

“Even when opportunity knocks, a man still has to get up off his seat
and answer the door.”

-Douglas MacArthur

There are always questions for a coaching staff as a sport season comes to an end; most have to do with next season. What will be our strengths? What will be our weaknesses? Where will we need help? Even with success, which was the case for Braintree High Baseball after they won the Super 8 State Championship, there will still these questions. The coaching staff determined that their strength would still be in their pitching and defense but they would need help on offense after graduating 5 of their top 6 hitters. There was plenty of opportunity for the boys coming back but at bats would be earned, not given, as Braintree looked to defend their state championship. One athlete in particular took advantage of the situation and became a huge reason why Braintree was able to win back to back Super 8 State Championship. Sean Casey is the June Athlete of the Month for his leadership, attitude, work ethic and most importantly for his offense during the regular and postseason for Braintree High.

As a junior in 2015, Sean was playing sparingly for varsity and getting some at bats at junior varsity as well. However, like the coaching staff, Sean knew there would be at bats for him in 2016 and he would have to take advantage in order to earn a spot in lineup. As soon as hockey season was over, Sean was at the BBC for Captain's practice and on his own preparing for his senior campaign. During the regular season, Sean became a staple in the Braintree lineup. However, it was during the Super 8 that Sean truly shined. In his first Super 8 appearance verse Saint John's Prep, Sean went 2-5 with 2 runs batted in. He would also go 2-5 against Xaverian in the team's key win leading to another Super 8 final against Saint John's Prep. Coach Bill O'Connell had some great words to say about Sean, "Sean is a program guy, he would do whatever was needed to help the team succeed. Sean was one of the hardest working players in the BHS program and was a major reason for our success in 2016." Sean finished his senior year for Braintree hitting .321 with 13 runs batted in over 23 games and 73 at bats. As the Junior Varsity coach at Braintree High I had Sean for two years and admire and am proud of the hard work Sean put in and how it all came to fruition during his very good Braintree career.

Congratulations Sean for winning the State title this year with Braintree and great job taking advantage of the opportunity that presented itself.

It was a privilege and an honor to coach you

Jim Joyce