

## **Veritas Baseball Team Ready To Take the Field**

### ***(Sports Carolina Monthly 9/10/08)***

October 31 can't get here fast enough for Coach Tommy Adcock and the rest of the Veritas Sports Academy baseball coaching staff. That is when the Warriors travel to Winter Haven, FL for a baseball showcase featuring plenty of college and professional baseball scouts eager to get the first peak of this year's crop of high school baseball talent.

While the Warrior coaches plan to use this trip to assess their squad's overall talent, it looks like pitching, overall speed and hitting are the team strengths. The team will then travel to the Dominican Republic in mid November.

Lead by senior right hander Logan Self who verbally committed to Campbell University last week, Veritas has three other top pitchers in sophomore Ryan Mayhew, junior Joe Max Floyd and junior D.J. Russ. Self throws 85-88 mph and has great command of his fast ball and change up while Mayhew is extremely durable and capable of giving the Warriors lots of innings. Add Floyd to the mix with off speed pitching and Russ' curve ball and ability to start or come in as a reliever.

Defensively, Veritas is very young, but they compensate their youth with a stable of strong arms and speed getting to the ball. Bat speed and base running also figure to be major factors for the team's success due to the experience of Veritas' coaching staff.

In addition to Head Coach Tommy Adcock's demand for perfection from his team, former Montreal Expo Mo Blakeney will work with outfielders and Joey Hammond who recently ended his career with the Philadelphia Phillies organization, will coach the infield. Both assistant coaches will serve as hitting instructors. "The knowledge of our staff is on the level of college and professional instruction" says Adcock.

Blakeney likes the team's strength up the middle. Sophomore catcher Logan Gunn throws to second in the two second range plus adds a strong bat with power gap to gap. Mark Nales and Logan Self cover the middle infield and three strong contenders in Caleb Collins, Sanders Kuxhusen and Markel Johnson will compete for center field duties.

"Team chemistry is outstanding. Athleticism will make this one of the best fundamental teams in the southeast" adds Adcock. Strength and Conditioning Coaches Allen Branch, Jack Smith and Zach Newell bring a unique team approach uncommon to any other high school program by offering a balanced training regimen featuring a blend of speed, strength and agility.

Combine a top rated pitching staff with team speed and hitting along with strength up the middle starting with one of the top catchers in the state. Add in a strength and conditioning program second to none. Then place this under the watch of an experienced coaching staff and you have the making for an exciting season of baseball. Veritas Sports Academy baseball is hungry to hit the field.