

Nathan Johnson – Class of 2008



ACHS Baseball Coaches and Positions/Level played at ACHS:

I played JV baseball my freshman year (2004) for Coach Dundore. My sophomore year through my senior year I played varsity for Coaches Jaquez, Gonzalez, Espinosa, and Willard. I played both catcher and 1st base.

What have you been doing since graduation?

Since I graduated in 2008, I went on to play baseball at Pepperdine University and was a 4 year starting catcher there. I graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Liberal Arts in 2013. Thirteen games into my senior year I tore a ligament in my knee that ended my playing career. Since then I have been coaching at Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa. There I coach the hitters and the catchers, and have helped to lead them to back to back California Community College Championships. The last two summers I have coached college summer baseball in both Cape Cod, Massachusetts and Willmar, Minnesota. This summer I have started working on my Masters in Sport Psychology and Coaching.

Favorite Memory/Lessons Learned:

My favorite memory at ACHS is by far the 2007 season (my junior year). That year we were ranked both 1st and 2nd through most of the season losing only 3 games all year. All through the playoffs we played tough games where we had to come from behind just to win and move on. And then in the semifinal game playing in Oxnard and being able to beat them and dogpile on their field was an unreal feeling. And then playing in the CIF Championship game at Dodger Stadium where we ended up losing to Vista Murrieta 1-0 in extra innings was an unreal experience. That entire year is one that I will never forget.

Advice for Current ACHS Scorpion Baseball Players:

The advice I'd give current players is to enjoy every second that you're playing because you never know when your playing career will end.

Final Thoughts:

While at ACHS I learned that each day is a grind. You've got upper classmen in front of you and lower classmen behind you. Everyone wants to play and everyone's going to work hard. What separates the good from the great is what they're doing when no one's watching. And as you keep getting older and move on to college and pro ball, it's all about what you're doing when no one's looking.

"When you've learned to believe in yourself, there's no telling how good a player you can be. That's because you have the mental edge." Rod Carew