

“A Band of Brothers” CA Baseball is all in this season
By: Molly Golden

Spring has sprung in Cheshire, Connecticut. This means spring teams have hit the fields at Cheshire Academy. Most notably, The Cheshire Academy Baseball team has had a rocketing start to this season. With an undefeated record of 4-0 and out-scoring opponents 57 to 18 over four games. Head coach Anthony Giano and with the help of his upperclassmen leaders could be creating something magical at Alumni Field this spring.

Ryan Bulger is a Cheshire native who has been attending Cheshire Academy for his entire high school career. The academics help him grow and develop to be ready for the next level. And baseball is just an added perk to Cheshire Academy for Ryan. “CA Baseball is a really good culture being built right now with a new coach”. Two years ago, Head coach Anthony Giano was brought in to help revive the program. “The biggest thing he stresses to us is we are going to make mistakes but as long as we put in the effort and trust ourselves we are going to be a lot better.” Coach Giano has been with CA Baseball since 2015 as an assistant coach and then was promoted in 2021 to head coach. Along with Giano is Pete Katynski, an assistant coach who also coaches at Northeast Clutch.

After a rocky few seasons, upperclassmen leaders have been looking to revive the team and create a culture. Class of 2024, Dylan Kennedy-Fujah is one of those leaders. “We try to build a brotherhood and have a bunch of leaders on the team.” Many members of the team are members of the classes of 2023 and 2024. Upperclassmen captains Anthony Tirado and AJ Soldra and many others guide the leadership and culture on the field. Keep spirits up on and off the field. “Maintaining that focus really helps us put a bunch of runs on the board. When we’re on the ball and on the field, our whole dugout is up when we’re at bat, it really gets us going and helps us generate our success.” Dylan has had an impressive start to the 2023 season for himself. Dylan has an on-base percentage of 0.486% and 7 home runs and RBIs. As an outfielder, he’s averaging a 0.9% fielding average to start the season.

Success has come quickly and has stuck for the CA cats. A 4-0 start to the season leads by an insanely strong start on offense. The Cats outscored their opponents 57 to 18 with an average of 14.25 runs per game. A powerful offense led by Jayden Novak, Novak, a College Of Charleston Baseball Commit, has made many regional and national showcases as a catcher. He is looking to extend his talents even further with the CA Cats. “Everyone just working together, were starting to get the bats going which is good. We have a good pitching staff behind us so that's really helpful too.” Jayden has made an impact with an on-base percentage of 0.524%, 8 RBIs, and 5 home runs in only four games.

Starting at a new school may seem daunting for some, but not for varsity captain AJ Soldra who has gotten right to work for the Cats. In a recent 13-1 win over Wilbraham and Monson Academy, Soldra had three home runs on the day. "As far as the work ethic goes, it is attention to detail. Making sure everyone is continuing to work hard. We never want to get complacent." Soldra, a New Jersey Institute of Technology commit, is co-captain alongside veteran Anthony Tirado have created a culture of hard work and focus at all times. AJ has had an explosive start to the season. He has an on-base percentage of 0.500%, 7 home runs, and one RBI in the early start of the season for the Cats.

CA Baseball has one expectation for the season, a championship win. Ryan Bulger says it best. "The obvious expectation is to win it all, the goal is to win a ring and we are looking the best we have in a couple of years." Cheshire Academy is currently holding first place in the Western New England Prep Baseball League. With schools such as Williston Northampton and Salisbury close by in the standings. The Cats have had two championship wins since 2015 and are looking to add a 3rd in 2023. CA has some big, meaningful games coming up, Salisbury School on Saturday, April 22nd. And a series against Canterbury School on April 26, and 28.