

## **2016 SEASON PREVIEW**

In 2016, the Cuyahoga Community College baseball team looks to build on successful campaign in 2015 where they finished 36-20 overall. During the 2015 season the Challengers spent time in the national polls ranked as high as 21<sup>st</sup> and finished in second place in the very competitive Ohio Community College Athletic Conference. Some of the highlights from the 2015 season included an opening-day double-header sweep of Catawba Valley Community College (NC) who went on to finish third at the NJCAA Division II World Series; three wins against conference champion Sinclair Community College; and winning streaks of seven and nine games during the season. While second-year Head Coach Evan Agona was pleased with the results in his inaugural season, expectations have been raised in his second year as the Challengers look to compete for the OCCAC crown and reach the post-season.

While six players from last year's team have moved on to 4-year programs, the 2016 squad will have some experienced players back in key positions. The returning position players are led by two catchers; including All-Conference selection Gabriel Vargas (Caracas, Venezuela/UE Jose Tadeo Monagas) and Richie Perez (Valencia, Venezuela/UE Patria Soberana). Additionally, sophomore infielders John Izquierdo (Corona, NY/Luna CC) and Windermi Mora (Valencia, Venezuela/UEC El Nazareno) were regulars in the lineup last season. Several other second-year players including first-basemen Tyler Lienerth (Grafton/Midview), outfielders Tyler Deutsch (Parma/Parma) and Jesus Roldan (Cleveland/Lakewood, as well as infielder Jacob Miller (Pickerington/North) look to see increasing roles.

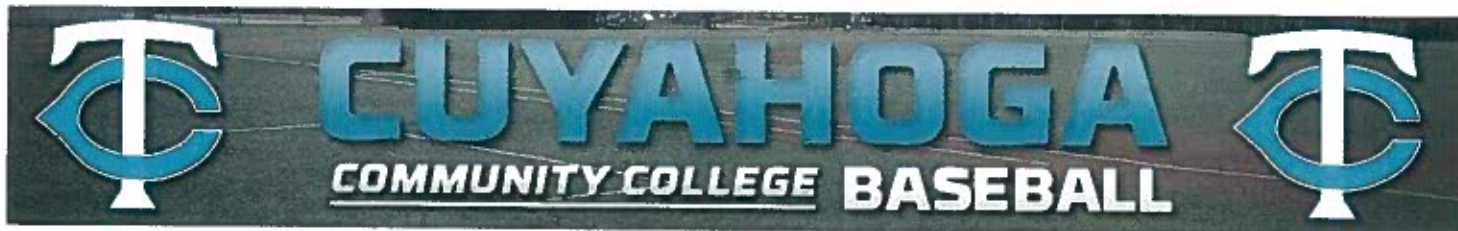
In addition to some key returning position players, the coaching staff has brought in talented crop of freshmen. In the infield expect to see newcomers Manny Rodriguez (Cleveland/Lincoln West), Max Lavisky (Lakewood/Lakewood), Ricky Kemp (Brunswick/Brunswick), and Collin Minor (Medina/Medina) competing for significant time while several others will be in the mix. The outfield looks to be highly competitive this spring with a group of rookies led by Matt Starcovic (North Olmsted/North Olmsted), Jim Parker (Berea/Midpark), and Zach Desa (London, Ontario/H.B. Beal). Additionally, freshmen catcher Hunter Tome (Westerville/New Albany) will see time behind the plate.

One area thin on experience will be on the mound. The only returning arms that saw significant innings last season are sophomores Kyle Warner (Elyria/Midview) and Gaby Bordones (Valencia, Venezuela/Calusa Prep) who is transitioning to a pitcher-only this spring. Like the position players the pitching staff also has a couple players, Brandon Fatsie (North Olmsted/North Olmsted) and Jesus Roldan who saw limited time on the mound in their first season that will likely see expanded roles this spring.

Although there may not be lot of experience on the mound, the coaching staff is excited about the new additions to the program. Arms looking to make an immediate impact include Doug Smith (Galloway/Central Crossing), Mitch Cromley (Bowling Green/Bowling Green), Anthony Savarino (Olmsted Falls/Olmsted Falls), Juan Perez (Cleveland/J.F. Rhodes), Billy Smith (Macedonia/Nordonia) who missed last season with injury and previously mentioned Max Lavisky. Several other new pitchers are also competing for innings and look to provide needed depth on the mound at this point.

The 2016 schedule will be highly competitive and kicks off with a trip to Emerson, Georgia March 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>. First pitch is scheduled for 4:30 PM on opening-day versus Georgia Highlands College. After returning home for a week the team travels south again during its' annual spring break trip where they are scheduled to play 12 games against four different opponents in North Carolina and Virginia. This year's home opener is set for Friday March 25<sup>th</sup> with a 3:00 PM double-header against Genesee Community College (NY). Ohio Community College Athletic Conference play starts-up up the following weekend as the team plays host to conference newcomer Edison Community College in a four-game series on April 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Be sure to follow the progress of the Cuyahoga Community College baseball team all season long with updates on Twitter @TriCBaseball and stats at <http://stats.ncaa.org/sports/bsb/2015-16/div2/teams/cuyahogacommunitycollege>



## **2016 SEASON RECAP**

While the Challengers came up short of a trip to the NJCAA Division II World Series after a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish in the NJCAA Region XII Tournament last week, the team ended a record-setting campaign with a record of 47-14. Throughout the season the Challengers competed against one of the toughest schedules in the country including 30 of 61 games against opponents with 30 or more wins and 9 games against opponents with 40 or more wins. Additionally, the Challengers took on two opponents that qualified for the NJCAA Division II World Series accumulating a record of 5-1 against these teams. After a slow start to the season, the team rattled off an impressive 18-game winning streak from March 19<sup>th</sup> to April 19<sup>th</sup> and finished the season winning 40 of their last 46 games. The Challengers also posted a perfect 29-0 home record at Ron Mottl Field, and have been an impressive 53-6 at home during the past two seasons. Ranked 8<sup>th</sup> in the most recent Marucci NJCAA Division II national poll, the Challengers were ranked as high as #6 throughout the course of the season. While the 2016 will be one to remember, it also will serve as motivation for the 2017 team as the program looks to capture the Region XII title and advance to World Series.

Along with the success of the team, several players garnered individual awards for their performances throughout the season. Highlighting the award winners is freshman INF Manny Rodriguez (Cleveland/Lincoln West) who was selected as Ohio Community College Athletic Conference Player of the Year. Additionally, three other freshmen including OF Matt Starcovic (North Olmsted/North Olmsted), RHP/1B Max Lavisky (Lakewood/Lakewood) and LHP Juan Perez (Cleveland/James F. Rhodes) earned all-conference recognition. Rounding out the All-Conference selections was sophomore C Gabriel Vargas (Caracas, Venezuela) who is also a repeat recipient from 2015. Manny Rodriguez was also selected to the All-Region team, while Max Lavisky, Matt Starcovic, and fellow freshman Collin Minor (Medina/Medina) were honored as All-Region Gold Glove selections. Rounding out the post-season awards Collin Minor and freshman RHP Doug Smith (Galloway/Central Crossing) were selected to the All-Tournament team for their performances and the recent Region XII Tournament.

A pitching staff that finished the season with a 3.21 team ERA good enough for 5<sup>th</sup> best in the country paved the way all season long for the team's success. Max Lavisky led the team in wins with 9, including a no-hitter on April 15<sup>th</sup> versus Clark State CC. Doug Smith was steady in his starts all season long and finished with an 8-3 record to go along with a 2.21 ERA. The remainder of the starting duties much of the season were done by sophomore RHP Kyle Warner (Elyria/Midview) and freshman RHP Mitch Cromley (Bowling Green/Bowling Green). Warner settled into the rotation prior to conference play and finished with 5-1 record, while Cromley was a mainstay in the rotation other than a missing an outing due to injury and finished 5-1 with an ERA of 1.82. Several arms have provided key contributions out of the bullpen, but Juan Perez led the way all season long. Perez had a team-high 18 appearances, a team-best 0.96 ERA and had a record of 4-1 to go along with 7 saves. Additionally, freshman RHP Anthony Savarino (Olmsted Falls/Olmsted Falls), sophomore RHP Gaby Bordones (Venezuela/Calusa Prep) and freshman LHP Michael Byrne (Highland Heights/Mayfield) contributed significant innings as in bullpen roles and non-conference starters.

Leading the way offensively were All-Conference selections Manny Rodriguez and Matt Starcovic. Rodriguez led the team with a .375 AVG, as well as having 6 HR's and 14 SB's, while Starcovic had team highs in hits, HR's, and RBI's. Gabriel Vargas was a major contributor in the middle of the lineup, as well as contributing outstanding defensive behind the plate, and led the team in XBH's with 23 and finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in RBI's. Other players that had very productive seasons offensively were sophomores and 2-year starters; SS John Izquierdo (Corona, NY/John Bowne), OF Tyler Deutsch (Parma/Parma), OF/INF Windermi Mora (Guacara, Venezuela) and C/1B Richie Perez (Valencia, Venezuela). Izquierdo returned to the lineup mid-season after an early injury to finish with 17 XBH's and Deutsch finished 3<sup>rd</sup> on the team with 33 RBI, including 4 HR's. Mora finished out a great individual season leading the team in steals with 16 and tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> in XBH's at 19, while Perez was a steady contributor in the middle of the lineup all season long. Finishing out the mainstays in the lineup was Collin Minor who played outstanding defense at 3B and finished 2<sup>nd</sup> on the team in hits.

Thank you to everyone who has followed the team's progress all season long. You can also continue to follow program news and updates during the off-season on our webpage <http://www.tri-c.edu/athletics/mens-baseball/index.html>; or on our social media accounts on Twitter @TriCBaseball and the Tri-C Men's Baseball page on Facebook. Final team stats can be found at <http://stats.njcaa.org/sports/bsb/2015-16/div2/teams/cuyahogacommunitycollege>

# PARMA CITY COUNCIL <sup>1-119-16llc</sup>

## A Resolution

by

**BRIAN BROCHETTI, LAWRENCE NAPOLI**  
MARK CASSELBERRY, JEFFREY CROSSMAN, VITO DIPIERRO  
ALLAN DIVIS, DEBORAH LIME, KRISTIN L. SABAN, SCOTT M. TUMA

### A RESOLUTION HONORING *Tri-C Men's Baseball "Challengers"* 2016 OHIO COMMUNITY COLLEGE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE WINNERS

**WHEREAS the CHALLENGERS** are being honored and recognized for their outstanding baseball team achievements. The team finished third in the NJCAA Region XII Tournament recently, and ended a record-setting campaign with a record of 47-14. The Challengers competed with one of the toughest schedules in the country which included 30 of 61 games against opponents with 30 or more wins, and 9 games against opponents with 40 or more wins. Two of their opponents who qualified for the NJCAA Division II World Series, were bested by the Challengers 5-1. They were ranked as high as 6th during the season and recently were ranked 8th in the most recent Marucci NJCAA Division II national poll; and

**WHEREAS the CHALLENGERS** posted a perfect 29-0 home record at Mottl Field. During the past two seasons they have had a 53-6 home stand. The Challengers were led by Head Coach Evan Agona, Assistant Coaches Scott Saylor and Bob Merritt. Mark Rodriguez is the Cuyahoga Community College's Athletic Director. The players are:

Manny Rodriguez	Brandon Fatsie	Juan Perez	Windermi Mora	Ty Castillo
Tyler Deutsch	Kyle Warner	John Izquierdo	Doug Smith	Ricky Kemp
William Smith	Michael Byrne	Steven Burgos	Jacob Miller	Hunter Tome
Anthony Savarino	Jacob Linhares	Matt Starcovic	Alex Perrella	Gaby Bordonos
Jesus Roldan	Richie Perez	Jim Parker	Gabriel Vargas	Danny Shaw
Brandon Boazman	Zach Desa	Collin Minor	Todd Andrews	Max Lavisky
Tyler Lienerth	Mitch Cromley	Matt Flanigan; and		

**WHEREAS the CHALLENGERS** were ranked 5th best in the country for their pitching staff that finished the season with a 3.21 ERA. This paved the way for their exceptional season. From March 19th through April 19th, they had a 18 game winning streak and finished the season winning 40 of their 46 games; and

**WHEREAS the CHALLENGERS** have several outstanding players who captured awards this season: INF Manny Rodriguez selected as Ohio Community College Athletic Conference Player of the Year and named to the All-Region team; OF Matt Starcovic won All Conference and All-Region Gold Glove; RHP/1B Max Lavisky won All Conference and All-Region Gold Glove; LHP Juan Perez earned All Conference; C Gabriel Vargas second time All Conference winner; 3B Collin Minor for All-Region Gold Glove and to the All-Tournament team; RHP Doug Smith selected to the All-Tournament team; and all of their teammates combined their energies and talents to lift the Challengers to be an awesome force in their division and conference; and

**WHEREAS the CHALLENGERS** has set a goal for 2017 to win the Regional XII title and advance to the World Series. With the talent of their bench and bull pen, we are hoping they accomplish this goal.


**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PARMA, COUNTY OF CUYAHOGA, AND STATE OF OHIO:**

That this entire Council, its President, Sean P. Brennan, and the Administration hereby honor **CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE MEN'S BASEBALL TEAM - THE CHALLENGERS** on their accomplishments in attaining the 2016 Ohio Community College Athletic Conference title. Congratulations!

  
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL SEAN P. BRENNAN

  
COUNCILMAN BRIAN BROCHETTI

  
COUNCILMAN LAWRENCE NAPOLI

  
KENNETH A. RAMSER, CLERK OF  
COUNCIL, hereby certifies that the  
above is a true and correct copy of  
Resolution No. 119-16.