

Great things happen to great people

Sometimes you find yourself short on words describing the greatness of an individual. Are there words out there that can really convey the right message about this person? That is just how many feel about Jack Collins, our May Athlete of the Month. I have had the pleasure to know Jack for the past ten years or so and one characteristic that has always stood out for me is that Jack cares more about others than he does himself. His actions are never based off selfishness or coolness; they are based off the fact that they are just the right thing to do. To Jack these actions are normal or regular, but little does Jack know how much these actions mean the world to others.

Since Jack entered high school he has been an employee at the Braintree Baseball Club. Jack always comes to work with a smile and an eagerness to help. Jack has the caring, patient nature that makes him great working with all skill levels, all groups. The great thing about Jack as well is that he builds a relationship with these boys and girls that doesn't just end at work. When he sees them outside of work he makes a point to brighten their day. I remember vividly earlier this year one of our players came in the dugout to say hi to the coaches and Jack was one of the first to run up and give the kid a high five and a big smile. Earlier this year I received a call from a coach just to tell me how Jack is the best person we have at the club. A 4-year old girl was by herself waiting for her brother to practice. She was by herself, a little scared and uncomfortable. Jack took it upon himself to stop his work and go introduce himself. Soon enough they were out front laughing and playing video games together. It is the little things that make Jack special.

Outside of his role at the BBC he has been a member of the Best Buddies program at Braintree High School for two years. In this role, Jack and his peers work with individuals with disabilities fostering an inclusive environment at the high school. Jack is also a great student with a 3.6 GPA and is looking to hopefully play baseball in college. Jack does not seek recognition or reward for his actions but regardless great things have happened for Jack this year.

In Jack's first year as a varsity athlete for the Braintree Wamps, Jack quickly worked his way into the starting lineup and more impressively a starting role on the bump. In 34 innings pitched this year, Jack had an impressive 3-1 record and a 1.85 E.R.A. On Senior Night, Jack also threw a no-hitter verse rival Weymouth, an extraordinary feat that has not been done in Braintree High School Baseball for a very long time. What is most impressive is Jack never really was a pitcher until the last few years. His great work ethic, listening skills and patience with mechanics have helped him improve on the hill. Coach Bill O'Connell stated, "Jack is becoming a star here on and off the field. Jack's work ethic, sportsmanship and coachability are second to none. Jack this year was an honorable mention in the Bay State Conference and was also selected to represent Massachusetts in the MA vs. CT Junior Select All-Star Game as a pitcher and outfielder. There is no doubt that Jack will have an impressive senior campaign for the Wamps and a successful future in college.

When you observe Jack working with others or working on his own skills, you feel more than compelled to become a better person. His normal actions motivate others to work harder and be more caring about others. The world would be a better place with more people Jack Collins.

Thank you Jack, we are blessed and very fortunate to have you in our lives

Coach Joyce