



Quad City Hitmen Baseball Academy families,

We are excited to announce that the Quad City Hitmen Academy is taking a huge step with our 15u, 16u, and 17u program by partnering with 29ers Baseball to ensure our athletes will always have a home and a competitive environment upon graduating the Hitmen after their 14u season. The 29ers have agreed to extend their program to the Quad Cities and surrounding areas. For those players that are serious about playing collegiate baseball and interested in getting exposure at all tournament events, this is the program for you.

For those not familiar with 29ers Baseball, the organization is based out of Lisle, IL and is a top level program at the older levels of competition. The 29ers are led by Jorge Acosta, a former Rock Falls standout athlete, four time letter winner for the Augustana Vikings, Augustana assistant coach, and current assistant coach at Benet Academy. The 29ers are driven by the dedication and commitment from Jorge who knows what it takes to continue playing baseball at the next level and the program caters to teams 15u through 18u.

**When:** 29ers tryouts will be held Wednesday, July 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm (CHECK IN beginning at 4:30) at Duane R. Swanson Stadium; the home of the Augustana Vikings in Moline, IL. Tryouts will be conducted by Jorge Acosta and Scott Lawler. All registrations need to be done online at [www.29ersbaseball.org](http://www.29ersbaseball.org).

**Why 29ers:** The 29ers organization currently has the consulting services of Lawler Baseball Training to help guide our players and families through the college recruitment process. Lawler Baseball Training, led by Scott Lawler, will help our players understand the recruiting process and provide them opportunities to increase their exposure to college coaches including our annual 29ers College Showcase every summer. Scott is currently an Associate Scout with the Miami Marlins and brings with him over 10 years of NCAA D1 college coaching and recruiting experience. He is the former Associate Head Coach and Recruiting Coordinator at the University of Notre Dame with additional coaching success at the University of Arkansas Little Rock, University of Evansville, and Northern Illinois University. During that time, Scott has recruited 35 players who went on to play professional baseball. Currently, Scott is the Assistant Athletic Director and Head Baseball Coach at Benet Academy in Lisle, IL.

The 29ers organization also participates in the highly competitive Chicago Scouts Association made up of the best travel baseball programs in the Midwest. To amplify the exposure of our players, the 29ers will also compete in some of the best tournaments and showcases in the Midwest and the nation. Led by coaches with decades of college, high school, and travel experience, the 29ers offer some of the best year-long baseball instruction in the Chicagoland and now the Quad City area. The 29ers staff strives to maximize each player's physical talents while also enhancing their mental approach to the game.

**Additional Info:** The 29ers coaches and evaluators will choose the best number of players at each age level and supplement two rosters according to those team needs. The 29ers invite college coaches, at all levels, that show interest in recruiting their players. Several college coaches come to the events the 29ers compete in throughout the summer. The 29ers will also evaluate the players two times per year. They will begin with an evaluation day in the Fall/Winter and also in mid-Summer. The mid-Summer recruiting showcase evaluation day will be conducted as a camp atmosphere with college coaches directing and teaching on the field of play. Coach Lawler will do a recruiting seminar for all players in the program first. After the recruiting seminar and evaluation periods, players that are ready to be recruited will have a one on one meeting to get an idea of schools that fit that player and the 29ers assist in making contact with those colleges.

**Schedule:** During the summer months, the 29ers will compete nine to ten weekends. The schedule will not be high level travel competition every weekend. There will be a weekend in the Quad Cities and possible double headers after a long trip. The 29ers will compete in some of the best showcases and tournaments in the Midwest and also compete at the regional and national levels throughout the year. In the winter months the 29ers - Quad City based team will work out at Fielder's Choice Indoor Sports doing a high level baseball training program. There will also be one Winter Showcase (similar to the Summer Showcase) in Plainfield, IL. In the Fall, the 29ers will play three to four weekends (8-18 games). \*\*During Fall and Winter, multi-sport athletes are ok\*\*

**Coaching:** The 29ers coaching staff will consist of current and former professional, independent, college, and travel coaches and players that have years of coaching experience. The 29ers will only put the best coaches on the field to help our players. Coaches for the Quad City area are below:

17u – Caleb Rangel – Coach Rangel was a 4-year Varsity letter winner at Alleman High School, earning 1<sup>st</sup> team All-Metro recognition his junior and senior seasons, and received 1<sup>st</sup> team All-Western Big Six honors his senior year. Caleb was also a 4-year Varsity letter winner and start at Central College. Caleb receiving Most Valuable Newcomer Award, two 1<sup>st</sup> team All-Conference Awards, two time Most Valuable Player Award, and the 2009 Offensive Player of the Year Award for the Dutch. Caleb has been coaching in the Quad City Hitmen Academy for five years leading a team to a runner finish at the World Series of America.

16u – Scott Harding – Coach Harding has coached baseball for over 20 years at the College, High School, and Youth levels. Scott has enjoyed success at each of those levels. He has had numerous players move on to play Collegiate baseball and 11 former players were drafted into professional baseball. Scott has also earned Coach of the Year honors numerous times and his teams have excelled at every level.

15u – TBA

Again, the Quad City Hitmen Academy is excited to bring this opportunity to our area. There is no better option if you wish to continue playing baseball at the highest level, continue to develop and grow, and continue working towards the goal of playing college baseball.

Thank you and we will see you all next year,

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