

11 NCAA TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES • 14 ALL-AMERICANS

Alumni & Friends -

The first UMass Baseball Bullpen Club Hot Stove Reunion in quite some time was held Tuesday evening, January 10 at The Crown Plaza in Worcester, Mass. The event was tremendously successful as it was attended by almost 70 alums, former players, friends and parents. A social hour and a half where everyone had an opportunity to mingle and rekindle old friendships preceded the speakers and award presentations.

Former UMass Sports Information Director Howie Davis led off as Master of Ceremonies and introduced former Coach Dick Bergquist and current Coach Mike Stone.

Coach Bergquist voiced his concern and support toward our new fundraising effort directed at increasing scholarship funding for Baseball at UMass. Mike Stone presented 2004 Tri-Captain Sean Sarno with the 2004 Dennis Della-Piana award, as well as his Atlantic-10 Commissioner's honor roll certificate. Matt Torra's parents were on hand to accept his 2005 American Baseball Coaches Association All-America award, as well as his All-Northeast Region award. Matt also received the 2005 Joseph E. Thompson Most Valuable Player award. He earned the lowest e.r.a. in NCAA Division I Baseball during the 2005 season, going 6-3 with a 1.14 e.r.a.

Coach Stone spoke in reference to where we are now with regard to Baseball scholarship aid, as well as the opportunity that we now have ahead of us to make a significant impact on the future of the program. We all realize the need to be more competitive in the area of recruiting and the difference that we can make by our involvement. New Athletic Director John McCutcheon addressed the issue of increased alumni involvement and how additional alumni funds will now be permitted to subsidize our present scholarship funding. This is an opportunity that had not existed for the past 12 years.

The evening concluded with Phil "Butch" LeBlanc passionately conveying his message to all as he recalled career memories at UMass and how much they have impacted his life. He encouraged fellow alums to participate in the fundraising effort. The reunion was a start toward re-establishing the UMass Baseball Bullpen Club. Needless to say it was a tremendous success and enjoyed by all who were present. Active professional ballplayers in attendance included: Nick Gorneault, who is on the 40-man roster with the Anaheim Angels, and Ron Villone who was just traded to the New York Yankees. Ron begins his eleventh year in the Big Leagues this year. We wish them, as well as all of the other active pro players, good luck for the 2006 season.

The next Bullpen Club event will be the inaugural UMass Baseball Bullpen Club Golf Tournament, which will be held on Thursday, August 24 at the Chicopee Golf Club. Please mark it in your calendars and save the date. Potential Tee and Hole sponsors are encouraged to contact Coach Mike Stone at (413) 545-3120 or mstone@admin.umass.edu.

2006 UMASS BASEBALL SCHEDULE

Fri	3/10/06	USF	Tampa, FL	7:00 PM
Sat	3/11/06	USF	Tampa, FL	1:00 PM
Sun	3/12/06	USF	Tampa, FL	12:00 AM
Sat	3/18/06	Army	Tampa, FL	TBA
Sun	3/19/06	Ohio State	Bradenton, FL	2:30 PM
Mon	3/20/06	Illinois	Bradenton, FL	10:30 AM
Tue	3/21/06	Rollins College	Winterpark, FL	7:00 PM
Wed	3/22/06	Rollins College	Winterpark, FL	7:00 PM
Fri	3/24/06	Fordham	Bronx, NY	3:00 PM
Sat	3/25/06	Fordham	Bronx, NY	12:00 PM
Sun	3/26/06	Fordham	Bronx, NY	12:00 PM
Tue	3/28/06	Sacred Heart	Bridgeport, CT	3:00 PM
Wed	3/29/06	Hartford	E. Hartford, CT	3:00 PM
Fri	3/31/06	Richmond	Richmond, VA	3:00 PM
Sat	4/01/06	Richmond	Richmond, VA	12:00 PM
Sun	4/02/06	Richmond	Richmond, VA	12:00 PM
Tue	4/04/06	Holy Cross	Worcester, MA	3:00 PM
Wed	4/05/06	Maine	Amherst, MA	3:00 PM
Fri	4/07/06	Duquesne	Amherst, MA	3:00 PM
Sat	4/08/06	Duquesne	Amherst, MA	12:00 PM
Sun	4/09/06	Duquesne	Amherst, MA	12:00 PM
Tue	4/11/06	Connecticut	Storrs, CT	3:00 PM
Wed	4/12/06	Northeastern	Boston, MA	3:00 PM
Fri	4/14/06	La Salle	Philadelphia, PA	3:00 PM
Sat	4/15/06	La Salle	Philadelphia, PA	12:00 PM
Sun	4/16/06	La Salle	Philadelphia, PA	12:00 PM
Wed	4/19/06	Beanpot Tourney	Boston, MA	TBA
Fri	4/21/06	Saint Louis	St. Louis, MO	3:00 PM
Sat	4/22/06	Saint Louis	St. Louis, MO	12:00 PM
Sun	4/23/06	Saint Louis	St. Louis, MO	12:00 PM
Tue	4/25/06	Benpot Tourney	Boston, MA	TBA
Wed	4/26/06	Boston College	Chestnut Hill, MA	3:00 PM
Fri	4/28/06	Temple	Amherst, MA	3:00 PM
Sat	4/29/06	Temple	Amherst, MA	12:00 PM
Sun	4/30/06	Temple	Amherst, MA	12:00 PM
Tue	5/02/06	Siena	Amherst, MA	3:00 PM
Wed	5/03/06	Vermont	Amherst, MA	3:00 PM
Fri	5/05/06	St. Bonaventure	Amherst, MA	3:00 PM
Sat	5/06/06	St. Bonaventure	Amherst, MA	12:00 PM
Sun	5/07/06	St. Bonaventure	Amherst, MA	12:00 PM
Tue	5/09/06	Connecticut	Amherst, MA	3:00 PM
Wed	5/10/06	CCSU	Amherst, MA	3:00 PM
Fri	5/12/06	Saint Joseph's	Amherst, MA	3:00 PM
Sat	5/13/06	Saint Joseph's	Amherst, MA	12:00PM
Sun	5/14/06	Saint Joseph's	Amherst, MA	12:00 PM
Tue	5/16/06	Quinnipiac	Amherst, MA	3:00 PM
Thu	5/18/06	Rhode Island	Kingston, RI	3:00 PM
Fri	5/19/06	Rhode Island	Kingston, RI	12:00 PM
Sat	5/20/06	Rhode Island	Kingston, RI	12:00 PM

The 2006 UMass Baseball Minutemen will begin preparations for the season on the 30th of January as practice begins in Boyden Gym. After six weeks of practice indoors and some time on the Garber Field Astro Turf, we will travel to Tampa, Fla. to play the always tough University of South Florida in a three-game series. The following week we travel back to Florida to play Army in Tampa, Ohio State and Illinois in Bradenton, and Rollins College in Winter Park. After the Rollins series, we will travel to New York City to play our first Atlantic 10 series of the season vs. Fordham.

Check out our schedule on line at www.umassathletics.com and please make it a point to catch a game this year! Fans that can't make it to the field will have the opportunity to listen to games on the internet, which is also new for 2006. Also, we look forward to seeing you at the first UMass Baseball Bullpen Club Golf Tournament in August!



The 2006 UMass Baseball Minutemen return 18 lettermen, including six starters and seven pitchers. That includes first baseman/outfielder Bill Rankin (above left) and pitcher David Sullivan (above right).

KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH MASSACHUSETTS BASEBALL

We want to make sure that all alumni and friends have the opportunity to keep in touch with UMass Baseball. If you know of anyone that would like to receive this newsletter, as well as teams news, pre-views and reviews, please contact head coach Mike Stone in the Baseball Office via phone (413) 545-3120 or email at mstone@admin.umass.edu.

This year, umassathletics.com will keep you even closer to the action on the field, regardless of where you are in the world. Live stats and photo galleries will be at your fingertips, as well a number of games being broadcast LIVE on the internet.

WINTER SHOWCASE CLINIC

Saturday, January 21, 2006

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL THE BASEBALL OFFICE AT (413) 545-3120 or email Coach Stone at mstone@admin.umass.edu

