

"Leadership is about having a selfless heart and always being willing to reach out and lend a helping hand."

As I reflect upon this past Fall Season at the Baseball Club, there are quite a few positives and negatives that come to mind; all with the ability of to improve what we do in the future. The most important piece that always comes to mind is our coaching staff. What we teach and how we teach has a huge impact on the development of our players, not just on the diamond but in the real world. Some of our players spend a great deal of time with us and therefore, we end up having a big influence on what kind of person they will become, part of our mission statement, which for me, is most important. Every once in a while a player comes around who makes our job easier. Because of their character and leadership, they have even more of a positive effect on their peers than the coaches. I cannot think of a better example than Tucker Erdody, our October Athlete of the Month.

I had Tucker in my 8th grade social studies class last year. He was a hard worker with excellent grades, someone who took pride in his work, the same goes for how he attacks the baseball field. Tucker has been in the program since its existence, playing AAU and fall baseball. Tucker has always struck me as someone who through both difficulty and success has always remained focused and level-headed, never letting emotions take over the situation. Tucker is frequently used as an example when teaching others because success is paved by those who can remain in charge of any situation. A perfect instance was this fall during our 15 year old championship game. In the 4th inning, the Bandits gave up a few runs to allow Hull to take the lead partly because of a few rare errors committed by Tucker. Most athletes would have come in from that inning and cowered in the corner of the dugout, but Tucker came in and did the exact opposite. Just like every other practice and game during the fall, he remained the vocal leader in the dugout. The rest of the team, like always, fed off of that and remained confident as they crawled their way back into the game to eventually take the lead in the 7th and win the game. His demeanor during that game was something I truly respected and admired because teams are a lot more successful when players have the capability of inspiring themselves. Of course Tucker also had a huge RBI late in the game to get us closer to the victory. Tucker went on to receive the MVP award for all of his hard work and dedication during the fall season.

Thank you, Tucker, for making this fall season special. We could always count on you leading the practice stretch routines and being the role model for your peers when they desperately needed one. You are well deserving of this Athlete of the Month.

One of your biggest supporters

James Joyce