

What makes Superman a hero is not that he has power, but that he has the wisdom and maturity to use the power wisely.

-Christopher Reeve

If there is a young, gifted, standout, athlete at the Braintree Baseball Club, it is Jordan Gorham. It is well-known that Jordan has been born with great talent. Just like the quote above, Jordan has matured through his adolescence. Jordan understands his gifts, and is learning to use them to teach others; while also evolving in the classroom and on the baseball diamond.

My relationship with Jordan began 3 years ago. He was a young 10, looking to become a Bandit. He wasn't much different than any other boy. He proved to be a talented player for his age and so he made the team. Becoming a great baseball player takes more than just talent. You have to commit to learning and studying the game. You have to learn how to become a better player. You have to learn what that process to becoming a better player is all about. It was clear this was a part of the game Jordan needed to improve upon; he needed to learn what it would take to become a better player.

The past 3 years have been filled with constant hard work either on the field or indoors at the club. The work has also been done in the classroom where he has improved on many student-athlete qualities. He has focused on taking better notes in class, his study skills for test taking has improved, he is asking questions to teachers and making time after school for his studies. Those are just a few areas where Jordan has made great adjustments in his adolescence. I'm very proud to reward Jordan with May's Athlete of the Month. We, as the coaches, would not be giving Jordan this award, especially at this time of year, if we did not believe that Jordan has made the necessary improvements in the classroom; while representing the club on the field.

This spring, Jordan has made some of the biggest jumps as an individual player that I have seen during my career. He is a competitive player and he is a very smart player. He combined these two qualities while becoming a better pitcher on the mound. He learned about the pace of the game and how to hold runners. On top of pitching, he played a number of different positions this year and many of those positions he has never played. He played every position except left field at least once. On top of his on-field performance, I also watched Jordan with the younger players this winter and spring. If we were indoors, and younger players were with us, Jordan was there to point them in the right direction. I could always count on Jordan to demonstrate drills for the younger guys. At the same time with his peers, there were times during games where he would make a point to go to the mound and slow the game down to talk to the pitcher if he was struggling. He would do this from any position. Finally, there were his very impressive numbers. While hitting for a .538 average he hit 5 homeruns, 25 runs batted in, scored 27 runs, stole 22 bases, and only struck out 5 times over 62 at bats.

Needless to say, he had a great year. I believe Jordan is totally capable of taken the next step to the big diamond as he has already played a few games for our older teams during the fall and spring. I envision a great future for this young man as he is heading on the right path.

Thanks and congratulations on a great year

Jay Schnabel