



Knights named All-State in baseball, softball

Three students at Pope John Paul II High School have been named to the Tennessee Sports Writers Association All-State teams, two in baseball and one in softball.

Rising seniors Brad Jarreau and Braxton Brinkley, were both named to the all-state team in baseball.

Jarreau, the Knights' centerfielder, batted .444 with nine doubles, 33 runs scored and 18 RBIs in the 2012 season. As a pitcher, he was 2-2 with four saves for the Knights, who went 23-10 and reached the state quarterfinals.

Brinkley, a shortstop, batted .375 with nine doubles, two triples, 30 runs scored and 23 RBIs. He has committed to attend Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Ky., on a baseball scholarship next year.

Megan Mihaliak, who graduated from JPPI this spring, was named to the All-State team in softball. She was the Knights' top hitter and pitcher. As a senior she batted .464 and struck out just twice, both astonishing numbers in fast pitch softball. She was also the team's principal pitcher, helping the Knights build a 19-18 record.

MEGAN FORESTER COMES HOME TO JPPI

Megan Forester was there for the very beginning of Pope John Paul II High School as a member of the freshman class the year the school opened. She went on to become one of the school's most accomplished athletes, leading the girls soccer team to its first and only state championship in her senior year and then to Vanderbilt University as a member of the women's soccer team there.



Megan Forester

This year, she's come back to JPPI working in the Admissions Office. "There's a lot of reasons, personal and professional, that I wanted to come back to JPPI," said Ms. Forester, who returns to JPPI after serving as an assistant women's soccer coach at Lipscomb University and the University of Southern Mississippi. "I love Nashville and my family is close."

"Obviously, Pope's done a lot for me," including preparing her academically for an elite college, she said. As a soccer player, she was thrown into the hectic life of a college athlete from the very start, she said. Because the women's soccer season is in the fall, she had to handle the schedule of a student athlete while also trying to get used to the academic demands placed on all Vanderbilt students, she said. "JPPI helped prepare me for that."

In her new job at JPPI, she'll be working in admissions helping new students to make the same journey she did as

a high school student.

"What I love so much about this school, you're not just a number," Ms. Forester said. "I knew everybody in my class. I knew all my teachers personally. I kept in touch with (JPPI girls soccer) Coach (Michael) McLaren throughout college. I had a mentor that helped me get through and stay connected when I was in college."

"I love working in the school environment," Ms. Forester said. Her former teachers have now become colleagues.

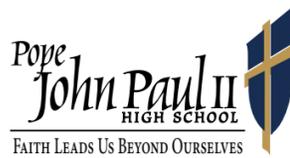
Besides working in admissions, Ms. Forester also will be planning events and programs to help the school reach out to its young alumni. "We're trying to get them reconnected to JPPI," she said. "Those are our biggest ambassadors for the school."

Many of the alumni events will be centered around the athletic events at the school, she said. For the first time, the Knights Athletic Booster Club is offering an all-sports pass to alumni for \$50, she said.

Ms. Forester, who grew up in Hendersonville, also will be active in the community, she said. She will be coaching a girls soccer team of 10 and 11-year-olds for the Tennessee United Soccer Club in Hendersonville.

Ms. Forester, who graduated in 2006, is the third JPPI alum to return to the school as a teacher or staff member. She joins Brian Sneed, a math teacher and assistant football coach, and Julianne Staley, a theology teacher.

"I'm so comfortable here," Ms. Forester said. "There's a good support system."



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EXCITEMENT SURROUNDS START OF NEW SCHOOL YEAR

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field and track. Attached to the back side of the poles on the south side of the field are lights that will illuminate the lacrosse and soccer practice field, which will allow it to be used more efficiently and by a greater number of people.

The upgrades began with a renovation of the school's weight room and then moved to the football stadium where a new field turf was installed, a concessions and restroom building was built, and other upgrades to the stadium were made.

On Sept. 4, the lower stadium, which includes terraced viewing areas for fans on the hill overlooking the track and soccer field, will be officially dedicated before the girls soccer game against Ensworth High School, Mr. Weber said. "That will complete the athletic facilities."

JPPI also has made several changes in its administrative team. Alan Mila will take over as JPPI's athletic director, while Dan Hodes has been hired as the Director of Admissions and Kevin Armshaw as the Dean of Institutional Advancement, Mr. Weber said.

The administration and faculty will be carrying into the community the message of the school's new tagline: "Faith Leads Us Beyond Ourselves," Mr. Weber said. The line is taken from a quote by Blessed John Paul II, the school's namesake, he said. "We want that approach to animate much of what the school does."

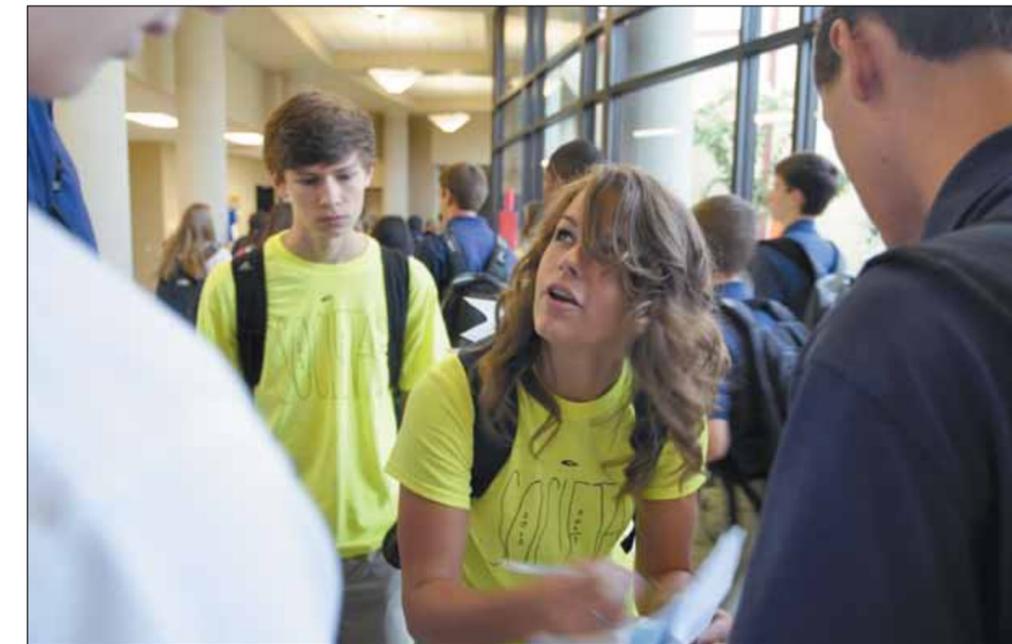
The goal is for students to leave JPPI "with a broader and more well rounded skill set and aspirations for more," Mr. Weber said. "What we once understood ourselves to be, there's a world beyond that. That's what's exciting."



Baylie Fadool climbs through a tire during all the fun and games at the freshman retreat held at Boxwell Boy Scout Camp the week before the new school year started.



Headmaster Faustin Weber ■ 615-822-2375 ■ www.jp2hs.org



Societas members Randi Mysinger, center, and Brennan Belew, left, help a group of new students find their way around JPPI on the first day of school.

EXCITEMENT SURROUNDS START OF NEW SCHOOL YEAR

Pope John Paul II High School launched the 2012-13 school year on Monday, Aug. 6, with lots of excitement and a boost in enrollment.

JPPI's enrollment this year has reached more than 610 students, an increase of about 45 students from the end of last year, said Headmaster Faustin Weber. "The Admissions Department did a great job of establishing relationships with families," Mr. Weber said. "They conveyed that this is a place where their children can thrive and be challenged and accept the full panoply of high school – athletics, arts, academics."

"Kids takes risks here," he added. "They come in thinking

they're a football player and find out they can be a musician, or artist, as well. And everybody does it together. They find out things about themselves."

Part of the excitement surrounding the start of the year stems from the completion of the upgrade to the athletic facilities that started in 2011, thanks to a generous gift from Nashville Catholic businessman and philanthropist Jim Carell.

Over the summer, work was completed on the new track around the soccer field. That part of the project included regrading the soccer field and erecting lights for the soccer

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NEW ADVANCEMENT DEAN NAMED

ALL-STATE KNIGHTS

MEGAN FORESTER

NEW TEACHERS, STAFF MEMBERS

Admissions Office
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MR. MILA TAKES OVER AS ATHLETIC DIRECTOR



Alan Mila

When the athletics director position opened up last spring, Pope John Paul II High School turned to a young man that has been a standout in the classroom as a math teacher and on the athletic fields as the boys soccer coach, Alan Mila, to replace him.

"I want to help JPII in any way that I can," said Mr. Mila. "I saw the position as a way to help JPII grow and be as good as possible."

Mr. Mila will give up his teaching duties to take over as the school's new athletic director, but he will continue as the head coach of the boys soccer team. "Absolutely I'm going to miss the classroom, that interaction with the students," Mr. Mila said. "I see athletics as another classroom" that can teach lessons that will help JPII's students athletes succeed in life long after they've moved on to college and beyond.

Upon taking over in his new role, Mr. Mila was busy talking with all the coaches in the JPII athletic program. "That's job number one," Mr. Mila said. "They're an impressive group of men and women. They have a wealth of knowledge. I plan on relying on them."

Another strength of the program is JPII's athletic facilities, Mr. Mila said, which received a huge boost last year when Nashville Catholic businessman and philanthropist Jim Carell donated the money to first renovate the school's weight room, then to install field turf in the football stadium, build a concession/restroom building at the stadium, and install a new track, lights and seating around the soccer field, which school officials are calling the lower stadium.

The football stadium renovations and concessions building were finished in time for the start of the football season last year, but the lower stadium is scheduled to be dedicated on Sept. 4 before a girl's soccer game against Ensworth High School. "I'm really looking forward to opening that stadium and thanking Mr. Carell for his gift that made it possible," Mr. Mila said.

"It's going to be a tremendous soccer facility," Mr. Mila said of the

lower stadium. The light poles around the soccer stadium, also will have lights that will illuminate the lacrosse practice field beside it. "It gives us some flexibility that we didn't have before," Mr. Mila said of the lights for the soccer and lacrosse practice fields. JPII will be able to host more events on the field and have night games, which will be easier for spectators to attend, he said. It also will allow JPII to expand its offerings to youth athletic organizations in the community, he added.

"The sky's the limit as far as what we can handle for soccer and even lacrosse," Mr. Mila said.

The completion of the track means JPII's track team will be able to practice and host meets on campus for the first time. "That's a major piece" of the recent facility improvements, Mr. Mila said.

Allowing youth programs to use JPII's athletic facilities for games and practices has been an important way for the school to reach beyond its campus and into the community, Mr. Mila said. "We are blessed with these facilities. It's part of our mission to help the rest of the community. They help the school develop ties to the community at large."



The lower stadium with the track and soccer field will be dedicated on Sept. 4 before the girl's soccer game against Ensworth.

KEVIN ARMSHAW NAMED DEAN OF ADVANCEMENT

Pope John Paul II High School has named Kevin Armshaw as its new Dean of Advancement and Communications.

Mr. Armshaw arrives with extensive development experience, having worked the last four years as an executive director of CCS, an international fund-raising firm that specializes in Catholic causes.

For Mr. Armshaw, the JPII position was especially intriguing, given the school's vision and track record of success. "John Paul II High

KAREN PHILLIPS NAMED ASSISTANT HEAD OF SCHOOL

The Board of Trustees of Pope John Paul II has accepted Headmaster Faustin Weber's recommendation to promote Karen Phillips to Assistant Head of School, effective for the 2012-2013 school year. Phillips will also retain the title and duties of Dean of Studies, in charge of the school's academic program.

"JPII has supported me in pursuing and developing my deepest professional aspirations," Ms. Phillips said. "The faculty, students, parents and board of this school live generously and push themselves relentlessly to help JPII realize its mission in the fullest sense. I am grateful for the opportunity to work and grow in this faith-filled community and am honored to serve this school in whatever capacity my experience may allow."

"That's Karen – always deflecting praise to someone else," said Mr. Weber, smiling. "But make no mistake: Karen's fiery passion for the craft of teaching and her ferocious work ethic sets the bar high here. Our school is blessed by her leadership, and as the school's headmaster, I am blessed by her counsel and friendship."

Since Ms. Phillips was hired to lead the school's academic program in 2002, JPII's academic program has flourished, highlighted by the success of the Advanced Placement program. More than one-third of the student body is enrolled in one or more AP classes, and JPII students recently earned 92 "AP Scholar" awards for their performance on multiple exams, one of the highest totals in the state.

"We think AP classes are a good way to challenge high achieving students," Ms. Phillips said, "but the program at JPII is not just about them. We aim to give all our students a college preparatory curriculum, and our teachers are available before and after school in tutorials for students who need the extra boost to be successful."

All of the 127 students in the class of 2012 will be attending college this fall. They were accepted to more than 160 different colleges and will be attending 61 different schools in 21 states, accumulating more than \$14 million in scholarship offers for the course of their college careers.

JPII STUDENTS EARN 89 AP SCHOLAR AWARDS

Pope John Paul II students recently earned 89 AP Scholar Awards from the College Board in recognition of their exceptional achievement on AP Exams last May.

The National Advanced Placement Program provides willing and academically prepared students with the opportunity to take rigorous college-level courses while still in high school, and to earn college credit, advanced placement, or both for successful performance on the AP Exams. Only 18 percent of the more than 1.9 million students worldwide who took AP Exams performed at a sufficiently high level to also earn an AP Scholar Award.

The College Board recognizes several levels of achievement based on students' performance on AP Exams.

Eight students from JPII qualified for the prestigious distinction of "National AP Scholar" by earning an average score of 4 or higher on a five-point scale on all AP exams taken, and scores of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams. These students are: Alex Abdo, Brittny Brescia, Hogan Bryant, Hailey Cleek, Andrew Gilstrap, Emily Peel, Todd Scheriger and Eric Stolz.

Twenty-eight students received the "AP Scholar with Distinction" award by earning an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams. These students are Alex Abdo, Jonathan Adams, Brennan Belew, Brittny Brescia, Hogan Bryant, Ladd Caballero, Matthew Catignani, Hailey Cleek, Nathan Edwards, Lennart Funke, Emily Garretson, Andrew Gilstrap, Patrick Griffin, Cailin Harris, Carlton Hincey, Sierra Hooker, Cassidy Johnson, Simran Mahtani, Mackenzie Mayberry, Miranda Mysinger, Courtney O'Connor, Emily Peel, Todd Scheriger, Andrew Scruggs, Alexandra Smith, Eric Stolz, Chance Summers and Michael C. Wells.

JPII PEOPLE: SCHOOL CONNECTION

We hope to highlight the high school careers of some of our students with reference to their "feeder school."

St. Joseph School

Layne Myers and Sam Onate spent their entire school years at St. Joseph School in Madison before arriving at Pope John Paul II High School this fall as freshmen. It's been a big chance. "It's completely different," Layne said. "There's a lot more people."

There were about 36 students in their eighth grade class at St. Joseph and this year they are part of a freshman class of 160. "I walk down the hallway and I don't see the same people" like it was in elementary school, Sam said. "We're meeting new people every day," Layne added. "Everyone is friendly."

Though Layne and Sam are new students at JPII, they are not completely new to the school. Both have older siblings who have attended JPII. Sam's brother Jose and sister Maribel graduated in 2009 and 2010, respectively, while Layne's sister Maria is a senior at JPII this year. Layne's sister told her classes at JPII would be harder than elementary school, she said, and "you have to study more."



Layne Myers

Sam got similar advice from his siblings. "You have to take classes more seriously ... you have to work at it," was their message, Sam said.

Layne and Sam had heard that the workload would be heavier at JPII, but it hasn't been anything they can't handle, they said. JPII's high academic standards are part of the reason Layne and Sam wanted to come to JPII, they said. "It's a really good school," Sam said. "And it's a private school and it's a Catholic school," Layne added.

Layne and Sam both encouraged prospective students to join them at JPII. "I would tell them to come, it's not your average school," Sam said. "It's really different but it's a good different," Layne said, "and it's really fun."

JPII people ... Layne Myers and Sam Onate!

View Points

MR. HODES BRINGS VARIED BACKGROUND TO JPII

From surfer and professional skateboarder to teacher, administrator, coach and house parent at various Catholic schools, Dan Hodes brings a varied background to his new job as the Director of Admissions at Pope John Paul II High School.

Mr. Hodes earned bachelor's degrees in philosophy and theology from Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio. He's a former seminarian for the Diocese of Providence in Rhode Island. He returned to teaching at several Catholic boarding schools in New England, and is working on his doctorate in theology.

While working at a school in Connecticut, "I realized I had too many hats" as an administrator, teacher, coach and house parent, Mr. Hodes said. He met some Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia Congregation in Nashville while he was teaching a course at Providence College in Rhode Island. They invited him to apply for the assistant principal position at Overbrook School and St. Henry School, both in Nashville, and he took the job at St. Henry last year.

After his daughter Chenzy was born, Mr. Hodes decided to look for a job that would allow his wife, Michelle, to be a stay-at-home mom. That's when he saw the advertisement for the Admissions Director's job at JPII. "I thought this is something I could sink my teeth into."

"My wife and I have been extraordinarily happy with the move to JPII," Mr. Hodes said. "It's a great place."

He's hoping that his contacts in the Bellevue area and at St. Henry and St. Matthew parishes will help him convince more families there that JPII is a realistic option for their children.

"JPII's reputation in Hendersonville is it's an academically challenging school," Mr. Hodes said. "But in Bellevue they know it as the other Catholic school really far away." He wants families to understand that JPII is much closer than they realize, he said. Mr. Hodes lives on McCrory Lane in Bellevue and can drive to JPII in 20-30 minutes, he noted. And the bus service that JPII offers makes the school accessible to areas around Middle Tennessee and Southcentral Kentucky, Mr. Hodes said.

For the areas JPII has traditionally drawn from, the message is "We are exactly who they think we are," Mr. Hodes said. "It's a special, special place for kids who want to experience a renaissance education," he added. "That doesn't happen at every other school."



UPCOMING EVENTS

OPEN HOUSE

**THURSDAY
OCT. 25**

**6:30 TO
8:00 P.M.**

Admission office events

The Admissions Office at Pope John Paul II High School will host several events this fall for prospective students and their families.

The popular "Coffee with the Headmaster" events are scheduled for Sept. 10, Oct. 1 and Nov. 5. Meet Headmaster Faustin Weber and members of the faculty and staff and tour the school. The visits begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at 10:00 a.m.

JPII also will host an Open House 6:30-8:00 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 25, and placement exams for prospective students are scheduled for 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Oct. 27, Nov. 10 and Dec. 8.

For more information about JPII and how to apply, go to the Admissions Office link on the school webpage – www.jp2hs.org – or call the school at (615) 822-2375.