

### Fall 2011

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- Coaches build program
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Sure handed Tom Walter will return to solidify the middle infield



Joe Ernst drives in a run at the state tournament. Joe is one of the Knights top returning hitters.

# Knights Win 1st State Championship!!

## Mt. Michael Seniors win Final in 10 Inning Pitchers Dual

After winning the summer District Championships in 2005, 2008, and 2010 only to fall short in the state tournaments, the 2011 team was not to be denied.

“The seniors on this team really have raised the expectations of the program” said coach Brent Suing. “They expected to win every game and have worked hard over the past four years to earn the right to play for championships. Some of these guys have played in 5 state tournaments and I’m thrilled for them that we were able to get it done this year. The difference this year is that they had confidence in each other. In the past we relied on the middle of the line up. This year we got big contributions from everyone on the roster. That’s what it takes to be a Champion.”

(Cont. on Pg 2)



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	R	H	E
MM	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	X	X	4	5	0
PDR	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	X	X	1	4	4

Mount Michael

Pender

Player	Pos	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
C.Thomas	CF	4	1	2	0	1	2
T. Carlson	1st	3	0	1	1	0	1
C. Taylor	P	5	1	0	0	0	1
Loeffelholz	3rd	2	1	0	0	2	0
Rauterkus	SS	5	1	0	0	0	2
J. Ernst	RF	5	0	1	1	0	3
E. Murray	C	4	0	1	0	1	2
T. Walter	2nd	4	0	0	0	0	3
Bohnhoff	LF	4	0	0	0	0	1
Totals		36	4	5	2	4	15

Player	Pos.	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
Bonneau	C	4	0	0	0	0	2
Wegner	SS	4	0	0	0	0	2
Johnson	CF	4	0	0	0	0	0
Flock	3 <sup>rd</sup>	3	1	1	0	1	0
Browning	P	3	0	1	0	0	1
Beutler	1 <sup>st</sup>	4	0	0	0	0	0
Smith	2 <sup>nd</sup>	4	0	0	0	0	1
Oliver	LF	4	0	2	1	0	0
Bonneau	RF	3	0	0	0	0	2
Totals		33	1	4	1	1	8

E. P-Smith (2), Beutler, Bonneau. 2B MM -Thomas Sac.P-Beutler MM-Carlson (2)

Mt Michael	IP	H	RA	ER	BB	K
Taylor (W)	9	4	1	1	2	8
Carlson (S)	1	0	0	0	0	0

Pender	IP	H	RA	ER	BB	K
Browning (L)	10	5	4	1	5	15

## Junior Knights Dominate Districts to Return to State

The Junior Knights took advantage of every opportunity in the C-3 Districts held in Valley Nebraska out scoring their opponents 60-4 in the 4 game tournament. The Knights did it with a balanced attack with offensive contributions made up and down the line up. The Pitching and Defense was also stingy allowing only 4 runs and committing only 4 errors in the tournament. (Cont. on Pg. 2)



"I think about baseball when I wake up in the morning. I think about it all day and I dream about it at night. The only time I don't think about it is when I'm playing it." *Carl Yastzanski*

## State Champs (Continued from page 1)

MM Started the tournament crushing the host Hartington in 5 innings 11-1 behind the 1 hit 12 strikeout game tossed by **Jake Rauterkus**. **Tim Carlson** went 4-4 and **Clayton Taylor** 2-2 with 2 walks, both scored 3 runs to lead the offensive attack.

In game 2 **Zach Loeffelholz** dominated striking out 11 in 5 innings before giving way to **Randy Speer** who pitched the final 2 scoreless innings in a 13-1 thumping of Alma. **Taylor** went 2-3 walked twice and scored 4 runs and **Loeffelholz** doubled and homered to power the Knights.

**Tim Carlson** beat Yutan in a 1-0 pitching duel to help earn the Knights berth into the state tournament. His pitching dominance

continued in Game 3 with a 1 hit, 8 strikeout, 5 inning shut out over Pender. Pender collapsed in the 4th inning giving up 8 runs after having recorded 2 outs. All nine Knights scored in the 10-0 victory.

In game 4 Junior lefthander **Graham Jewell** pitched a dandy against David City. **Jewell** allowed just one run and struck out 11 before classmate **Joe Ernst** closed the game by striking out the side in the 7th inning. Offense again came from up and down the line up with **Evan Murray** and **Rauterkus** leading the way with 2 hits a piece.

In the Finals Coach Suing went with Senior **Clayton Taylor** on the mound. **Taylor** who won the exciting 3-2 district championship

game over West Point did not disappoint. Mt Michael scored on singles by **Chris Thomas** and **Carlson** in the top of the first. Pender tied the score in the bottom of the second on a couple of singles of their own. It was a pitching duel from there on out as Pender's Eric Browning and Mt. Michael's **Taylor** did not allow another run until the 10<sup>th</sup> inning. With two outs in the top of the 10<sup>th</sup>, **Taylor** reached on an error and **Zach Loeffelholz** walked. Both runners advanced on a wild pitch before **Rauterkus** grounded down the first base line and the ball was misplayed for an error that allowed 2 runs to score. **Rauterkus** stole second and came home on **Ernst's** RBI single. **Taylor** scattered 4 singles while striking out 8 in 9 innings. **Carlson** closed the game with a 1,2,3 10<sup>th</sup> to earn the save for the Knights in his last high school appearance.

## Junior Knights (continued from page 1)

Solid pitching performances by **Randy Speer**, **Will Ernst**, **Hunter Hottovy**, **Tom Maliszewski**, and **Mark Loeffelholz** set the tone in every game.

Despite stifling heat, the pitching staff and defense stayed focused throwing strikes and making plays requiring the opponents to earn every run. Conversely the Knight offense took advantage of walks, errors, and timely hitting to win every game handily.

In game 1 vs David City **Speer** went the distance in the 5 inning 10-0 win, **Ernst & Hottovy** shut down Yutan in Game 2 10-2, **Speer** returned to the mound and got the

and the 15-1 win in Game 3 vs Logan View, and **Loeffelholz** won the championship game over a worn out Yutan team 22-1.

This was a sophomore dominated team with 3 of the players contributing to the varsity team in the Spring and Summer.

"**Mark Loeffelholz**, **Matt Lingo**, and **Randy Speer** all were big contributors in our spring success at the Varsity level and I challenged them to be leaders on the Junior team this summer." said varsity **Coach Suing**. "They obviously did a great job as they were only a play or two from winning the whole thing (Junior State

Tournament) in Hershey. This entire Junior team makes me excited for next year."

The Jr. Knights won their 1st two games in the State Tournament behind strong pitching performances by **Loeffelholz** and **Speer**. Despite fine pitching performances by **Ernst** and **Hottovy** the Knights lost back to back 1 run games to the eventual State Champion and State Runner up. Both games were lost in the last inning making for a heart breaking finish to a very fine season. The Junior Knights were 33-8 and their 3rd place finish in the tourney is the highest in the schools junior program history. The future is definitely bright for next year!!

*"I am really excited to be part of a team that will hang a State Championship Banner in the Palace."*

MM Pitcher Tim Carlson



Randy Speer lead the junior team in Wins, ERA, and Strikeouts.

*"the difference was our Sophomore leadership on the field. They put the team 1st and set the example for the Freshman players."*

Coach Mark Seefus



Evan Murray has handled the catching duties over the past 2 seasons and will be back next year to help manage the pitching staff .

*"the Mount  
Michael team was  
a class act"*

Creighton State Tournament

Director Ken Meyers



Clayton Taylor lead all hitters in the State with a .522 Batting Average

## Knight Pitching Staff Baffles Hitters in State Tournament

Seven different Mount Michael pitchers worked to post one of the most dominating pitching performances in State Tournament memory. In the 5 game tournament Knight pitchers gave up just 4 Earned Runs on 10 hits, walked 9, and struck out 61 in 34 innings of work . The team ERA for the tournament was a microscopic 0.824 !!

The pitching staff was aided by excellent defense that recorded just 3 errors in the 5 day tournament.

## Coaching Staff Continues to Build Program

Mount Michael Baseball is starting to develop a reputation as a "Baseball school" thanks to the hard work of the Coaching Staff, Players, and Supporters of the program. "Adding the spring baseball program has been huge." said Head Coach **Brent Suing**. "It gives our players a chance to develop there skills and perform at a much higher level." The coaching

ment. Catcher **Evan Murray** provided a solid performance handling the staff flawlessly in the 90 degree heat while 2nd baseman **Tom Walter** and outfielders **Chris Thomas** and **Mike Bohnhoff** made several standout plays defensively during the tournament.

"You knew the senior pitchers would perform on the big stage and I was thrilled to see our young guys come in and throw the ball with such confidence." Coach **Suing** remarked following the

tournament. "Having **Jewell, Ernst, and Speer** coming back next year with this experience will really help our entire pitching staff. " The three returning pitchers combined for a 7-1 pitching record and were part of the staff that finished with a team ERA of 1.68 and 331 Ks against only 89 walks.

Coach also expects Juniors **Mark Loeffelholz, Tommy Maliszewski, Hunter Hottovy** , and sophomore **Will Ernst** to be a part of the Varsity rotation next year.

staff also encourages off season work outs and becoming students of the game. "Baseball is a very difficult game to master. It is as much a mental game as it is physical. We are starting to develop a winning attitude with kids that are passionate about the game and are willing to do what it takes to be the best they can be."

Most of This Years Coaching staff played College Level Baseball and enjoy sharing their knowledge with the eager MM Players.

**Varsity Staff**—Brent Suing, Chris Bruscano, John Behrendt.

**Junior Varsity Staff**— Mark Seefus, Ryan Seefus, Simon McKinsie

## Knights Roster include top Players in the State

Clayton Taylor and **Zac Loeffelholz** were not only leaders on the team but earned 1st team All State honors this spring. Taylor led all hitters in the state with an impressive .522 batting average and was listed in the top 10 in all other offensive categories. Taylor was a state leading pitcher as well. He finished in the top three in all statistical categories this spring with a 7 -1 record , 51 strikeouts, and a 1.30 ERA .

Loeffelholz was a leader in most power statistics leading the Knights in Home Runs and RBIs this Spring. & Summer. He was among the top hitters in the state appearing near the top in most offense categories.

Knight success continued in the summer as four starting pitchers finished in the top 10 in all Pitching Statistics in the state and three players were among the top offensive performers.

### American Legion State Pitching Leaders

Tim Carlson 1.17; 69Ks 6-2  
Jake Rauterkus 0.96 59Ks 6-0  
Zach Loeffelholz 1.43, 67Ks 6-2  
Clayton Taylor 1.03, 56Ks , 9-1

### American Legion State Hitting Leaders

Tim Carlson .452, 5 Triples, 39R  
Zach Loeffelholz .415, 5HR, 47RBI  
Clayton Taylor .475, 44R, 41RBI

"You owe it to yourself to be the best you can possibly be—in baseball and in life." *Pete Rose*



Baseball Board President - John Taylor  
Baseball Sports Information Director—Rick Bohnhoff

[www.Mountmichael.com](http://www.Mountmichael.com)

Varsity Roster	Pos.
Bob Thomas	OF
Chris Thomas	OF
Clayton Taylor	IF,P
Evan Murray	C
Graham Jewell	OF,IF,P
Jake Rauterkus	IF,OF,P
Joe Ernst	OF,P
Mike Bohnhoff	OF
Tim Carlson	IF,OF,P
Tom Walter	IF,P
Zach Loeffelholz	IF,P
<b>Mark Loeffelholz</b>	<b>OF,IF,P</b>
<b>Matt Lingo</b>	<b>C,IF,P</b>
<b>Randy Speer</b>	<b>IF,P</b>

JV Roster	Pos.
Elliot Prusa	IF,P
Grant Ramm	OF
Hunter Hottovy	OF,P
Jackson Taylor	IF,P
Joel Weidel	IF,OF
Kevin Jewell	OF,IF,C
Mark Loeffelholz	IF,OF,P
Matt Lingo	C,IF,P
Randy Speer	IF,P
Ryan Degner	OF
Spensor Conner	OF,IF,C
Tom Maliszewski	IF,OF
Tyler Miklus	IF
Will Ernst	IF,OF,P,C

Red indicates dual roster players

## Veterans Continue Playing Career at next Level

### Carlson Pitches for Doane College



Five players from this years State Championship team have elected to continue playing baseball at the Collegiate level.

**Tim Carlson** returned to the summer team after making the starting rotation for the Tigers last year. During Tim's Freshman year he logged 34 innings earning 3 wins and striking out 28 in 13 appearances.

**Zach Loeffelholz** signed with Rockhurst University and the coaching staff will have a hard time deciding whether the power hitting pitcher- infielder will help them most on the mound or at the plate.

**Jake Rauterkus** signed with NE Wesleyan as a football standout but his best sport may be baseball. Jake looks to be on the mound next spring for the Prairie Wolves.

**Michael Bohnhoff** is attending Knox college majoring in Biology and will be playing baseball for the Prairie Fire next spring.

**Clayton Taylor** accepted a full ride academic scholarship at UNO's Scott Technology Center and hopes to earn a spot on the Mavericks Roster as an invited walk-on player.

Look for great things from these special players as they continue their careers at the next level.

### Loeffelholz signs with Rockhurst University



### Rauterkus to be a 2 sport athlete at NE Wesleyan



### Bohnhoff to Play for Knox College Prairie Fire



### Taylor Hopes to Impact UNO Maverick Roster

