



ST. ANTHONY BASEBALL ASSOCIATION :: 3303 33RD AVENUE NE • ST. ANTHONY, MN 55418

# St. Anthony Baseball

THE ANNUAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ST. ANTHONY BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

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## Three Huskies Sign to Play College Baseball



Four St. Anthony Village High School students signed Nation Letters of Intent this fall during the early signing period for Division I and Division II athletics.

### Noah Bluth

Noah signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball for the Southwest Minnesota State University Mustangs. The Mustangs are a Division II school in Marshall, Minnesota in the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference.

### Ryan Bernardy

Ryan signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball for the University of Sioux Falls Cougars. The Cougars are a Division II

school in Sioux Falls, South Dakota in the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference.

### Zach Siggelkow

Zach signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball for the St. Cloud State University Huskies. The Huskies are a Division II school in St. Cloud, Minnesota in the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference.

### Katie Wortman-Otto

In addition to the baseball signings, Katie Wortman-Otto signed a National Letter of Intent to golf for the Lewis University Flyers in Romeoville, Illinois. The Flyers are a Division II school in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Conference.

## Letter from the President

Thank you to all the parents, coaches, players and volunteers that helped make our baseball program so successful in 2013. The St. Anthony Baseball Association is proud of all of our baseball teams – especially the way they represent our community.

The high school team had a very good season, finishing the regular season at 14-6 and overall record of 18-8. The most impressive statistic for the team was its ERA, which was 0.97, a single season team record. The Huskies are optimistic about the 2014 season, with a strong senior class returning.

Tri-City Blue Legion baseball team had a good season and finished with a strong showing in the Sub-State tournament, losing to the eventual champion, Forest Lake. Our two town teams, the Hogs and the Norsemen had good season, with the Hogs making it to the State Class A tournament for the third time since 2010.

I hope you all can provide support for the St. Anthony Baseball Association through our year end contribution program. You can donate online at [stanthonybaseball.org](http://stanthonybaseball.org) or send in a donation using the form in this newsletter.

Here is to a great 2014 baseball season!

Don Siggelkow  
President – St. Anthony  
Baseball Association

# SABA News & Notes

## Annual Twins Game Outing

Please join us on **April 27<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm** for the annual outing to the Minnesota Twins game at Target Field. The Twins will be playing the Detroit Tigers. This is one of our major fund raisers to help pay for field improvements. Tickets will be available through the SAVHS school store website: [www.staschoolstore.com](http://www.staschoolstore.com).

## Help Update Our Directory

Former players and parents – we realize some of our contact information may need to be updated. Please mail, email ([turdahl@stanthony.k12.mn.us](mailto:turdahl@stanthony.k12.mn.us)), or call (612 706-1105) Troy Urdahl to update any contact information, or to add or remove any names from our mailing list. Thank you for your help!

## Youth Preseason Clinic

Youth Baseball players and parents: look for more information on a preseason youth baseball clinic that will take place in February. The camp will run on Saturdays in the high school gyms. Information will be emailed to families and posted at [www.saboosters.com](http://www.saboosters.com) after the Holidays.

## Looking for a Winter Clinic?

Winter camp and clinic information (for all students) is posted on the High School page at [www.stanthonybaseball.org](http://www.stanthonybaseball.org).

## What is SABA?

The St. Anthony Baseball Association was founded in 2005 with the intent to support and promote baseball in St. Anthony Village. The support and promotion includes improving facilities, providing training resources, providing instruction, and aid in funding and communication. At this time, participation in the St. Anthony Baseball Association includes teams in the Youth Sports Boosters Program (T-Ball through Traveling teams), St. Anthony Village High School teams, VFW Post #230, Tri City Blue American Legion, St. Anthony Hogs (Class A Amateur Men's Baseball), and St. Anthony Norsemen (Senior Men's Baseball).

The SABA board members are all volunteers with representation from each level of participation. The board meets quarterly at St. Anthony Village High School. Further information on SABA or any of the teams mentioned can be found at SABA's webpage: [www.stanthonybaseball.org](http://www.stanthonybaseball.org).

## Dates to Remember

### Cub Foods Bagging

Dec 31, 2013 & Feb 2, 2014

### HS Baseball Signups

Feb 24, 2014 at 6:30 pm  
High School Auditorium

### Spring Field Workday

April 5, 2014

### SAVHS Alumni Day and Barbecue

May 9, 2014 at 7pm

### High School

#### Captains Practices

8:00pm Mondays, 8:30pm  
Wednesdays, 10am (hitting) &  
11:30am (pitching) Sundays



## Rush Named Diamond King



Class of 2013 graduate Ryan Rush was awarded a Diamond King Award by the Hardball Hotel Baseball Organization, an entity dedicated to recognizing character in Minnesota high school baseball players. Rush received this year's Humility Award for his leadership of the Huskies Varsity Baseball Team.

As part of the award, Rush, along with Nate Gerdes of Central Minnesota Christian School, Grant Vagle of New London-Spicer H.S., and Patrick Courtney of Willmar H.S., were recognized at an awards

ceremony as part of a St. Cloud Rox game in June. Rush received a personalized bat as a keepsake for his prize.

Rush has been a two-year starter for the Huskies at third base, and has also provided valuable innings on the mound. His team-first attitude and humble demeanor was integral to his receipt of the award.

Congratulations to Ryan for his leadership and recognition! We're proud of you, and hope future Huskies baseball players will follow in your footsteps!

## Concessions Update

2013 was a great years for concessions! Despite Mother Nature dumping a crazy amount of snow onto Palm field profits were up from 2012. Success was due to many double headers and the ability to rent our field during the wild ride we call spring baseball in Minnesota.

We used these additional games as an opportunity to dust of the grill and offer burgers as an additional menu item. A huge thank you to Don Siggelkow who helped man the grill for many high school and summer games. We will be sporting a new grill for the 2014 season and hope to keep up the burger tradition.

2014 will be my last season as concession director and we will be looking for a replacement to start for the spring season in 2015. I have been working concessions since the spring of 2010 and have met a wonderful group of people. Please let me know if you will be willing to step in and fill this position.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Jessica Kelly  
SABA Concessions Director  
612-619-1943

*Thad Weber, Jeff Ostrom,  
Tyler Johnson, and Scott Seivert*

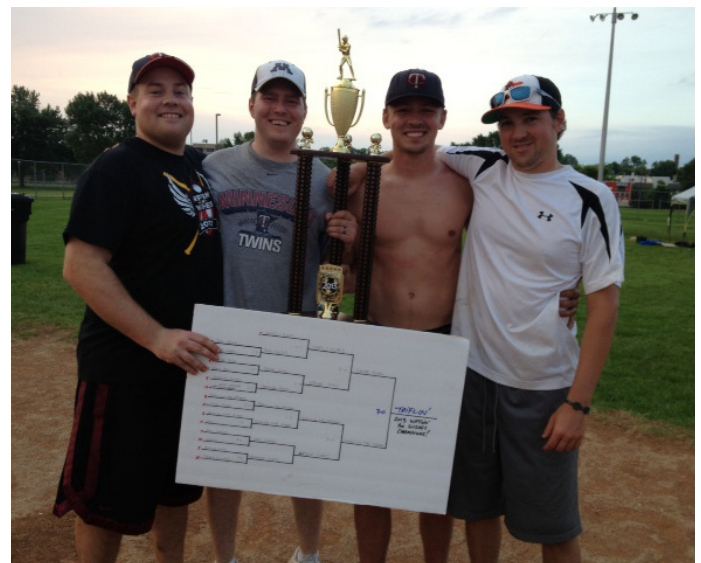
## Title goes to Village People

For the second time in the last five years, the Wifflin' for Wishes trophy went to St. Anthony Baseball alums. Thad Weber, Tyler Johnson and Jeff Ostrom, all 2003 SAVHS graduates, won the charity wiffle ball tournament on June 22, 2013.

Games are played on a 'V'-shaped field with the fence 90 feet away. No base running occurs and hits are determined by markings on the field.

Triflin' on the Big Stinky Cheddar, as they are called, won nine games to capture the daylong tournament championship!

The tournament was founded in 2005 and features some great competition and fun for all ages. Best of all, tournament proceeds go to benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Minnesota. Since its inception, the tournament has raised nearly \$30,000.





## SEASON REVIEW

# St. Anthony Village High School Baseball

After a successful trip to the Wide World of Sports Complex in Orlando, Florida to begin the 2013 baseball season, the Huskies returned to Minnesota and faced a formidable opponent: the weather. With unusual amounts of April snow, the SAVHS squad had a difficult schedule, playing nearly every day in the month of May. However, the results produced a memorable season, with the team placing second in a very strong Tri-Metro Conference and runner-up in the Section 4AA playoffs. Led by seniors Mike Studer (captain), Ryan Rush (captain), Nick Kampa (captain), Mike Hankner, Leo Skillings, and Billy Johnson, the Huskies went 18-8 last season, outscoring opponents 129-64.

Zach Siggelkow was named the team's MVP and most outstanding pitcher, Nick



Kampa earned Gold Glove honors for his play in the outfield, and Chris Schieffer was recognized as the team's most improved player. The final team award given in 2013 is the Palmer Award, named for long-time St. Anthony teacher and athletic director Gary Palm (who still serves as an

assistant for the Huskies). This award is given to a player who embodies what it means to be a team player and the plays the game the way it is meant to be played. In 2013 Ryan Rush was voted by his peers to receive the honor of being a Palmer Award winner.

The Huskies return 12

letterwinners this spring and hope to have another great season, led by a strong group of seniors including a number of players who plan to continue their baseball careers into college. A complete 2014 game schedule is included with their year's newsletter; we hope to see you at a game this spring!



## High School Baseball Statistics

To view the current list of records, please visit the St. Anthony Baseball Association's webpage at [www.stanthonybaseball.org](http://www.stanthonybaseball.org) and click on the High School page. St. Anthony Village has many records in the state's top-ten lists. To view complete lists of Minnesota High School Baseball records, please visit [www.mshsbca.com](http://www.mshsbca.com).

## VFW Update

Each year the Columbia Heights Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #230 sponsors a summer baseball team for area 15 and 16 year-olds. The 2013 Veterans of Foreign Wars baseball team had a very successful season this past June and July, playing 39 games and improving dramatically while having fun playing baseball.

The Post #230 squad played in tourna-

ments in Cold Spring, Monticello, Ely, and St. Cloud this year, finishing 25-14 overall on the season. In league play, the VFW team tallied a 13-5 regular season record before moving on to the league playoffs and earning a berth in the District tournament with playoff wins over South Minneapolis and Totino-Grace. One of Post #230's losses in the District Tournament was to eventual state champion Maple Grove.

This year's VFW team was coached by Ryan Ferkinhoff and Troy Urdahl. The team would like to thank the Columbia

Heights VFW Post for its continued support, in particular the team and coaches express their sincere gratitude for Post #230's youth sports coordinator, Jerry Wegscheid. Wegscheid is a fantastic supporter of youth sports – coming to many of the Post #230 games and tournaments – and assists in the coordination of 7th District VFW baseball. If you get a chance – please stop by Post #230 on Central Avenue and say thank you on behalf of the St. Anthony summer VFW baseball team!



# Youth Baseball Enjoys Nice Summer

Booster Baseball had another great year in 2013. We had a total of 10 teams participate in the in-house and travel leagues.

The St Anthony traveling teams had some ups and downs but all finished the season strong. The 12U traveling team head coached by Bryon Tang made a deep playoff run. They knocked off a good Roseville team before coming up short against a very highly ranked Hudson, WI team.

The 3rd/4th grade in-house team St. Anthony Huskies coached by Doug Anderson and Jordan Dols beat Irondale Grey 8-6 in the playoff championship game to win it all. Congratulation to Doug as this is was his third consecutive championship victory as a head coach in the 3rd/4th grade division.

Thank you to all the volunteer coaches who took the time and energy to help coach a team this past year. We are looking forward to having another successful year in 2014.

Please visit Boosters Baseball at [www.saboosters.org](http://www.saboosters.org)

Check daily or weekly to view the most updated information on meeting dates, traveling tryout date and the in-house evaluation date. We also will be having a parent informational meeting again next year. The date and place will be determined in the next



few weeks. This will be a great opportunity for you to bring up any questions you may have regarding the Booster Baseball Program. Please be on the lookout for this information on our website.

You can also view the website for additional information on the 2014 youth clinics. We will hold clinics for grades K through 2nd grade and grades 3 through 8. They are tentatively scheduled for February 2014. This year the 3 through 8 grades will be run by the high school coaching staff and players. Be on the lookout for registration information and clinic dates in the next few weeks.

# Hogs Go Wild in 2013

In 2013, the St. Anthony Hogs made their third Class A State Baseball Tournament appearance since 2010. However, the appearance was again short-lived as the Hogs fell to the Bloomington Bandits in single elimination play for the second consecutive year.

The Hogs played their most competitive schedule to date and enjoyed some ups and downs, finishing with an overall record of 19-12. 2013 was a transitional year for the Hogs after losing four key starters from 2012. An influx of young players allowed the Hogs to continue their consistent level of play. After starting 6-0 in the Skyline League, the Hogs finished 12-4 and secured the #2 seed in the Skyline playoffs, including a first round bye. In the second round, the Hogs took advantage of great pitching, timely hitting, and solid defense to defeat the Stillwater Loggers 11-2 and 10-1 to complete the two game sweep, advancing to the 2013 Class A State Tournament.

The Hogs' success was recognized by Skyline League peers as 3 Hogs were named to the Skyline League All-Star team. Hogs representatives included: infielder, Jeff Ostrom; outfielder, Stephen Couillard; and manager, Michael Dunn. In continuing with St. Anthony's strong baseball tradition, seventy-five percent of the players on the 2013 roster graduated from St. Anthony Village High School, played Legion Baseball for Tri-City Blue, or currently live in the St. Anthony area.

The Hogs would like to thank their sponsors, fans, community, and the St. Anthony Baseball Association for their support during another exciting season. See you in 2014!



## The End of the Roller Coaster Ride by Dan Kaczrowski

In my last four articles I've written for this newsletter, you've probably noticed that I've used the term "roller coaster" a lot due to the many ups and downs of professional baseball. A comparable analogy is that the good players you see on TV seem to be on an enjoyable train ride leaving beautiful Grand Central Station while sometimes throughout my career I felt like I was sitting in the front seat of the Wild Thing at Valleyfair. But don't get me wrong, I am extremely proud of what I accomplished in the passed five seasons. I made it to Triple-A (one step from the big leagues), played in a Major League Spring Training game, won three Minor League championships, and played a full professional season in St. Paul in front of my friends and family - all of which were a crazy dream to a tiny, no-named kid growing up in St. Anthony.

After winning our second straight championship with the Mobile BayBears in 2012, I was determined to come into Spring Training in February in the best shape of my life to prove that I was worthy of a roster spot in the organization. I was unclear of what was going to happen in 2013 so I tried not to think about it and work my tail off. I went through Spring Training with the Arizona Diamondbacks and played extremely well. I made it through all of the major cuts that generally happen on Monday's during camp. When the final rosters were up, I was happy to see that I made the team back in Mobile. I was ecstatic to continue to put on that jersey. I was very close with the manager and coaches of that team, and I know they probably pulled a few strings to keep me there. I didn't care. I was on the team and one of the older guys with lots of experience at that level. We had a few team practices and media days before opening the season in Jackson, Mississippi, about a

3 hour bus ride from Mobile. Immediately after the game in the visiting clubhouse, I heard first the words that nobody ever wants to hear. Our pitching coach walked over to my locker and said "Kacz, Greenie (Manager Andy Greene) wants to see you in his office." I walked into his office where all three coaches were already in tears and I knew what I was about to hear wasn't going to be good. Long story short, they let me know I had been released because another organization was sending back a player they obtained from the Rule 5 draft earlier in the year and he's taking your spot. It's a confusing part of pro baseball and one that I learned about the hard way.

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### *A crazy dream to a tiny, no-named kid in St. Anthony.*

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Releasing someone who's given everything they've got and never complained no matter what can't be fun to do. I don't blame them, because I know they wanted to keep me around, but the organization had different plans. So after driving down to AZ from MN, making the team out of camp, driving to Mobile, settling in, then driving to Mississippi for the start of the season, I was told I had a flight leaving early the next morning back to Mobile. I then had to try to get out of my apartment lease which I had just signed the day before, pack my stuff, and drive back to MN. Wild Thing.

Surprisingly, I took the bad news better than I thought I would. If anything, I was just very surprised (and a little angry),

but never sad. While I was on the plane the following morning the manager of the St. Paul Saints, George Tsamis, texted me asking if I wanted to play everyday for them. My contract was signed and faxed in that night. I was excited to come home and play for the team that I grew up watching and began my professional career with. I struggled early on and never really got my numbers up to where I thought they'd be at but I had a good second half of the season. The adjustment back to Independent baseball from affiliated baseball in which I wasn't prepared for were how terrible the bus trips, hotels and pre and post-game food was. We did have a few fun road trips out east into New York and up into Quebec but generally the travel was brutal. Unfortunately, I wasn't having as much fun as I expected to. I was ready to be done for good after the season. I had most of my family and some friends at my last game and they were able to see my last professional hit, a deep homer to left field. Great way to go out.

I couldn't be more proud of the success I had playing the game of baseball, not only at the professional level, but ever since I was a young kid playing travel ball with my friends in St. Anthony and onto the high school and collegiate level. It is something that I'll cherish for the rest of my life. I am very excited to move on with my life and see what the future holds. Although there will be parts of playing that I'll miss, that is far over-shadowed by the fact that I won't be missing anymore weddings, family and friend functions, and most importantly, I'm going to be able to spend my summers catching walleye (or trying to) on Lake Vermilion for the first time in a long time.

## Norsemen Update

The Norsemen started the 2013 strong, beating some excellent teams early in May and June. However, a career-ending knee injury to Norse RBI machine Steve Green, and a season-ending hernia for .400 hitting centerfielder Nick Martindale, caused

the Norsemen offense to sputter. Run production was severely hampered for the remainder of the season, with the Norse scraping out just eight victories behind fourteen losses.

On the up side, the squad added veteran catcher Jeff Schmitz (Bloomington, MN) to the roster this season. Schmitz, formerly of the TC Mets, split catching duties with Paul Morita and added some pop to the line-up, including a home run against Rosetown in July. Phil Ebner also joined the Norse pitching roster in 2013, and is ex-

pected to get more innings on the hill next season. The Norsemen ended the season with nice wins over South St. Paul and St. Michael during the playoffs in southern Minnesota on a blistering August weekend.

Expected roster changes for the Norse in 2014 include the addition of Jon Medlo (Arden Hills) at third base. The team is always in need of more pitching. Any potential hurlers can contact Norse Manager, Paul Melchior, at 763.350.9311 to schedule a try-out.



## Tri-City Legion Update



The 2013 Tri City Blue team under the direction of first year coach Todd Nicklaus, started the season 4-0 with wins over Totino Grace, Andover, Centennial and Blaine. The team finished the regular season 6-7, a record that allowed them to enter the sub-state playoffs as the 6 seed. After a close game with the eventual sub-state playoff champion, Forest Lake, Tri City advanced with a win over Chisago Lakes and then were eliminated by Stillwater. Tri City Blue also competed in two very strong tournaments during the year, playing in the largest Legion tournament in the USA, the Gopher Classic with over 90 teams.

Overall, Tri City Blue had a very good season and competed well against teams that draw from a much larger pool of players. Tri City will have more pitching depth in 2014, which should allow them to build on their success in 2013.

## Consider Making St. Anthony Baseball One of Your 2013 Charities

### SABA Partners with Sports Boosters for a Facilities Improvement Grant Request

The St. Anthony Baseball Association (SABA) was established as a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation in 2006 to promote baseball in St. Anthony. In the last 12 months, the St. Anthony Baseball Association has provided youth baseball clinics for St. Anthony Boosters and provided support for field and facility improvements in St. Anthony.

SABA is committed to improving youth baseball facilities and youth baseball programs in St. Anthony. We are working with Sports Boosters Baseball to emphasize improvements for all youth baseball fields. This year SABA has pledged matching dollars to support a grant request made

by the St. Anthony Sports Boosters to add dugout roofs to two fields and to replace our aging batting cages. One hundred-percent of your contribution will be used to enhance and improve baseball facilities and programs in St. Anthony, and is tax deductible!

St. Anthony baseball is a community asset and tradition that we need to continue to develop and fund through the efforts of SABA. We rely on individual and business donations and contributions to support the St. Anthony Baseball Association.

The St. Anthony Baseball Association would be very appreciative of any contribution that you can make to the program.

Please consider donating so we can keep St. Anthony baseball at the high level of play that has become our standard! You can donate online at [www.stanthonybaseball.org](http://www.stanthonybaseball.org) or mail any donations to:

St. Anthony Baseball Association  
3303 33rd Avenue N.E.  
St. Anthony, MN 5541

## Shop Online with SABA

Show your support for SABA while you save money and earn cash back!

The St. Anthony Baseball Association is participating in an exciting new fundraising program. The group now has its own website featuring thousands of partner stores like Walmart, Sears, Best Buy, Apple, The Home Depot and many more. When you make a purchase on [www.marketamerica.com/saba](http://www.marketamerica.com/saba), the St. Anthony Baseball Association receives royalties and you earn up to 35% cash back on qualified purchases.

The benefits don't stop there. You earn 0.5% cash back on the purchases of everyone you refer to our website. Now, you can take advantage of the ease and convenience of Internet shopping to buy the products and services you want, while feeling good about helping one of your favorite organizations.

**For more information contact:**  
**Rebecca Urdahl | 612-636-0913**  
**[rebecca.a.urdahl@gmail.com](mailto:rebecca.a.urdahl@gmail.com)**

## St. Anthony Baseball Association

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Please mail a receipt to the address above

\_\_\_\_\_ I wish to have my gift remain anonymous

### Gifts to SABA are tax-deductible!

*Please make checks, corporate matches, or other gifts payable to:*

St Anthony Baseball Association, 3303 33rd Avenue, St Anthony, MN 55418

# 2014 High School Varsity Schedule

Apr 3, 2014, 4:00 PM  
Orono (Scrimmage)  
St. Anthony Village HS

Apr 8, 2014, 4:45 PM  
Pine City @ Pine City High School

Apr 11, 2014, 4:15 PM  
Highland Park  
@ Highland Park High School

Apr 14, 2014, 7:00 PM  
St. Agnes @ Midway Stadium

Apr 21, 2014, 4:30 PM  
Mounds Park @ TBD

Apr 23, 2014, 4:30 PM  
Minnehaha Academy  
@ St. Anthony Village HS

Apr 25, 2014, 7:00 PM  
DeLaSalle @ St. Anthony Village HS

Apr 28, 2014, 4:30 PM  
Concordia Academy  
@ St. Anthony Village HS

Apr 30, 2014, 4:30 PM  
Brooklyn Center  
@ Brooklyn Center High School

May 1, 2014, 4:15 PM  
Fridley @ Fridley High School

May 2, 2014, 4:30 PM  
Cambridge-Isanti  
@ St. Anthony Village HS

May 5, 2014, 4:30 PM  
Breck @ St. Anthony Village HS

May 7, 2014, 4:30 PM  
SPA @ St. Anthony Village HS

May 9, 2014, 4:30 PM  
St. Croix Lutheran  
@ St. Anthony Village HS

May 9, 2014, 7:00 PM  
New Ulm @ St. Anthony Village HS

May 12, 2014, 4:30 PM  
Providence Academy @ TBD

May 14, 2014, 4:30 PM  
Blake @ TBD

May 15, 2014, 7:00 PM  
St. James Area @ Delano City Field

May 16, 2014  
TBD (Tournament) @ Delano City Field

May 17, 2014  
TBD (Tournament) @ Delano City Field

May 20, 2014, 7:05 PM  
DeLaSalle @ Parade Stadium

## St. Anthony Village Baseball

Site will shutdown on 12/04/13!

MORE COLORS  
ONLINE!

Featured Products

### Online Ordering Instructions

- Go to <http://bigteamsales.impactgroup.us/>
- Choose your School and Activity
- Enter your password – **baseball13**
- Choose your items and add them to the order
- Add any comments if needed
- Select your school or event before checking out
- Sign up for a username & password
- All orders will be shipped individual shipping address
- Check your e-mail for an order confirmation
- Items will be delivered 3 weeks from the time the site shuts down.
- Thank you for using BIG Athletics!



# BIG ATHLETICS

Please contact with any questions or concerns regarding this site  
[mmadison@impactgroup.us](mailto:mmadison@impactgroup.us) or call 952-230-1482

**Login to your teams website to see all items available**

## St. Anthony Baseball News

Issue 6 :: Winter 2013

The St. Anthony Baseball Association is a 501c(3) non-profit organization promoting baseball in St. Anthony Village and the surrounding area.

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[www.davewiggins.smugmug.com](http://www.davewiggins.smugmug.com)