

“The heights by great men reached and kept,
Were not attained by sudden flight,
But they, while their companions slept,
Were toiling upward in the night.”

~Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

The month of June 2018 was an extraordinary time capping off an incredible year for our Athlete of the Month and his teammates. Archbishop Williams baseball entered the Division 4 State tournament at 11 wins and 9 losses, having played a very difficult schedule, and having huge questions as to how they would finish their season. The season was extremely unpredictable and rocky at times in every way except one. No matter how many ups and downs and curves the team experienced, there was one constant, the senior class.

This is the class that lost their dear friend, Kate McCarthy, early on in the spring of sophomore year and had a calmness and connection about them that was forged like steel from that terrible experience. The boys would not let the train off the tracks, no matter how bad it looked at times- it was never going to be as bad as that day. The seniors would staunchly hold the rudder and keep the ship afloat, eventually leading the Bishops to 7 straight wins in the tournament and their first State Championship, in walk-off fashion, since 1995.

The Captain of the ship and the 2018 senior class was James Dolan. James' personal statistics and awards for this year are gaudy. In June, James was named the Division 4 Player of the Year by the Boston Globe- Archbishop Williams' 2nd straight player of the year award (Casey Earle 2017). He was named a Catholic Central League All-Star in 2017 and 2018; EMass All-Star in 2017 and 2018; and a Patriot Ledger All-Scholastic both years. As a senior, he batted .440 with 1 hr, 20 rbis, 15 stolen bases, and 32 runs scored in 27 total games. He was then named, appropriately, the Archbishop Williams Male Athlete of the Year for 2018. James finishes his career with 2 South Sectional titles, 2 EMass titles and 2 State Championship game appearances. James is a certain Archbishop Williams Hall of Famer and leaves the school and athletic programs in a much better place than when he found them.

His effect on the lives of his classmates, the younger Bishops coming up through the ranks, the youngsters in the Shamrocks baseball program, the community of Archbishop Williams and Braintree, his town of Rockland and the Braintree Baseball Club is now legendary and will live on as our June 2018 Athlete of the Month. James never wavered through the darkest of times, personally, academically, socially or athletically. He was a rock that the entire school relied on to keep them afloat, and he always did. His work ethic, care for others, positivity, never-say-die attitude and his ability to motivate others will never be forgotten.

His father and Head Baseball Coach at Archies, Jim Dolan, stated, “Coaching James has been a blessing- his hard work, dedication and leadership to Williams baseball will be truly missed.”

Varsity Pitching Coach and Archies Alum ('84), John Joyce said about James, “James is not only an outstanding athlete, but an even better person. A great leader and an inspiration to his teammates, he will be missed by the entire Archbishop Williams community.”

Congratulations, James, on your epic senior season. We wish you all the best at Bridgton Academy and in all your future endeavors. Thank you for taking us on an incredible journey, thank you for never quitting, even when many would have. Archbishop Williams and the Braintree Baseball Club are forever grateful for your efforts, the great memories and for the ring!!

Bill Berman