

“Always make a total effort, even when the odds are against you.”

-Arnold Palmer

Fall baseball is underway and with it returns our Athlete of the Month Awards. This fall we are filled with athletes, of all ages and skill level, who enjoy the game and want to further develop their skills. It makes our job easier as coaches because we know in front of us we have a group of young individuals who are intent on listening and learning. Usually accompanying that willingness to learn is a tremendous level of effort. As a coaching staff we felt that Joe Schwartz has personified that effort best through the first month of Fall Baseball.

For the past few years Joe has become a regular at the BBC. Whether he is there for strength and conditioning or practice he is always giving his best effort. He isn't the biggest kid, but I can guarantee you put him against any obstacle and Joe will give everything to succeed or fight until his tank is empty. His level of heart and tenacity can't be taught, it is something that comes through personal drive. It is noted and recognized that Joe takes this same approach in the classroom at South Middle School. His teacher's appreciate the level of care and energy he gives to his studies. Coach John Richardi, Joe's AAU coach, defined what makes Joe special. He said, "Joe is the most respectful and honorable 12 year old I have ever met. His integrity is at the highest level and his love for family and his teammates is obvious. It is always a pleasure when you see Joe and his brother Nick because their admiration and respect for one another speaks volumes about their upbringing. He is a pure gentleman and his maturity transcends his age." Coach Matt McGrath, Joe's fall and AAU assistant coach, also stated, "Joe is a truly dedicated athlete who has the highest amount of respect for his coaches, teammates, and the game as a whole. His consistent hustle, competitive edge and cheerful energy are things that make Joe one of the greatest players I have ever had the pleasure of coaching." Joe has truly shown us how to play the game the right way.

Congrats Joe on a great Fall so far and good luck with everything in the future

Jim Joyce