

Jeff Bannon – Class of 1997



ACHS Baseball Coaches and Positions/Level played at ACHS:

I played Varsity Baseball for three years as the Third Baseman and Short Stop.

What have you been doing since graduation?

I signed with the Cincinnati Reds in the 18th round in 2001 and played with them until 2007. In 2008, I played for the Tampa Bay Rays and Toronto Blue Jays. I retired from baseball and started financial planning in 2008. I'm currently focusing on Business Succession Planning with family owned businesses. I am happily married with a 4 month old son.

Favorite Memory/Lessons Learned:

I have a few...

The day we had speakers set up at the field. It was the first time we took batting practice with music playing and I'll never forget rocking out to the album "Heaven and Hell" by Black Sabbath. It was Coach Cline's pick but everyone loved it!

Our pre-season conditioning test was held at midnight at the ACHS track where 4 of us had to run a 4x400 relay under a certain time. We did it well under the benchmark. The next week were the league track championships and it turned out that our time from the baseball team would have won first place at the track championships.

On the field, my favorite High School baseball memory was clinching the Marmonte League championship against Royal.

The disappointing loss in the playoffs in 2001 taught me to never take an "out" for granted. In high school baseball, you need to collect 21 outs to win – don't lose focus at 20!

Advice for Current ACHS Scorpion Baseball Players:

Good games are a by-product of hard work. Learn to enjoy the work you put in at practice.

Final Thoughts:

ACHS baseball has a terrific history of respecting the game. It is great to watch the tradition continue through Coach Gonzales.

"They give you a round bat and throw you a round ball and tell you to hit it square." Willie Stargell