

Instructor Biographies



The Action Sports Center's instruction philosophy is founded on the principle of training the athlete to become as athletically efficient and fundamentally sound for their specific skill; be it pitching, hitting, fielding or throwing. In addition to the physical approach to the game, Action Sports Center's instructors reinforce and instill intangibles such as:

- Confident and Disciplined approach to the 'trade' of baseball
- Techniques to help maintain Focus
- Mental Approach and Attitude towards the skill, the team and the game
- Personal Accountability
- Appreciation and Respect for the coach, the team and game of baseball

Action Sports Center prides itself in the coaching staff. Below currently represents our on-staff instructors.

Michael Murphy (RHP) – Head Instructor

Instruction Focus: Pitching and Throwing Mechanics

Philosophy:

Mike takes pride in teaching and helping young athletes achieve their goals, whether it's as simple as performing better at the recreational level or playing the game at higher levels. Mike's teaching philosophy is simple, learn the game, respect the game, enjoy the game and practice the game with discipline. As it applies to pitching and throwing, mechanics, like most sports is the cornerstone to successful execution. Focus is always given to maximizing all aspects of the delivery of a baseball, from balance to weight transfer and follow through. Focus is placed on finding a player's comfortable arm slot/throwing angle and working from there. No two players are alike and every player learns differently. The key is finding what works for the particular athlete. The desired goal is to maximize mechanics by minimizing extra or unnecessary motion often introduced to the throwing techniques of young athletes.

Experience:

- Over 30 years playing experience at all levels of baseball
- Manhattan College Varsity Baseball - Bronx, NY – 1980 – 1983
 - Catching
 - Pitching
- Cleveland Indians
 - Drafted 1983 June Draft –18th Round 455th pick overall as a right handed pitcher
 - 1983 – Batavia Trojans – (Rookie) – NY Penn League
 - 1984 – Waterloo Indians - Midwest League (A) – All Star
 - 1984 - Buffalo Bisons – Eastern League (AA)
 - 1985 - Waterloo Indians – Midwest League (A)
 - 1986 – Waterbury Indians - Eastern League (AA) – All Star
 - 1986 - Maine Guides – International League (AAA)
 - 1987 - Buffalo Bisons - American Association (AAA) - 40 Man Roster
 - 1988 - Colorado Springs Sky Sox – Pacific Coast League (AAA)
 - 1988 - Williamsport Indians – Eastern League (AA)
 - 1988 - Retired

Rob Cooper – Guest Instructor/Head Coach Wright State University

Instruction Focus: Hitting

Rob Copper was named just the fourth head coach in the 38-year history of the program on July 14th, 2004 and began to model the program after him as a person and a competitor. In his five seasons at the helm, Cooper has guided his teams to four-straight 30+ win seasons, has made 3 appearances in the Horizon League Championship Game, winning two of them, and has led WSU to a pair of NCAA Regional berths.

The California native took the reins of the Wright State program after serving as an assistant coach at national-power Oral Roberts and immediately instilled a renewed passion and focus to this already strong program. He has helped the program grow through fund raising and community involvement, organizing the Wright State Baseball First Pitch Banquet before the start of each season and planning the annual Military Appreciation Night at Nischwitz Stadium.

He has directed the program to 157 victories over his first five seasons, with his 2007 squad setting the school standard with 21 wins in Horizon League play. He is one of only five coaches to lead his team to multiple Division I NCAA Tournaments at Wright State, guiding the Green and Gold to a Regional in 2006 and 2009. He has watched nine of his players sign professional contracts, five of those being selected in the Major League Baseball Draft, while three players have garnered All-American honors, 25 players have been selected to the All-League teams and 13 players have earned All-Newcomer honors.

Cooper has twice joined Team USA as an assistant coach during his time at Wright State, joining the 2007 and 2009 squads on their international tours. Two of Cooper's players have accompanied him on those trips, with Jeremy Hamilton making the '07 squad and Casey McGrew was a mainstay in the lineup for the 2009 Collegiate National Team. In 2007, Cooper helped Team USA to a silver medal at the Pan-American Games in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil. Cooper helped Team USA compile a 25-12 overall record during their summer of play.

The 2009 Wright State team compiled a 33-30 overall record, including a victory over #1-ranked Georgia in Athens. The schedule included four teams ranked among the top-25 and a handful of national powers that received votes during the season. WSU claimed victories over national contenders Tulane, Kent State and UNC Wilmington on the road, while facing the #1-ranked

The 2008 season was the third straight season that Cooper won 30 or more games, posting a 30-23 mark, and the Raiders completed their Horizon League schedule with a 16-6 mark. The 16 wins were good enough to finish second in the league and six players received All-Horizon League honors. Jeremy Hamilton was named the Horizon League Player of the Year, while four other players were named to the All-Horizon League First Team.

At season's end, Cooper watched as a school and Horizon League-record three players were drafted during the 2008 Major League Baseball First Year Player Draft. Jeremy Hamilton, Justin Parker and Ross Vagedes were all selected during the draft, in the fifth, sixth and 35th rounds respectively.

The 2008 squad set school records for batting average and slugging percentage, while Hamilton became the fifth WSU player to post a batting average of .400 or better (.410). The Raiders also led the Horizon League in batting average, total bases, fielding percentage and fewest hits allowed by a pitching staff. Five Wright State players led the Horizon League in an offensive, defensive or pitching category, with Hamilton leading the league in walks, slugging percentage and on-base percentage.

In 2007, Wright State enjoyed one of the most prolific offensive seasons in school history as they broke three career records and 11 single-season school records. Ross Oeder was named the Horizon League Player of the Year and garnered Second Team All-American Honors, while Dan Biedenharn won the Rawlings Gold Glove at third base. Oeder and Justin Parker were each selected to the ABCA All-Region team and Hamilton was added to the USA Collegiate National Team roster during the summer.

During that season, the Raiders posted a pair of victories over then-18th ranked Mississippi in Oxford, Mississippi, and posted a winning record on the road for the first time since 1994. The Green and Gold also posted 15 wins at home and set a new school standard for league wins in a season with 21. WSU made their second trip to the Horizon League Championship game in 2007, falling in the finale to UIC. Senior Brian Shoup set a tournament single-game record for home runs, with three, against Milwaukee to propel the Raiders into the championship game.

The 2006 edition of the Green and Gold set six school records and posted the most season wins in five years. During the '06 slate, Cooper's squad defeated nationally-ranked TCU on the road, topped national-powerhouse Notre Dame in South Bend and was on the brink of an upset against eventual national champion Oregon State in the NCAA Corvallis Regional.

In five seasons at the helm, Cooper has seen nine of his players sign professional free agent contracts and has had five of players selected in the Major League Baseball Draft. Joe Smith, who was the 2006 Horizon League Pitcher of the Year, was drafted in the fifth round by the New York Mets and made his major league debut on Opening Day of the 2007 season with the Mets. Ross Oeder, the 2007 Horizon League Player of the Year, was taken by the St. Louis Cardinals in the 2007 draft and played for the Quad City River Bandits last season. In 2008, Hamilton was drafted by the Philadelphia Phillies in the fifth round, Parker was taken in the sixth round by the Arizona Diamondbacks and Vagedes was chosen by the Chicago Cubs in the 35th round.

Cooper has coached 34 All-League performers, two All-Americans and one Freshman All-American. Oeder and Smith were the first players in history to garner the Player and Pitcher of the Year honor since WSU joined the Horizon League/Midwestern Collegiate Conference. Oeder became only the sixth player in league history to earn the league's player of the year and tournament MVP honor in his career. With Oeder, Hamilton and Mercer winning the Player of

the Year awards in 2007, 2008 and 2009, they became the first trio of teammates to claim the awards in three consecutive seasons.

Before coming to WSU, Cooper served as the hitting coach, recruiting coordinator and bench coach at Oral Roberts University. A perennial power of the Mid-Continent Conference, ORU advanced to the finals of the NCAA Austin Regional in 2004, beating TCU twice and losing to top-seeded Texas 7-3 and 7-5. The Golden Eagles, who finished with an overall mark of 50-11 in 2004, also boasted regular-season wins over national powers Arkansas, Arizona State twice, Creighton three times and Wichita State. Oral Roberts also had five players selected in the Major League Baseball draft, two honored as All-Americans by the American Baseball Coaches Association and three named All-Americans by the College Baseball Insiders website.

Cooper began his coaching career at national power Miami (FL), spending two seasons (1994-95) as a student/graduate assistant on the Hurricanes' staff. While at Miami, Cooper helped lead the Hurricanes to College World Series berths in 1994 and 1995.

The Colorado native spent the 1996 season as an assistant and team academic coordinator at Wake Forest, then moved on to Tulane for the next two seasons, serving as the Green Wave's hitting coach. During his tenure as an assistant coach at Miami and Tulane, his teams advanced to NCAA Tournaments in 1994-95 (Miami) and 1998 (Tulane). In 1997, the Green Wave won the Conference USA regular-season crown.

Cooper left Tulane following the 1998 season and returned to Sacramento City College, where he starred in the early 1990's before lettering at Miami in 1993. In his first season at Sac City, Cooper helped guide SCC to the California Community College State Tournament championship. Sac City was then the runner-up in 2002.

Along with his college coaching experience, Cooper also was an associate scout for the Los Angeles Dodgers from 1990-92 and has been selected to three coaching stints with USA Baseball in 2000, 2007 and 2009.

Cooper earned his bachelor's degree in psychology from Miami in 1994 and a master's in sports sciences/administration from Miami in 1994. Cooper and his wife, Maureen, reside in the Beavercreek area and have two children, Jake and Tyson.

Aron Low – Staff Instructor

Instruction Focus: Catching, Infield

Philosophy:

The key is to master the little things. Regardless of skill, if you can master the intricacies of catching and establish solid mechanics, success follows. Closely aligned with the physical part of the game, understanding the mental aspects of catching can make the difference between a good and great receiver. Part of my philosophy is to teach an understanding of the techniques related to catching in order to provide the player with the tools to understand their tools and learn to self diagnose. I understand that players don't all learn the same way and am always looking for ways to improve my teaching skills to maximize the students experience.

Experience:

- Recruited to play baseball in 2002 for TCU
- Instructor and Athletic trainer for 4 years for TCU
- Texas State head athletic trainer
- Head Athletic trainer, 2009, for Oneonta Tigers, Class A affiliate of Detroit Tigers

Jon Durket (LHP) – Guest Instructor

Instruction Focus: Pitching and Throwing Mechanics, Left-Handed Specialist

Philosophy:

Jon takes pride in teaching young athletes about the art of pitching in a fun, high-energy environment. Jon's goal is simple, to use his experiences to help young athletes reach their goals. Jon's pitching philosophy consists of three parts: work hard, practice perfect, and have fun. Working hard is essential to reach one's potential. And as many young athletes will learn it is often hard work that separates them from their peers. Practice perfect is the idea that precise practice leads to execution in a game. In other words, by making practice as game-like as possible, a young athlete won't be affected negatively once in a game. The last part of Jon's philosophy is the most important, have fun. Having fun is the most important part of pitching because at the end of the day baseball is a game, and it's meant to be fun, and that can never be forgotten.

Experience:

- Over 18 years of playing experience at all levels of baseball.
- Wright State University Baseball – Dayton, OH -2006 -2011
 - Spent time as a Reliever, Left-Handed Specialist, and Starter. Earned 1st team all league honors as a member of the raiders as well as back-to-back Horizon League player of the week honors.
- Signed as a free agent in 2010 with the Lake Erie Crushers of the Frontier League.

Justin Parker – Guest Instructor

Instruction Focus: Hitting

Wright State University Coach and Former Player

2008 First Team All-Horizon League

2008 ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District Second Team

2008 Preseason Brooks Wallace Award Watch List

2007 Second Team ABCA All-Region

2007 First Team All-Horizon League

2006 Horizon League All-Newcomer Team

Honors and Awards: Named 2008 First Team All-Horizon League at Shortstop...garnered CoSIDA/ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District during the 2008 season...named to the 2008 Brooks Wallace Award Preseason Watch List...selected to the 2007 American Baseball Coaches Association All-Mideast Region Second Team...garnered First Team All-Horizon League honors in 2007...named Horizon League Scholar-Athlete of the Week three times in 2007...named to the Academic All-Horizon League Baseball Team in 2007...named to the Horizon League All-Newcomer Team in 2006.

2008: Sixth Round Draft Pick of the Arizona Diamondbacks in the Major League Baseball First Year Player Draft...started 46 games at shortstop...missed seven games after being struck in the jaw with a pitch at Arkansas (2/24)...collected 21 multi-hit and 15 multi-RBI games...carried four hitting streaks of ten or more games during the 2008 season...

2007: Named First Team All-Horizon League...garnered Rawlings Second Team All-Region honors from the American Baseball Coaches Association...named to the 2007 Horizon League All-Academic Team...selected to the Fall and Spring Academic All-League Honor Roll...named the Horizon League US Army Scholar-Athlete of the Week three times...set the single season school record for doubles in a season with 26...ranked sixth in the nation in doubles-per-game....ranked 90th in the nation in batting average...led the Horizon League in doubles (26)...ranked among the leagues top-ten in slugging percentage (4th), batting average (5th), on-base percentage (5th), runs scored (5th), hit-by-pitch (6th), stolen bases (6th), walks (7th), total bases (7th), hits (8th) and RBI's (8th)...posted 21 multi-hit games and eight multi-RBI games...carried a hitting streak of 23 games...ended the season with a five game hitting streak...started 53 games

2006: Named to the Horizon League All-Newcomer Team...ranked eighth in the Horizon League in stolen bases (8)...collected first collegiate hit in the season opener against IPFW...

Prep: Lettered all four years for the Generals...two-time All-Summit Athletic Conference selection...named to the All-City team as a junior and senior...was selected to the All-Northeast Indiana as a junior...named to the Division 3A All-State team his senior season as he hit .498 with six home runs and 22 stolen bases...holds school record for batting average in a season, set as a senior, leading his team to the sectional championship...also earned two letters in football, where he garnered all-conference and all-state honors his senior season, and lettered twice in basketball...drafted by the Minnesota Twins in the 43rd round of the 2005 Major League draft.

Personal: Born Justin David Parker on March 14, 1987...son of Brent and Ranelle Parker...has one brother, Jarod