

News from the Office of Public Relations

MacMurray

C O L L E G E

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Highlanders Baseball Team ready for home opener

JACKSONVILLE, IL – The MacMurray College Highlanders Baseball team has launched their 38-game schedule with their home opener scheduled on Sunday, March 15, against University of Dubuque on Mac’s Don Timm field. The team finished last season out with a record of 6-26 and 3-20 in conference play. This year’s 20-player roster includes 10 returning letterman: Nick Schmidt, James Backstein, Jordan Missey, Mikie Sellers, Aaron Forthenberry, Ryan Helmerichs, Joe Butler, Jamison Lowe, Dante Baxter and Curtis Cantrel.

With a more challenging schedule this year, MacMurray College Head Baseball Coach Fred Curtis is optimistic with this season’s play. “Our strength will come from our ten returning letterman. We are going to bring back a good number of experienced players. Also, we have several promising freshman that can step up and help us,” said Curtis. “Overall we have better quality and better depth in pitching. The keys to our success will be pitching, making routine plays, and limiting the number of errors.”

Nick Schmidt, Heyworth, IL (also a MacMurray basketball player), BA .246, senior, is a 6’2” returning starting pitcher. He is a fourth-year player and could have some outfield time when not pitching. **James Backstein**, BA .337, 5’8” senior from

Rochester, IL, will be the starting catcher and short inning relief pitcher. Starting third baseman **Jordan Missey**, BA .330, is a 6'1" senior from Highland, IL, and a fourth-year starter. **Mikie Sellers**, BA .345, 6'0" outfielder, is a senior from Cahokia, IL. He is a 4-year starter and will be the lead-off hitter. **Aaron Forthenberry**, BA .222, is a 5'9" senior who transferred from Danville Area Junior College, and is in his second year with the Highlanders. He is a submarine pitcher who has great control and will be called upon often. **Ryan Helmerichs**, BA .207, 6'1" senior from Virden, IL, is a relief pitcher and will see time at second base. **Joe Butler**, BA .200, 5'7" junior from Pittsfield, IL, who transferred from Lewis and Clark College last year, will start at shortstop. He is a solid defensive player and can work as a closing pitcher. **Jamison Lowe**, BA .321, 6'2" sophomore from Homer, IL, will start as outfielder and has excellent overall baseball skills. **Dante Baxter**, BA .239, 5'9" junior from Danville, IL, is a good spot hitter. He can see playing time at second base or third base. **Curtis Cantrel**, a 6'3" senior from Tremont, IL, and second-year player, will start at first base. He is a solid overall performer. Newcomer **Tyler Katterhenry**, 5'10" freshman from Homer, IL, will see some playing time as catcher. **Avion Forthenberry**, 6'0" junior transfer from Danville Area Junior College, has great baseball skills. He will be a relief pitcher and can play the outfield effectively. **Joe Essig**, 6'1" freshman from Homer, IL, will be a starting pitcher. **Scott Schindler**, 5'11" freshman from Orangeville, IL, will be a starting pitcher and a utility player in the infield. **Caleb Bourne**, 6'2" freshman from Auburn, IL, has speed and the potential to be a great hitter. He will see outfield and third base. **Mike Cohen**, 5'8" freshman from Mesa, AZ, is a middle relief pitcher and may see some playing time in the outfield. He has great bat skills. Utility players **Derek Finney**, 5'11" sophomore

from Chicago, IL, **Antwain Jones**, 6'1" junior from St. Louis, MO, and **Adam Martinez**, 6'2" junior from Springfield, IL, round out the roster of competitive players. Injured reserve status **Marcus Kay**, 6'3" freshman from Hanceville, AL, will see playing time as pitcher and in the infield once he's back in action.

Head Coach Fred Curtis brings more than thirty years of teaching and coaching experience to the playing field. He has coached at Jacksonville, Routt Catholic and Quincy Notre Dame High Schools. He has more than 400 career wins in IHSA baseball, 29 career wins in IHSA football, and 435 career wins in American Legion baseball. Curtis is a member of IHSA and is a certified basketball and football official.

New staff member to MacMurray College is Assistant Coach Doug Brady. A former Chicago White Sox player, Brady brings expertise and experience in fielding, hitting and base running.

MacMurray College Baseball Schedule 2008-2009

Date & Time	Opponent	Location
3/9/2009 3:00 PM DH	Freed Hardeman University	Henderson, TN
3/9/2009 Game 2	Freed Hardeman University	Henderson, TN
3/10/2009 2:30 PM DH	Union University	Jackson, TN
3/10/2009 Game 2	Union University	Jackson, TN
3/11/2009 1:00 PM	Lambuth University	Jackson, TN
3/12/2009 1:00 PM	Lane College	Jackson, TN
3/15/2009 1:00 PM DH	University of Dubuque	Home
3/15/2009 Game 2	University of Dubuque	Home
3/17/2009 1:00 PM DH	Eureka College	Home
3/17/2009 Game 2	Eureka College	Home
3/19/2009 2:00 PM	St. Louis Christian College	Home
3/21/2009 1:00 PM DH	Maryville University	St. Louis, MO
3/21/2009 Game 2	Maryville University	St. Louis, MO
3/22/2009 2:00 PM	Maryville University	Home
3/25/2009 2:00 PM	Eureka College	Eureka, IL
3/26/2009 2:00 PM	Lincoln Christian College	Home
3/28/2009 1:00 PM DH	Fontbonne University	St. Louis, MO

3/28/2009 Game 2	Fontbonne University	St. Louis, MO
3/29/2009 2:00 PM	Fontbonne University	Home
3/31/2009 1:00 PM DH	Principia College	Home
3/31/2009 Game 2	Principia College	Home
4/2/2009 6:00 PM	Robert Morris (Springfield)	Springfield, IL
4/4/2009 2:00 PM DH	Westminster College	Fulton, MO
4/4/2009 Game 2	Westminster College	Fulton, MO
4/5/2009 2:00 PM	Westminster College	Fulton, MO
4/7/2009 4:30 PM	Principia College	Elsah, IL
4/10/2009 12:00 PM	Webster University	St. Louis, MO
4/11/2009 1:00 PM DH	Webster University	Home
4/11/2009 Game 2	Webster University	Home
4/14/2009 2:00 PM DH	Blackburn College	Home
4/14/2009 Game 2	Blackburn College	Home
4/17/2009 3:00 PM	Greenville College	Home
4/18/2009 1:00 PM DH	Greenville College	Greenville , IL
4/18/2009 Game 2	Greenville College	Greenville , IL
4/21/2009 3:00 PM	Hannibal-LaGrange	Home
4/22/2009 3:00 PM	Blackburn College	Carlinville, IL
4/29/2009 3:00 PM	Illinois College	Home
4/30/2009 12:00 PM	Monmouth College	Monmouth, IL
5/7/2009 TBA	SLIAC Tournament	Highland, IL
5/8/2009 TBA	SLIAC Tournament	Highland, IL
5/9/2009 TBA	SLIAC Tournament	Highland, IL
5/10/2009 TBA	SLIAC Tournament	Highland, IL

* Check www.mac.edu for most current game changes.

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About MacMurray College—Founded in 1846, MacMurray College is a private, four-year liberal arts coeducational institution, located in historic Jacksonville, Illinois. MacMurray's open, informal environment stresses academic excellence, career building through hands-on experience and personal attention to the well-rounded development of all students. MacMurray is affiliated with the United Methodist Church.