

** SPRING SPORTS **

BASEBALL

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Coach: Rev. John Fencik, '70



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Coach: Ryan O'Flaherty



VOLLEYBALL

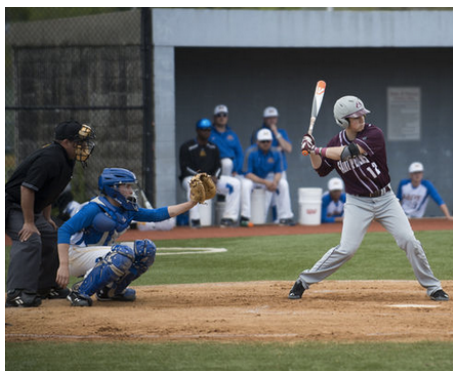
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Coach: M. Washington



MAY 19, 2014

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St. Peter's Vinnv Sita up to bat against Marist

BASEBALL



St. Peter's Nick Camilleri puts his glove out

Marist defeats Prep, the defending champ, in the Hudson County Baseball Tournament championship.

By Michael Wright/For The Jersey Journal
on May 17, 2014

In the midst of a pitcher's duel in the HCIAL championship game between **St. Peter's Prep** and **Marist**, a single run would make all the difference. As soon as Marist junior **Tyler Cruz** sent a two-out pitch deep to left-center field, he knew he had to make it all the way home.

"Once I saw it go in the gap, I just started to run hard," said Cruz. "I knew that it was going to give us the lead, so I was running my hardest to try and score."

Cruz made it across the plate with ease, as his two-run, inside the park home run was the difference in the Royal Knights' 3-2 victory earlier today over Prep at Caven Point.

For manager Ron Hayward's team, which claimed its second county title in three years, this one over the defending HCIAL champion Marauders, was just about as sweet as it gets.

"I think we proved ourselves this year and we're going to continue to prove ourselves going forward," said Hayward. "I told my kids that Prep is good, they are the school in Hudson County, and everyone always gives them their respect, but we're going to have to earn ours."

"I didn't want to play anyone else, I wanted to play Prep, and I knew if we played our best, our hard work would play off."

Runs were at a premium early in the game, as starting pitchers A.J. Candelario of Marist and Antonio Velardi of Prep combined to throw a perfect first two innings.

In the top of the third, the Marauders finally broke the deadlock. After Mike Cirilo picked up the first hit of the afternoon and swiped second base, Corey Caddle drove him home with a two-out, RBI double over the left fielder's head to put Prep ahead, 1-0.

Marist would go on to tie it in the bottom of the fourth. With Angel Perez leading from third, Elijah Hernandez bounced a slow roller down the line. Third baseman Vinny Sita fielded and fired home, but Prep catcher Nick Camilleri was unable to hang on, as Perez's slide jarred the ball loose.

Prep would reclaim the lead in the top of the fifth, after a sacrifice fly from Caddle brought home Mike Marino, who had blasted a one-out triple earlier in the inning.

The Marauders would continue to threaten, placing runners on second and third with two outs. That's when Hayward made a decision that changed the course of the game: he called on senior Josh Witherspoon in relief.

"My goal was to let A.J. go as far as he could, but I wasn't going to leave him out there too long," Hayward said. "Once I felt he was struggling, I knew Josh was ready."

"Josh is a senior, Josh has been ready all year, and I knew that he wanted the ball, so I knew he would come through."

Witherspoon came up big for the Royal Knights, striking out Kyle Bowes to end the inning. The lefty would go on to finish the game for Marist, picking up the win, while striking out five and allowing only a single hit.

"I had a lot of emotions, but I knew I had to keep them in check for my team," said Witherspoon. "Of course I had some nerves, but I knew that Candelario pitched a hell of a game, so I needed to step up and finish the job."

In the very next frame, Cruz came through and gave Marist its first and final lead of the afternoon. With two outs and Witherspoon on third, Cruz's two-run inside the park home run deep into the left-center field gap would prove to be the difference.

"Once he hit it, I just kept saying 'Up, up, up!' because I knew that if it got past (the outfielder), he was scoring," said Hayward. "(Cruz) is just so fast, and once he made contact and it got over his head, I knew he was gone."

After winning the most important game of their season thus far, Marist, as well as St. Peter's Prep, now sets its sights to the upcoming state tournament.

"We don't work hard for nothing, and I told them every day that they were going to win," said Hayward. "Now going into states, we're going in with the same attitude."



St. Peter's Vinny Sita throws to first



St. Peter's Antonio Velardi pitches to Marist



St. Peter's baseball huddles up before their last
inning against Marist

Baseball state tournament, 2014: North Jersey, Non-Public A preview:

By Jason Bernstein/For The Star-Ledger
on May 19, 2014

The favorite:

•Seton Hall Prep has dealt with its fair share of injuries, but the adversity hasn't been able to derail the Greater Newark Tournament champs and reigning North A title holder. Mark Venice, Alex Baratta, Tyler Sanfilippo, Lukas DeRenzi and Matt O'Neill bring serious thunder into the middle of the Pirates' lineup, while Venice and Mike Sgaramella lead a deep pitching staff.

The top contenders:

- Bergen Catholic is averaging more than six runs per game thanks to a deep lineup headlined by John VanDeMark, Jordan Attilio, Alec DeMattheis, Mike Martinez and Sonny Ulliana. Jared Vereby and Jared Finkel will be counted on for big performances on the mound.
- Don Bosco Prep is rolling into the states with seven wins over the last eight games, including a victory over rival Bergen Catholic in the Bergen County Tournament. Brendan Bisset has got some key hits of late along with Brennan Cotter, Josh Shaw and Tristen Dacey.
- St. Joseph (Mont.) has a very young roster, but is loaded with talent. Sophomore Austin Bodrato and freshman Devin Ortiz team with senior Mike Warren for a stellar mound trio. Catcher Isaias Quiroz has 12 doubles and 20 RBI to lead the offense.
- **St. Peter's Prep has as much team speed as anyone in the state with Corey Caddle, Kyle Bowes and T.J. Ward. Caddle, Antonio Velardi and Dan Cooney have been a stellar, if not unheralded pitching staff which has allowed just 64 runs in 26 games.**

Player to watch:

When given the opportunity to pitch to **St. Peter's Prep senior T.J. Ward**, opposing pitchers have simply decided to pass. Ward, a University of Hartford commit, has drawn a staggering 29 walks, giving him a .636 on-base percentage. When opponents actually do pitch to him, Ward has hit .429 with 14 RBI, 15 runs, nine extra-base hits and 20 stolen bases.

Pitcher to watch:

Seton Hall Prep's chances of repeating increased dramatically with the return of Mike Sgaramella from an early-season injury. The left-handed Villanova commit has gone 5-0 with a 1.82 ERA this season. Sgaramella hasn't been overpowering, but with a mid-80s fastball and a big curveball, he can consistently leave opposing hitters off-balanced and frustrated.

Kratch's pick:Seton Hall Prep over St. Joseph (Mont.)

Bernstein's pick:Seton Hall Prep over **St. Peter's Prep**

Prep Baseball Varsity Schedule

2014

Record

20 - 4 - 1

(+ W 4 - 2
over
Ramapo
on 4/26)

Date	Opponent	Site	Time
4/1	Marist	L: 3 - 1 Veterans Stadium	7:00
4/2	Bergen Catholic	W: 2 - 0 Overpeck field	4:30
4/3	North Bergen	W: 9 - 1 64 th St	4:30
4/5	Canisius	W: 8 - 0 TBA	TBA
4/6	Xavier	W: 7 - 0 TBA	TBA
4/7	Hoboken	T: 4 - 4 JFK Stadium	4:30
4/9	Memorial	W: 9 - 3 Caven Point	4:30
4/11	Dickinson	W:12 - 1 Caven	4:30
4/13	Bridgewater-Raritan	W 11-9 Roselle Park	3:00
4/14	Kearny	W 13 - 1 Franklin Field	4:30
4/16	Hudson Catholic	W 8 - 4 Caven Point	4:30
4/17	Bayonne	L 6 - 4 Caven Point	4:30
4/19	Pompton Lakes	W 2 - 0 SPU	11:00
4/21	St. Anthony's	W 15 - 4 Franco Field	4:30
4/23	Union City	W 3 - 1 Roosevelt Stadium	4:30
4/25	Ferris	W 5 - 2 Caven Point	4:30
4/28	North Bergen	W 5 - 3 Caven Point	4:30
4/30	Hoboken	W 13 - 0 Caven Point	4:30
5/2	Dickinson	W 8 - 6 LP#10	4:30
5/3	St. Mary's Rutherford	Caven Point	4:00
5/6	Hudson Catholic	W 7 - 4 LP#10	4:30
5/8	Union City	L 5 - 4 Caven Point	4:30
5/10	HCIAL	W 7 - 2 TBA	TBA
5/13	2 nd Rd HCIAL	L 3 - 2 TBA	TBA
5/14	Bloomfield	Bloomfield Middle School	4:30

Mt. Rushmore



Commissioner Kocmalski's Mt. Rushmore Baseball Lineup



Babe Ruth - forget
the Aaron vs.
Bonds debate.

Ruth's 60HRs in a
season exceeded
the total of most
teams. He towered
over his peers like
no other.

The true
"Sultan of Swat".



Ted Williams -
generally
considered
the greatest
hitter ever.
Sui Generis.



Sandy Koufax - put
together a string of
4 or 5 of the most
brilliant seasons
imaginable for a
pitcher. He and
Bob Gibson were
responsible for
MLB lowering the
pitcher's mound.



Willie Mays - most
exciting ballplayer
I have ever seen.
The prototypical
five-tool player.
Willie's glove was
once described as
"the place where
triples go to die".
Say Hey !!!



Mel Logan
Outfielder
Prep '61 and '62
Mt. Rushmore Lineup



The Bambino was the greatest baseball player ever.

I visited his birthplace/ museum in 1993 near Camden Yards. He lived in a 6'x8' room with a military cot. There were no steroids for the Babe, just hot dogs and beer.



Teddy Ballgame is undoubtedly the best hitter who ever walked the planet. The Splendid Splinter also served in the Marine Corps in both World War II and the Korean War.



The Georgia Peach was the second greatest player ever and the 'bad boy' of baseball in his day. I corresponded with him in 1956 and have his autographed photo in a lock box. Plus I saved the envelope (3 cent stamp) for proof of authenticity.



Charlie Hustle was one of the most exciting players to ever grace the diamond. At 73 he needs to be in the Hall of Fame before his ninth inning is over. I met Pete on the street in Philly in 1979. He knew Big Mel from his Redlegs' days.



Danny Murphy
Catcher
Mt. Rushmore Lineup



Babe Ruth...the man who saved baseball after the Black Sox scandal..



Ted Williams greatest hitter ever to play the game... not to mention that he was John Glenn's wingman during the Korean War.



Hank Aaron 755 legit homers, need I say more.

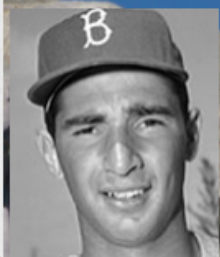


Yogi Berra. Every kid whoever wore the tools of ignorance loved Yogi, a man who never saw a pitch he couldn't hit... more championship rings than fingers.

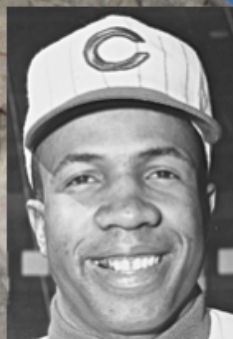
Bob Dempsey Bleeds Dodger Blue Mt. Rushmore Lineup



Duke Snider:
May not have been as good as Mickey or Willie, but you can't convince a Dodger fan of that. 40 homers 5 years in a row when homers were tough to come by. Had the opportunity to spend time with time with the Duke of Flatbush at Dodger Adult Fantasy Camp.



Sandy Koufax:
Most dominating pitcher I ever watched. Every game he pitched was a potential shutout.



Frank Robinson:
MVP in both leagues - not bad.



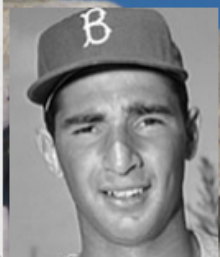
Rickey Henderson :
Hard to pass on him as he was such a character.



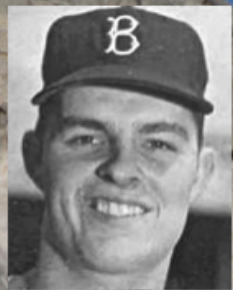
Nick Micucci Bleeds Dodger Blue Mt. Rushmore Lineup



Duke Snider:
The Duke produced when money was on the line. In 6 World Series and 133 at bats, he had 11 HRs & 26 RBIs. Extending to a full season: 47 HRs & 112 RBI's.



Sandy Koufax:
All Time Best.
In 1963, 1965 & 1966, Sandy won the MAJOR League Pitching Triple Crown. (Wins, ERA, SOs).



Don Drysdale:
He should be up here just because he was so mean. One of the best pitchers of his era. Lifetime: 207 wins, ERA 2.95.



Roy Campanella:
Playing in only 10 years, Campy won 3 MVPs. ('51, '53, '55). Yes, I was a Dodger fan.

Nick's Note:

With Koufax keep the capital letters for MAJOR. 2 others won pitching triple crown, 3 times, but only in their specific leagues. Walter Johnson (American), Grover Alexander (National)

Lou Cuccaro
*** 3rd Baseman ***
Mt. Rushmore Lineup



Brooks Robinson
"The Human Vacuum Cleaner"

He is the greatest defensive third-baseman in major league history. He won 16 consecutive Gold Glove Awards, selected for the All-Star team 15 consecutive years, and he ruled the 1970 post season and World Series with his hitting and fielding.



Cal Ripken, Jr.

Baseball Ironman with 2632 consecutive games played. Slugger shortstop with 19 All-Star game appearances. Top shortstop vote getter for MLB All-Century Team.



Hank Aaron:
"Hammerin Hank"
"The Man Who Beat the Babe". Record 25 All-Star apps. Made hitting the long one look easy. Could hit under pressure (death threats when he closed in on Ruth's record).

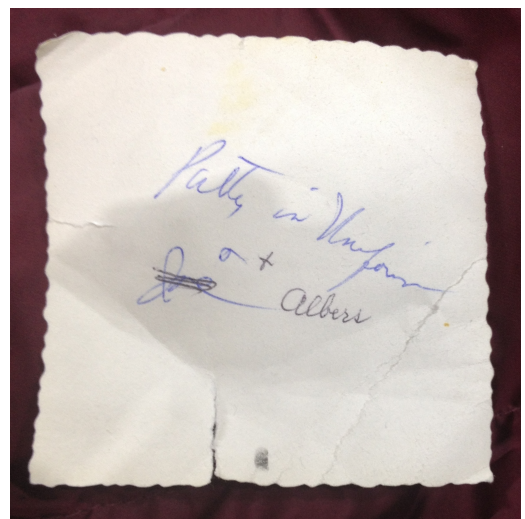


Roberto Clemente

He had 317 lifetime avg., 3000 hits. He was 15 times an All-Star, 12 times a Golden Glove winner & 4 time NL batting champ and MVP. Lost his life trying to provide aid to earthquake survivors.

Memories from 50+ Years Ago

**See if you can identify these Classmates who attended
 Our Lady of Victories before Prep**



OUTDOOR TRACK

HCTCA Championships - Field Events	May 15	4:00	Secaucus HS
HCTCA Championships - Running Events	May 17	9:00	Secaucus HS
NJCTC Fr/So Championships	May 18	10:00	St. John Vianney
East Coast Relays	May 19-20	4:00/9:00	Randolph HS
Non-Public North A Sectional Championships	May 23-24	4:00/9:00	Randolph HS
Non-Public Group A Championships	May 30-31	4:00/9:00	TBD
NJSIAA Meet of Champions	June 4	4:00	TBD

No Results Published Yet.

RUGBY





LAST YEAR

2013 Rugby Schedule

Record: 4-5

Date	Opponent	Time	Location	Result
March 3	Xavier (JV)	1:00	Home	
March 13	Strake Jesuit College Prep (Houston, TX)	4:00	Home	W, 24-19
March 15	Dallas Jesuit College Prep (Dallas, TX)	1:00	Home	L, 25-5
March 17	Morris A/B	1:00	Away	L
April 11	Christian Brothers Academy A/B	3:00	Away	L, 12-10
April 21	Delbarton	1:00	Home	W, 17-5 / B-L, 24-10
April 30	St. Augustine A/B	4:00	Away	W, 33-7 / B-L, 12-7
May 5	Delbarton	2:00	Home	W, 20-6
May 5	Princeton A/B	4:00	Home	L
May 11	State Title - Christian Brothers Academy	4:30	Rutgers	L

THIS YEAR

2014 Rugby Schedule

Record: 0-0

Date	Opponent	Time	Location	Result
March 9	Xavier	1:00	Home	
March 23	Christian Brothers Academy	1:00	Home	
April 13	Hillsborough	1:00	Away	
April 15	St. Augustine Prep	4:30	Away	
April 26	Hudson Catholic	1:00	Home	
May 4	Delbarton	1:00	Away	
May 10	NJ Championships	TBD	TBD	

LACROSSE



Newton (8) at St. Peter's Prep (19) - Boys Lacrosse

By The Star Ledger
on May 15, 2014

Christian Hedengren scored six goals and recorded five assists as St. Peter's Prep defeated Newton, 19-8, in Jersey City.

Tanner Barbieri scored five times and led St. Peter's Prep in assists with six.

George Grell also scored six goals for St. Peter's Prep.



Christian Hedengren scored his 100th goal last week!!

Goalie
St. Peter's Prep

PLAYER	SV	GA	W	L	T
Thomas Evans	9	8	1	0	0

Offense
St. Peter's Prep

PLAYER	G	A	PTS.	GB
Alex Aiello	-	-	-	3
Tanner Barbieri	5	6	11	7
Ken Carroll	-	1	1	8
Sean Connors	-	-	-	2
Giorgio Courtis	-	1	1	-
Jason Coyle	-	-	-	1
Will DeMartin	-	2	2	3
Liam Dillon	-	-	-	1
Brian Feeney	-	1	1	-
George Grell	6	-	6	4
Christian Hedengren	6	5	11	5
Connor Kirkwood	1	-	1	-
Robert Mahon	-	1	1	3
Eric Nieves	-	-	-	6
Lawson Penney	1	-	1	-
Brendan Poppovich	-	1	1	6
Paul Renzetti	-	-	-	1
Devin Siracuse	-	-	-	2
Jimmy Tanella	-	-	-	2

TENNIS



St. Peter's Prep Gabe Russotto at the Hudson County Tennis Tournament semifinals on Friday, May 2, 2014, at Lincoln Park in Jersey City. (Molly J. Smith/The Jersey Journal)

North Jersey - Non-Public A


TEAM	OVERALL
Don Bosco Prep	16-1
St. Peter's Prep	12-1
Delbarton	17-7
Seton Hall Prep	13-12
St. Joseph (Mont.)	6-8
Bergen Catholic	6-11
Paramus Catholic	2-12
DePaul	1-9
Pope John	1-16
Union Catholic	0-9

...


Results for #SPPTennis

Save

Top / All


St. Peter's Prep @SPPAthletics · 4h
#SPPTennis recorded a 5-0 win over Kearny in a regular season make-up match today.
Expand

Reply Retweet Favorite More


St. Peter's Prep @SPPAthletics · May 13
#SPPTennis defeated Bayonne today 5-0
Expand

Reply Retweet Favorite More


St. Peter's Prep @SPPAthletics · May 12
#SPPTennis dispatched St Joes Regional in the opening round of NJSIAA Playoffs today, 5-0.
Expand

Reply Retweet Favorite More


St. Peter's Prep @SPPAthletics · May 7
Tennis state brackets are out. #SPPTennis seeded #3 to host #6 St. Joe's Regional on Mon, 5/12 in Lincoln Park:
highschoolsports.nj.com/tournament/232...
Expand

Reply Retweet Favorite More

CREW

Our Team was founded in the spring of 2010 out of the Passaic River Rowing Association (PRRA) Boathouse in Lyndhurst, NJ.

We compete against high school rowing programs from all over the tri-state area as well as teams from Maryland and Pennsylvania. The team currently consists of 40 members and is still growing.

Before a rower can participate, he must complete the following steps; must pass the swim test and watch a safety training video. Practice runs 5 days a week during the Fall and Spring seasons with indoor training during the winter on Prep's Rowing machines.

Program History:

- In the Spring of 2010 the Novice 4 took 1st place at the Passaic River Sprints in Lyndhurst, NJ.
- In the Fall of 2010 the Novice 8 finished 2nd at the Head of the Hudson Regatta in Albany, NY.





St. Peter's Prep @SPPAthletics · May 17

#SPPCrew took 2nd today in the Jr 4 at Stotesbury Cup in Philadelphia

Collapse

Reply Retweet Favorite More



◀ April		~ May 2014 ~					June ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
				1 Practice 4pm Junior Ring Mass	2	3 Practice 7am	
4 Open House City Championship Philadelphia, PA	5 OFF	6 Practice 4pm	7 Practice 4pm	8 Practice 4pm	9	10 Passaic River Sprints Lyndhurst, NJ	
11 Mother's Day	12 Practice 4pm	13 Practice 4pm	14 Practice 4pm	15 Travel Day	16 Stotesbury Cup Philadelphia, PA	17 Armed Forces Day Prep Grand Gala Stotesbury Cup Philadelphia, PA	
18	19 Practice 5am	20 Practice 5am	21 Practice 5am	22 Practice 5am	23 SRAA Nationals Mercer Lake West Windsor, NJ	24 SRAA Nationals Mercer Lake West Windsor, NJ	
25	26 Memorial Day	27	28	29	30	31	

GOLF

2014 Golf Schedule

Record: 0-0

Head Coach: Ryan O'Flaherty

RECORD:

6 - 4

Date	Opponent	Time	Location	Result
3/31	@ Rumson High School	TBD	Away	
4/7	Garden State Cup	TBD	TBD	
4/8	Bergen Tech High School	3:30	Forest Hills	
4/14	Blue Devil Invitational	3:30	TBD	
4/16	FDU North Jersey Open	TBD	TBD	
4/22	Galloway Tournament	10:30	TBD	
4/23	@ Blair Academy (V/JV)	4:00	TBD	
4/28	Don Bosco Prep/ Delbarton	TBD	TBD	W, 151-171
4/30	@ Montclair Kimberley Academy	TBD	Montclair CC	
5/5	Paramus High School	3:30	Forest Hills	
5/6	Tenaflly High School	3:30	Knickerbocker CC	



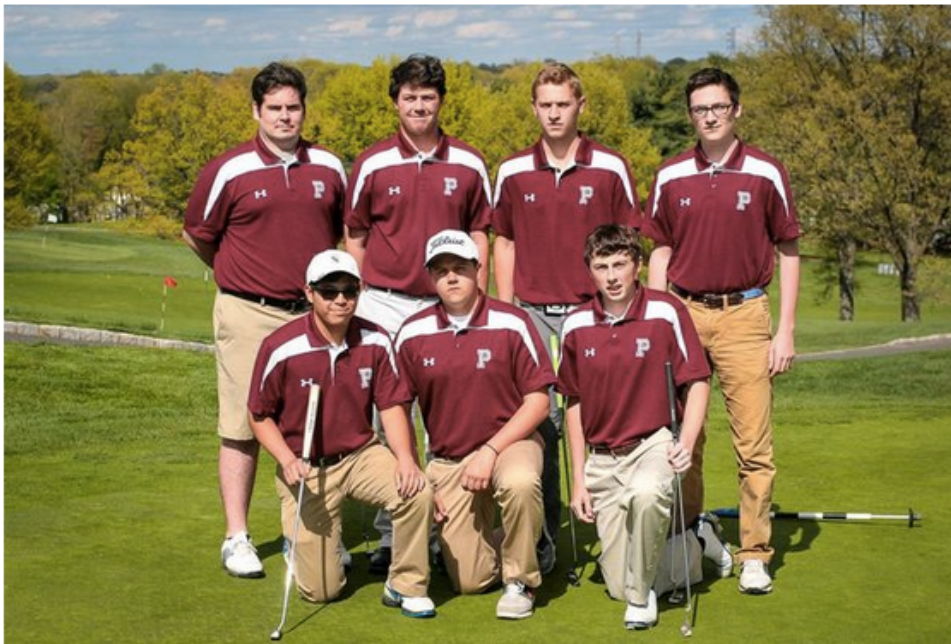


Photo courtesy of Mark Wyville: The St. Peter's Prep golf team poses during a dual meet with Bergen Catholic earlier this month.

Boys golf: What to watch in the NJSIAA sectional tournaments

By Patrick Lanni/For The Star-Ledger
on May 12, 2014

The path to Hopewell Valley and the NJSIAA Tournament of Champions begins to narrow Monday when the first wave of competitors hit the links to compete in the state sectional tournaments.

In total, the state is split into 10 different sectionals, with nine to be held Monday. The field for the T of C will be officially set when the results from the North Jersey, Sections 1 and 2, Group 4 tournament are finalized Tuesday at Trump National Golf Course in Bedminster.

TO QUALIFY: The top two teams and five individuals (plus ties) from each sectional tournament advance to the T of C, which is scheduled for next Monday at Hopewell Valley Golf Club in Hopewell.

THE RINGER: The North Jersey, Sections 1 and 2, Non-Public A tournament appears to be the most competitive field in the state. Bergen Catholic, No. 2 in The Star-Ledger Top 20, will take to the links with its sights set on on a state championship run, joined by No. 8 Don Bosco Prep, **No. 9 St. Peter's Prep** and No. 12 Delbarton.

Last season, Bergen Catholic and Delbarton made it out of the sectional tournament and finished second and fourth, respectively, in the T of C at Hopewell Valley.

If familiarity and home course counts for anything, **St. Peter's Prep will have a slight advantage**, as the sectional tournament will be held at Forest Hills Field Club in Bloomfield.

Kieran Purcell, Prep golf put together another stellar campaign in 2014:

**By Will Harrigan/For The Jersey Journal
on May 16, 2014**

Led by its prized football and basketball programs, St. Peter's Prep has become a long-established powerhouse on the New Jersey high school sports scene.

But another elite program has rapidly emerged at the school at Grand and Warren streets: golf.

Coming off an undefeated, 12-0 season in 2013, coach Ryan O'Flaherty's Marauders put together another great campaign this season, sitting at No. 9 on the most recent Star-Ledger Top 20. The Marauders finished 6-4 in a rugged dual meet slate, including a pair of impressive victories over fellow Top 20 members Don Bosco Prep (8) and Montclair Kimberley (20).

"I think I stepped in at exactly the right time. We have been loaded with talent each of the past two years," said O'Flaherty, who is in his second year directing Prep golf.

One such talent is Kieran Purcell, a senior who shot a section-best, one-under-par 70 in Monday's Non-Public A sectional tournament at Forest Hills Field Club in Bloomfield. Bergen Catholic won the overall tournament.

"He put it all together on Monday. The drives and especially the putts that he improved greatly on from last year all clicked for him," said O'Flaherty.

With his performance in the sectionals, Purcell, who signed a letter of intent to play golf for the University of Delaware, qualified for the Tournament of Champions slated for May 19 at the Hopewell Valley Golf Club. He also qualified for the tournament as a sophomore in 2012.

"I was in great form all year. I've been just having fun and playing with no pressure, and it paid off on Monday," Purcell said. "I expect to be right in (the mix) at the Tournament of Champions this coming Monday."

"Kieran has shot the lowest score in every single match and tournament since he was a freshman," said O'Flaherty. "Even when we don't have practice, he is totally committed and is golfing on his own. Every day, you can tell he is truly having fun and enjoying the game of golf."

St. Peter's participated in four different tournaments this year and finished no lower than third in all of them, including a first-place finish at the Fairleigh Dickinson Invitational on April 16. The Marauders also took third place in the Galloway National Challenge down in Atlantic County on April 22.

“In a match, you play nine holes. In a tournament, it’s a full 18. With the sectionals being an 18-hole play, we really like entering tournaments and want to add even more to the schedule next year. Plus, they all have great competition from all over the state,” explained O’Flahery.

But Prep is far from a one-man show. Paolo Matti, a junior, qualified for the Tournament of Champions a year ago, and he averaged a 36 in match play this season. He figures to be the top player in Prep's rotation next season.

Thomas Kaczan and Dan Harcourt, both juniors, also excelled for the Marauders this season. Harcourt, a standout for the Marauders hockey team, impressed O’Flaherty with his dedication to golf in the hockey offseason. Kaczan also turned heads by shooting a 79 at Monday’s sectionals.

“We have all of those guys coming back next year, along with some freshmen who impressed. The best part about it is that they all practice and get better on their own. I think we’ll be very good again,” added O’Flaherty.

VOLLEYBALL

Hudson County Champs!!!



Boys Volleyball: St. Peter's Prep sweeps Kearny to win Hudson County Tournament title.

By John Christian Hageny/For The Star Ledger
on May 16, 2014

Even after St. Peter's Prep committed its fifth service error of the first set, the Jersey City school's confidence never wavered.

All-State setter Tyler Lee fed a steady stream to Shayron Taylor and Spencer Shickora while Bradley Switala provided sound defense as top-seeded St. Peter's Prep, No. 3 in The Star-Ledger Top 20, overcame uncharacteristic service difficulties to edge second-seeded Kearny, 25-23, 25-21 in the final of the 20th Hudson County Tournament on Friday night in Union City.

Lee, a second team All-State selection last season, ran an effective set by distributing 22 assists, many of which found Taylor and Shickora who combined for 19 kills, as St. Peter's Prep overcame three first set deficits to steal the first match.

"We fell out of our system, but coach put us back in place and we executed and got the win," said senior middle Shayron Taylor, who collected seven kills, four blocks and two aces. "It feels good to return the county championship to St. Peter's. It's been a while."

LIVE BLOG // VIDEO: SPENCER SHICKORA, ST. PETER'S PREP

St. Peter's remained steadfast in the second set and jumped out to a 7-4 lead, but Kearny fought back to tie the score at 11-11. A key timeout called by coach Maurice Washington settled things down as St. Peter's took 14 of the next 24 points to seal the game. The victory, which improved St. Peter's season record to 24-1, marked its first county title since 2011 and eighth overall.

"Once you think about losing, you've already lost," said Shickora, who pounded down a team-leading 12 kills.

"We have that fighting spirit. One thing we do really well is come back, and when we do we come back harder."

Kearny (18-4), behind a strong effort from Matheus DeCastro, Joel Vivas and Brian Fonseca, gave the Jersey City school all it could handle in both sets, but several momentum-killing service errors of its own coupled with some untimely miscommunication defensively was its undoing.

TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS

2013-Bayonne
2012-Bayonne
2011-St. Peter's Prep
2010-St. Peter's Prep
2009-Bayonne
2008-Bayonne
2007-Bayonne
2006-Bayonne
2005-St. Peter's Prep
2004-St. Peter's Prep
2003-St. Peter's Prep
2002-St. Peter's Prep
2001-Memorial
2000-St. Peter's Prep

"The first game was really intense," said Matheus DeCastro, Kearny's senior outside who put up four kills and a block. "Some serving mistakes cost us in the first game. The second set was just as intense. We tried to fix 'em up but unfortunately things didn't go the way we planned and we got picked off."

"I saw a team that fought really hard and gave it everything they had," said Kearny senior setter Brian Fonseca (18 assists). "St. Peter's Prep played a really good game but we didn't give it to them. We fought hard and made Kearny proud today."

Lee's rhythm with Taylor inside and Shickora on the outside was evident as the chemistry between the three St. Peter's Prep seniors was undeniable. When Lee and his attackers did not connect, Lee was not afraid to go right back to either of them on the next play.

"Lots and lots of practice day in and day out," Taylor said. "Now we're going to states. We just need to keep playing our kind of volleyball."



"We fight. We're a scrappy team with a big offense and a great defense," Shickora said. "I have to give it up to everybody. This was a team effort."



THE STAR-LEDGER TOP 20

1-Southern Regional (31-2)

2-St. Joseph (Met.) (27-6)

3-St. Peter's Prep (24-1)

4-Eastern (16-2)

5-Christian Brothers (18-6)

6-Old Bridge (18-7)

7-East Brunswick (17-10)

8-Hillsborough (16-7)

9-Bridgewater-Raritan (19-6)

10-Fair Lawn (25-10)

11-Sterling (18-1)

12-St. John Vianney (13-5)

13-Wall (18-2)

14-Howell (14-4)

15-West Windsor South (14-8)

16-Ridge (17-7)

17-Hopewell Valley (9-7)

18-Piscataway (15-12)

19-Lakeland (19-6)

20-Wayne Valley (21-3)

Boys Volleyball: State Championship Preview:

NORTH JERSEY

After back-to-back state titles in 2011 and '12, Fair Lawn fell to eventual state champion, Southern Regional, in the tournament semifinals last season. A storied program with a history of success, the Bergen County school is in rebuilding mode in 2014 after graduating two-time All-State and 2012 state Player of the Year Chris Nugent.

"There are many people competing for various spots on the court and to this date not much has been determined," said Fair Lawn coach and 2010 Star-Ledger Coach of the Year Peter Zisa. "There is a great deal of leaning to be done -- teamwork, worth ethic and communication -- for this team to be successful."

Fair Lawn will lean on four-year starter Ryan Healy. A second team All-Bergen selection as a defensive specialist and libero with 126 digs and an eye-popping 41 aces last season, Healy is expected to make the move to outside hitter this spring. Opposite hitter Jassim Ansari will provide a secondary option.

The graduation of nine Fair Lawn seniors opens the door for the rest of North Jersey to seize the opportunity.



St. Peter's Prep of Jersey City, which returns a solid nucleus including second team All-State setter Tyler Lee, Spencer Shickora and Shayron Taylor, looks poised to return to the NJSIAA finals for the first time since 2010.

"Our team motto this year is 'No excuses, No regrets,'" said Maurice Washington who begins his second season as head coach following the retirement of legendary Don Guide. "Our team goals are (to go) undefeated in Hudson County league play, win the county title, state sectional title and states title. Tyler, Spencer and Shayron are all returners with the determination and drive to bring titles back to Prep this season."

Favorite: St. Peter's Prep

RECORD:

24 - 1

Volleyball Schedule 2014

Head Coach: Maurice Washington

Record: 0-0

Date	Time	Opponent	Location	Result
4/1	4:00(V)/5:30(JV)	Ferris	Away	
4/3	4:00(V)/5:30(JV)	Bayonne	Away	
4/5	9:00am	Bloomfield Tournament (Varsity)	Bloomfield HS	
4/7	4:30(V)/6:00(JV)	Union City	Home	
4/8	5:00(V)	Bergen Catholic	Away	
4/9	5:00 (V)	Snyder	Home	
4/11	4:30(V)/6:00(JV)	North Bergen	Home	
4/12	TBA	Rhody Tournament	Smithfield, RI	
4/14	4:00(V)/5:30(JV)	Dickinson	Away	
4/16	4:00(V)/5:30(JV)	Kearny	Home	
4/21	4:00(V)/5:30(JV)	McNair	Away	
4/22	4:30(V)/6:00(JV)	Memorial	Away	
4/24	4:00(V)/5:30(JV)	Vernon	Home	
4/25	4:00(V)/5:30(JV)	Lincoln	Smithfield, RI	
4/26	9:00am	Livingston Tournament (Varsity)	Livingston HS	
4/26	9:00am	East Brunswick Tournament (JV)	EB HS	
4/28	4:00(V)/5:30(JV)	Ferris	Home	
4/30	4:30(V)/6:00(JV)	Union City	Away	
5/1	4:30(V)/6:00(JV)	Jefferson Township	Home	
5/2	4:00(V)/5:30(JV)	Snyder	Away	
5/3	9:00am	St. Joe's Metuchen Tournament (JV)	SJ Met	
5/5	4:00(V)/5:30(JV)	Belleville	Home	
5/6	5:00(V)/6:30(JV)	Dickinson	Home	
5/7	4:00	Quad @ St. Joe's Metuchen	Away	
5/8	4:00(V)/5:30(JV)	Kearny	Away	
5/10	9:00am	Harrison (JV)	Away	