Fenway Park is inclusive and welcoming to all," the team said in a statement.

"I am still haunted by what went on here a long time before we arrived," Henry had said.

So, yes, Henry's ability to hold onto that World Series trophy after a year that saw him as part social warrior in Boston had to be especially fulfilling.

Maybe on that note alone, Henry should find more celebration than he manages to in Boston, where he's sometimes still considered to be the rich outsider. But he's also now written the

checks that have helped lead to four World Series championships, and has become the greatest team owner in Red Sox history. Easily.

We had Carl Crawford, Pablo Sandoval and Rusney Castillo along the way, but Henry always has been willing to eat his mistakes. Remember the silly fears that Henry might dedicate more money overseas to English soccer when he purchased Liverpool? Nope. And there have only been two more World Series titles since then.

Now add to all that Henry has managed to do with his checkbook the sense of purpose he has felt in helping erase some of the city's stained past, and this one probably does mean more to him.

Not to mention, it puts him only one trophy behind Patriots owner Robert Kraft for the recent, regional lead.

There is a certain sibling rivalry between the Patriots and Red Sox when it comes to their championship hardware, but it also extends to the ambiguous reception of each team's owner. The unanimous Kraft — a native of Brookline, Mass. — is celebrated by Patriots fans for his architecture of five Super Bowl wins, while Henry is treated more like a dis-

tant uncle at Thanksgiving.

Unlike Henry, Kraft lives for every boisterous moment his ego thrives upon. He's the New England bling while Henry is the quiet presence. Both are widespread benefactors to the region, but only one has been widely touted as the greatest owner in Boston history.

In reality, they both are.

This World Series title means more to Henry than his signature at the bottom-right of a check. It is the pinnacle of his decision to try and change certain conversations swirling around his franchise and his (yes, *his*) city. Henry always has felt it his responsibility to field title-worthy teams at Fenway, a mantra he always has backed with his (sometimes reckless) willingness to spend.

This time, that responsibility weighed a little more.

He's always been this team's best owner. It's just time we all finally realize that.

**B**

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# BARNES: DREAM COME TRUE

**A** year ago, reliever Matt Barnes (Bethel, Conn.) was left off the Red Sox' playoff roster, then watched his friend and former UConn teammate George Springer (New Britain, Conn.) win the World Series MVP and dreamed of lifting the World Series trophy himself one day soon.

With a stellar season out of the Red Sox bullpen and key contributions in the playoffs, Barnes helped turn his championship dream into reality.

In 2018, Barnes went 6-4 with a 3.65 ERA and a career-best 96 strikeouts over 61<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings. In the postseason, he allowed just one run in 8<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings over 10 appearances, including 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub> scoreless innings in the World Series.

Barnes joins Springer — both first-round draft picks in 2011 — as the only former UConn players to win the World Series, and he now is the third New England native to play in and win the World Series with the Red Sox since 1918.

In the 2013 World Series, Craig Breslow (Trumbull, Conn.) allowed three runs (two earned) in just one-third of an inning in three appearances.

In the 2007 World Series, Manny Delcarmen (Hyde Park, Mass.) allowed one run in 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings in two appearances.

## DIGITAL BONUS

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Billie Weiss/Boston Red Sox/Getty Images



# WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONS

**For Babson coach Matt Noone, who has served as a Red Sox assistant since 2004, and his players, who have enjoyed a unique vantage point, this World Series championship means something more**

# EXTRA SPECIAL

By Joshua Kummins

**R**ED SOX NATION has long spanned to the borders of all six New England states and far, far beyond, but there is no doubt that those involved in the local baseball community took especially great pride in watching the hometown Major League Baseball team win a franchise-best 119 games en route to its fourth World Series championship in 15 years.

However, few people in the region have had a closer view of all the action at Fenway Park than Babson College head coach Matt Noone. The Beavers' 17th-year boss has served as an assistant to each Red Sox coaching staff since 2004.

"I try to go in for most home games during the summer and help the hitting coach (Tim Hyers) and the other coaches with whatever they need," said Noone, who serves as a left-handed batting practice pitcher in addition to, among other duties, hitting fungos and working with players in the batting cage. "Babson obviously takes precedent, but it's an unbelievable opportunity for me to learn and grow as a coach at the highest level of baseball, so I make an effort to be there as much as I can."

Noone's role with the on-field staff has developed since he began throwing for the Red Sox under Terry Francona, who was the first of four managers with which he has worked. Noone remains one of the longer-tenured members of the staff, having played a small part in all four of the team's championships following the 86-year curse.

This title was different, though. And not just because Noone had a close view of the team's incredible work ethic and the day-in, day-out preparation.

"It's really hard to win and it's even harder to win a championship, so you have to give great credit to any team that wins a championship," Noone said. "But I took great satisfaction in this one because I felt like my Babson team had a small part in it."

Because of Noone's longtime relationship, the Sox entrusted him with numerous



► **EAGER BEAVERS:** Babson baseball players work out at Fenway Park. Below, from left: catcher Alex Reynolds with Craig Kimbrel; Aidan Scott flanked by Pedro Martinez and Eduardo Rodriguez; coach Matt Noone works in the cage with Rafael Devers. At right, Kimbrel and Noone — who has been with the Sox since 2004 — celebrate at the championship parade.



players who were injured and didn't travel with the team throughout the season.

For one, Brock Holt worked out on the Wellesley, Mass., campus throughout the winter, too, giving the Beavers an up-close look at the utility player's batting and fielding practices that their coach gets to see when he's working at Fenway. They also shagged balls for and observed the likes of shortstop Xander Bogaerts and third baseman Rafael Devers.

The Babson players' experiences rubbing shoulders with the Red Sox offered plenty of lessons for anyone competing at the college level, but the way in which they learned them — having them on campus prior to and during the season, and traveling to Fenway on multiple occasions — certainly was unique.

"One of the days I went in, Bogaerts had a pitching machine throwing him nasty curveballs, and every single swing was a line drive to second base," said Babson sophomore catcher Alex Reynolds (Hopkinton, Mass.). "You can watch these guys hit 400-foot home runs on TV, but they all go back to the drills that we did in high school. These guys are some of the best at their craft, obviously, and you can see why in their attention to detail in everything they do."

Reynolds and fellow catchers Sean Harrington (Walpole, Mass.) and Aidan Scott (South Glastonbury, Conn.) have gotten up-close looks of their own over the last year, catching bullpens for Craig Kimbrel, David Price and a number of other Sox pitchers.

"I've been a Yankees fan my whole life, but you have to put that aside because it's such an amazing experience," Scott said. "I think working so closely gave us all a different mindset about these guys. We caught (Kimbrel) in our gym, and three weeks later we were watching him pitch at Fenway Park on TV."

Like Holt during the winter, Kimbrel was, as Harrington put it, "a frequent flyer" at Babson when he stayed back from spring training to be with his daughter who was recovering from heart surgery at Boston Children's Hospital.

Kimbrel spent more than two weeks in Boston and made it back to the mound in time to open the season. The up-close experience made following this season's run that much more special for Noone



and his players.

"I take great pride in the fact that they trusted me to work out some of the guys and get them ready while the team was away," Noone said. "It was a great source of satisfaction and pride for us when Kimbrel grabbed me after the parade and said, 'Just make sure you thank your team for all that they did for me because I'm not sure what my year would have been like if I didn't have you guys.'"

Working with Major League Baseball players doesn't just offer lessons for players. It's coaches, too. Noone knows that the attention to detail he sees in the Red Sox from his unique perspective is a major benefit to his Babson team.

"All these MLB teams work very hard, but there was something more to it this year with the preparation and diligence about the daily grind," said Noone, whose Babson teams have won back-to-back NEWMAC championships. "When you

see the focus of Kimbrel throwing off a mound or you see the diligence of Brock (Holt) with his swings, it really rubs off on the guys and I see our practices improve."

**T**HE SOX' PROWESS with two strikes and simply grinding out at-bats stands as the major lesson that Phillips Andover head coach Kevin Graber wants to pass along to his players, although his unique connection to the team was a summer working with a player who saw many of his hits fly over the Fenway fences.

Graber coached first-year Sox slugger J.D. Martinez as a member of the New York Collegiate League's Saratoga Phillies in 2008. He certainly stood out then, but things have changed in a decade as he hit a career-high .330 during his debut season in Boston, led the American League in RBI, and finished second in home runs.

"He's easily the best hitter I've ever

been around, and he's worked incredibly hard and improved so much since we were together in the college summer leagues," Graber said of the two-time All-Star who starred collegiately at Nova Southeastern University.

UMass Boston's Brendan Eygabroat is another local Division 3 coach with a winning résumé of late, having guided three consecutive teams to NCAA appearances and two to Little East postseason crowns.

Though he's only been a New Englander since 2001, Eygabroat puts this Sox team at the top of the heap among those he's watched closely. Their chemistry and team-first attitude certainly helped and played a big role right through to the postseason, but the flexibility the roster showed — from the stars in the lineup to the bench and bullpen — is something he tries to take into his coaching.

"I really like how (manager Alex) Cora coaches to win the game today,

especially in the playoffs," the Beacons' 15th-year skipper said. "There wasn't all this worry about who was going to pitch the next day because he took it one game at a time, and I've tried to do the same thing having some big decisions in regionals in the last few years.

"I respected how he went for that 'win now' mentality, making what some would call some unorthodox decisions on such a huge stage."

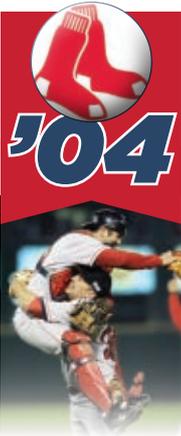
When seasons end and a new school year begins, baseball players around New England and beyond turn their attention to the Major League Baseball stretch run. For those around our region, this was an extra special October watching the Red Sox add their names to the history books again. **B**

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# WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONS

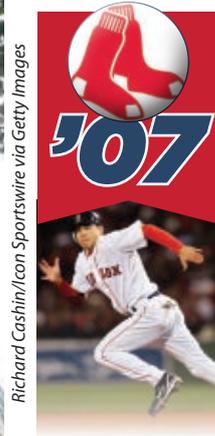


**W**ho knew that another title banner would not be raised on Yawkey Way for another 86 years? After generations of futility, the “Curse of the Bambino” finally was broken on Oct. 27, 2004, as the Red Sox completed an

impressive four-game sweep of the St. Louis Cardinals with a 3-0 win. **Derek Lowe** was the victor in the clinching game of all three postseason series — a stretch that included seven innings of three-hit shutout ball to pave the way for **Bronson Arroyo**, **Alan Embree** and **Keith Foulke** to close the door on the Cards in the fourth and final game. The World Series seemingly was anticlimactic after the Sox — who finished 98-64 in what was manager **Terry Francona**’s first year at the helm — became the first team in baseball history and just the third team in the history of Major League Baseball, the NBA and NHL to overcome a 0-3 deficit in a best-of-seven postseason series with the American League Championship Series win over the New York Yankees that led them to the World Series. The curse might still be alive if it were not for iconic moments from **Dave Roberts**, **David Ortiz**, **Curt Schilling** and **Johnny Damon**. Roberts’ clutch steal in Game 4 of the ALCS led to the game-tying run, setting the stage for Ortiz’s game-winning homer. Ortiz’s game-winning hit the next night, and Schilling’s dramatic bloody-sock performance, forced Game 7, where Damon’s two home runs crushed the Yankees in the Bronx.



■ A look back at the previous eight banner years for the Old Towne Team



**T**he Red Sox held off the Yankees to claim the AL East title in 2007 and swept the Angels in the best-of-five AL Division Series. The challenge heightened against the Cleveland Indians, as the Tribe built a 3-1

lead in the ALCS before the Sox rattled off three consecutive wins, including an 11-2 drubbing in Game 7 at Fenway to advance to the World Series. Game 6 of the ALCS featured a strong pitching effort from **Curt Schilling** and **J.D. Drew**’s first-inning grand slam, while **Daisuke Matsuzaka** was stellar on the mound in a Game 7 that saw **Dustin Pedroia** and **Kevin Youkilis** homer. Against the Colorado Rockies, the Sox eked out a couple close wins but cruised in the first and third games. **Jon Lester** earned the decision in the culminating game in Denver, capping his first season in the majors during which he spent the majority of the second half with Boston, despite recovering from lymphoma treatments with three different minor-league rehabs. The series was a coming-out party for **Jacoby Ellsbury** as he finished his first stint in Boston with a huge post-season, including a 7-for-16 showing in the sweep over the Rockies. **Mike Lowell**, with his .400 average and six runs scored, was named the MVP of the World Series. In the Game 4 clincher at Coors Field, **Bobby Kielty** hit a pinch homer and **Jonathan Papelbon** locked it down with a five-out save.



**I**n a season of “Boston Strong,” the legend of **David Ortiz** was fortified as Boston conquered familiar World Series foe St. Louis for the franchise’s third championship in a span of 10 seasons. The Boston Marathon bombings on April 15 helped the Sox become a rallying point for New Englanders, and **John Farrell**’s club put the last-place 2012 misery in the rear-view mirror. The AL East regular-season champs dispatched the Detroit Tigers in an ALCS highlighted by Ortiz’s scintillating grand slam into the Fenway Park bullpen that turned the series in the eighth inning of Game 2. In the Fall Classic, Ortiz reeled in his third ring and first World Series MVP honors after batting .688 with two home runs and six RBI. **Mike Napoli**, **Shane Victorino**, **David Ross** and **Jonny Gomes** delivered signature moments, and closer **Koji Uehara** (ALCS MVP) polished off the triumph with a strikeout to end Game 6. **Jon Lester** set the tone, pitching shutout ball into the eighth inning of Game 1. Gomes struck the crucial blow — a three-run homer — in the sixth inning of Game 4 as the Sox evened the Series. Ross delivered the game-winning RBI in the sixth inning of Game 5, and in the clinching Game 6, Victorino found the Green Monster for a three-run double in the third inning to complement a clutch starting pitching performance from **John Lackey**, who battled into the seventh inning, yielding just one run.

## THE FIRST FIVE: A DOMINANT FRANCHISE



**T**hen known as the Americans, Boston won the first World Series ever held by defeating the Pittsburgh Pirates, 5-3. The victory was so embarrassing for the “more established” National League that its champion was not willing to participate in the Series the following year when Boston repeated as winners of the American League pennant. Thus, Boston was not challenged and no series was held. **Chick Stahl** finished the first World Series with an impressive 10-for-33 batting clip. Before 2013, only **Carl Yastrzemski** (1967) and **Marty Barrett** (1986) had also achieved double-digit hits in Red Sox World Series history.



**T**he 1912 regular season has yet to be matched by another Red Sox team to date. It remains the winningest campaign in team history as manager **Jake Stahl** led Boston to an astounding 105-47 mark in the regular season before a playoff run that culminated with a 4-3-1 World Series victory over the rival New York Giants. **Tris Speaker** was the club’s leading hitter, finishing the Series 9-for-30, while **Smoky Joe Wood** earned three of Boston’s four wins on the mound.



**A**fter losing the first game of the World Series to the Philadelphia Phillies, the Red Sox bounced back to claim the title with four consecutive one-run victories, including two at Braves Field. **Duffy Lewis** paced the offense in the Series with a .444 average over five games, but it was a home run by **Harry Hooper** in the ninth inning that propelled Boston to victory in the fifth and deciding game. Under the direction of **William F. Carrigan**, who was in his second full year as manager, the Sox won 101 games to clinch the American League title by 2½ games.



**O**ne season after its third title, Boston achieved a little less success in the win column during the regular season, winning “just” 91 games under **William F. Carrigan**. The effort was still two games better than the Chicago White Sox during the regular season, and the club repeated as world champions with an identical 4-1 series win, this time over the rival Brooklyn Dodgers. The highlight of the Series was a 14-inning complete outing from **Babe Ruth** in Game 2 at Braves Field, a game which ended in a 2-1 Red Sox win. Ruth’s performance has not been touched by any other pitcher in World Series history, as it remains the single longest performance ever recorded by one pitcher in a single game. **Duffy Lewis** led the Sox on the offensive side for the second consecutive Series, going 6-for-17.



**B**oston advanced back to the World Series — one year after falling short to the Chicago White Sox in the American League — and disposed of the Chicago Cubs in a six-game series for the club’s fifth title all-time. Due to World War I, the regular season was cut short with the Red Sox compiling a 75-51 record, but that did not stop Boston from getting off to a strong start in the Series with a 1-0 win led by **Babe Ruth**, who extended his consecutive scoreless innings streak with nine innings in the opener and eight more in a 3-2 victory in Game 4 at the beginning of the following week. With the victory, **Harry Hooper** became the only player in Red Sox history to play on four world championship teams, despite finishing this series just 4-for-20 at the plate. **Wally Schnag**’s 4-for-9 effort led the Sox’ offensive contingent over the six-game set.

# RECIPE TO REPEAT

■ With a young core of stars, the Sox have the ingredients to cook up back-to-back championships for the first time in more than 100 years

By Ian Browne

**I**F THE JOY of winning a fourth World Series title in a span of 15 seasons wasn't enough to make the Red Sox smile deep into the winter, the fact that the team is well-positioned to make another deep October run next year adds to the glow.

There is no major sport that is harder to repeat than in baseball, as evidenced that there have been back-to-back champs in the NFL, NBA and NHL since the 2000 Yankees became MLB's last team to pull off the feat.

Why is it so hard to repeat in baseball? Look no further than the grind of the 162-game season and the toll it takes on a pitching staff to win 11 games in October. Then there is the other element: free agency.

But these Red Sox will have nearly their entire core back for next season, as they attempt to defend their World Series championship and repeat for the first time since winning in 1915 and '16.

Craig Kimbrel, Joe Kelly and Nathan Eovaldi are key arms the team could lose to free agency. Steve Pearce is the only significant position player whose contract is up, but there seems to be a strong chance he will be back.

Even though the Red Sox were one of just two teams in MLB who went over the luxury tax in 2018, you get the sense that owner John Henry isn't going to let finances stand in the way of the team trying to repeat.

"We're going to be very strong again next year with pretty much the whole team coming back," Henry said. "We're set up for next year. Could we be better set up for next year?"

The answer to that question is no.

"We'll see where we're at," manager Alex Cora said. "I do feel that we have a good team, very athletic, very versatile. Wherever the offseason takes us, we're going to be fine, we're going to be good."

Not only do the Red Sox have most of their team coming back, but it's a core that is very much in its prime. Mookie Betts is 26. So is Xander Bogaerts. Jackie



► With a slew of stars in their prime, the world champion Red Sox could be well positioned to repeat in 2019.

Series, will turn 26 in April.

"We have a great core of players," Cora said. "Young and hungry. The way they talk after each series, even the World Series, obviously the goal is to repeat. We're very talented, very athletic, and that's very important with what we're trying to accomplish next year."

The Red Sox are sure to enter the season as the favorite of many pundits to win the World Series. For it to actually happen, Cora will have to be conservative with his pitching staff through the season so they can again have their bullets when it counts most.

"I was joking with Chris Sale the other day and said, you might

Bradley Jr. is 28. Andrew Benintendi (24) and Rafael Devers (22) are still babies. J.D. Martinez is 31, with plenty of greatness still left in him. Entering his free-agent year, 29-year-old Chris Sale should be plenty motivated to have a monster season. David Price evolved wonderfully in

2018, mixing in his off-speed pitches, and he should be positioned nicely to have a strong age-33 season in 2019. Rick Porcello, the man with the rubber arm, will be 30 when next season starts. Eduardo Rodriguez, who was strong when the Sox needed him to be in Game 4 of the World

make your first spring training start on March 20, and the season starts March 27," Cora said. "So, we'll talk about it. (Team trainer) Brad (Pearson) knows we have to really take care of this guy, not only because of the month we had, but the way we did it. We were very aggressive with them.

"That's an ongoing project already. We'll take care of them. We have to do it. I mean, you saw Houston. Houston played all the way to the end, November 1, and they came out of the gates hot, throwing the ball well. So, we'll take a look at what other teams have done the past few years, and we'll map out our own plan."

Dombrowski's plan is one that will be far more enjoyable than the last offseason in which he had just won the World Series. Former Marlins owner Wayne Huizenga had a fire sale of epic proportions after the 1997 season, and Dombrowski's job that winter was to strip his roster down to bare bones.

"We really got away from calling ourselves the defending champions that year, and it was because we didn't have our club," Dombrowski said. "So this will really be the first time in my career we're going to spring training as part of a club that we'd consider the defending champions. We know how hard that is to repeat, but I think efforts will be made to keep as many players together as we can ideally."

Though repeating is never easy, the Red Sox should be better set up than most who get the chance. **B**

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## FOUR-WARD: RED SOX' DYNASTY

The Red Sox under owner John Henry join an elite group of franchises to win at least four World Series over a 16-year span. The Sox were the first to do so 100 years ago. The Yankees' dynasty ruled for four decades, winning half the championships; in their best 16-year span, the Yanks won 10 titles:

CLUB	TITLES IN SPAN	CHAMPIONSHIP YEARS
RED SOX	5 titles in 16 years	1903, 1912, 1915, 1916, 1918
Yankees	20 titles in 40 years	1923, 1927, 1928, 1932, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1941, 1943, 1947, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1956, 1958, 1961, 1962
Cardinals	5 titles in 16 years	1931, 1934, 1942, 1944, 1946
Dodgers	4 titles in 11 years	1955, 1959, 1963, 1965
Yankees	5 titles in 14 years	1996, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2009
RED SOX	4 titles in 15 years	2004, 2007, 2013, 2018



# BALLPARK OF DREAMS

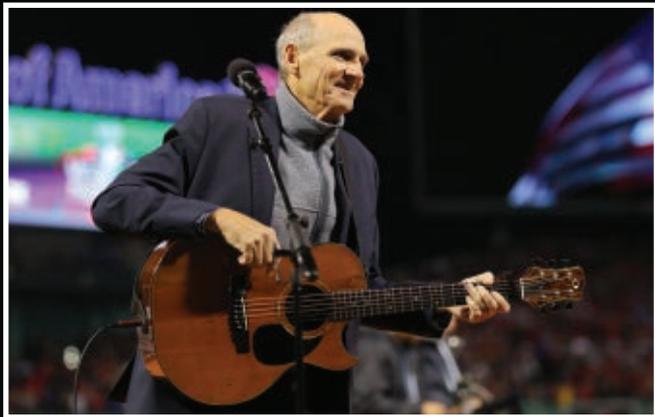
Fenway Park is center stage as the Red Sox and Los Angeles Dodgers get set for Game 1 of the 2018 World Series. Insets, from left: James Taylor sings the national anthem; an American flag adorns the Green Monster; Hall of Famer Carl Yastrzemski throws out a ceremonial first pitch.

Adam Glanzman/MLB Photos via Getty Images (main, flag); Alex Trautwig/MLB Photos via Getty Images (Taylor); Billie Weiss/Boston Red Sox/Getty Images



<b>AL EAST</b> W L GB BOSTON 58 54 — NEW YORK 50 52 8 TAMPA BAY 30 72 18 TORONTO 23 69 26 BALTIMORE 41 65 41	<b>WHO LEFT</b> <b>W.B. MASON</b> SINCE 1888	<b>FENWAY PARK</b> 123 456 789 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9		<b>AMERICAN LEAGUE</b> W L P L A 100 90 10 N BOSTON 90 80 10		<b>NATIONAL LEAGUE</b> W L P W 100 90 10 W 90 80 10		<b>F.W. WEBB</b> SINCE 1888	<b>OPTUM</b> 379
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BOSTON	108	54	—
NEW YORK	100	62	8
TAMPA BAY	70	72	18
TORONTO	78	89	35
BALTIMORE	47	115	61





## THE UPS AND DOWNS

► The Dodgers' Yasiel Puig reacts to his three-run home run while Eduardo Rodriguez throws his glove in frustration during the sixth inning of Game 3.

Top left, Andrew Benintendi robs Brian Dozier in the fifth inning of Game 2.  
Bottom left, J.D. Martinez rounds the bases after hitting a solo home run in Game 5.

*Stan Grossfeld/The Boston Globe via Getty Images (Puig); Jim Davis/The Boston Globe via Getty Images (Benintendi); Billie Weiss/Boston Red Sox/Getty Images*



## A TOTAL TEAM EFFORT

► Clockwise from top left: Rafael Devers reacts after hitting an RBI single during the fifth inning of Game 1; Game 1 hero Eduardo Nunez is doused with Gatorade; Brock Holt scores during the ninth inning of Game 4; Craig Kimbrel does his job in a crucial spot in Game 3, which ended up lasting 18 innings and going in the Dodgers' favor; Sandy Leon pounces on a wild pitch; Ian Kinsler takes the field prior to Game 1; Xander Bogaerts fields a ground ball during Game 4.

*Billie Weiss/Boston Red Sox/Getty Images (Devers, Nunez, Holt, Kimbrel, Bogaerts); Rob Tringali/MLB Photos via Getty Images (Leon, Kinsler)*









## JBJ TO THE RESCUE

► Jackie Bradley Jr. is mobbed by teammates after hitting a game-tying solo home run during the eighth inning of Game 3. JBJ was clutch in the World Series after nabbing MVP honors of the ALCS against the Houston Astros.

*Billie Weiss/Boston Red Sox/Getty Images*



## MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

► Boston Red Sox players and staff celebrate their 2018 World Series championship at Dodger Stadium — the team's fourth title in the past 15 years.

*Sean M. Haffey/Getty Images*







## TEAM FOR THE AGES

► After setting a franchise record for wins in a regular season with 108, the Red Sox dispatched the rival Yankees in the ALDS then the defending champion Houston Astros before vanquishing the Los Angeles Dodgers in five games for the franchise's ninth title, tied for third in MLB history behind the Yankees and Cardinals.

*Billie Weiss/Boston Red Sox/Getty Images*







# VICTORY COLLAGE

▶ Clockwise from top: Manager Alex Cora hangs the final photo of the 2018 World Series championship win on his office wall at Fenway Park; Sox second baseman Dustin Pedroia celebrates from a duck boat; Red Sox legends David Ortiz and Pedro Martinez acknowledge fans during the victory parade.

*Billie Weiss/Boston Red Sox/Getty Images (Cora); Richard Cashin/Icon Sportswire via Getty Images (Martinez, Ortiz); Jessica Rinaldi/The Boston Globe via Getty Images*



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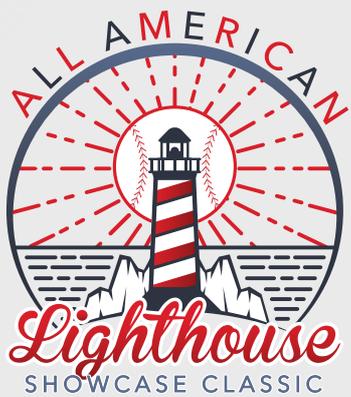
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## THE HUB OF BASEBALL

▶ A huge crowd salutes the Red Sox during the rolling rally parade Oct. 31 in downtown Boston.

*Billie Weiss/Boston Red Sox/Getty Images*





## in-flu-ence

*noun* | 1. the capacity to have an effect on the character, development, or behavior of someone or something, or the effect itself.

**T**HEY ARE movers and shakers. They are head honchos and power players. They are team owners and travel coaches and World Series winners.

They find and develop talent. They set agendas and drive discussion.

They are — in a word — influential.

The people we have chosen to highlight in these pages are the people who shape baseball in New England — the players we look up to and want to emulate, the executives who decide the fates of teams and organizations, the coaches who mold young players, the scouts and trainers who find and develop talent, the businessmen who chart the future of our sport, and even one hugely inspirational figure.

These are the Most Influential People in New England Baseball.

Creating any list like this is purely subjective, as is ours, and is sure to generate disagreement, counter opinions and maybe even arguments.

Baseball in New England is dominated by coaches — at the youth, high school and college levels. And we had the hardest time deciding which coaches should be included here. We strived to include a diverse array of experiences — across all levels — and we know we left off so many deserving and influential college coaches, high school coaches and travel ball coaches.

Also, with the rise and prominence of travel ball and other summer playing options, we opted to focus on those with the most prominence, widest reach and influence.

We also really tried to get at the heart and meaning of the word influence. Who has the capacity to impact our sport in our backyard the most? And we attempted to examine their influence right now, in today's game.

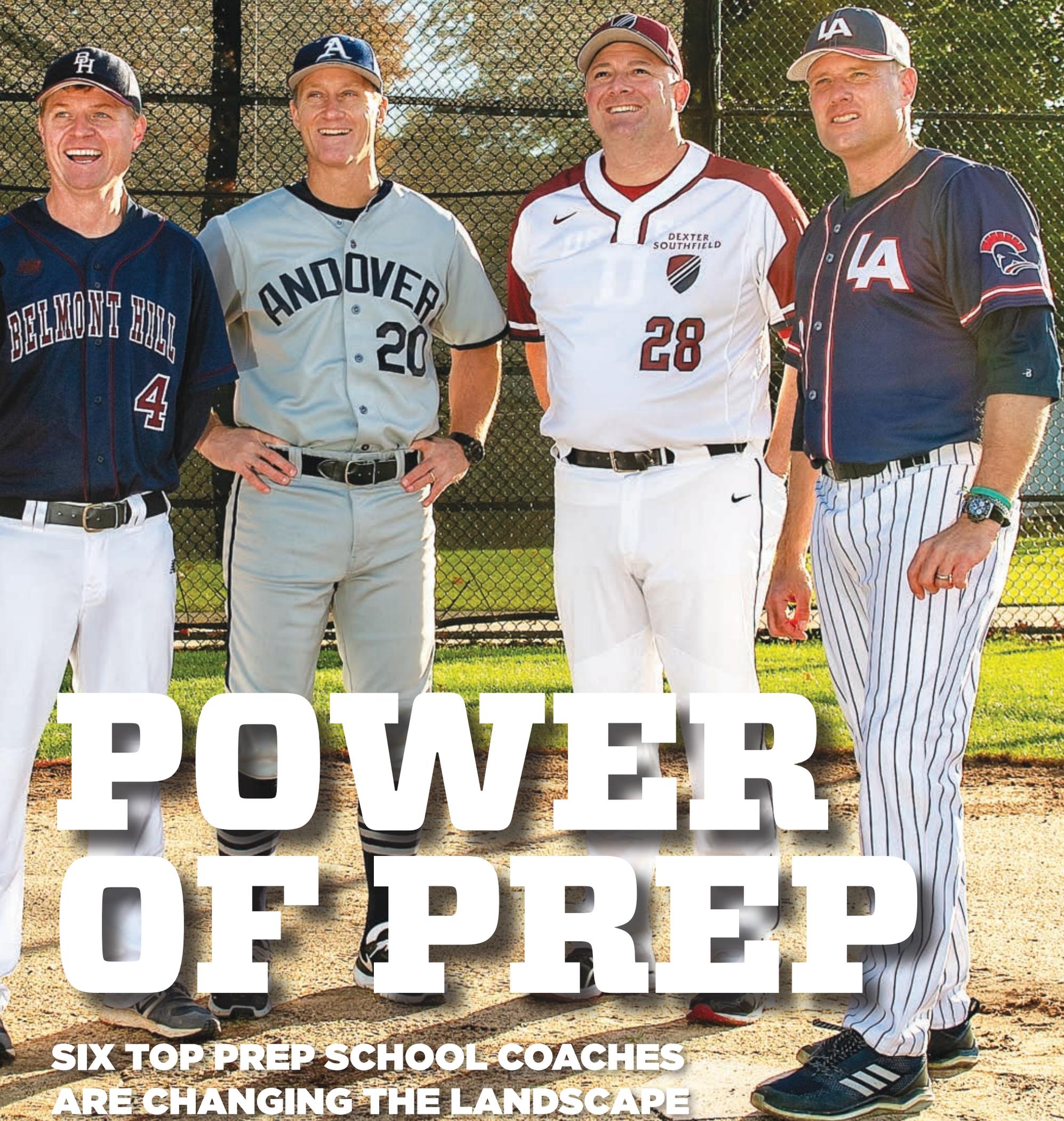
We solicited opinions, we researched candidates, we interviewed experts, we debated (over and over) the criteria and the people and now we unveil our list, led by a half-dozen prominent coaches who not only have revolutionized prep school baseball but also sit at a unique crossroads of youth, high school, college and even pro ball, influencing young student-athletes on and off the field.

— Eric Beato, Managing Editor

## NEW ENGLAND BASEBALL JOURNAL:

From left, Thayer's Rick Foresteire, Winchendon's John Toffey, Belmont Hill's Mike Grant, Phillips Andover's Kevin Graber, Dexter Southfield's Dan Donato and Lawrence Academy's Chris Margraf





# POWER OF PREP

**SIX TOP PREP SCHOOL COACHES ARE CHANGING THE LANDSCAPE OF BASEBALL IN NEW ENGLAND**

Story by Dan Guttenplan ♦ Photos by Dave Arnold



Dave Arnold/New England Baseball Journal



**LAWRENCE ACADEMY BASEBALL** coach Chris Margraf sat in a Braintree, Mass., sports bar in late October and reflected on the way his program has changed since his arrival in 1997.

Mid-sentence, he grabbed a phone out of his pocket, pointed to the screen and said, "I've got to take this; it's Stanford."

Stanford assistant coach Tom Eager was on the other end of the line, delivering news to Margraf that the top pitching prospect at Lawrence Academy, Max Meier (Belmont, Mass.), had just been admitted to the California baseball powerhouse.

"I thought it was my wife because he kept calling," Margraf said. "It's been a long, crazy process. What I've found with Stanford is that it's different from any other school. Everybody operates differently. Stanford is not like Vanderbilt, which is not like Wake Forest. It was an arduous process on the academic side, but I work as a college counselor and teacher, so if they needed something, I could send it out right away."

Such is life as a New England prep school baseball coach. The job description is often extensive, with multiple roles such as mentor, teacher, college counselor, academic adviser, admissions director, dorm parent and life coach accompanying the baseball coach title.

In this special issue featuring the Most Influential People in New England Baseball, NEBJ decided to shine the spotlight on six prep school coaches who have helped change the landscape of the sport in our region.

The six coaches — Dexter Southfield's Dan Donato, Thayer's Rick Foresteire, Phillips Andover's Kevin Graber, Belmont Hill's Mike Grant, Winchendon's John Toffey and Lawrence Academy's Margraf — have made New England prep schools a thriving environment for baseball development and competition. These six coaches consistently have produced championships while churning out both collegiate and professional prospects.

"If you look at who is influential, you have to look at what's changed," Foresteire said. "What's the difference in New England baseball over the last 20 years? If you talked to college coaches 20 years ago and asked how many would come to any of these schools to

► Prep powers (from left): Thayer's Rick Foresteire, Belmont Hill's Mike Grant, Phillips Andover's Kevin Graber, Lawrence Academy's Chris Margraf, Dexter Southfield's Dan Donato and Winchendon's John Toffey.

**'What I'm most proud of is we've become a real hotbed for talent, and we're giving kids an opportunity to play at the next level.'**

— Thayer Academy coach  
Rick Foresteire

recruit, the answer would have been zero. Over that period of time, what I'm most proud of is we've become a real hotbed for talent, and we're giving kids an opportunity to play at the next level."

**F**ORESTEIRE PLAYED a big role in jump-starting that transition in his first job as a prep school baseball coach at Buckingham Browne & Nichols in the late-1990s. Foresteire played collegiately at Brandeis University before returning to his alma mater to teach and coach hockey and baseball. He is credited for being the first prep school coach in New England to take his team to Florida for a spring training trip. Now, just about all of the Independent School League teams — as well as many other prep schools across New England — take a week in March in Port St. Lucie, Fla., to play in showcases in front of dozens of Division 1 scouts.

"It came about because BB&N was building a new athletic facility, so we were losing the baseball field and gym for an entire season," Foresteire said. "I used to do it in college, and it's a lot easier to do with private schools because of the March vacation. The public schools have February vacation, which is too early, and April vacation, which

is too late. So, prep schools have become somewhat of a destination for baseball players that want to go down to Florida for spring break.”

Independent School League schools such as BB&N, Governor’s Academy, St. Sebastian’s School, Belmont Hill and Roxbury Latin were well established as recruiting hotbeds for hockey long before baseball. But once the annual trips to Florida and the improved baseball facilities became a staple of ISL programs, baseball-first recruits started committing to the same schools.

“When I first started here, we had an iconic hockey coach, Charlie Corey,” Margraf said. “I would get the hockey kids who could play baseball. When you look at Belmont Hill, BB&N, Roxbury Latin ... they always had a good base to grab kids that could play baseball. Baseball was always good, but lacrosse was also very substantive at these schools. From the Lawrence standpoint, we went from a school where baseball was secondary and on the verge of possibly fading out because of the rise of lacrosse to now having a lot of baseball-first kids.”

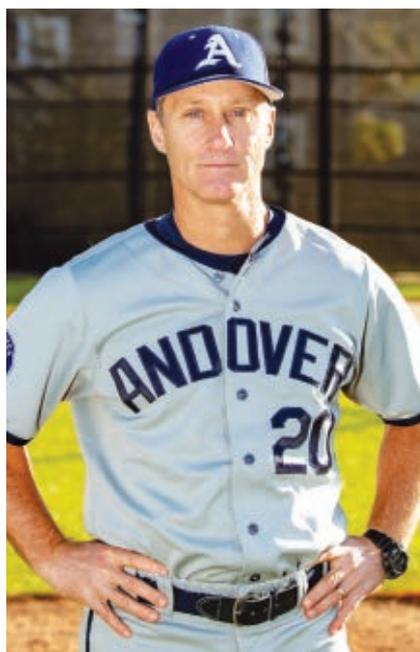
As the programs began to thrive, the schools became destinations for highly qualified coaches. For instance, Graber

took the job at Phillips Andover 11 years ago after a professional baseball career, and stints as a pro scout and Amherst College coach. Grant became the head coach at Belmont Hill nine years ago after gaining experience as an assistant with Northeastern and Babson College. Dan Donato started at Salisbury School 17 years ago after a professional baseball career in the Yankees and Rays organization. Toffey is a former professional hockey player who posted a career record of 135-9 in his last two stops coaching baseball at Salisbury School and Cheshire Academy.

“There’s an appeal to these prep schools,” Graber said. “A school like Andover demands a level of sophistication that is a challenge for coaches. In college, they arrive as men and women and go off and do their own thing. Here, they’re boys and girls. We play a role in their lives in a different way. We make our impact residentially, academically, as an adviser, on the playing field and in the classroom. It’s really an immersive experience with students, which is a lot of fun.”

A prep school coach’s impact on a player may surpass that of coaches

**Continued on Page 26**



**KEVIN GRABER**

■ Head coach | Phillips Andover

*Experience: 11 seasons*

Kevin Graber coached Phillips Andover to its fourth Central New England Prep Championship in the last seven years this spring, finishing the season at 20-2, ranked No. 1 in New England, according to the year-end New England Baseball Journal Coaches Poll.



**MIKE GRANT**

■ Head coach | Belmont Hill

*Experience: 9 seasons*

Under Mike Grant, Belmont Hill won three consecutive titles in 2012, 2013 and 2014, the first time that feat had been accomplished in the ISL since 1980. The team has amassed a 100-21 league record and 130-35 overall record in Grant’s tenure as head coach.

Dave Arnold/New England Baseball Journal

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Dave Arnold/New England Baseball Journal



## DAN DONATO

■ Head coach | Dexter Southfield

*Experience: 17 years as head coach at Salisbury School and Dexter*

Donato is credited with building Salisbury into a baseball powerhouse in his six seasons at the school from 2002 to 2007. He has since made Dexter a prospect pipeline, and his 2011 team that went 18-0 produced Florida and Virginia commits.



## RICK FORESTEIRE

■ Head coach | Thayer Academy

*Experience: 23 years as head coach at BB&N and Thayer*

Foresteire made BB&N an ISL powerhouse from 1997 to 2015, leading the team to 18 consecutive winning seasons and five ISL championships, with the team going undefeated once, in 2010. He has coached three MLB draft picks and four former professionals.

Continued from Page 25

at any other level due to a structure in which many coaches board on campus with their families, so they are exposed to all aspects of a student-athlete's life.

The prep school coach also seems to be at the center of the web of influencers around New England baseball. He often works with public and private school coaches to help with admissions into the prep school. He then serves as an adviser in the college recruiting process. If the situation calls for it, a prep school coach will reach out to pro scouts, agents, cross-checkers or front-office personnel for professional teams to help pave the way for a player's future. Prep school coaches also can serve as travel ball coaches while collaborating with trainers, nutritionists and performance coaches to design a player's offseason regiment.

"When I took over at BB&N, the No. 1 thing I wanted to do was if a kid wanted to go play at the next level, I wanted to be a part of that process," Foresteire said. "I wanted that to be part of my job description. I really wanted them to feel like they didn't have to get an adviser or have their hand held by anyone else through the process. "What showcases

should I go to? How do I write a personal résumé? Which travel team should I be on?" I wanted to help with that."

The results in getting student-athletes into colleges are well documented for each of these six coaches. In rattling off a list of colleges in which his former players played, Foresteire listed Vanderbilt, Penn State, South Florida, South Carolina, Dartmouth, Harvard, Yale, Brown, every NESCAC school, Bucknell, Lafayette, Holy Cross, Skidmore, Union, Brandeis, Babson and Colby. Graber had 26 former players playing college baseball last spring. Grant has Belmont Hill alumni playing all over the country, including Northeastern alumnus Charlie McConnell (Reading, Mass.), who was drafted by the Seattle Mariners in the 13th round of the MLB draft in June. Donato had seven former Dexter players playing Division 1 baseball last spring. Margraf's top career talent, Tyler Beede (Auburn, Mass.), made his big-league debut with the San Francisco Giants last May. In his 10 years with Salisbury and Cheshire, Toffey has coached five players who have gone on to play professionally.

"That's the fun part, seeing how many of my former students have gone on to have great careers," Toffey said. "I've



## Congratulations, Coach Donato!

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had Academic All-Americans, guys who played in the Cape Cod League and NECBL. To see the experiences they've had after prep school is really neat. Some are graduating college. Others have gone on to have really successful careers. Some have perhaps used their baseball skill to get into a better university and then get a better job after they graduated. The wins and championships are great, but to think about the impact we've having on lives, that's why we do it."

**W**HILE THE COMPETITION level of prep school baseball has been on a steady incline for 20 years, the year 2011 seems to be a line of demarcation of when it became a legitimate national hotbed for talent. That year, Avon Old Farms alumnus and UConn standout George Springer (New Britain Conn.) was picked with the 11th overall selection in the MLB draft. Beede was selected by the Toronto Blue Jays 10 picks later — straight out of Lawrence Academy.

"What that did was tap into the Central Mass. guys and make boarding schools a destination for baseball players," Margraf said. "It started with Tyler

Beede; all of the sudden, we had this credibility. When you look inside (Interstate) 495 at the day schools, they always had strong baseball programs. What that did is make boarding schools more competitive."

Margraf since has had a steady stream of Division 1 talent pass through his school. Joe Napolitano (Concord, Mass.) and Max Tishman (Wellesley, Mass.) followed Beede's path through Lawrence Academy and went on to play at Wake Forest. At Dexter, Donato also saw his program take the next step in 2011 when he coached a team featuring two Div. 1 college players in Johnny Magliozzi (Florida) and Barrett O'Neil (Virginia) to an 18-0 season. At Salisbury School, Toffey coached two players — Austin DeCarr (Yankees) and brother Will Toffey (now with the Mets) — who have been selected in the top four rounds of the MLB draft. At BB&N, Foresteire coached future Vanderbilt national champion and current professional player Rhett Wiseman (Mansfield, Mass.) and Boston College alumnus Andrew Chin (Newton, Mass.).

Grant, who has coached his share of college and pro players at Belmont Hill,

**Continued on Page 28**



**CHRIS MARGRAF**

■ Head coach | Lawrence Academy

*Experience: 21 seasons*

Chris Margraf emerged as one of the top prep school coaches in 2011 when he led Lawrence Academy to a 15-0 record in the ISL. Margraf's ace that season, Tyler Beede, was selected in the first round of the MLB draft and went on to win a national championship at Vanderbilt.



Dave Arnold/New England Baseball Journal

**JOHN TOFFEY**

■ Head coach | Winchendon

*Experience: 10 years as head coach at Salisbury School and Cheshire Academy*

John Toffey has a career record of 135-9 over 10 seasons at Salisbury School and Cheshire Academy. His former players have starred at Vanderbilt, Clemson, Harvard, UConn, Dartmouth, Northeastern, Boston College and Michigan. He has five former players playing professionally.

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## ED HOLLOWAY

■ Head coach | Bishop Hendricken High

When you conduct a Google search for Bishop Hendricken coach Ed Holloway, the pages are loaded with articles featuring his many Rhode Island state title-winning teams and others commending former players on their baseball accomplishments.

Rhody may be the smallest U.S. state, but Holloway has built a powerhouse in Warwick. And his own accomplishments are mighty impressive. Most notably, 15 of the Hawks' 21 Division 1 titles have come since Holloway took over as head coach in 1995, including a state-record five in a row from 2012 to '16.

Holloway, who joined the American Baseball Coaches Association's 400-win club in 2013, has coached dozens of future collegiate and professional players through one of New England's premier high school programs. Like the coach's accomplishments, that list is lengthy as well, spanning several pages.

Among that extensive alumni group are the nine Gatorade Player of the Year honorees Hendricken has produced under Holloway's watch, including Jeff Beliveau and new Minnesota Twins manager Rocco Baldelli, who both went on to playing careers in Major League Baseball. Current Boston College catcher Gian Martellini and his former teammate Mike King, who is now pitching in the Yankees organization, are the most recent.

Few high school programs around can rival what Hendricken has in Rhode Island, thanks to Holloway. In fact, according to the school website, the team's championship pedigree since 1997 is unmatched by any program in the United States.

— JOSHUA KUMMINS



Laura Paton/Bishop Hendricken

## PREPS

Continued from Page 27

believes one can't properly measure a prep coach's success solely by tracking his former players' baseball careers.

"I see myself more as a mentor for guys in great times and not-so-great times," Grant said. "If we can help them become great people, more and more will want to come here for that experience. People tend to think of athletics as transactional: 'Come here, and we'll get you into this college.' We hope the experience here goes beyond that transactional nature. Don't look at it like you're coming here to get to the next level. Look at it like you're coming here for something that's pretty special."

On a Thursday night in late October, Donato, Foresteire, Toffey and Margraf sat around a Braintree bar rehashing stories of epic clashes between the coaches' teams, the blue-chip prospects that passed through the various schools, and the scouting reports for each of their teams that spring. One could argue that no group of coaches has had a bigger impact on the New England baseball landscape over the past 20 years.

"If you look at these private schools," Foresteire said, "they've had effects on other schools as well. Public school programs have grown as far as understanding where their kids need to be seen. Travel programs are growing because kids want to do more in the summer. I would say New England is producing more overall quality players than any time in history, in terms of the quantity, interest level, and getting recognized. New England baseball as a whole is on the uptick." **B**

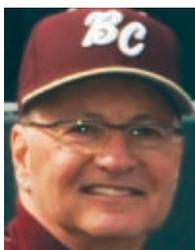
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## NORM WALSH

■ Head coach | Boston College High School

The baseball program at Boston College High School has long been one of the best in Massachusetts, thanks to Norm Walsh, who has guided the Eagles for the better part of three decades. Also a social studies teacher at the school, Walsh has 563 wins and three state championships to his name and will become just the second Bay State representative in the National High School Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame on Nov. 30, when he joins North Reading legend Frank Carey.



## TIM HOPLEY

■ Head coach | Portsmouth (N.H.) High School

Tim Hopley has coached the Portsmouth High Clippers for 23 years, creating one of the top baseball powers in the state of New Hampshire. Portsmouth went 18-1 and won its seventh Division 2 state title in 2018. Its record in that span improved to a whopping 219-22. Hopley has produced several pro players during his time with the Clippers, including current Texas Rangers farmhand Kobie Taylor, and he was in the dugout for an 89-game winning streak that ran into 2012 and stands as a national record. Hopley also is Portsmouth's girls basketball coach and an assistant for the football team.



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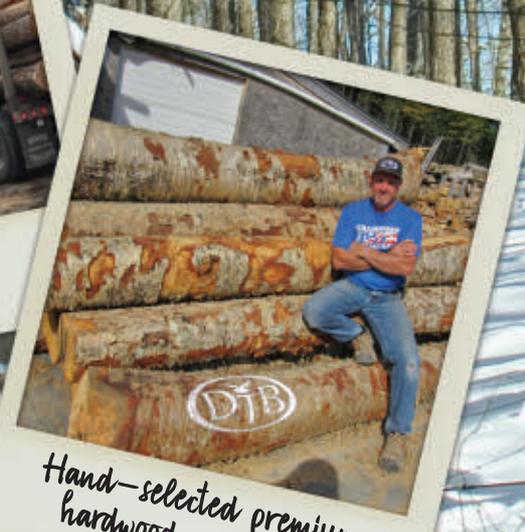
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Frank Jansky/icon Sportswire via Getty Images

## GEORGE SPRINGER

■ Outfielder | Houston Astros

George Springer comes home. Perhaps more than anything else, that's why Springer is our most influential New England native playing in the big leagues. Sure, Springer, a native of New Britain, Conn., has a 2017 World Series MVP to his name, as well as two All-Star appearances and a growing highlight reel of postseason exploits.

But the reason we love him in New England is because he comes back. Even while riding the high of the World Series heroics last winter, Springer came back to his former college stomping grounds at UConn to speak to the current team.

"He said to our players," UConn coach Jim Penders said, "Adversity is a man introducing himself to himself.' In this part of the country, you have to prepare with a chip on your shoulder because it's not going to be 72 and sunny every day. That's why you see our guys rise through systems quickly. They are used to battling through adversity."

Springer certainly has done that over

his career, starting when he was a 5-foot-2, 100-pound freshman at New Britain (Conn.) High in 2004. Springer transferred to Avon Old Farms following that season in hopes of boosting his stock among college recruiters. More adversity followed in Springer's second year at Avon Old Farms when he struggled in the classroom and was forced to repeat the year.

Springer certainly was no lock to play professionally out of prep school; he wasn't selected in the 2008 MLB draft until the 48th round. At UConn, Springer developed into one of the best prospects in all of amateur baseball, earning Big East Conference Rookie of the Year in 2009 and Big East Player of the Year in 2011.

He became the highest selection in the MLB draft in UConn baseball history in 2011 when he was taken 11th overall by the Houston Astros. This postseason, Springer became the Astros' all-time leader in postseason home runs with 10. He also participates in an annual baseball clinic hosted by former college teammate Matt Barnes at the Newtown (Conn.) Youth Academy for elementary school students in the aftermath of the Sandy Hook school shooting.

— DAN GUTTENPLAN



## RICH HILL

■ Pitcher | Los Angeles Dodgers

Rich Hill became a New England legend when, in the summer of 2015 — seemingly out of baseball for good at the age of 35 — he returned to his hometown of Milton, Mass., to resurrect his career. He made daily trips to Cunningham Park to pitch to a catcher on the Milton Legion baseball team over a two-month stretch, and he showed enough to earn one more shot in the big leagues with the hometown Boston Red Sox.

His success over four dominant starts for the Sox in 2015 earned him a one-year deal with



Oakland and he then signed a lucrative three-year deal with the Dodgers.

The final act of Hill's career has been nothing short of remarkable. In 2016, while with the Dodgers, the

Milton High alumna became the first pitcher in major-league history to be pulled from a perfect game after seven innings. In 2017, he became the only pitcher in MLB history to have a perfect game broken up by a fielding error in the ninth. In 2018, he pitched in Game 4 of the World Series against the Red Sox, allowing just one hit through six innings.

## JIM BRETZ

■ Northeast Scouting Supervisor | Detroit Tigers

Jim Bretz is the Northeast scouting supervisor for the Detroit Tigers. Prior to being with the Tigers, he was a scout for the San Diego Padres and the Cleveland Indians. Along with Ray Fagnant and Matt Hyde, Bretz serves as a coach for the Northeast Area Code Games team as well as a member of the East Coast Pro Showcase staff.

Bretz was a longtime scout with the Padres from 2002 to 2017 before being hired by the Tigers last summer. As a Padres scout, he was responsible for signing Will Venable, Andy Parrino, Brad Bach and Travis Jankowski.

Bretz also is a former college coach, with stints at Hartford and North Carolina-Charlotte. He currently is an instructor at a number of Team Connecticut Baseball's camps and clinics, and is a member of the Pro Baseball Academy Staff.



## RAY FAGNANT

■ Regional Scouting Supervisor | Boston Red Sox

Ray Fagnant has been the New England regional scouting supervisor for the Red Sox for the past 25 years, and the former Holyoke (Mass.) Catholic High School baseball star has helped build four World Series champion rosters.

The first player he signed was Lou Merloni (Framingham, Mass.), who played nine seasons in the big leagues. He also signed pitchers Manny Delcarmen (Hyde Park, Mass.) and Carl Pavano (Southington, Conn.), who was traded to Montreal in 1997 in a deal that brought future Hall of Fame hurler Pedro Martinez to Boston. His most recent find was 18-year-old left-hander Jason Groome, the Red Sox' first-round draft pick in 2016.

In 2016, Fagnant was enshrined in the Western Massachusetts Baseball Hall of Fame, primarily for his work scouting for the Red Sox. The East Granby, Mass., resident also has worked the World Baseball Classic four times, officially as bullpen catcher for Team USA.



▶ Matt Hyde (right) with John Schiffrer

## MATT HYDE

■ Northeast Area Scout | New York Yankees

Ask anyone in New England to name one professional scout, and you'll likely hear the name Matt Hyde. The New York Yankees Northeast area scout is deeply connected at just about every level of baseball.

For Hyde, it's not just about finding the best players around New England to recommend to the Yankees' front office personnel at draft time. It's about growing the sport in New England and helping anyone who wants to advance their careers in the game.

Hyde, a graduate of Phillips Andover (class of 1992) and the University of Michigan (class of 1996), coached at the college level at Boston College, Michigan and Harvard before becoming a scout in November 2005. Since then, he has served as the scout liaison to the Cape Cod Baseball League. In this role, he crafted the idea for the annual 10-team Cape Cod League Workout Day at Fenway Park.

As head coach of the Northeast Yankees team at the Area Code Games since 2007, he has coached several first-round picks and future

MLB stars, including Rick Porcello, Mike Trout, Marcus Stroman, Steven Matz and Bryce Harper.

Hyde helped develop the annual Summer Rivalry Classic for high school prospects, and he also recently helped establish the Fall High School Prospect World Series.

Hyde also takes pride in growing the sport in New England through the annual Area Code Tryouts, which include Call Back Tryouts and scrimmages with Cape Cod League and Futures League opponents.

In 2016, Hyde was honored by the New York Scouts Association as the Good Guy of the Year Award winner. He also is part of USA Baseball's 17U Developmental Program.

Perhaps more importantly than anything else, Hyde has helped the following people get their start in professional baseball: Tim Alexander, Mid-Atlantic scout for the Yankees; Devitt Moore, cross-checker for the Mariners; Matt Blake, assistant farm director for the Indians; Jason Leftkowitz, pro scout for the Astros and Mariners; Chris Curtis, Texas area scout for the Blue Jays; Jonah Rosenthal, Carolinas area scout for the Dodgers; and Kelly Rodman, associate scout for the Yankees.

— DAN GUTTENPLAN

**Thank you for sharing your dream with all of us since 1947. Your passion, hard work and entrepreneurial spirit has inspired everyone. Congratulations to you, Arthur D'Angelo, on your well deserved nomination!**



## JASON KOSOW

■ CEO | New England Baseball Complex

Jason Kosow is the man in charge of the New England Baseball Complex in Northboro, Mass., which has influenced the game at a variety of levels throughout the region since a pitch was first thrown there in 2014.

The three-field turf complex serves as an asset to the New England Ruffnecks travel program — in which Kosow (Exeter, N.H.) coached upon returning to New England after his professional playing career that began in the Chicago Cubs organization — and houses an Edge Performance Systems training center in its indoor facility, but its overall goal has been to create a hub for baseball in New England.

“We’ve all been involved in the game for

a long time either as players or coaches, so our network of people is large,” said Kosow, who is a former Babson College pitcher. He works closely with tournament director Ted Novio (Braintree, Mass.) to run the complex. “We’ve worked hard for this opportunity to be able to help support and service the baseball community and work with so many different organizations to run the best events we can here.”

Right from the start, it’s been mission accomplished. Kosow estimates that NEBC hosted a total of 1,200 games at all levels last year, ranging from college games in the spring to youth and travel tournaments that also run through the summer and into the fall.

The tournament scene was the intended primary focus, especially with NEBC’s direct

ties with the Ruffnecks, but the college game has taken Kosow’s initial visions so much further than expected. Close to 100 games hosted this spring featured colleges from throughout the region, including Worcester Polytechnic Institute’s entire home slate.

“New England clearly lacked (a place like this),” Kosow said, noting that Baseball Heaven on Long Island and Diamond Nation in Flemington, N.J., are the two closest complexes of its kind. “Did we think it was going to get this big this quickly? Probably not. I had no idea we’d be playing this many college games, but getting tournaments was the part we were most confident about. I’m glad we’re here to be able to let them play.”

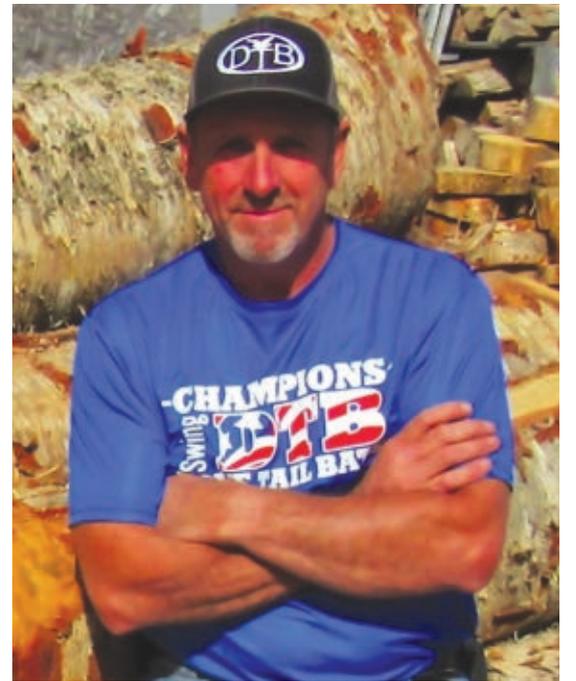
— JOSHUA KUMMINS



## ARTHUR D’ANGELO

■ Co-founder | ‘47

Arthur D’Angelo and his twin brother, Henry, started their business selling pennants and other souvenirs outside Fenway Park in 1947, just nine years after they came to the United States from Italy. Now, ‘47 has turned into a brand synonymous with all things Red Sox but also has licenses for all four major sports. D’Angelo owns Twins Enterprises and The Souvenir Store on Jersey Street, while the private road adjacent to the store is called “Arthur’s Way” to honor the May inductee into the Red Sox Hall of Fame for his lifetime achievement and contribution to the organization.



## PAUL LANCISI

■ Founder/owner | Dove Tail Bats

Thanks in large part to durable New England wood, Paul Lancisi has turned Dove Tail Bats into a major player in the bat market from the small Maine town of Shirley. The Worcester, Mass., native’s company did not have the aid of a commercial machine or sell more than 1,000 bats per year until 2014, and business has skyrocketed since. Dove Tail not only takes care of players from all levels here in New England, but some of its 30,000 bats produced last year went into the hands of 75 major-leaguers. Three Dove Tail bats used by Kansas City Royals, including from the 2015 World Series, have been sent to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

## JIM DAVIS

■ Chairman | New Balance

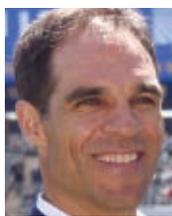
Jim Davis, the leader of Boston-based New Balance, is as influential to New England’s sporting scene as anyone. His company has a hand in just about every market, with the Warrior (hockey) and Brine (lacrosse) brands also falling under the New Balance umbrella. It’s no different on the baseball scene in this region as New Balance cleats and other apparel are worn by players at all levels of the game. Dustin Pedroia was one of the company’s first MLB clients, so the brand truly is a factor from the youth level up in New England.



## JIM HACKETT

■ General manager | Wilson

Jim Hackett has been with Chicago-based Wilson since serving as an intern while working toward his graduate degree at Northwestern. Since 1997, the Concord, Mass., native and former captain of the Middlebury College baseball and football teams has managed Wilson’s growing baseball department. The acquisition of both Louisville and DeMarini has made Wilson a top player in the bat market, in addition to its long history as a glove manufacturer, while EvoShield and Atec also are part of the company’s baseball portfolio.



## LARRY FRANKLIN

■ President | Franklin Sports

Franklin has been a family business since its inception as a local brand in 1946, and the Stoughton, Mass., company’s ubiquitous batting gloves still are manufactured in the same factory. Larry Franklin took over at the head since 1986, following in the footsteps of his father, Irving H. Franklin, who passed away in 2011. Starting with Hall of Famer Mike Schmidt in 1983, Franklin has become the preferred batting glove choice for Major League Baseball players. More players wear Franklin than any other brand — in fact, 35 percent last season.



## JOE MURPHY

■ President | On Deck Sports

On Deck Sports provides baseball and facility equipment, batting cages, netting and much more to leagues and teams across the country, and has done so since 2001 when it began with one portable pitching mound. Joe Murphy’s company, though, is a major player in New England as it is based in Braintree, Mass., after years in Brockton. The Cape Cod Baseball League is a key local brand that uses the services of On Deck Sports. You can’t talk about baseball facilities or training centers without On Deck coming up.



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Hartford Athletics

## JUSTIN BLOOD

■ Head coach | University of Hartford

Justin Blood has become well respected for the consistent America East contender he's built at the University of Hartford, helping the Hawks set single-season program records for wins twice during his head coaching tenure and advance to the NCAA tournament via a league championship for the first time ever in 2018.

Even seven seasons into his time leading Hartford, the Swanzey, N.H., native doesn't forget where he came from, citing Dayton head coach Jayson King and UConn's Jim Penders as two of his major influences. Blood played for King at Franklin Pierce and spent six years as Penders' right-hand man in Storrs. They're often at the top of his mind.

"With the competitive environment we're trying to create, I hear myself say and do things at practice that remind me of Coach King," Blood said. "And in pre-practice, post-practice, player meetings, alumni meetings, I can hear the Jim Penders coming out as well.

"That's the yin and the yang, I guess, of two of the most successful coaches in the region, and I was really lucky to have the chance to be around both of them."

As a player, Blood was part of the Franklin Pierce program at the beginning of its Division 2 era, but he helped set the course for the consistent run of success that followed in becoming the Ravens' first-ever MLB

draft pick in 2001.

The course for Blood's coaching career began there, too, as he remembers much of the team's practice time being led by the players themselves.

"All the guys that came out of the program, especially around that time, were probably pretty well suited to coach down the road because of everything we had to do," Blood said. "It was a great experience being a part of a program that had struggled and making it competitive."



At UConn, he was largely responsible for recruiting such standouts as George Springer (New Britain, Conn.) and Matt Barnes (Bethel, Conn.).

His experience in building programs — as well as recruiting and developing players — came in handy at Hartford, where he's done the same over most of this decade. Among his player success stories is left-handed pitcher

Sean Newcomb (Middleboro, Mass.), whom he developed into a first-round draft pick in 2014 and who now stars for the Atlanta Braves.

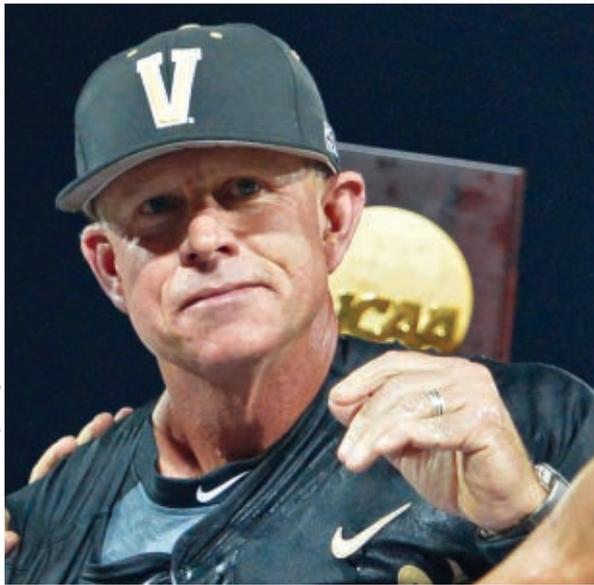
Building that sort of culture is a major factor in finding college baseball success, especially in this region.

"If we were going to have success here, I knew it was going to be very important for us to do more than just improve and develop players," Blood said. "We were going to have to build the foundation of a program, and I wouldn't have been able to do that without my experiences."

— JOSHUA KUMMINS



Peter Aiken/Getty Images



**TIM CORBIN**

■ Head coach | Vanderbilt University

The Commodores' 17th-year skipper not only hails from Wolfeboro, N.H., but he's also brought dozens of players from his home region down to Nashville while building one of the nation's pre-eminent baseball programs. Tim Corbin ranks first in Vanderbilt history with 681 career wins, has produced 40 All-Americans and 22 major-leaguers, and — among 13 consecutive NCAA appearances — led the run to Vandy's first national championship in any men's sport in 2014 with a quartet of New Englanders on the roster, including Tyler Beede (Auburn, Mass.) and Rhett Wiseman (Mansfield, Mass.).

Northeastern Athletics



**MIKE GLAVINE**

■ Head coach | Northeastern University

Mike Glavine — a Billerica, Mass., native and brother of Hall of Fame lefty Tom Glavine — is synonymous with Northeastern baseball, having played four seasons under legendary skipper Neil McPhee before embarking on a 10-year pro career and returning to his alma mater to coach for the last 12. The last two of his four seasons as head coach ended with Colonial Athletic Association regular-season titles and Coach of the Year honors. In 2018, Glavine's Huskies clinched 36 wins and their first NCAA berth since 2003 with a whopping 28 New Englanders on the roster.

Cynthia Ramirez/Herrick/Bryant Athletics



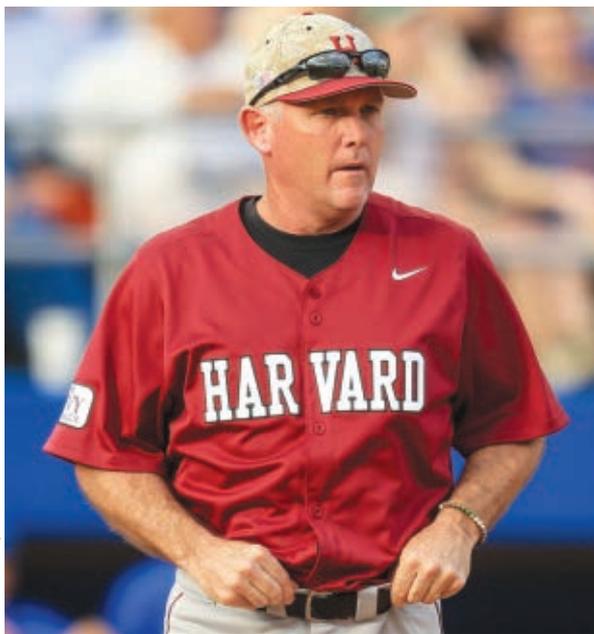
**STEVE OWENS**

■ Head coach | Bryant University

Steve Owens has found a winning formula at every stop on his coaching journey, mirroring the success he had turning SUNY Cortland into a Division 3 powerhouse and leading Le Moyne to 11 straight winning seasons (27 consecutive as a collegiate head coach). Over the last eight years in Smithfield, R.I., the four-time Northeast Conference Coach of the Year has led the Bulldogs to 287 victories, seven consecutive NEC regular-season titles, and three NCAA appearances. And there's no sign of the winning trends stopping.

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Rob Foldy/Harvard Athletics

## BILL DECKER

■ Head coach | Harvard University

Bill Decker's influence on the game has crossed NCAA divisions and spanned decades. He's currently the seventh-year head coach of a Harvard program that is coming off its winningest season since 2005, but Trinity College became a Division 3 power during his 22-year watch. A four-time New England and NESCAC Coach of the Year, Decker is the all-time winningest skipper in Bantams history. Forty-five of his 529 wins in Hartford came during a 2008 national championship season that began with an undefeated regular season and 44-game win streak.



Ken Lanese/Boston College Athletics

## MIKE GAMBINO

■ Head coach | Boston College

Mike Gambino has guided the Eagles to two postseason appearances in the past three seasons, including their first-ever Super Regional berth in 2016, and turned dreams of a Brighton Campus turf field worthy of the highly competitive Atlantic Coast Conference into reality back in March. In this case, though, it's about more than just the game because the ninth-year coach also spearheads the local baseball community's overwhelming support for former BC captain Pete Frates (Beverly, Mass.) and everything ALS.



UConn Athletics

▶ Coach Jim Penders (right) with alumnus George Springer.

## JIM PENDERS

■ Head coach | University of Connecticut

Another skipper with a long-standing association with his program, Jim Penders has led the Huskies to outstanding success and turned Storrs, Conn., into a professional baseball factory during a 15-year head coaching run. The Vernon, Conn., native has 554 wins to his name and led UConn to five NCAA tournaments. He's also sent more than three dozen players to the next level, including 2017 World Series MVP George Springer (New Britain, Conn.) and Red Sox reliever Matt Barnes (Bethel, Conn.).

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## BRENDAN EYGABROAT

■ Head coach | UMass Boston

The UMass Boston program has come a long, long way in 14 years.

The Beacons won just six games two seasons before Brendan Eygabroat's arrival from Suffolk University and had been in the Little East postseason only once in the previous five. They haven't



missed once since, and now have an on-campus turf gem in Monan Park to call their own after spending years traveling

to fields in and around Boston, including Campanelli Stadium in Brockton.

"The park is just a great place for our current players to get lots of reps and to sell to potential student-athletes, so it's already made a huge difference," said Eygabroat, who is just the second coach in school history with 300 or more career wins. "And it's been a tremendous home-field advantage, which we never had before."

Monan Park, which is shared with Boston College High, has helped UMB establish itself as a consistent New England force. Eygabroat led



the Beacons to the Little East and NCAA regional titles in 2010, but his last three clubs all have advanced to the NCAA tournament and won at least 30 games apiece.

It's an impressive feat given the competitiveness of Division 3 baseball in the region of late and competing in a conference that had a handful of teams post NCAA-caliber résumés this season, but the 3-year-old home field has certainly played no small part.

"You never want to take for granted making it to postseason because New England is extremely strong and our league is loaded every year," Eygabroat said. "Winning is hard, but we've been fortunate to put some seasons together and stay healthy, and even when we haven't, guys have stepped up in a huge way. And we've layered in some good classes to help sustain the success."

A unique aspect of the game in New England is the number of long-standing and successful coaches at all levels. Several are featured on this list, including Little East rival Ed Flaherty of Southern Maine.

Eygabroat, who considers his former boss and current Suffolk athletic director Cary McConnell as his biggest mentor, considers himself lucky to be part of that

group.

"We have a tremendous coaching brotherhood here. There's just a lot of mutual mentorship," he said. "I've had coaches call me after the season and say, 'Hey, you guys really seem to be swinging the bat well, so what do you do?' And I'll tell them what we do."

"It's a game about teaching . . . and it really is an impressive list of guys around here."

— JOSHUA KUMMINS



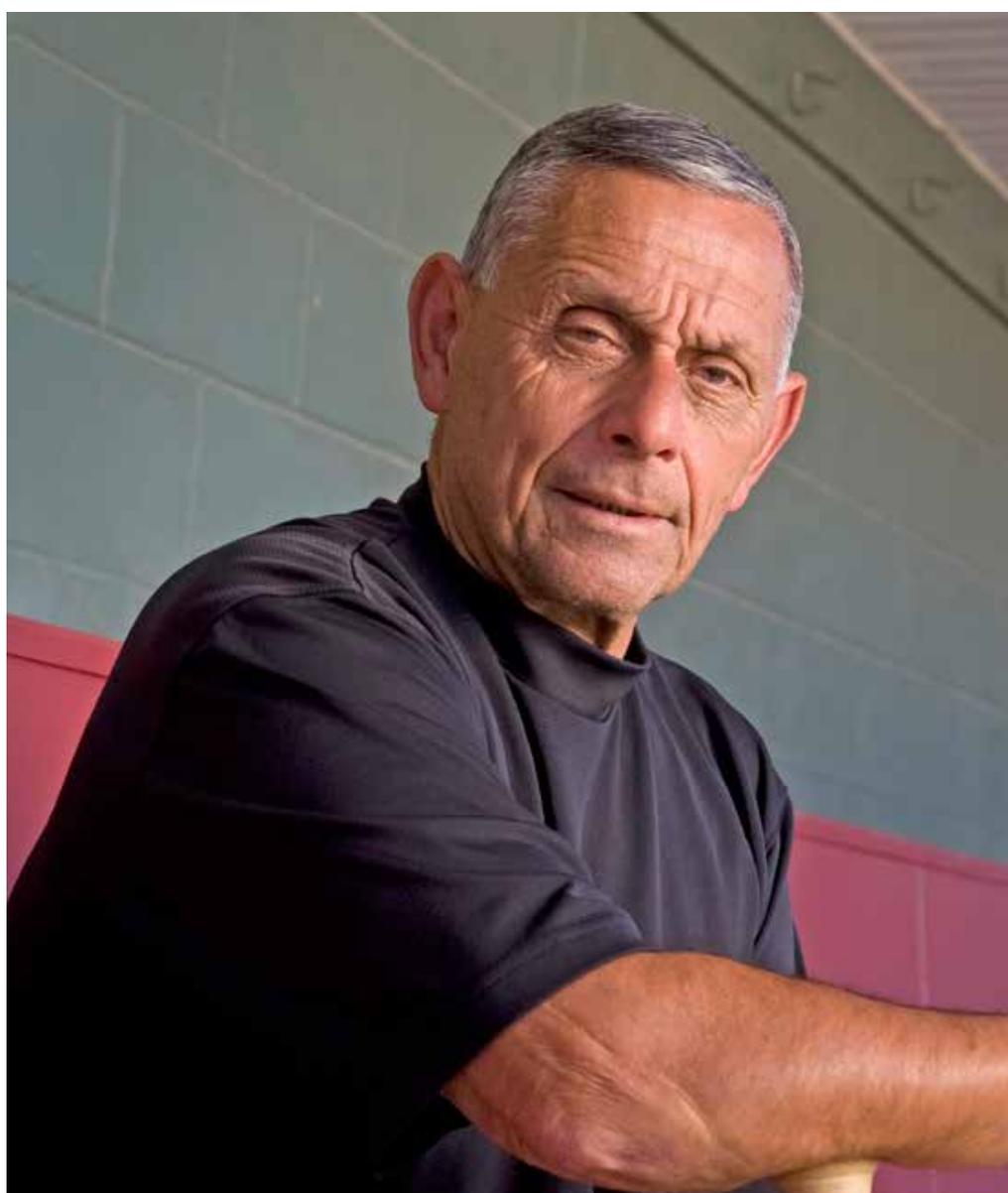
Dave Arnold/New England Baseball Journal

## JOHN CASEY

■ Head coach | Tufts University

John Casey has influenced the game of baseball to points far beyond the Medford and Somerville, Mass., campus he's called home since graduating in 1980. The Jumbos' 35th-year head coach, who has 719 career victories and has led seven teams to NCAAs and five to NESCAC titles, served as president of the American Baseball Coaches Association two years ago and has been heavily involved in the New England Intercollegiate Baseball Association. Casey also has grown an extensive coaching tree that includes all four of his sons, including three still working at the collegiate level.

UMass Boston Athletics



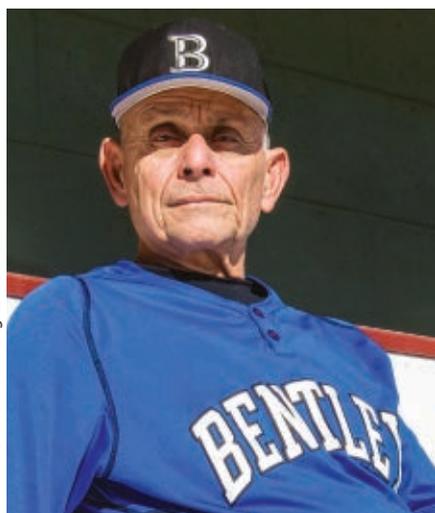
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Dave Arnold/New England Baseball Journal



## BOB DEFELICE

■ Head coach | Bentley University

The head coach with the longest active tenure in all of college baseball, DeFelice enters his 51st season as the one and only skipper in Bentley University history. The Winthrop, Mass., native and Boston College alumnus certainly has influenced the Waltham, Mass., school as a whole, too, serving as its director of athletics since 1991. His teams have played on DeFelice Field since 2002, while a statue was unveiled on the plaza outside the sparkling new Bentley Arena — in which Coach DeFelice Ice Rink is housed — in June.



Jason Johns

## ED FLAHERTY

■ Head coach | University of Southern Maine

Flaherty is the only New Englander among the nation's six active Division 3 head coaches with at least 1,000 career wins. The 2005 inductee into the American Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame has guided the Huskies to 17 seasons with 30 or more wins and 25 post-season appearances, including seven College World Series and the 1991 national championship. Just look at those numbers, and not much more needs to be said about the program he's built over more than three decades in Gorham, Maine.



Jim Stankiewicz

## SCOTT LOISEAU

■ Head coach | Southern New Hampshire Univ.

Loiseau has been all over the baseball map in New England and beyond, but the Worcester, Mass., native has spent most of the past decade creating a powerhouse Division 2 program at Southern New Hampshire University. SNHU has made six consecutive NCAA tournament appearances under Loiseau's leadership, advancing to the College World Series in both 2012 and 2018. The three-time NCBWA East Region Coach of the Year also spent time as an assistant at Holy Cross, his alma mater Franklin Pierce, and, in 2015, Oklahoma.



Keith Nordstrom

## ERIC PODBELSKI

■ Head coach | Wheaton College

The former Brandeis University star pitcher and assistant coach is the only skipper ever known to Wheaton College. Podbelski has built one of New England's best Division 3 programs from scratch, guiding the Lyons to 640 wins and 14 NEWMAC championships in the program's first 21 seasons of existence. The Norton, Mass., program posted nine consecutive 30-win seasons from 2005 to '13. In 2017, his club advanced to the College World Series for the third time since a 41-win campaign in 2006.



# TRAVEL BALL

## DAN KENNEDY

■ Director of Baseball Operations | Team Connecticut

Dan Kennedy is Team Connecticut's director of baseball operations and has been the East Hartford-based program's chief instructor since Bob Hetu founded it in 1994. The Attleboro, Mass., product who played minor-league ball in three different organizations has won more than 700 games and guided Team Connecticut squads to national championships in 1999, 2014 and 2015. He also is a veteran high school coach in Connecticut, having served as head coach at St. Paul and an assistant at both Avon Old Farms and East Catholic.



## PAUL RAPPOLI

■ President | RBI Baseball  
■ Coach | GBG Hawks

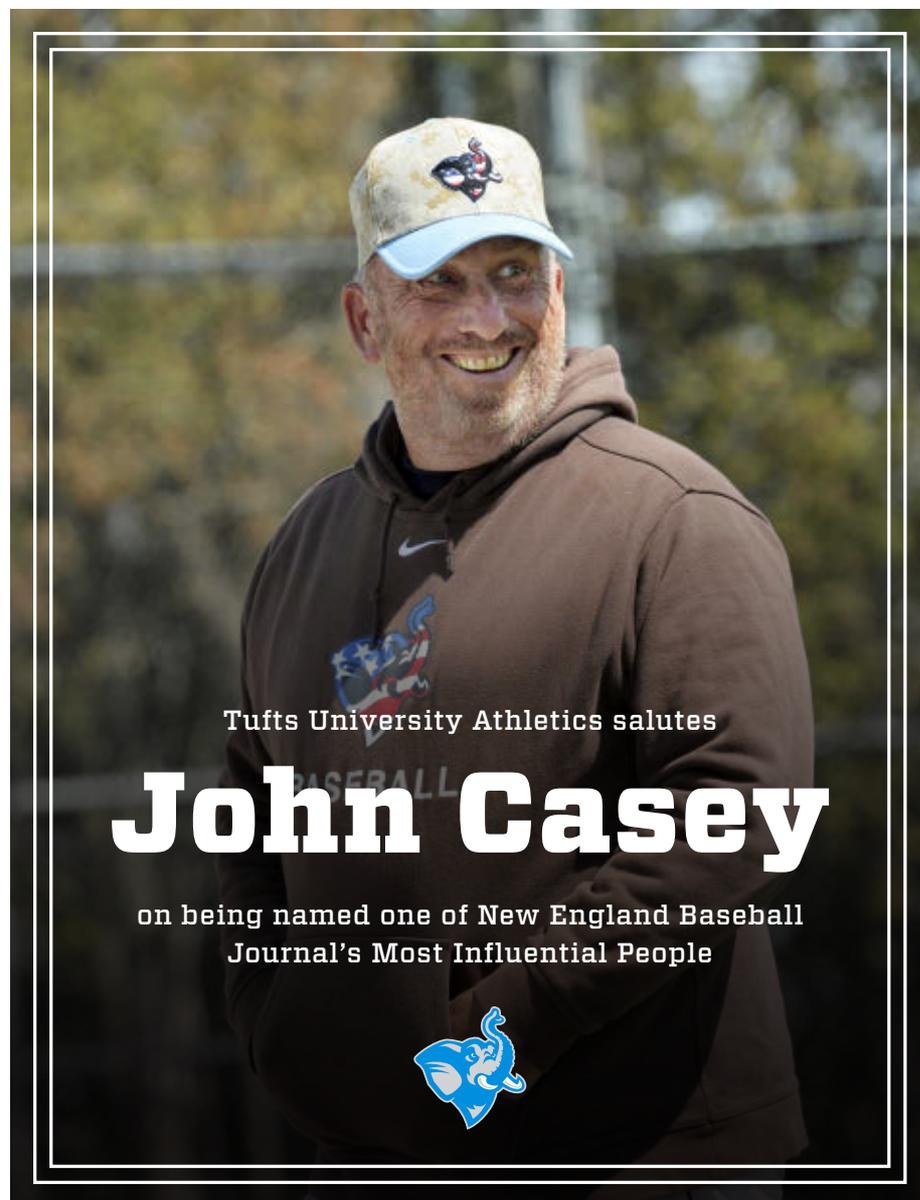
Paul Rappoli founded and currently runs RBI Baseball and its Foxboro, Mass., training facility after running camps with former MLB manager Eric Wedge toward the end of his playing career in the Red Sox organization. He remains the academy's owner and an instructor. He also serves as a successful coach in the GBG Hawks travel program, which has been part of the Garciparra Baseball Group since only 2015 and quickly has become one of New England's top developmental programs.



## STEVE AUGUST

■ Founder | New England Ruffnecks

Steve August founded the Ruffnecks in 2003 and has since built one of the most respected baseball developmental programs anywhere. The Ruffnecks have groomed more than 150 players — from the 13U to senior levels — for all divisions of the college game played in New England and beyond. A nine-year member of the Boston Red Sox front office in the 1990s, August received the John Mochny Award for Distinguished Service from the Continental Amateur Baseball Association in 2010.



Tufts University Athletics salutes

# John Casey

on being named one of New England Baseball Journal's Most Influential People



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13U, 14U, 15U,  
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COLLEGE EXPOSURE TOURNAMENT  
JULY 23-24, 2019  
17U AND 18U  
COLLEGE COACHES IN ATTENDANCE  
3 GAME - NO TIME LIMITS - ON FIELD BP  
COLLEGE COACHES IN DUGOUTS  
HARTFORD, CT

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15U/16U AND 17U/18U  
COLLEGE COACHES IN ATTENDANCE  
3 GAME - NO TIME LIMITS - ON FIELD BP  
COLLEGE COACHES IN DUGOUTS  
HARTFORD, CT

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## SCOTT PATTERSON

■ Founder/Director of Baseball Operations | North East Baseball

Sometimes, necessity spurs the most successful ideas.

Scott Patterson had coached Boston, Mass., native Kyle McKenzie during his two-year stint with the Florida Bombers, but travel baseball options in New England were extremely limited for players in the former Thayer Academy and Tulane standout's age group. Thus, North East Baseball was founded in 2008 after Patterson moved north with his wife, a Massachusetts native.

"There were a few teams up here when we started North East Baseball, but it was nothing like it is now," said Patterson, who started the program while working at Red Tail Golf Club in Devens, Mass. "It all started with Kyle and Sahil Bloom, who played at Stanford, Mike Fransoso, Mike Montville and a bunch of those guys, and it's kind of just evolved from there."

Undoubtedly one of the top travel programs in New England today, North East Baseball has accomplished its goal of exposing the region's prospects to high-level baseball

throughout the United States. More than 600 alumni have moved on to the college level since Patterson founded NEB, while nine players were drafted by MLB clubs last year.

Patterson played for the NECBL's former Holyoke Giants during his own collegiate career, but that was the extent of his exposure to New England prior to founding North East Baseball. The region's college coaches have been receptive to Patterson's program, but the exposure he helped to create for players here has improved the quality of play throughout the region.

"I told kids up here that baseball in New England was years behind California, Florida and some of those southern regions, but it's really trickled its way up here," Patterson said. "I think it's a direct reflection in the amount of kids now moving on — not just to play college baseball, but those who have the opportunity to get drafted."

Developing college players is, obviously, a key for the program, but Patterson also has established the NEB Alumni Foundation that has raised more than \$150,000 to aid players looking to advance to the next level.

— JOSHUA KUMMINS



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### 2019 TOURNAMENTS

**14U NEB CLASSIC**  
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LITTLETON & SHIRLEY, MA

**13U NEB CLASSIC**  
MAY 18TH-19TH, 2019  
LITTLETON & SHIRLEY, MA

**18U NEB INVITATIONAL**  
JUNE 7TH-10TH  
WORCESTER, MA

**16U NEW ENGLAND ELITE 8** | JULY 20TH-22ND  
PROVIDENCE, RI

**16U NEB CLASSIC**  
JUNE 29TH-JULY 1ST, 2019  
WORCESTER, MA

**18U NEB END OF SUMMER CLASSIC**  
JULY 26TH-28TH 2019  
PROVIDENCE, RI

**17U NEW ENGLAND ELITE 8**  
JULY 20TH-22ND  
PROVIDENCE, RI

### NOTABLE ALUMNI

Joe Cronin - Minnesota Twins  
Ryan McKenna - Baltimore Orioles  
Grant Lavigne - Colorado Rockies  
Matt Tabor - Arizona Diamondbacks  
Kobie Taylor - Texas Rangers  
Jake Willsey - Southern Illinois Miners  
Grant Little - San Diego Padres  
Austin DeCarr - New York Yankees  
Brendan King - Chicago Cubs  
Ben Bowden - Colorado Rockies

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## SAM KENNEDY

■ President and CEO | Boston Red Sox

**W**e've all heard about the kid who grew up in Brookline, Mass., within walking distance of Fenway Park and eventually became the most important member of the Red Sox front office? The guy who recognized his childhood dream of lifting the Red Sox to a championship?

No, not only Theo Epstein — for the purposes of this Most Influential list. It's Sam Kennedy, Red Sox CEO and president.



Kennedy succeeded Larry Lucchino as Red Sox president in October 2015 and has since helped pull the strings for three Red Sox' AL East titles and one world championship. After coming over to the Red Sox organization from the

San Diego Padres in 2002 with a wave of executives headed by Lucchino, Kennedy played a key role in the revitalization of the Red Sox brand and the dramatic growth of the team's financial base through the creation of new revenue streams.

If something has changed to your liking at Fenway in the past 15 years (think: Monster Seats, football and hockey games at Fenway, concerts, etc.), Kennedy likely was the brain behind the idea. The 2015 winter season at Fenway Park was chalk-full of Kennedy creations. Fenway Park played host that November to the "Shamrock Series," a college football game between the Notre Dame and Boston College. Fenway also hosted four Thanksgiving Day football games and one hurling event. In February 2016, Fenway hosted the "Big Air," a ski and snowboarding spectacle featuring a 140-foot ramp that loomed high above the ballpark's light towers.

Kennedy and Epstein were classmates at Brookline High. A former captain of the baseball team at Brookline and member of the ice hockey team, Kennedy graduated from Trinity College (Conn.) in 1995.

Kennedy began his career in baseball in 1993 as an intern in the ticket department of the New York Yankees. In 1996, he was hired by his mentor, Lucchino, to be the San Diego Padres executive director/corporate partnerships and broadcasting.

— DAN GUTTENPLAN



Billie Weiss/Boston Red Sox/Getty Images

## MOOKIE BETTS

■ Outfielder | Boston Red Sox

The Red Sox have players that have been here longer than Mookie Betts; 15-year Sox veteran Dustin Pedroia tops the list. They have players who might be more physically blessed; 6-foot-6 lefty flame-thrower Chris Sale is a nice pick here.

But there is no player in 2018 that carries the influence of Mookie Betts, a superstar 25-year-old outfielder who could command as much as \$400 million when he is scheduled to become a free agent in 2021.

Betts has ingratiated himself to New England fans at every level of the system — from his time in Lowell in 2012, to Portland and Pawtucket in 2014, all the way up to Boston since he made his debut in 2014. Since that time, Betts has placed himself on the short list of players, along with Mike Trout and possibly Bryce Harper, that MLB general managers would choose to build a franchise around if they had only one choice of a player.

Betts, who was expected to be named the American League MVP, already is a three-time All-Star and three-time Gold Glove winner. In this MVP season, he hit a league-leading .346 with a .640 slugging percentage, 1.078 OPS with 32 homers, 30 stolen bases and 129 runs.

Who doesn't love Mookie Betts? From the coordinated outfield dances following wins to the shift of his hips while staring back at the dugout after big hits, Betts has no shortage of charisma. The camera loves him, and he doesn't seem to mind the attention that comes with being an MVP candidate in Boston.

What we didn't know until this postseason is Betts also has a desire to help those less fortunate behind the scenes. After a Game 2 victory over the Dodgers in the World Series, Betts was spotted serving about 10 trays of food to a line of homeless people lined up along the Boston Public Library.

In a region that is historically hard on its superstar baseball players, Betts is the rare breed who is seemingly beloved by all.



## JOHN HENRY

■ Principal owner | Boston Red Sox

It's fair to say Henry has headed the most prosperous era of Red Sox baseball since his investment group purchased the Red Sox in December 2001. Insisting that the Red Sox operate as a first-class organization in terms of spending on players, ballpark improvements and fan experience, Henry has led a franchise that has won four World Series in a 15-year span.

Immediately after taking ownership, Henry and his partners also founded and funded the Red Sox Foundation, which has become the largest and one of the fastest-growing team charities in Major League Baseball.

Prior to purchasing the Red Sox, Henry was chairman and sole owner of the Florida Marlins. In October 2013, Henry purchased The Boston Globe, the largest newspaper in New England, becoming only the third owner in its history.



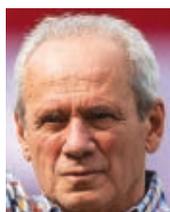
## LARRY LUCCHINO

■ Chairman | Pawtucket Red Sox

The former Red Sox CEO — and mentor to Sam Kennedy and Theo Epstein — was part of a 10-person ownership group that purchased the Pawtucket Red Sox in 2015. Lucchino headed the group as principal owner along with James J. Skeffington.

Lucchino announced in August that the Red Sox Triple-A affiliate will be moving to Worcester, Mass. The city of Worcester has promised the Red Sox a \$90 million, 10,000-seat stadium. It's borrowing more than \$100 million, of which the team will pay back little more than \$30 million in rent.

Lucchino served as Red Sox president/CEO during an historic 14-year period through 2015, in which the club won three World Series, saved and enhanced Fenway Park, established the Major League Baseball record for consecutive sellouts, and created the Red Sox Foundation. He also is chairman of the Jimmy Fund.



## THEO EPSTEIN

■ President, Baseball Operations | Chicago Cubs

Hard to believe Theo Epstein won't turn 45 years old until Dec. 29.

What hasn't Epstein accomplished as a baseball executive? Epstein is widely credited for ending the two most famous curses in baseball history: the Red Sox' 86-year championship drought in 2004 and the Cubs' 108-year drought in 2016.

A Brookline, Mass., native, Epstein became the youngest general manager in the history of MLB when the Red Sox hired him at the age of 28 in November 2002. Epstein brought the Red Sox two championships (2004, 2007) before leaving for Chicago, and has since rebuilt the Cubs into a perennial championship contender.

His success also has sparked a wave of young executives throughout MLB front offices, including many from New England. Fortune Magazine ranked Epstein No. 1 in its 2017 list of the "World's Greatest Leaders."



## J.D. MARTINEZ

■ Designated hitter | Boston Red Sox

It's tough to imagine a player who changed the opinion of Red Sox fans so dramatically in one season than J.D. Martinez. Tune into talk radio as recently as April, and you might have heard how the Red Sox cheaped out on signing Giancarlo Stanton only to sign a far lesser player in Martinez.

Well, so much for that. In one season, Martinez gave the Sox the bat they so desperately missed since the retirement of David Ortiz. Batting in the middle of the Sox order all season, Martinez hit .330 with a 1.031 OPS, along with 43 home runs and 130 RBI. A Triple Crown was in the discussion for Martinez until the closing weeks of the season.

As we know, to be loved in Boston, you have to do it in the postseason. Martinez certainly did with a home run in each of the three playoff series and 14 RBI over the 14 games.

Giancarlo who?



## CHRIS HALL

■ Commissioner | Futures Collegiate Baseball League

From the Red Sox and minor-league baseball to three summer collegiate leagues that span all six New England states and the independent game in Connecticut, there are countless options for high-level baseball in our region.

The Futures Collegiate Baseball League — under commissioner Chris Hall — has developed a unique niche in just eight seasons. Six of the seven communities involved in the FCBL this past summer had hosted franchises that played at an equal or higher level in the past, including Hall's hometown of Brockton, Mass.



"What makes me most proud is what we've done — and it really is 'we' — bringing baseball to some of these communities that have had professional baseball in the past or didn't have baseball, and being successful at it," said Hall, who played collegiately for the legendary Pete Varney at Brandeis University. "We've been really lucky, and I've had some great people in the league that have helped drive this forward."

Also in the former group is Worcester, Mass., where the three-time champion Bravehearts averaged 2,502 fans per game to rank seventh among summer collegiate teams nationally, according to Ballpark Digest, and Nashua, N.H., where Hall was general manager for the city's last independent clubs, the Pride and the American Defenders.

The FCBL has held strong through some franchise shuffling since the original four-team structure in 2011 that included its unique post on Martha's Vineyard. The league already has had two alumni reach MLB, including Lexington, Mass., native Chris Shaw with San Francisco, and ranked second nationally to the Northwoods League in average attendance this summer.



▶ Chris Hall (right) presents an award to Sal Frelick (Lexington, Mass.).

In 2017, several FCBL ballparks hosted the U.S. Collegiate National Team during its international series, and free youth clinics were held in conjunction.

Unlike New England's other summer circuits, the FCBL allows a crop of rising college freshmen from across the country to compete.

But since Day One, a major part of the league's focus has been giving the New England product an equal chance to strut his stuff against top competition. League rules state that half of an FCBL team's roster must attend a New England school or be a native.

"We, as a league, are very proud of how many New England kids we've given the opportunity to play in these stadiums, and play with kids from around the country, and showcase themselves in front of pro scouts," Hall said. "Being a New England kid myself, it was very hard to play on the Cape because it's such a great league. That's always been part of our mission." — JOSHUA KUMMINS



## ED SKOVRON

■ President | New England AAU

Ed Skovron, a Johnston, R.I., native, has worked his way up the ladder while being involved in the Amateur Athletic Union and now directs the New England branch of one of the nation's largest youth sports organizations. Skovron oversees tournaments in all AAU sports in the region, but he got his start in baseball and still plays a key role in AAU's involvement in the sport. In addition to his regional duties, he serves as AAU's National Baseball Chairperson.



Congratulations to Futures Collegiate Baseball League of New England commissioner

# CHRIS HALL

for his recognition as one of New England Baseball Journal's most influential people in New England.

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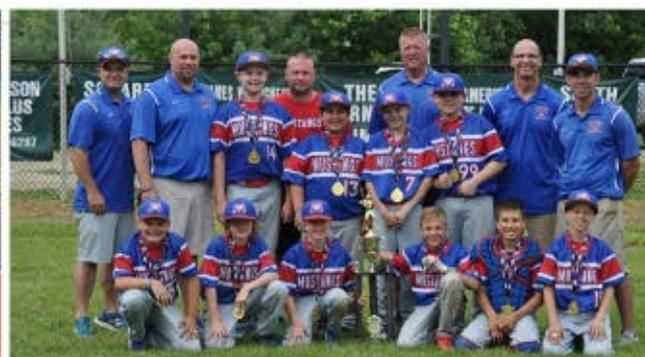


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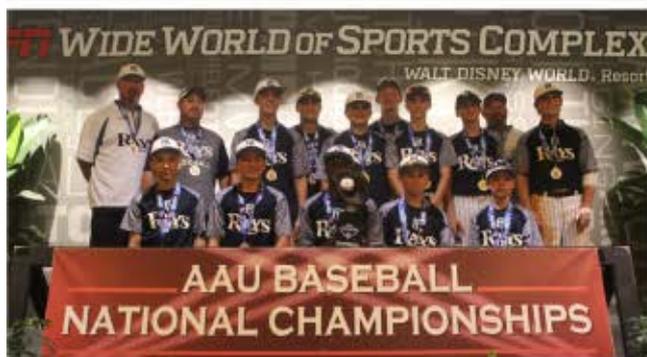
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## CHUCK STURTEVANT

■ President | Cape Cod Baseball League

The Cape Cod Baseball League is different than most other summer collegiate circuits in that it is completely volunteer-run, and Chuck Sturtevant has been at the forefront of America's top league of its kind in a variety of roles for more than three decades. He had stints at the helm of both the Falmouth Commodores and Bourne Braves before spending the past three seasons as league president. Sturtevant was honored as the first Dick Sullivan Executive of the Year in 2006 and won two General Manager of the Year awards (2014-15) during his tenure with the Braves.



▶ NECBL commissioner Sean McGrath (right) with Hall of Famer Craig Biggio.

## SEAN McGRATH

■ Commissioner | NECBL

Sean McGrath moved up from the team level to the commissioner's post in the New England Collegiate Baseball League in 2013 after serving as the executive vice president and general manager for his hometown North Adams SteepleCats since

2004, but the former Mets farmhand's NECBL tenure began as a player in Danbury, Conn., while attending the University of New Hampshire and then as a coach in North Adams. Today, McGrath's NECBL is comprised of 13 teams spread through all six New England states and has attracted more than 200,000 fans for each of the past four seasons.

## DON FREDERICKS

■ Director | MIAA Super Eight

A member of the Massachusetts Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame since 1995, Don Fredericks guided Braintree High School to four Eastern Massachusetts and three state championships during his 20-year head coaching career. Now, he makes his contribution to Bay State high school baseball as the first and only director for the state's Division 1A "Super 8" tournament — the brainchild of his and his son, Kirk — that is held annually in Brockton and replicates the longtime hockey version.



## DAVE COSTANTINO MIKE COSTANTINO

■ Co-owners | New England Elite Baseball League and Legends Baseball

Brothers Dave and Mike Costantino are two of the key figures behind the New England Elite Baseball League, which sponsors hundreds of amateur teams from the 9U to 18U levels that develop players year-round in preparation for the spring season. Dave (top) serves as league president and Mike (bottom) is on the Board of Directors. In 2005, the Salem, Mass., natives and Endicott College graduates co-founded the renowned Legends Baseball travel program, now based out of a Middleton, Mass., facility.



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*Congratulations to Cape Cod Baseball League president Chuck Sturtevant, who has been named one of the most influential people in New England baseball by New England Baseball Journal.*



## *Fun Cape League Facts*

**2018 Draft**

**16 Former Cape Leaguers Drafted in 1st Round of the MLB Draft**

**287 Total Former Players Drafted**

**Over 300 Alumni Played in the MLB This Season**

**American League Championship Series MVP**

**Jackie Bradley, Jr.**

**World Series MVP**

**Steve Pearce**

**Red Sox - 2018 MLB World Series Champions - 6 Players**

**Matt Barnes Wareham 2009 - 2010**

**Joe Kelly Yarmouth-Dennis 2008**

**Chris Sale Yarmouth-Dennis 2009**

**Mitch Moreland Bourne 2006 - 2007**

**Steve Pearce Cotuit 2004**

**Jackie Bradley Jr. Hyannis 2009**

**Dodgers - 2018 MLB National League Champions - 8 Players**

**Scott Alexander Brewster 2009**

**Walker Buehler Yarmouth-Dennis 2014**

**Dylan Floro Hyannis 2011**

**Rich Hill Chatham 2000 - 2001**

**Yasmani Grandal Brewster 2008**

**Max Muncy Wareham 2010- 2011**

**Chris Taylor Yarmouth-Dennis 2011**

**Justin Turner Yarmouth-Dennis 2005**

## ERIC CRESSEY

■ Co-founder/president | Cressey Sports Performance

Eric Cressey is the first to admit he never set out to become the go-to trainer for professional baseball players that find themselves in New England for one reason or another. That's just the way it's worked out.

Cressey is the president and co-founder of Cressey Sports Performance, which opened in Hudson, Mass., in 2007. After building a clientele list that includes Cy Young winners and top draft picks, Cressey opened a second facility in Jupiter, Fla., in 2014.

Cressey's client list rivals that of any trainer across the county. In 2017, two Cressey clients — Cleveland Indians pitcher Corey Kluber and Washington Nationals pitcher Max Scherzer — swept the AL and NL Cy Young awards, respectively. In 2018, Cressey trained five players (Scherzer, Kluber, Miles Mikolas, Noah Syndergaard, Blake Treinen) that finished in the top 20 among all MLB pitchers in WAR.

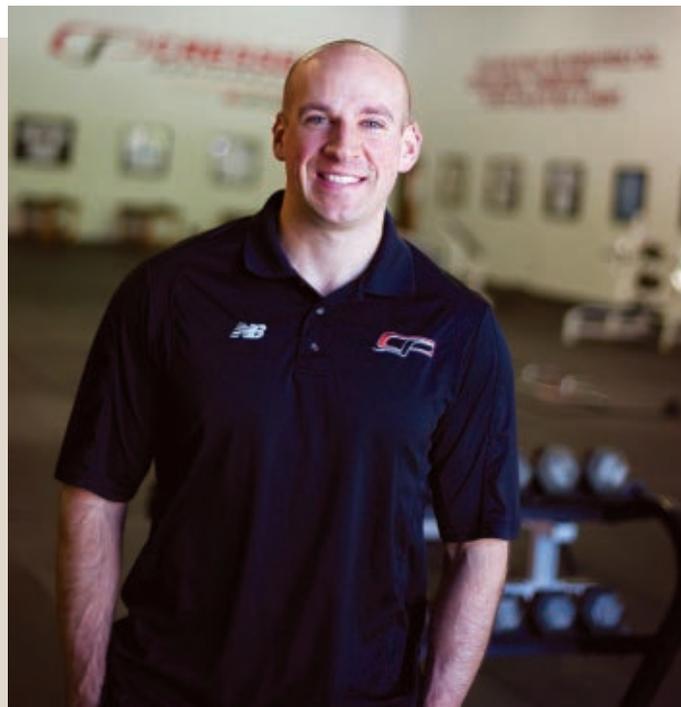
Cressey's client list is not limited to professional athletes. At both of his facilities, he has trainers who work with middle school, high school and college athletes.

In the 2018 MLB First-Year Player Draft, 30 of Cressey's clients heard their names called, bringing the total number of CSP clients to get drafted to 155 over the past six years.

Cressey also takes pride in developing trainers and coaches in his facilities.

"We're also a teaching facility," Cressey said. "Former interns and staff members have gone on to jobs all across professional and college sports, and we host baseball mentorships to teach coaches, strength and conditioning professional and rehabilitation specialists."

Cressey received his master's degree in kinesiology with a concentration



in exercise science through the University of Connecticut Department of Kinesiology. At UConn, he was involved in research in the human performance laboratory.

As a competitive powerlifter, Cressey holds several state, national and world records. A mainstay in the Powerlifting USA Top 100 lifts in his weight class, Cressey gains credibility with his athletes for being able to practice what he preaches.

— DAN GUTTENPLAN

## STEVE LOMASNEY

■ Owner | The Show Baseball Academy

Steve Lomasney has established The Show as the go-to baseball and softball skill development in the Merrimack Valley (Mass.) since opening the facility in August 2011.

Lomasney (Peabody, Mass.) has made it his mission to give young players the opportunity to play in college through a network of relationships he established in a 12-year career playing professional baseball.

Lomasney's list of clients includes former Bryant University standouts and current pro baseball players Brandon Bingel and Mickey Gasper, former Central Catholic stars and current Division 1 athletes Steve Hajjar (Michigan) and Dom Keegan (Vanderbilt), former UConn closer and current minor-leaguer Pat Ruotolo, and former Stony Brook pitcher and current minor-leaguer Ryley MacEachern.

Bingel and Gasper work at The Show during the offseason.

"A lot of these guys come back in the offseason," Lomasney said. "It's been fun to see them give back to the younger players."



## BOB TEWKSBURY

■ Mental Skills Coach

Many baseball fans remember Bob Tewksbury for his 18-year professional career as a pitcher with the New York Yankees, Chicago Cubs, St. Louis Cardinals, Texas Rangers, San Diego Padres and Minnesota Twins. But it is what Tewksbury has done in his post-playing career that puts him on this list.

After completing his master's degree from Boston University in 2004, Tewksbury was hired by the Boston Red Sox to develop the mental skills program at the minor-league levels of the organization. Over a 10-year stretch from 2004 to 2013, he counseled Red Sox organizational talent such as Dustin Pedroia, Jonathan Papelbon, Jacoby Ellsbury, Kevin Youklis and Clay Buchholz. Tewksbury was the mental skills coach for the 2013 Red Sox World Series champions. For the past two seasons, Tewksbury has served as the mental performance coach for the San Francisco Giants.

Tewksbury also wrote the book: "Ninety Percent Mental: An All-Star Player Turned Mental Skills Coach Reveals the Hidden Game of Baseball."



## BRIAN McDONOUGH

■ Owner | Edge Performance Systems

While Brian McDonough may be known as more of a hockey guy in training circles, he has certainly made his mark in the baseball world over the past decade.

Since starting Edge Performance Systems 15 years ago, McDonough has become the most recognizable trainer for athletes in the Foxboro, Mass., area. McDonough now has a second facility in Northboro, Mass., where he has partnered with the New England Baseball Complex.

McDonough started his career as a physical education and health teacher at the Grover Cleveland School in Dorchester, Mass. He became inspired to open EPS after training athletes on the side. McDonough has since worked with more than 450 professional athletes.

His baseball client list includes Colorado Rockies catcher Chris Iannetta (Providence, R.I.) and former Vanderbilt standout and current minor-leaguer Rhett Wiseman (Mansfield, Mass.).



## BOBBY TEWKSBARY

■ Co-founder | AB Athletic Development

In addition to co-founding AB Athletic Development in Nashua, N.H., Bobby Tewksbary founded Tewksbary Hitting and TewksHitting.com. Under Tewksbary's leadership, AB Athletic Development has grown to a 7,000-square-foot facility. Tewksbary's client list spans from youth athletes to major-league ballplayers.

Tewksbary specializes in teaching swing mechanics. His biggest success story is Chris Colabello (Framingham, Mass.), who played seven years of independent-league baseball before earning a chance to play in the big leagues.

Tewksbary has embraced the new wave of technology that has taken over baseball hitting instruction, including high-speed video, video delay systems and Zepp 3D Analysis.

Tewksbary also has authored a book about hitting: "Tewksbary Hitting: 7 Hitting Lessons From Batting Practice with a Big Leaguer."



New England Baseball Journal named Steve one of the Most Influential People in New England Baseball



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## PETER GAMMONS

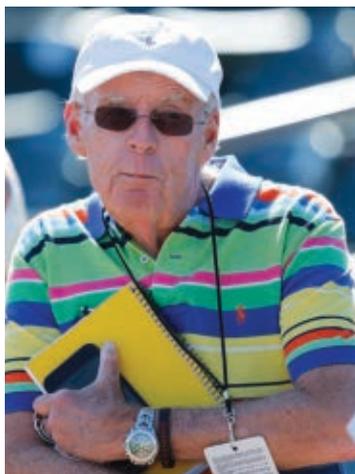
■ **Writer, commentator** | Boston Globe, MLB Network

Perhaps no personnel move in the history of Boston sports media has had a bigger impact on the region than when Peter Gammons and Bob Ryan were hired to start at The Boston Globe on the same day in June 1968. Gammons has since become the most recognizable baseball journalist in Boston sports over the past half-century.

In his second year with the Globe, Gammons (Groton, Mass.) became the featured writer covering the Red Sox and held that position until 1986. He later served as a columnist for Sports Illustrated, The Sporting News, ESPN.com and ESPN The Magazine, and also has authored numerous baseball books.

Gammons also has been a major television personality for more than 30 years spanning between ESPN and the MLB Network.

Regardless of where Gammons' career has taken him, he always has been a strong advocate for New England players, charities and teams.



Joel Auerbach/Getty Images



John Tlumacki/The Boston Globe via Getty Images

## DENNIS ECKERSLEY

■ **Analyst** | NESN

W e in New England all have Dennis Eckersley to blame for calling a fastball "high cheese" and a called strike three "a pair of shoes."

In 10-plus years of watching "Eck" on the NESN broadcast, we've all learned a baseball language all its own — perhaps "Eck-ese" or something that requires an "Ecktionary" to decipher. Eckersley has become the marquee voice in breaking down Red Sox baseball, both as an analyst alongside Dave O'Brien and a studio host alongside Tom Caron.

While his relaxed, free-wheeling analysis might bring smiles to the faces of many Red Sox fans, it occasionally has cost him friends in the clubhouse and on team planes. In 2017, David Price reportedly shouted down Eckersley on a team flight, prompting one of many media storms surrounding Price that led to hometown disgust of the well-paid pitcher.

Regardless of that fallout, we can continue to count on Eckersley to provide biting analysis, with his background



as a former Red Sox pitcher (1978-84 and 1998), Cy Young Award winner (1992) and Hall of Famer (2004). Eckersley also shares the sport from the perspective of someone who has been through two divorces and admittedly struggled with alcoholism early in his life. He treats the game of baseball for exactly what it is — a game that shouldn't be taken too seriously.

One particularly memorable piece of Eckersley analysis came after a 2015 game in which then-Red Sox pitcher Wade Miley allowed nine hits, five earned runs and three home runs in five innings before getting lifted by Red Sox manager John Farrell. After making his way to the dugout, Miley got in Farrell's face and demanded answers for what he believed was an early hook. Eckersley wondered aloud if Miley was "on acid" when he approached Farrell in the dugout.

"You just got your lunch," Eckersley said. "You gave up nine hits, five runs, three bombs . . . get out of here!"

In the words of one of our favorite NESN analysts, let's score that a "three-run Johnson" for Eck.

— DAN GUTTENPLAN



Barry Chin/The Boston Globe via Getty Images

## PETE FRATES

■ **Founder** | ALS Ice Bucket Challenge

Pete Frates is the guy who likely influenced you to pick up a bucket filled with ice water and dump it on your head without hesitation. You probably had somebody film the whole thing, too.

Frates is the inspiring former Boston College baseball captain who was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS, at the age of 25 in March 2012. Upon his diagnosis, Frates asked his doctor how much he needed to fundraise to cure ALS — a disease that robs those affected of their ability to use their muscles, and eventually, breathe. Frates' doctor told him he'd need to raise \$1 billion.

In the six years since, Frates has helped generate a movement of ALS fundraising and awareness. His family started the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge in 2014, and that effort has helped raise \$220 million. Through the influence of social media, the Ice Bucket Challenge quickly became a viral, national sensation that extended well beyond the sport of baseball. Frates himself completed the Ice Bucket Challenge on "SportsCenter."

Others who participated in the



Michael Ivins/Boston Red Sox/Getty Images

▶ Pete Frates did the Ice Bucket Challenge at Fenway in 2014 (top photo). Below: Frates at the Old Time Baseball Game in 2012.

challenge, which includes dumping a bucket of ice water on your own head while filming it — and then posting it to social media while challenging three friends to do the same — included Justin Timberlake, Oprah Winfrey and Bill Gates. Former President Barack Obama donated to the fundraising efforts, while mentioning Frates and the Ice Bucket Challenge.

Frates, who married his wife, Julie, about a year after his diagnosis, has been in a wheelchair for the past five years. He lives in his parents' Beverly, Mass., home with parents John and Nancy, along with Julie and his daughter, Lucy.

In early November, a Beverly park was rededicated in honor of Frates through funds raised by an annual Pete Frates 5K. The park is wheelchair accessible so that Frates can watch his daughter Lucy play. Frates was on hand for the celebration along with Gov. Charlie Baker and members of the Red Sox organization.



Matthew J. Lee/The Boston Globe via Getty Images

## MARTI SEMENTELLI

■ Pitcher | U.S. women's national team

Marti Sementelli has pitched for the U.S. women's national team for a decade. While the better part of her life was spent in Sherman Oaks, Calif., she was born in Newton, Mass., and knows the role that New England played in getting her started in baseball at an early age.



"Growing up here, it was a stepping stone and where I got introduced to the game," Sementelli said. "It really started as a hobby, just throwing balls at the field or in the house, but it really snowballed when I moved to California and became something I really wanted to pursue."

Playing for the Boston Red Sox was Sementelli's ultimate dream, and the move out west helped her reach her full potential in the game. Reality set in as far as her goals of playing Major League Baseball (though she does currently work part-time in fan services at Fenway Park), but she did continue to play in high school and at Montreat College in North Carolina.

Sementelli played four months of baseball in Australia between graduating from college and moving back to Massachusetts, but playing for the U.S. women's national team — which is coached by Worcester Polytechnic Institute



assistant and Charlton, Mass., native Matt Weagle — has been part of her baseball life since pitching in the 2008 Women's World Cup as a 15-year-old.

She's been a regular on the mound ever since. Baseball has taken Sementelli across the country and around the world, but representing New England on the largest stages in women's baseball always has been important.

"The roster always says where we're from next to our names, and since I started with USA Baseball, it always listed California," Sementelli said. "When I moved back in 2015, I wanted to get it changed . . . because I was proud of being the only one from New England. It took a long time, and this past summer's World Cup was the first time it actually said Newton on there. It's really cool to represent this side of the country."

— JOSHUA KUMMINS



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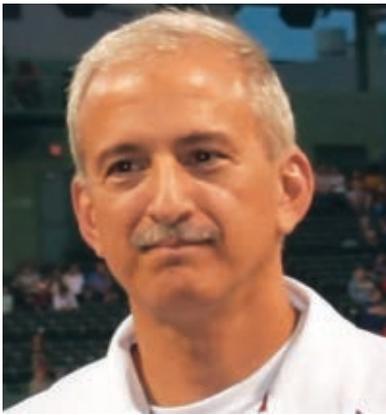
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**JOHN BERARDI**

■ Massachusetts Little League

John Berardi has served as a Little League administrator for Massachusetts District 13 for the last six years, overseeing leagues in 13 cities and towns, including his hometown of Woburn. He also is the program coordinator for the Jimmy Fund Little League, which his father founded and has raised more than \$5 million for Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and the Jimmy Fund. But his long history with baseball at the youth level — from a player himself to umpire, coach and more — traces back to his father, George, who directed Massachusetts Little League for more than 40 years. Berardi was the 2017 Red Sox Foundation Volunteer of the Year.



**JOE CACCIATORE**

■ Umpire

Few umpires in New England are as well known as Joe Cacciatore, who has officiated high school and collegiate games at all levels for four decades. He worked three consecutive College World Series from 1987 to '89 and has been a regular at NCAA regionals at the Division 2 and 3 levels. Cacciatore received the Andy Baylock Distinguished Service Award from the New England Intercollegiate Baseball Association in 2015 and has been inducted into the Bay State Games and Intercity League Halls of Fame.



**RICK DeANGELIS**

■ Founder/General Manager | Lexington Blue Sox

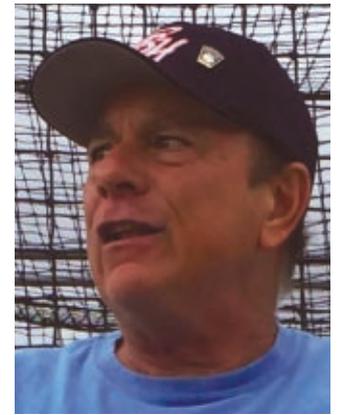
Rick DeAngelis had a Hall of Fame playing career at Holy Cross and has become a key figure on the Greater Boston amateur scene for his longtime involvement in the Intercity League as the founder and current general manager and head coach of the powerhouse Lexington Blue Sox. The league brings together current and former college players and professionals, and Lexington has done it better than any other as the 14-time ICL champion.



**DR. LUKE OH**

■ Orthopaedic surgeon | Massachusetts General Hospital

An orthopaedic surgeon at Massachusetts General Hospital for close to a decade, Dr. Luke Oh's expertise in shoulder, elbow and knee injuries — which was partially developed through an apprenticeship with Dr. James Andrews — has been utilized by a variety of area sports teams and leagues from high schools and colleges to the pros. When it comes to baseball specifically, he serves as a consultant for the Boston Red Sox and medical director for the Futures Collegiate League.



**NICK ZIBELLI**

■ President | Collegiate Baseball Umpires Assigning Organization

Referred to by some as "the godfather of umpiring in New England," Nick Zibelli serves as President of the Collegiate Baseball Umpires Assigning Organization (CBUAO) and has officiated games at every level of the game in New England for 40 years, including NCAA championship events for all three divisions. Zibelli coordinates umpires for three Division 2 and 3 conferences and four junior college conferences as well as the prestigious Cape Cod Baseball League.

**25th ANNIVERSARY**  
**LEXINGTON BLUE SOX**  
INTERCITY BASEBALL LEAGUE

**AS THE LEXINGTON BLUE SOX** begin preparations for our 25th season in 2019, we would like to take some time to reflect on the importance of all our players and staff.

---

Your ability, dedication and sense of TEAM played a defining and critical role in creating and shaping the success and longevity the Blue Sox have enjoyed.

To all Blue Sox players and staff from 1995 to the present, a profound thank you for making the Blue Sox a championship Intercity League franchise and for building

and strengthening the rock-solid foundation upon which the Blue Sox Brotherhood is built.

Thank you to our Blue Sox fans for your unwavering support and inspiration and to the Town of Lexington Recreation and Parks Departments for the work they provide year in and year out.

— Rick DeAngelis  
Founder/Manager

INTERCITY LEAGUE CHAMPIONS: 1998, 2002, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018

## Biggest influence? Parents

**F**ollowing Game 2 of the World Series, Mookie Betts was asked, “Do you ever get stressed out in a big situation? You always seem so relaxed.”

“I found *something* that helps me to breathe,” Betts said with a smile.

That “something” — according to the AL MVP favorite and World Series champion — is the biggest influence on his rise to stardom.

“I put things into perspective,” Betts added. “I know that no matter how good or bad I do I get the same smiles and hugs from my family.”



Betts recognized at an early age that his parents did not add pressure to an already pressure-packed sport — but relieved it. He wasn’t the young player who was looking at Mom or Dad after every single pitch, a clear indication of a player playing with undo pressure.

This is a great lesson — not just for the players — but for parents who must understand what a great influence they are in their child’s development, as well as their enjoyment playing the game of baseball. In fact, a parent is the single biggest influence on whether a child says *Yes!* or *No!* to the following question:

**Do you want to play baseball again next year?**

A player can withstand a bad coach. However, nothing drives a player away from the game faster or causes him not to reach his potential than a parent who falls short in his her role.

But what is the parent’s role? How can you best support your child in an increasingly complex youth sports world?

Here are 10 tips to help keep your kids in the game:

### 1 Remember you aren’t on the team.

“We have a game at 5:30 p.m.” No, you don’t. *You* are not a member of the Tigers. Your son has a game. Your job is to simply get him there on time. There are many things your son doesn’t have control or ownership of at this point in his life. His baseball experience, however, should be his own.

### 2 Don’t compare.

Your son doesn’t like being compared to Johnny. Encourage your child to strive to be better today than he was yesterday. Comparisons are useless, inaccurate and destructive. Each child matures differently, and the process of comparison ignores significant developmental differences.

### 3 Did you win?!

It’s the first question he is asked after the game — and yet, he had very little control over the outcome. He was only one of more than 20 players on the field. What he can control, however, was his effort, his attitude and how he responded to mistakes. Stress the process and not the outcome to create an environment of mastery, which is proven to decrease anxiety while raising the confidence.

### 4 Let the coach coach.

You have a much bigger responsibility, which is reframing much of what happens on the field so your son can take it to areas of his life long after the game’s final out. What’s more important, winning a game or developing character? Whether your son wins or loses his next game is not going to make the biggest difference in his life; however, the lessons he takes from the game will follow him for a lifetime. There’s more to life than baseball ... but there is more to baseball than *just baseball* — and it’s up to the parents to embrace and recognize these moments.

### 5 Remember why you signed him up to play.

Why do you want your kids to play baseball? Most parents will say: *to make friends, learn a new skill, develop confidence, learn how to deal with failure, stay in shape, learn about sportsmanship* and, of course, *have fun*. What we say, however, does not match our sideline behavior at times. We tend to focus on things such as *why is he playing second and not short? Why is he batting seventh and not third?* Target your cheering and reward what you want repeated based on what you value and what is important.

### 6 Your child is not their performance.

Punishing a child for a bad performance or withdrawing emotionally from him is a sure-fire way to push your child away from the game. You can use sports as a vehicle to build your relationship with your child or tear it apart. Choose wisely.



Courtesy Chris Fay

### 7 Teach them how to fail.

There are many things in this world we can ill afford our child to fail in — sports are not one of them. A baseball coach and parent once said to me, “I love sports because it teaches my child how to fail and develop resiliency.” Ironically, 15 minutes earlier he was boasting that his team was 12-0. You must lose to develop real life skills, and a tough loss or a poor game simply is an opportunity to grow as a person and develop skills such as resilience, poise and perseverance.

### 8 Refrain from the postgame analysis.

At the end of the game, your son wants to hear one thing from you: *I loved watching you play today!* That’s it. He doesn’t need a pitch-by-pitch recap of the game. As a 2011 study showed, the car ride home with mom or dad is a child’s least favorite memory of youth sports.

### 9 Respect the game.

As a parent, we must teach our player what it means to honor the game and play the game the

### ► The author’s son, Joey Fay (9), with Mookie Betts, who knows the importance of family.

right way, which includes respecting our opponent, the rules, the umpires and our teammates. What message are we sending them when we manipulate the rules, talk negatively about an opponent, disrespect the umpire or talk negatively about your son’s coach or teammates?

### 10 Enjoy it! It goes quickly.

More than 70 percent of kids who play Little League baseball never reach the big diamond, and when parents look back on the “good old days,” they often regret not simply enjoying it more.

Chris Fay played collegiate baseball at Gettysburg College and also served as an assistant coach at Newbury College from 2007 to 2009. Chris recently joined Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA) — New England, which works with parents, coaches, players, youth organizations and universities to help change the culture of youth sports. He currently is the commissioner of Wayland Little League’s Instructional League program. Chris lives in Wayland with his wife, Gina, and their three children.

✉ [feedback@baseballjournal.com](mailto:feedback@baseballjournal.com)

# WAYNE MAZZONI

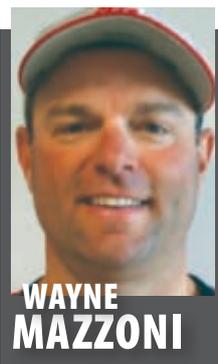
## What traits can we learn from influential leaders?

**W**hile New England Baseball Journal's list of the most influential people in this issue includes people from a variety of walks of the baseball world, many of them share many of the same qualities that make them influential.

And as each of us aspire to be the best we can in and out of the world of baseball, here are some things we can learn from this group:

**1 They are genuine people.** Whether these people were in the baseball world, some other

sport, or any other walk in life, they would stand out because they are real, true, honest and good people. They have manners, are respectful of others and go above and beyond when it comes to their relationships with people. When you are retired or long gone, what will be remembered is your character and how you treated others.



WAYNE MAZZONI

**2 They take care of themselves first.**

This isn't selfish, but this is what all great people and leaders do. As they say on an airplane: put your oxygen mask on first. You are no help to others if you can't breathe. Same with these folks; they have their lives in order, their health, finances, houses, relationships, etc. If you want to be a person who can help others, you have to make sure you have your own affairs in order. And often you will lead by example just by doing things the right way and living a well balanced, passionate life.

**3 They love baseball.**

I know what you're thinking: We all love baseball. Well, these folks love it more because they put up with a lot to love it. They put up with low pay, or paying dues, or weekend work, or travel, or you name it. They have seen all sides of the sport and still care about it deeply and want the future of the game to be as good as the past.

**They have seen all sides of the sport and still care about it deeply and want the future of the game to be as good as the past.**

**4 They are singularly focused.**

Not that they don't have other interests in their lives, but these influencers decided at some point that this was their long-term path and they have worked toward this goal most of the lives.

**5 They are consistent.**

Through their work and their relationship with others, they are comfortable enough in their own skin and in their approach that they are the same people no matter when you meet them. They have morals and principles, and you can count on them to follow them at all times.

**6 They are bright.**

Whether through formal education, life lessons or the school of hard knocks, these people are smart. Many of them could get to their level of success only by being intelligent. Of course, they are motivated and driven, but they also are bright and constantly striving to learn, especially as the game, the world and life continues to evolve and change.

**7 They give back.**

Not only does their work service others, but they also are very generous with their time to help those in need, both on and off the field. In this regard, they reach more people than they otherwise would and pass on their passion to others.

Congratulations and thank you to all of those among New England Baseball Journal's Most Influential People and to the many more who could have been — and to the future generation of you who make a positive impact on our world. **B**

Wayne Mazzone is the assistant coach at Sacred Heart. Coach Mazz will be presenting at the World Baseball Coaches Convention at Mohegan Sun in January 2019.

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# NEW ENGLAND BASEBALL JOURNAL MLB NEW ENGLAND DIGITAL DIRECTORY

Our directory includes active players who have appeared in at least one major-league game in 2018. If we are missing any New Englanders, email [editor@baseballjournal.com](mailto:editor@baseballjournal.com). Click their bio box to visit their official MLB page with current stats, news and video.

## Nick Ahmed

**Arizona Diamondbacks** | SS  
**Hometown:** East Longmeadow, Mass.  
**College:** UConn



## John Andreoli

**Seattle Mariners** | OF  
**Hometown:** Worcester, Mass.  
**College:** UConn



## Matt Barnes

**RED SOX** | RHP  
**Hometown:** Bethel, Conn.  
**College:** UConn



## Tyler Beede

**San Francisco Giants** | RHP  
**Hometown:** Auburn, Mass.  
**College:** Vanderbilt



## John Brebbia

**St. Louis Cardinals** | RHP  
**Hometown:** Sharon, Mass.  
**College:** Elon



## Curt Casali

**Cincinnati Reds** | C  
**Hometown:** New Canaan, Conn.  
**College:** Vanderbilt



## Steve Cishek

**Chicago Cubs** | RHP  
**Hometown:** Falmouth, Mass.  
**College:** Carson-Newman Univ.



## Alex Cobb

**Baltimore Orioles** | RHP  
**Hometown:** Boston, Mass.



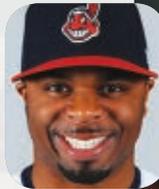
## Tim Collins

**Free agent** | LHP  
**Hometown:** Worcester, Mass.



## Rajai Davis

**Free agent** | OF  
**Hometown:** New London, Conn.  
**College:** UConn-Avery Point



## Oliver Drake

**Tampa Bay Rays** | RHP  
**Hometown:** Worcester, Mass.  
**College:** Navy



## Ryan Flaherty

**Free agent** | IF/OF  
**Hometown:** Portland, Maine  
**College:** Vanderbilt



## Matt Harvey

**Free agent** | RHP  
**Hometown:** Mystic, Conn.  
**College:** Univ. of North Carolina



## Kyle Hendricks

Chicago Cubs | RHP

Hometown: Newport Beach, Calif.

College: Dartmouth



## Rich Hill

Los Angeles Dodgers | LHP

Hometown: Milton, Mass.

College: University of Michigan



## Chris Iannetta

Colorado Rockies | C

Hometown: Providence, R.I.

College: Univ. of North Carolina



## Dominic Leone

St. Louis Cardinals | RHP

Hometown: Norwich, Conn.

College: Clemson



## Charlie Morton

Free agent | RHP

Hometown: Redding, Conn.



## Sean Newcomb

Atlanta Braves | LHP

Hometown: Middleboro, Mass.

College: Univ. of Hartford



## Scott Oberg

Colorado Rockies | RHP

Hometown: Tewksbury, Mass.

College: UConn



## Adam Ottavino

Free agent | RHP

Hometown: Brooklyn, N.Y.

College: Northeastern



## Thomas Pannone

Toronto Blue Jays | LHP

Hometown: Cranston, R.I.

College: CC of Southern Nevada



## A.J. Pollock

Free agent | OF

Hometown: Hebron, Conn.

College: Notre Dame



## Sal Romano

Cincinnati Reds | RHP

Hometown: Southington, Conn.



## Troy Scribner

Arizona Diamondbacks | RHP

Hometown: Washington Depot, Conn.

College: Sacred Heart



## Chris Shaw

San Francisco Giants | OF

Hometown: Lexington, Mass.

College: Boston College



## Murphy Smith

Free agent | RHP

Hometown: Nashua, N.H.

College: SUNY Binghamton



## George Springer

Houston Astros | OF

Hometown: New Britain, Conn.

College: UConn



## Brent Suter

Milwaukee Brewers | LHP

Hometown: Cincinnati, Ohio

College: Harvard



## Mason Williams

Free agent | OF

Hometown: Pawtucket, R.I.





▶ Arizona's Nick Ahmed (East Longmeadow, Mass.)



▶ San Francisco's Chris Shaw (Lexington, Mass.)



▶ Toronto's Thomas Pannone (Cranston, R.I.)

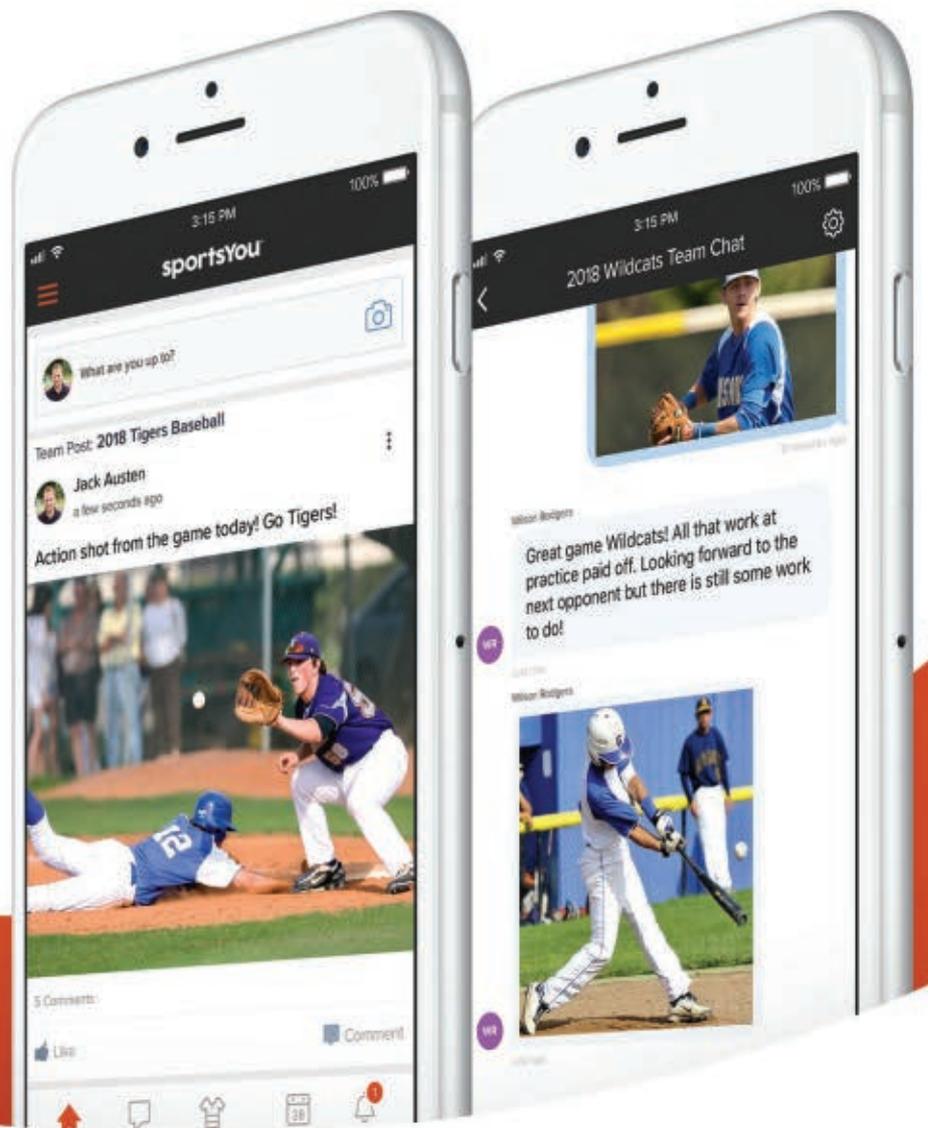
## Active New Englanders in the major leagues Compiled by Joshua Kummins

POSITION PLAYERS	HOMETOWN/COLLEGE	TEAM	POS.	TWITTER	THE SKINNY
<b>Nick Ahmed</b>	East Longmeadow, Mass./UConn	Arizona	SS	—	Won first career Gold Glove; 69 RBI tops among D-backs shortstops all-time
<b>John Andreoli</b>	Worcester, Mass./UConn	Seattle	OF	@JAndreoli7	Reclaimed on waivers from Baltimore, where he landed in August and played in 23 games
<b>Curt Casali</b>	New Canaan, Conn./Vanderbilt	Cincinnati	C	@Curtcasali	Hit .293 in 52 games after May 31 move from Tampa; Reds won 16 of his 32 starts
<b>Rajai Davis</b>	New London, Conn./UConn-Avery Point	—	OF	@rajai11davis	Free agent now has 415 career stolen bases, second to Jose Reyes among active players
<b>Ryan Flaherty</b>	Portland, Maine/Vanderbilt	—	OF	@RFlaherty3	Elected free agency after playing in 81 games and driving in 15 runs for Atlanta
<b>Chris Iannetta</b>	Providence, R.I./North Carolina	Colorado	C	@Chris_Iannetta	110 games played were his most since appearing in 115 with the Dodgers in 2011
<b>A.J. Pollock</b>	Hebron, Conn./Notre Dame	—	OF	—	Declined \$17.9 million qualifying offer from Diamondbacks and became free agent
<b>Chris Shaw</b>	Lexington, Mass./Boston College	San Francisco	OF	@SHAWESOME24	Made MLB debut Aug. 31; went 1-for-22 before finishing season on 9-for-32 run
<b>George Springer</b>	New Britain, Conn./UConn	Houston	OF	—	Two-time All-Star has hit safely in 14 straight postseason games since 2017
<b>Mason Williams</b>	Pawtucket, R.I.	—	OF	@MjordanW9	Elected free agency after hitting .293 in a career-high 123 at-bats for the Reds
PITCHERS	HOMETOWN/COLLEGE	TEAM	POS.	TWITTER	THE SKINNY
<b>Matt Barnes</b>	Bethel, Conn./UConn	RED SOX	RHP	@mattbarnesRHP	Had career-best 14.01 K/9 rate and appeared in 10 postseason games en route to title
<b>Tyler Beede</b>	Auburn, Mass./Vanderbilt	San Francisco	RHP	—	Pitched out of bullpen in Triple A last half of season after making first two MLB starts in April
<b>John Brebbia</b>	Sharon, Mass./Elon	St. Louis	RHP	@JohnBrebbia	Allowed just one earned run in 12 innings and went 2-0 during September
<b>Steve Cishek</b>	Falmouth, Mass./Carson-Newman	Chicago Cubs	RHP	@srSHREK31	78 strikeouts in 70 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>3</sub> innings over a career-high 80 appearances led Cubs relievers
<b>Alex Cobb</b>	Boston, Mass.	Baltimore	RHP	@Acobb53	Went 5-15, but 15 of his 28 starts were quality; just 3.43 runs of support on average
<b>Tim Collins</b>	Worcester, Mass.	—	LHP	@timcollins55	Elected free agency after making 38 appearances in his first MLB action since 2014
<b>Oliver Drake</b>	Worcester, Mass./Navy	Tampa Bay	RHP	—	Claimed off waivers Nov. 1 after pitching for MLB-record five teams in one season
<b>Matt Harvey</b>	Mystic, Conn./North Carolina	—	RHP	@MattHarvey33	Testing free agent market after going 7-7 with 4.50 ERA in 24 starts with Cincinnati
<b>Kyle Hendricks</b>	Newport Beach, Calif./Dartmouth College	Chicago Cubs	RHP	@kylehendricks28	Went 9-3 with a 2.65 ERA over 16 starts from July 9 to season's end
<b>Rich Hill</b>	Milton, Mass./Michigan	L.A. Dodgers	LHP	—	Struck out at least seven in eight consecutive starts to end the regular season
<b>Dominic Leone</b>	Norwich, Conn./Clemson	St. Louis	RHP	@DLeone52	Joined a new club for the third consecutive year, going 1-2 in 29 games
<b>Charlie Morton</b>	Redding, Conn.	—	RHP	—	Free agent should draw interest after 15 wins, 201 strikeouts, 3.13 ERA and first All-Star nod
<b>Sean Newcomb</b>	Middleboro, Mass./Hartford	Atlanta	LHP	@SeanNewk	First Braves lefty with 12 wins since Mike Minor in 2013, including eight in first 15 starts
<b>Scott Oberg</b>	Tewksbury, Mass./UConn	Colorado	RHP	—	Eight wins tied for first among NL relievers; 47 of 56 appearances were scoreless
<b>Adam Ottavino</b>	Brooklyn, N.Y./Northeastern	—	RHP	—	Hits free agent market after 112 strikeouts, most in Rockies history and second among NL relievers
<b>Thomas Pannone</b>	Cranston, R.I./Coll. of Southern Nevada	Toronto	LHP	@ThomasPannone	Went 4-1 with a 4.19 ERA in 12 games, including six starts, all after Aug. 10
<b>Sal Romano</b>	Southington, Conn.	Cincinnati	RHP	@salromano14	8-11 with 5.31 ERA in 39 games; 105 strikeouts in 145 <sup>2</sup> / <sub>3</sub> innings ranked fifth on team
<b>Troy Scribner</b>	Washington Depot, Conn./Sacred Heart	Arizona	RHP	@troyscribs	Shoulder injury limited him to 14 minor-league games, plus a May spot start for D-Backs
<b>Murphy Smith</b>	Nashua, N.H./Binghamton	—	RHP	—	Free agent made his MLB debut Aug. 27 and made three appearances with Toronto
<b>Brent Suter</b>	Cincinnati, Ohio/Harvard	Milwaukee	LHP	—	Left July 22 start with discomfort that turned out to be a UCL tear requiring Tommy John

**NOTE:** Players on this list appeared in at least one major-league game in 2018. If we are missing any New Englanders, email us at editor@baseballjournal.com.

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**CHRISTIAN BYRNES, OWNER, LONG ISLAND NATIONALS BASEBALL**

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The A1 BBCOR bat from Old Hickory is a single-piece design, featuring A95 aluminum alloy, one of the strongest alloys available. The A1 has an ultra-balanced feel specifically designed to produce lightning fast swing speeds and precision bat control.

**MSRP: \$179.99**



### C2 BBCOR

The C2 BBCOR bat features a two-piece hybrid construction. The A95 aluminum alloy barrel and A3 composite handle, is the perfect combination strength and power. The C2 is built with a super-low MOI, creating an ultra-balanced feel for maximizing swing speeds.

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## SAM BAT

[www.sambat.com](http://www.sambat.com)



### Custom 2K1

Developed by Sam for Barry Bonds, this is the bat that holds the world records: 73 Home Runs in a season and 762 career home runs. The 2K1 is known for its distinctive flared knob designed to feel like a baseball in your hand. Only available on [sambat.com](http://sambat.com).

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One of the lightest-swinging Half and Half models on the market, the Voodoo Balanced features an X14 Alloy barrel with thinner wall design for a balanced swing and maximum pop.

The 3Fusion System reduces vibration and minimizes weight at the end of the bat, creating a balanced feel on contact.

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[sportssensors.com](http://sportssensors.com)

### Glove Radar

The Glove Radar is a small Doppler radar that attaches to the back of any ball glove, "sees" through the glove, and measures the speed of baseballs or softballs just before they are caught. Helps develop the proper throwing mechanics of position players and pitchers by providing immediate velocity feedback to reinforce coaching. A third person holding a radar gun is not required. Just tie it on to the receiver's glove. More than 30,000 now in use, and all have fun using it. **MSRP: \$69.95**



# THE MENTAL EDGE

**E**very game in baseball is played to determine a result: who wins and who loses. This is the goal at the heart of baseball: to win.

We can have all types of goals as athletes in addition to winning as well. We can have a goal to be a starter, to win a championship or to be named an All-American. We also can have goals



**LANDON DUMAR**

that are a result of challenges or setbacks, such as returning from injury, making the team or getting more playing time.

Goals are helpful in providing us a target to aim for. They provide

something to work toward. Also, when goals are clear, we know when we achieve them and when we don't, just like when we win or lose a game. The difficult part of goals is they exist in the future. Whether it's winning, getting to play for the team we want, or any other goal we may have, the goal isn't achieved *right now*; it happens in the future.

I have spoken with many athletes who know what they want but struggle with how to get there. They may be caught up in the past with things that have gone wrong or mistakes they've

## OUR VALUES POINT WAY TO OUR GOALS

■ Focusing on the present helps athletes achieve in the future

made that got them off-track, or they're pulled into the future trying to figure out how to get to where they want to be instead of where they are. What's difficult is the path to achieving our goals won't always be clear in this moment. What we want is to have something in the present that we can focus on so that we can continue to move forward.

One thing we can access in any moment is our values. Our values are the type of player we want to be and

**Win, lose or draw, we can demonstrate dedication, drive, sportsmanship and more.**

the qualities that others perceive us as embodying, such as passion, perseverance, balance and hard work, to name a few. Values are different from goals in that values can be demonstrated right now and regardless of if we have achieved our goals or not.

Win, lose or draw, we can demonstrate dedication, drive, sportsmanship and more. Goals are a destination, and values are the compass by which we arrive there.

By bringing ourselves back to the present by remembering our values, we allow ourselves to focus on what's happening *now* instead of what will happen in the future. To begin to uncover your personal values, ask yourself these questions:

► **In five years, how do I want my friends, family, teammates, coaches**

**and fans to view me?**

► **If someone asked those close to me what I am like as an athlete, what would they say?**

► **What qualities do your sports idols/role models possess that you admire?**

By having a clear sense of the type of player you are, you give yourself the compass to provide direction in the pursuit of all your goals starting right now and into your future. The best baseball players recognize that worry, doubt, confusion, frustration, sadness and more will arise at some point.

What they've done is developed a clear understanding of the type of player they want to be and what values they stand for, so they can have something to focus on for when challenges occur on their way to achieving their goals. **B**

Landon DuMar is the Mental Performance Coach at RPM Athlete Performance in Natick, Mass. He currently is pursuing a master's degree in athletic counseling at Springfield College and has experience working with a variety of collegiate and youth athletes, coaches and trainers on the mental aspects of sport and performance that focuses on flow, mindfulness, expertise and positive psychology. His background in counseling psychology and extensive experience working in youth mental health programming informs his holistic approach to health, wellness, and well-being. Learn more at [www.rpmathlete.com](http://www.rpmathlete.com).

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# Hangin' out with ... Jeremy Pena

**The Astros drafted you in the third round this June. What do you remember most about that day?** "Just the environment and the reaction from my family after hearing my name called. We were all together in the living room at my house. It was an unforgettable experience, a dream come true for me just as much as it is for my family. It was a nice day."

**Was Houston one of the teams that showed significant interest?** "They showed some interest. I met with a couple of their guys during the process, and they came up a couple of times to the University of Maine."

**The Astros have been such an exciting team to watch over the last few years, obviously culminating in the World Series title last year. Did that make being selected by them that much more special?** "Of course. This organization is obviously doing something right right now since they were world champions last year and most of the minor-league teams are also doing pretty well. I'm just glad to be a part of it right now."

**How much pride do you take in representing Rhode Island and being a baseball player from the New England region in general?** "I

moved to Rhode Island when I was 10 years old, so I was pretty young. Being from Rhode Island and going to the University of Maine, it's cold and all, but it was a great experience that I wouldn't trade for anything. Being from New England shaped the player I am today."

**Rhode Island is obviously known for being the smallest state, but baseball is a pretty important sport there. What is being part of that community like?** "We're the smallest state in the U.S., but we have a lot of talent in the cities and other areas. A lot of people don't know that, but there are some pretty good ballplayers coming out of Rhode Island. It feels good to be from Providence and be able to play in the intercity leagues, the local leagues, and now being here. It's an honor to be able to represent."

**Your father, Geronimo, played Major League Baseball over seven seasons. What does he mean to you?** "He's always been there for me, so I owe it all to him. He's been my No. 1 coach throughout my whole life. I've learned, probably, everything I know from him. It's always good to have that person with a knowledge of the game always available for you. I can just give him a quick call."

**You're obviously young to remember his career, but are there guys he played with that you remember?** "There's another guy who lives in Rhode Island as well, Henry Rodriguez. He played with the Yankees and Dodgers a little bit. We've worked out together, so he's taught me a little bit when it comes to hitting."

— JOSHUA KUMMINS

>> **DIGITAL BONUS:**  
CONTINUED ON PAGE B19

Gregory Fisher / Sportsthroughthelens.com

## Basic bio

**Team:** Tri-City ValleyCats | **Pos.:** SS  
**MLB organization:** Houston Astros  
**Hometown:** Providence, R.I.  
**College:** University of Maine  
**High school:** Classical

## Favorites

**Food:** "Anything my mom or grandmother cooks."  
**Restaurant:** Chipotle  
**TV show:** "Breaking Bad"  
**Musical artist/band:** J. Cole  
**Walk-up song:** "Jump Around" by House of Pain

**Video game:** "MLB The Show, NBA 2K, pretty much the sports games."

**Place to vacation:** "Back to the homeland, the Dominican Republic."

**Part about being from New England:** "Just the change of seasons. A lot of people don't get to experience that."

**Sport other than baseball:** Basketball

**Sports team:** Boston Red Sox

**Sports movie:** "Miracle"

**MLB player:** "I've had a couple. Alex Rodriguez has always been up there, and Omar Vizquel."

**Non-baseball athlete:** LeBron James

## Equipment

**Glove:** Rawlings

**Cleats:** New Balance

**Bat:** Rawlings

**Batting gloves:** Franklin



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# Hangin' out with ... Jeremy Pena (Providence, R.I.)

>> CONTINUED FROM PAGE 54

**How would you describe yourself as a player? Are there any guys in Major League Baseball you try to emulate?** "I just like to play the game hard, give it my all, hustle, and try to help the team win as best I can. I don't really try to emulate any player, but I kind of like different aspects of other players' games and try to pick and choose from other guys to try to help my own game."

**What was your biggest adjustment to professional baseball?** "The biggest adjustment is probably just playing every day. We play on the weekends and usually one mid-week game during the college season, but it's an everyday grind here. You kind of get used to it and fall into the system as the season goes on."

**Does the fact that you played in the New York-Penn League with so many guys going through the same situation make the adjustment easier?** "For sure. I've faced some other guys on other teams in the Cape Cod League. There are a lot of guys playing here, and it's good to see them here. It makes the game fun."

**You were a member of the New York-Penn League champion Tri-City ValleyCats this summer. How much does being on a winning team help the adjustment as well?** "When we're winning, everything was rolling. It's good to come to the field when you know we have a great team with great chemistry and things are clicking. It does make it a lot easier."

**Did you know other guys in the league personally before you started your professional career?** "Yeah, a couple teammates. A teammate from Chatham last summer, R.J. Freure (from Pitt), is actually with me with the ValleyCats. It's good to see those guys as we're traveling around."

**What is one thing about playing pro baseball you learned or experienced this summer that the aver-**

**age person might not know?** "People will say it's a grind, but I don't think people really know what that is until you're actually in it. Everyone's always told me that the minors are a grind with a lot of games and bus trips, but you really don't know until you see for yourself."

**What are the biggest things you improved upon over the course of the season?** "Just trying to stay consistent, coming in and doing the little things right, making the routine plays, having good at-bats and going from there."

**What was it like to play for Maine head coach Nick Derba? How did he help prepare you most to get to this point in your career?** "Derba did a great job. I loved working with him. He's different because he knows what he's talking about, but he also knows how to teach what he knows, which is something a lot of people can't do. He's good at communicating what has to be done, so it was a good experience playing under him."

**What are the biggest things you've taken away from his teachings to help your own game?** "I learned a lot from him, but one of the things is just being myself and don't try to do something I'm not. He always told me to keep playing the game how I play it and come every day and play the game hard."

**You also had the opportunity to play for Maine assistant coach John Schiffner last summer for the Cape Cod League's Chatham Anglers. What did you learn most from that experience that still helps you today?** "It was a great experience to be playing under Coach Schiff during his last year on the Cape, and then back at Maine. He's a great coach, a great personality and just a great acquisition for the University of Maine. It's just good to be around him because he brings that positive energy to the field every day. That energy is something I took from him to bring into my own game because it lifts everybody up."

— JOSHUA KUMMINS

Julia Hopkins for Chatham Anglers

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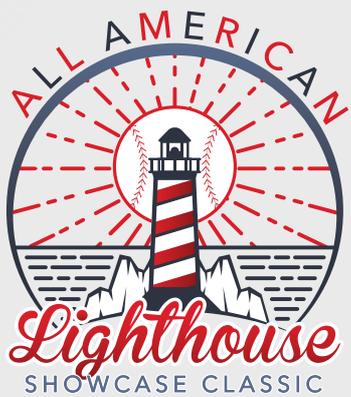
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