



Contact:

Alex Malecki
(914) 912-6930

pr@kennedycatholic.org

PHOTOS ATTACHED

League Champs to Letter Signers

Kennedy's Bauer, Hogan ink intent to play for Marist, Lafayette

SOMERS, N.Y. – “This has been his dream forever” said Elizabeth Bauer, mother of senior Erik Bauer, who signed a letter of intent to play baseball for the Marist Red Foxes earlier this month.

For senior slugger Ailish Hogan, who signed with Lafayette, it was about finding someone who could come close to, if never succeeding, in replacing her high school coach—her mother and 2011 Section 1 League B Coach of the Year Pat Hogan.

“Having my mother as a coach was obviously one of the best comforts for me,” said the younger Hogan, adding that one of the reasons she signed with Lafayette was because Leopards coach Meaghan Asselta is a “mother-like” figure in her own right.

It also didn't hurt that Hogan always seem to play better whenever Asselta was watching, snapping out of slumps seemingly whenever scouts were present. After leading the Lady Gaels to two consecutive softball league titles, though, it's no surprise that Hogan excels under pressure.

Heading into her senior year, Hogan is hitting .507 with a .573 on-base percentage and a .887 slugging percentage. In three years she has cracked 12 triples, launched 9 home runs and driven in 22 runs. A utility player, Hogan can play first base, third and outfield, as well as behind the dish. And according to her mother, she's also becoming quite the coach, having assisted junior varsity coach Brent Tieber through his first year with the team.

“I've been playing for so long, it just comes naturally,” she said.

The same could be said for Bauer, another utility player who has been at it since he switched over from soccer around age 8. His father, Jeff, always knew his son had innate athletic ability, but it was Little League when Erik began separating himself from the crowd.

“The intangible is that he does work so hard”, Mr. Bauer said.

And that hard work has paid off. As a sophomore, Bauer's right arm guided the Gaels to its second state finals in three years. As a junior, it was his bat that secured a deeper playoff run, hitting a walk-off homerun against Byram Hills in a first-round matchup that was closer than expected.

“I don't want to be one-dimensional,” said Bauer, who signed with Marist because it offered him the best opportunity to hit, play the field and pitch.

A hard-throwing, top-of-the-rotation starter and power-hitting third baseman for the Gaels, Bauer was a 2011 All-Section selection after batting .420 with five homers and 37 RBIs. Talented, yet humble, Bauer credits the team's strong leadership and positive role models such as 2010 graduate Joe Smith, who now plays for the Gaels of Iona College, with his ascendance.

With their son having earned academic and athletic scholarship monies to play ball for the Red Foxes, Elizabeth and Jeff Bauer credit Kennedy for the fine young man Erik has become.

“It wouldn't have happened anywhere else.”

Named one of the 50-best secondary schools by the Catholic High School Honor Roll in 2005, Kennedy Catholic provides a rigorous, college-preparatory program that seeks the fullest development of mind, body and spirit. Founded as St. Mary's in 1924 by the Sisters of the Divine Compassion and located on 64 scenic acres in Somers, N.Y., Kennedy Catholic offers state-of-the-art technology—SMART Boards, wireless Internet, computer labs and a TV studio—that prepares today's students for tomorrow's world. Home to 52 athletic teams across 17 sports and more than 25 extracurricular activities, there is something for everyone at Kennedy Catholic.