Fall Update

It’s been an outstanding fall here in Middlebury. The baseball team came to campus with great energy and ready to work. Led by senior captain, Jason Lock, the team took full advantage of great fall weather and enjoyed a lot of baseball on Forbes Field. In addition to their work on the field the guys were in the weight room four days a week, working hard on their overall athleticism and strength.

Off the field, the baseball team welcomed sports performance expert, Bob Tewksbury, to campus to discuss topics related to the mental side of the game. Bob most recently served as a Sports Performance Coach with the Boston Red Sox and spent his time with the team talking about breathing, visualization, positive self-talk, and having confidence in a sport filled with failure.

In another great off–the-field event, the team met as a group with staff from CCI (Center for Careers and Internships) to learn more about what that office has to offer. The group talked about internships, writing resumes and cover letters, and how their experiences as a student-athlete will help them in their careers after baseball.

Community Engagement

This fall the Middlebury baseball team has partnered with two local groups for service projects.

In late October the team spent six hours working with the Middlebury Area Land Trust to do some maintenance on the TAM (Trail Around Middlebury). The guys picked up fallen branches, hauled mulch, and helped to groom areas that were worn out.

Additionally, several members of the team have participated in a Recess Buddies program with Shoreham Elementary School. Every Tuesday and Friday members of the team attend recess with the students of Shoreham to help build relationships, teach good sportsmanship, and have fun!
Fall Advanced Clinic

In September we hosted our first-ever Advanced Skills Clinic, which was designed to bring serious high school baseball players to campus to learn more about Middlebury and give our coaching staff a chance to evaluate their baseball ability. The two-day clinic was a huge success, drawing close to 80 players from 10 different states.

Semester Abroad

Juniors Robert Erickson, Brendan Donahue, and Drew Coash have spent their first semester studying abroad. The study abroad experience is often a tremendous opportunity for academic and personal growth. Here is what each had to say about his experience:

“After living for five months in Coogee, a small beach town in Australia, I found out what the second greatest country in the world was.” – Drew Coash (Australia)

“My experience has been incredible. Not only have I learned how to be a more independent person, but a more well-rounded individual as well.” – Brendan Donahue (Netherlands)

“For me, study abroad meant stepping into an entirely new world: different city, different language, different customs, different academic environment. It was about improvising, building from scratch, and learning on the fly. Full of surprises—and very uncomfortable at times—but well worth the experience.” – Robert Erickson (France)
Supporting Your Panthers

This spring the Middlebury baseball team will look to get back to the NESCAC tournament and beyond. As we have done for the past several years, we will play the bulk of our early games in Tucson, Arizona over our spring break trip. The spring break trip is also the site of our first NESCAC West Division series against Williams College. In all we are scheduled for 35 games this spring which includes 11 home games and NESCAC East crossover games vs. Trinity, Tufts, and Bowdoin.

The support from our alumni, parents, and friends of the program has allowed the team to make the trip to Arizona each spring. This trip is one of the most memorable experiences for any baseball player and so much work and preparation goes into making it a success. With an annual cost of close to $50,000, your gifts to Middlebury baseball through our MiddGoals page are a huge part of making this trip happen.

Thank you so much to those of you who have already given to the program. I am so grateful for your support and generosity. Those who have not made a gift this year, I hope you will consider doing so in the near future.

Support Middlebury Baseball

Kino Sports Complex, Tucson, AZ
As legendary Coach Bob Smith's career came to a close, the Middlebury baseball team played with tremendous heart and showed great promise for the future. The 2016 season was a huge step in the right direction in a number of ways. The team finished 6-6 in the NESCAC West Division and was one win away from securing its first tournament appearance since 2011. The overall commitment, energy, and competitiveness was seen in every game and put the Panthers in position to have a chance to win every time out.

Seniors Max Araya, Joe MacDonald, Mark Dickerson, Garrett Werner, and John Luke all made key contributions to the team and will be missed in 2017. However, it's clear that they made a significant impact on the returning guys and the Middlebury baseball program.

On the mound the team was led by first year, Colby Morris, who lead the team in innings, starts, and tied for the team lead in wins. Offensively, seniors Max Araya, John Luke, and Joe MacDonald paced the team in most categories. First year, Sam Graf, was the team leader in HR with 3 and played in all 34 games in the OF.