

## Myrtle Beach Stars High School Roundup

The Myrtle Beach Stars Showcase players have exemplified some excellent play throughout the month of March and April. Starting off with **St. James** High School Juniors Roddy Cross, and Robert Troiano, Jr. The Sharks came out of the gate winning their first seven games eventually landing them as 1st place champs in their region. Cross and Troiano have both made big splashes for the Sharks. Cross and his rifle arm patrol right field as well close out games on the hill. Troiano has looked sharp behind the plate making him one of the top catchers in the area. Cross and Troiano have also been hot at the plate during the year hitting in the heart of the order for the state's # 1 ranked AAA team.

**Myrtle Beach** also possesses four Stars players in Freshman Jesse Nelson, Sophomore Cody Clark and Seniors Cary Messer and Dalton Novia. Messer has provided a solid stick and patrols the outfield for the Seahawks. Novia is a master Utility man, who has excellent pitching skills as well as a potent stick and blazing speed. Nelson has been a mainstay hitting 2nd in the order and being a starting pitcher for a very talented Seahawks team. The Stars' 2009 Player of the Year had a very good month of March. Clark also chipped in nicely in his first month as a varsity player. He got platoon time playing 2nd and 3rd base. He also pitched in three outings highlighted by 4 scoreless innings at BB & T Field.

**Socastee** has also had a solid 2010 season with fellow Stars, Junior Matt McKinney, Senior Tim Starkey, and Sophomore Kenny Taylor being integral parts of the team. The left handed McKinney has patrolled left field for Socastee and has been a steady player throughout the year including his three run homer in April. McKinney has also made several appearances on the hill for the Braves. Starkey, whom is signed to play at Francis Marion, has had an excellent year at the plate while also living up to his billing as one of the top defensive catchers in the state. Taylor has seen major action at 2nd base, shortstop, and 3rd base as well as on the mound. The slick fielding Taylor took over as the starting shortstop in March and hasn't looked back. He has also been very consistent at the plate throughout the year hovering around .400

**Carolina Forest** and Stars 18u junior Neil Torres has stepped right in at Carolina Forest to quickly become one of the top shortstops in the state. Torres and his smooth fielding as well as his bat have been a great addition for the Panthers thus far. Another Star, Sophomore Ryan Elko, has also seen limited action playing for the varsity and is hitting over .800 with three home runs for the junior varsity. Elko and Torres both hit a home run and went a combined 6-7 against a team from Tennessee in the Mingo Bay tournament.

**Georgetown** has opened its arms up to 18u Star Junior Dylan McConnell. McConnell, whom transferred from Andrews, has stepped right in to be Georgetown's top pitcher and starting shortstop. His defense has been excellent thus far and he has been very good at the plate with a couple home runs. On the hill, he went 7 innings shutting down Carolina Forest in a 2-1 win in the beginning of March.

Other Stars Showcase players have also had nice seasons thus far. Francis Chock, Senior at **Loris**, has been a bright spot for the team as their # 1 pitcher and shortstop. Junior Peyton Hill of **Aynor** has also started off pretty quick on the mound as well as patrolling center field. **Johnsonville High** also has one of the top Seniors in the state in Infielder Taylor Strickland. Strickland, whom is signed with USC-Sumter, has had an excellent year while leading his team to a first place region finish.

## JV AND B TEAM STARS

The Stars also have several of their players playing for their school's junior varsity and b teams. Starting with **Waccamaw** High School, where Jordan Hoeweler is a starting utility man for their junior varsity. For Waccamaw B Team, fellow Stars, Jackson Riley, Brady Gantt, and Austin Seganti have been chipping in their own right. Riley saw much playing time while finishing second on the team in hitting at a .417 clip.

Next, **St. James'** B team has got off to a great start of 5-0 in March and have stayed atop on the standings through April. Stars players Dillon LeDuc, Jon Yarbrough, Drake Martin, and Dominic Bonnarigo have led the charge through March. LeDuc has been great on the mound pitching nine innings in March with an era of 0.00 as well as hitting over .500 in the two hole. In April, he also threw 10 plus innings with his era around 2.00. Yarbrough has also been excellent on the mound highlighted by a no-hitter against Socastee. Martin has been the starting catcher and a very consistent bat thus far for the Sharks. Bonnarigo rounds it out adding his speed on the basepaths and being a utility man in the field.

For St. James Junior Varsity, Casey Crooks of the Stars has been playing great as the starting catcher and grooming himself to move up to Varsity in 2011.

**Socastee** also features two Stars players in Jason Farria and Austin Benton. Farria has been a starter on the mound and well as the primary first baseman and hitting in the cleanup spot for the Braves. Benton has been seeing some time in the Outfield.

Moving on Tanner Chock has been a major player for **Loris'** JV, starting at Catcher and seeing ample time on the mound. Nick Todd of **Aynor** has also been having a good season for Aynor's B team, pitching and playing the infield. Georgetown also features two players in Ryan Holcombe and Alston Barnes. Holcombe has had an excellent year for his B team hitting in the heart of the order and being one of the top pitchers on his squad. Barnes has been seeing action on the mound for the junior varsity.

Tyler Kochan of **Carolina Forest** JV has also had a good year while playing the outfield and anticipating the opportunity to get some innings on the mound. Gary Mattocks has played an excellent shortstop for Carolina forest while also hitting in the 3 hole. He looks to be a big contributor for the CF Varsity team in 2011.

Several other of the Stars 13u and 14u players attend Private Catholic Schools including 8th graders Ryan Flynn and Michael Wynne of **St. Andrew's** in Myrtle Beach. Also, Will Golden of the the 13u attends **St. Michael's** in Surfside. Flynn and Wynne decided in April they will be attending Carolina Forest High School next year while Golden will be attending Waccamaw when he is a freshman in September 2011. Carolina Forest High School is getting a varsity ready player in Flynn whom is a big key to the 16u Showcase team even though he is only 14!