

# Coach Swanson and Staff Testimonials

*Joey Swanson is a Diamond Sports Training Center hitting and catching instructor, Northwest Reign Director, scout team coach & NCAA division two baseball coach. John Mattson is a respected coach and instructor in Pierce and King County. While some of the testimonials are from years prior to the Diamond Jaxx, all of them are in reference to Joey Swanson, John Mattson or the coaches that work alongside them. All testimonials are excerpts from either letters of recommendation, e-mails or optional testimonial letters.*

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"...In my 7 years as a baseball coach I believe the most fundamental characteristic a person in a leadership role must have is a positive and outgoing attitude. The sports industry is primarily based on providing quality leadership and the most successful coaches, teams, and personnel do this best. I have always been impressed with Joey's leadership, his overall positive attitude, and approach to his assignments. Joey is a confident man who is eager to learn and be challenged. I appreciate his diligence to the myriad of tasks that a coach must endure. Joey has handled the challenges and leadership role in an industrious and professional manner....I feel that Joey's personal coaching experience, involvement with North West baseball programs as a coach and mentor along with a tremendous personality will provide the foundation to develop into a great leader. I strongly believe that he will continue to advance his strengths and characteristics as he pursues a head coaching job in your athletic program gaining additional knowledge and practical experience...."

- *Shaun Cole, USA Baseball Gold Medal winner multiple times, 2012 CWS Champion & 2012 Nat'l Pitching Coach of the Year, former Coordinator of Player Development for San Diego Padres, current pitching coach at Eastern Kentucky University*

"I met Joey Swanson approximately 8 years ago when he provided our PC Diamond Jaxx squad with hitting instruction during our winter training in preparation for our 12U summer. Joey's instruction definitely contributed to what was a very successful year of hitting the baseball for our young, developing team. Over the next two years, Joey and I developed a trusting relationship and his role with the Diamond Jaxx grew significantly until we finally hired him to become the Manager of the 14U PC Diamond Jaxx team.

As Manager of the PC Diamond Jaxx, Joey was fully committed and worked extremely hard to provide the Jaxx with top notch instruction and leadership. Joey was responsible for all matters concerning the Jaxx team performance including selection and development of players and coaches, year-round instruction and coaching all practices and games. Joey was an incredible asset for the Jaxx and provided the leadership and knowledgeable instruction necessary to take our team and individual players to the next level of performance. The success of his Diamond Jaxx teams and the players that have played for him speak for themselves. There are at least 7 or 8 of the players from his first Jaxx team that are now playing college baseball. Joey definitely played an important role in helping to prepare them for that level success!

- *Brett Nasinec, Co-founder and former President PC Diamond Jaxx Baseball Club*

"I have coached for several years and seen many pitching instructors. I've been around John for a long time and I've seen him work with players of all age groups as well.

John is the ONE instructor I have seen where the connection with the players is very impactful. The players have a lot of trust in John. The communication level, the improvement in fundamentals, velocity, and knowledge of the game are tools John brings and the players. Rapid improvements are what parents and

players hope for. That's exactly what you receive with John."

■ *Eric Worden, West Hills Vipers coach*

"John has worked with Connor for 2 years now and his improvement has been tremendous.

Connor's pitching confidence and performance has improved drastically under John's tutelage. John not only teaches him the proper mechanics but also the mental side of pitching as well. He focuses on building solid fundamental habits and maturity on the mound.

Connor has enjoyed working with John and looks forward to every session."

■ *Rob and Tracy Calfee*

"Joey,

.....First of all thanks for everything that Braden, Dustin and You have done not just for Zach but for all those young men!!

After watching the final speech.....you all need to be commended for your messages that you have been trying to get through their brains all year.....and again last night with a tough loss and the end of a good year for so many of those players the message was still the same, be a leader and never be complacent with where you are or what you are doing.

Zach will be a better man because of what he has learned from all of you and he truly appreciates how he was welcomed in to the D-Jaxx family by not only the coaching staff but by all of the returning players. It is too bad he didn't grow up in the "family" because I know he would have learned a lot more from you guys ..... I know he will miss this team much more than the other select teams he has been on in the past and I believe it is because of the staff!!

Thanks again for all you did for Zach throughout the entire year and I am sure you and the guys will here from Zach from time to time when he needs a little encouragement up at [college]!! "

■ *Dan Howard*

"Coaches,

...We would like to express our greatest appreciation for your leadership, support and encouragement in the development of Dalton over the last 3 years. When he entered the JAXX organization his self-esteem, self-confidence and skill set was below where we felt his potential was. Prior to the JAXX, Dalton had played for multiple organizations where the structure, coaching and leadership seemed lacking. Immediately entering the organization we felt a difference in Dalton.....

Over the last 3 years it has been a lot of fun watching him grow. He has made some lifelong friends and learned some of life's most important lessons. He has improved significantly in all aspects of his game ..... you have put him in a position to be successful at the next level.....You have all made a difference where Dalton is concerned.

Thank you for your time and patience with him. I know he hopes to make you all proud in his next baseball adventure."

■ *Tom and Rae-Lynn*

"Thanks for everything Joey!!! Every kid needs someone like you in their life."

■ *Kimberly Heath*

"This is an amazing guy! He has been my inspiration, father figure, coach, and role model for the past two years. I couldn't thank him enough for making me the person and baseball player I am today. Thank you for everything Swanny! My development as a student athlete began when I came to this program. Trusting the drill work and instruction from coaches brought my game to a whole new level. Buying into the program helped place me where I am today and I continue to utilize the help this program offers."

■ *Nathan Heath, Sawnee State University outfielder and all NWAC outfielder, former D-Jaxx player*

"..During Coach Swanson's tenure as the highly respected Director of Baseball Operations and Head Coach for the Diamond Jaxx, he has continually demonstrated his dynamic, passionate and effective style for leadership both on and off the field. He has built the Djaxx baseball program from startup to one that has touched the lives of hundreds of elementary to High School age student athletes..."

■ *Chris Ihrig, CEO of Fired Up!*

"...Joey Swanson has a unique ability to work efficiently to lead young men both on and off the field. He is dedicated to the players and families in his program. The success he had as a baseball coach in the Northwest speaks volumes about his hard work, determination and his composed demeanor. During our time at multiple camps, and having observed his coaching style, Joey has demonstrated excellent leadership skills and his teams seem to always be well coached. Coach Swanson takes pride in building a program up the right way, and has done so with his Diamond Jaxx club. Coach Swanson truly has a passion for the game of baseball and for the relationships that he develops with his players, and coaches..."

■ *Jordan Twohig, former University of Washington Assistant Coach & current Cal State Northridge College coach*

"My son played for Coach Swanson for two years and I was always amazed at his ability to communicate effectively with kids of all ages and abilities. He brings out the best qualities in the kids and focuses on developing players emotionally, physically, and tactically. Coach Swanson was a very positive influence on my son and helped make him a better player, better teammate, and a better person."

■ *Steve Knight*

"Our son worked with Joey Swanson for three years during which time he has been HIS coach and provided him with individual baseball specific instruction. The time William has spent with SDS has been invaluable. The method that they use to teach is motivating and rewarding for the player, regardless of age. Further, they allow each player athlete to define his own future in baseball. Without negativity or ridicule, Swanny relates the techniques required for each player to reach his own personal best in the sport."

■ *Nicole Potebnya-Meyer*

"My 13-year-old son had the opportunity to work with Joey and his staff and is a much better ball player than he was prior to working with Swanson Diamond Services. Swanson and his coaches have a vast knowledge of the game and they all have the ability to connect with the players both as a team and as individuals. Swanson doesn't use a cookie cutter approach to mold young players; but instead he uses observation and conversation to analyze each player's ability and then develops ways to make each player a better batter, fielder, pitcher, and catcher. Last of all, as icing on the cake, Joey's coaching staff instills confidence and competitiveness in each player through their constant enthusiasm, drill and practice, and knowledge of the sport."

■ *Patrick Storedahl*

"In working with the coaching staff over a 2 year period there was a significant improvement in our son's skills, knowledge of how the game was to be played and most importantly excitement for the game."

■ *Sean Mills*

"Coach Swanson and his staff were a pleasure to have at our Moses Lake Bash Tournament. The coaches, players, and fans all conducted themselves in a very positive manner. It was a pleasure to watch them play..."

■ *Matt Creaser, BPA Tournament Director*

"Swanny is respected as a coach, role model and a friend. Joey has made baseball his life and this is evident in the way he approaches it."

■ *Chad, Mount Vernon*

"Coach Swanson and his staff really taught me how to play the game the right way. Physically and mentally gave me a base that allowed me to develop into the player that I am today. Building my swing with the 5 steps gave me tools I still use today. I owe a ton to the coaches and the program...still family to me."

■ *Brock Carpenter, Seattle University 3B and former player for Diamond Jaxx College Prep*

"Coach Swanson created the foundation of the player I am today. The values he and his coaching staff instill have helped me throughout my career. Over the years I have worked with many different hitting coaches and wish I would have stuck with Coach Swanson's philosophy because it flat out works. His teaching correlates directly to professional hitters."

■ *Leo Valenti, Marshall University infielder and former player for Diamond Jaxx College Prep*

"It is really important to trust the system. Go through each step of your swing and trust the coaches. They know what they're talking about."

■ *Mark Sluys, Brown University catcher and former player for Diamond Jaxx College Prep*

"After spending 5 years in the program, I grew more than I ever have, not only as player, but as a person

as well. Every day you are pushed to be the best person you can be.”

- Stephen Hansen, Skagit Valley College outfielder and former player for Diamond Jaxx College Prep

“I went from being a contact hitter and having 90% of my hits to the opposite field, to being able to pull the ball and hit for a better slugging percentage. Coach Swanny did more for me than all other coaches combined and taught us how to play the game right. I wish I would have played for the staff longer because Coach Swanny and Coach Ibarra were nothing more but a father to me outside of my own. From the bottom of my heart I thank you for everything.”

- Taylor Graham, Skagit Valley College outfielder and former player for Diamond Jaxx College Prep

“College prep program helped me understand the swing completely. They break it down and let us see the essential mechanics while still keeping our own swing. Swanny also helped improve catching mechanics while making us focus on the mental side of the game as well. The program made me a smarter baseball player and without it I probably wouldn’t have played past high school.

- Dalton Bidon, College of the Desert catcher and former player for Diamond Jaxx College Prep