

# High School Baseball Preview Capsules

**ALVIRNE**  
**League:** N.H. Division 1  
**Last year's record:** 5-13  
**Returning starters:** Levi Griffin, sr., 2B; Ryan Santos, sr., OF; Corey Cormier, sr., P/IF; Grady Hudson, sr., P/OF; Alex Boulay, jr., P/OF/IF; Jake Hobart, so., P/OF/IF; Evan Beals, so., C.  
**Other returning lettermen:** Tyler Lizotte, sr., P/1B.  
**Promising newcomers:** Adam Sharn, jr., P/IF/OF; Isaiah Power, jr., C; Nick Jacques, so., 1B; Kyle Boulanger, so., SS; Jagger Forsyth, so., 3B/P.  
**Coach Mike Lee (37th season):** "We have some guys who got some valuable experience at this level last year, including two freshmen in Beals, an All-State catcher, and Hobart on the mound. We could start five sophomores at times. They can play, but there will be growing pains. We did not get a complete game from a starting pitcher last year. Cormier, Boulay and Hobart will be our three starters. Hobart and Cormier got significant innings last year — let's see how they progress. Our youthful infielders are going to have to make plays behind them and we need to find a way to get them a few runs."

**AYER SHIRLEY**  
**League:** Mid-Wach D  
**Last year's record:** 11-9, lost to West Boylston in Division 4 Central first round  
**Returning starters:** Andrew Consalvo, jr., 1B; Nick Granger, jr., C; John Dupell, jr., 3B; Nate Hunt, jr., LF; Michael Woodland, jr., P/CF; Chris Rooney, so., P/SS.  
**Other returning lettermen:** None.  
**Promising newcomers:** Ian Keene, so., 2B; Brendon Consalvo, so., OF; Matt Blood, sr., OF; Garret Austin, jr., OF.  
**Coach Billy Wright (3rd season):** "If the pitching hold up, we'll be a pretty good baseball team. We have a ton of experience. Offensively, we should be really good, but defensively we'll need to fill a key hole at shortstop. Rooney and Woodland will be at the top of our pitching staff."

**BILLERICA**  
**League:** MVC Division 2  
**Last year's record:** 6-16  
**Returning starters:** Ryan Murphy, jr., P/1B; Matt Tucker, sr., IF; Michael Stack, so., IF/P; Joe Dufour, so., C; DJ Sidell, so., IF/P; Matt Lewitzky, jr., OF.  
**Other returning lettermen:** Dan Fantasia, sr., OF/1B; Pat Young, jr., IF/P; Danny Cabrera, so., C.  
**Promising newcomers:** Anthony Mancuso, jr., OF/P; Michael Bragg, jr., OF; Matt Donovan, sr., 3B.  
**Coach Joe Higgins (11th season):** "We have young pitching, behind Murphy that we hope will come along. Murphy can throw in the mid-80s and is verbally committed to Maryland. We'll need to tighten up the defense. Offensively, with the guys we have back, we're hoping to bust out."

**CHELMSFORD**  
**League:** MVC Division 2  
**Last year's record:** 9-11  
**Returning starters:** Chris Rabias, sr., C/OF; Chad Lizine, sr., 3B; Jack Beauchesne sr., OF/P; Shea Ryan, sr., P/OF.  
**Other returning lettermen:** Jack Adamson, sr., P; Andrew Cloutier, sr., IF/OF; Michael Conner, sr., IF; Matt Doherty, sr., P/1B; Carl Erickson, sr., 1B; Griffin Green, sr., P/IF; Jarred Huggins, sr., C/IF; Graham Jeffries, sr., P/OF; Michael Vecchione, jr.,

OF; Patrick Hughes, jr., IF; Timmy Connor, so., OF/P/1B.  
**Promising newcomers:** Patrick Hughes, jr., IF; Anthony Hubbard, jr., OF/P; Eamon Hogan, sr., P.  
**Coach Mike O'Keefe (25th season):** "We should be very competitive this year. We have solid pitching and the kids are competing for positions. If our pitchers throw strikes, we should be in most games. Looking forward to the season."

**DRACUT**  
**League:** MVC Division 2  
**Last year's record:** 12-11, lost to Lynnfield in Division 3 North semifinals  
**Returning starters:** Jared Fahey, sr., P; Devin Lambert, sr., P/OF; Mike Patterson, sr., P/IF; Brad Keefe, sr., C; Kyle Cox, jr., C; Patrick Crowley, jr., P/IF.  
**Other returning lettermen:** John Cormier, sr., P/OF; Alex Augusts, jr., OF; Patrick O'Toole, jr., OF; Sean McMeniman, jr., P/OF.  
**Promising newcomers:** Joey Cataldo, jr., IF; Mike Moore, jr., P; Grant Gucciardi, jr., P/1B; Jack Leahy, jr., P/IF; Matt Miller, jr., P/IF; Kyle Mackay, so., P; Brian Workman, so., IF/P; Devin Hodgdon, so., 2B; Jason Taylor, so., OF; Harper Soucy, so., P/IF; Danny Robichaud, so., OF; Jacob Pynn, fr., C.  
**Coach Steve Talbot (4th season):** "The kids are working hard. We need to fill a lot of holes because we graduated 11 seniors from last year. We are inexperienced, however, we are seeing some improvements every day. We expect to compete every time we step on the field. The MVC has some great teams again this year, so we will have to play well each and every day."

**GREATER LOWELL**  
**League:** CAC Large  
**Last year's record:** 14-5, lost to Reading in Division 2 North first round  
**Returning starters:** Jeremy Gray, sr., C; Connor Lagasse, sr., 2B; Jeffrey Springer, sr., OF/P; Cole Blades, jr., 3B; Jose Lazu, jr., P/SS; Ryan Hickey, jr., OF/P; Brian Bosia, jr., 1B/P; Matt Gaudette, jr., 2B.  
**Other returning lettermen:** Benji Bardzik, jr., P/OF; Derye Lopez, sr., OF; Cody Peretti, sr., 1B.  
**Promising newcomers:** Riley Stys, jr., P/OF; Mario Silva, so., OF; Jacob Trezienski, so., SS; Nathan Palladino, fr., C; Eric Airosus, sr., SS.  
**Coach Dave MacLaughlan (35th season):** "We have our pitching staff back and we hope that makes us competitive. We are trying to fill our shortstop position. The hitting is not quite there yet and



Littleton High baseball captains Jacob Yurkoski (left) and Evan Lyons.



Billerica High baseball captains Ryan Murphy (left) and Matt Tucker.

we're not smooth defensively yet, but it'll come around. These guys proved they could do it last year."

**GROTON-DUNSTABLE**  
**League:** Mid-Wach B  
**Last year's record:** 9-11, lost to St. John's Shrewsbury in D1 Central quarterfinals  
**Returning starters:** Kasey Griffiths, sr., 1B/P; Brendan Ferrari, jr., P/3B/SS; Doug Tompkins, so., OF; Jake Figueroa, so., RF/C/2B.  
**Other returning lettermen:** Joe O'Malley, jr., SS/2B/3B; Nate Glencross, so., P/SS/3B; Riley Curran, so., P/1B/RF; Will Bordes, so., 2B/3B/P.  
**Coach Matt LeBlanc (14th season):** "This time of year is always very exciting. You can't wait to see what you have. Again, we are very fortunate to have outstanding young men who want to be a part of the Crusaders baseball program. We still have a lot moving pieces, however, we do have a significant number of returning varsity players to the program. I believe we have some depth in pitching and will be solid defensively. Offensively, we have the potential to be an explosive team if we are disciplined. I believe this group is smart, hard-working and will not be counted out of any game."

**LITTLETON**  
**League:** Mid-Wach D  
**Last year's record:** 18-4, lost of Oxford in Division 4 Central final  
**Returning starters:** Evan Lyons, sr., CF; Jacob Yurkoski, sr., P/3B.  
**Other returning lettermen:** None.  
**Promising newcomers:** Noah Graham, jr., C; Wyatt Copp, jr., SS; Lincoln Palmer, so. 1B; Andrew Sager, so., 3B;

Riley Ashworth, fr., P; Alex Cote, fr., P.  
**Coach Mike DiPietro (3rd season):** "We're young, but my hope is that we'll compete for a state tournament berth. They're learning — last year was a great experience for the team. But we're replacing seven starters."

**LOWELL CATHOLIC**  
**League:** CCL Small  
**Last year's record:** 19-5, lost to Hamilton-Wenham in Division 4 North final  
**Key losses:** Zach Gitschier, p/of; Mikas Kulbis-Marino, of; Andruis Kulbis-Marino, if; Ryan Duffy, if/p  
**Returning starters:** Kyle DeRoma, sr., C; David Gill, sr., SS/P; Alex Graves, sr., P/IF/OF; Peter Sawyer, sr., IF; Nate Sayer, sr., OF/P.  
**Other returning lettermen:** Matt Larson, sr., IF/P; Declan Dunbar, sr., OF; Josh Sayer, jr., OF; Ian Sullivan, jr., OF; Drew Martin, jr., IF/P; Kevin Galligani, so., P/IF.  
**Promising newcomers:** Liam Fisher, jr., OF; Daniel Sullivan, so., P/IF.  
**Coach Matthew Stone (8th Season):** "Lowell Catholic graduated a very strong senior class and are currently competing to fill those roles. We return strength up the middle and look to rely on experienced pitching and defense to lead the way. Leadership from our seniors is a key to success this season. We will keep the formula simple and will work to be better at the end of each week leading to the end of the season."

**LOWELL**  
**League:** MVC Division 1  
**Last year's record:** 15-8, lost to Boston Latin in Division 1 North final  
**Returning starters:** John Donovan, sr., UT/P; Edgar Velazquez, sr., OF; Tom Hassett, sr., 1B; Aidan Foyle, sr., OF; Ben Asselin, sr., P/OF; Tim Scott, sr., P; Ray Velazquez, so., IF; Tyler Hoey, jr., P/IF.  
**Other returning lettermen:** Adam Betty, so., P; Brendan DeMarco, jr., P; Pat Cote, sr., 1B/OF; Luke Silva, jr., IF; Brian Callery, sr., P; Brock Pare, sr., P; Ezequiel Nunez, sr., P; Jamie Velez, sr., IF.  
**Promising newcomers:** Matt Asselin, jr., C.  
**Coach Dan Graham (12th season):** "We've been very good at the state level, but I'd like to get back toward the top of the league — Central (Catholic) has been on a nice run. We return a bunch of starters, so offense should be our strength. We'll be above average defensively. We have a really good core of seniors, who will give us strong leadership."

**NASHOBA TECH**  
**League:** CAC Small  
**Last year's record:** 10-11, lost to Bay Path in Division 3 Central first round  
**Returning starters:** Brandon Gauthier, sr., P/1B; DJ Fraser, jr., P/C/3B; Owen Swanbon, jr., P/IF; Jame Fitzgerald, so., 1B/OF.  
**Other returning lettermen:** None.  
**Promising newcomers:** Casey Johnson, sr., P/1B; Sean Archer, so., 3B; John Fraser, so., 2B; John Burke, so., P/IF.  
**Coach Bill Moloney (2nd season):** "There are a lot of jobs up for grabs. We lost a lot of guys and they were very versatile guys. I'm hoping some of these sophomores can come through and contribute. I'm probably going to going to be starting four sophomores in any given game. As long as we take the outs they give us, we should be competitive."

**NORTH MIDDLESEX**  
**League:** Mid-Wach C  
**Last year's record:** 12-9, lost to Westboro in Division 1 Central first round  
**Returning starters:** Pat Aubuchon, sr., P/C/IF; Josh Borneman, sr., IF; Joe Murphy, sr., IF/OF; Dan Abbott, jr., IF/OF; Tyler Mahoney, jr., IF; Zach Reeves, jr., 3B/C; Sean Hayward, so., IF.  
**Other returning lettermen:** Jacob Morse, jr.; Reed Callahan, jr.; Alex Nutile, sr.  
**Promising newcomers:** Justin Marr, so.; Dylan Troiano, so.; Zach Engler, jr.; Jon Suero, jr.  
**Coach Tom Bartelson (15th season):** "We want to win the league title, make the postseason and go as far as possible."

**SHAWSHEEN TECH**  
**League:** CAC Large  
**Last year's record:** 10-11, lost to Whittier Tech in Division 2 North first round  
**Returning starters:** C.J. Zemetres, sr., P/SS; Connor Rich, jr., OF.  
**Other returning lettermen:** Russ Cook, sr., 1B; Zach Dancewicz, sr., P.  
**Promising newcomers:** D.J. Williams, jr., IF/OF; John Wermecke, jr., C.  
**Coach Brian McCarthy (7th season):** "We are very young this year, having graduated 11 players from last years' squad. They are young, but a very hungry and hard-working group. We've had great leadership from the returners so far this spring to help lead the underclassmen on how to practice and prepare."

**TEWKSBURY**  
**League:** MVC Division 2  
**Last year's record:** 10-11, lost to Beverly in Division 2 North first round  
**Returning starters:** Kyle Zervas, sr., IF; Matt Perron, sr., IF; Travis MacMurdo, sr., OF/P; Mike Polimeno, sr., IF; Nolan Timmons, jr., OF/P; Ryne Rametta, so., C.  
**Other returning lettermen:** Riley Frost, sr., IF/P; Chad Boschetti, sr., OF/P; Derek Graffeo, sr., C/OF; Garrett Kingston, jr., IF; Tyler Keough, jr., IF/OF.  
**Promising newcomers:** Evan Wood, sr., OF; David Miller, sr., IF; Alex Sousa, sr., 1B; Jack Menard, jr., P/1B; Chris Antonelli, jr., OF; Rob Evangelista, jr., OF; Alex Lacerda, jr., OF; Matt Cahill, sr., OF.  
**Coach Kirk Monbleau (4th season):** "We are hoping to compete and finish at the top of the MVC Division 2. Every year, one of the team goals is to make it to the postseason, which is no easy task when

you are battling in our league. We have a strong senior presence and leadership. The infield has a lot of experience, but players are still competing for outfield spots. We have guys with experience on the mound, but we will need them to carry a bigger load than last year."

**TYNGSBORO**  
**League:** Mid-Wach D  
**Last year's record:** 7-13  
**Returning starters:** Tyler Hapenny, sr., P/1B/OF; Chris Ausiello, sr., SS/P; Conner Tompkins, sr., OF/3B; Nolan Michaud, jr., 2B; Phil Sutherland, jr., 1B/P; Alex Carney, jr., C.  
**Other returning lettermen:** Josh Lesofsky, so., P/1B.  
**Promising newcomers:** Brandon Cancilla, jr., IF; Andrew Mord, jr., C/3B; Ryan Guillemette, fr., OF/P; JT Shaffer, fr., OF; Brandon St. Gelais, fr., P/3B; Tyler Gavriel, fr., IF.  
**Coach Ken Connerty (14th season):** "I think we are due for a strong season. We have a good mix of returning veterans and talented freshmen. We have depth on the pitching staff and a catcher with a season under his belt. The kids are hungry. We want to win our league and go from there."

**WESTFORD ACADEMY**  
**League:** DCL Large  
**Last year's record:** 6-14  
**Returning starters:** Chris Zeoli, sr., 2B; Kindred Atwood, sr., P/OF; Tyler Guillemette, sr., 3B; Matt Laverdure, sr., P; Kevin Egan, jr., 1B; Jason Fitzgerald, jr., SS; Ryan Durgin, jr., C.  
**Other returning lettermen:** John Berrigan, sr., OF; Ben Lawrence, sr., OF; Jackson Roux, sr., C.  
**Promising newcomers:** Cole Mazzaferro, sr., OF; Quentin Proulx, sr., OF; Brian Alibrandi, jr., 1B; Adam Batchelder, jr., P; Ryan Cormier, jr., P; Zach Lawrence, jr., OF; Will McNamara, jr., P; Kyle Wizst, jr., OF; Kyle Eliasan, so., P; Aaron Kriethen, so., SS.  
**Coach Mike Parent (4th season):** "We lost a lot of close games last year, but the kids played hard and they gained a lot, despite not having that record we all strive for. I'm encouraged with the pitching and team speed. At the beginning of the season, most coaches are concerned about the bats because the pitchers are ahead of them. I expect to be competitive in the league."

**WILMINGTON**  
**League:** Middlesex, Freedom Division  
**Last year's record:** 13-8, lost to Bedford in Division 3 North first round  
**Returning starters:** Gavin Kelsey, sr., C; Chris Stokes, sr., P/3B.  
**Other returning lettermen:** Peter Marino, sr., CF; Mike Fiorenza, sr., 1B.  
**Promising newcomers:** Ryan Collins, sr., P; Bailey Smith, jr., P/OF; Tristan Ciampa, jr., P/OF; Brendan George, jr., SS; Nico Piazza, so., 2B; Drew Gallucci, so., 2B.  
**Coach Aldo Caira (18th season):** "I guess what I'm hoping for is that we get better as the season progresses. We lost a lot. We have some really talented kids up from the JV team, but they just don't have the experience yet. Our pitching will be OK, defensively we'll need guys to step up, and offensively I think we have some guys who can really hit."

## MVC will be tight

**BASEBALL/**From Page 13

Tewksbury and Chelmsford were also both state tournament teams in 2018. Lowell Catholic will be aiming for a return trip to the Division 4 North final, and more. The Crusaders went 19-5 a year ago and return reigning *Sun* co-Player of the Year Alex Graves, who shines on the mound and at the plate. He'll have his battery mate back as well in senior catcher Kyle DeRoma. Senior Jeremy Gray, who batted .421 last year, will lead a talented Greater Lowell Tech squad that has designs on a Commonwealth Athletic Conference Large title. Over in Central Mass.,

Littleton is coming off a fantastic campaign that saw it get to the Division 4 Central final. However, the Tigers have just two starters back and will count on a lot of new additions to step up. Senior slugger Pat Aubuchon (.489 batting average last year) and North Middlesex hope to challenge for a Mid-Wach C crown. Meanwhile, it's a milestone season for a pair of area coaches. Chelmsford's Mike O'Keefe enters his 25th campaign, while Greater Lowell's Dave MacLaughlan is in his 35th. *Follow Matt Langone on Twitter @MattLangone*

### PLAYERS TO WATCH

**Infield:** Evan Beals, so., Alvirne; Andrew Consalvo, jr., Ayer Shirley; John Dupell, jr., Ayer Shirley; Nick Granger, jr., Ayer Shirley; Joe Dufour, so., Billerica; D.J. Sidell, so., Billerica; Michael Stack, so., Billerica; Kyle Cox, jr., Dracut; Cole Blades, jr., Greater Lowell; Jeremy Gray, sr., Greater Lowell; Kyle DeRoma, sr., Lowell Catholic; David Gill, sr., Lowell Catholic; Peter Sawyer, sr., Lowell Catholic; John Donovan, sr., Lowell; Ray Velazquez, so., Lowell; DJ Fraser, jr., Nashoba Tech; Sean Hayward, so., North Middlesex; Alex Carney, jr., Tyngsboro; Jason Fitzgerald, jr., Westford Academy; Tyler Guillemette, sr., Westford Academy; Gavin Kelsey, sr., Wilmington  
**Outfield:** Jack Beauchesne, sr., Chelmsford; Devin Lambert, sr., Dracut; Ryan Hickey, jr., Greater Lowell; Jeffrey Springer, sr., Greater Lowell; Evan Lyons, sr., Littleton; Nate Sayer, sr., Lowell Catholic; Edgar Velazquez, sr., Lowell; Connor Rich, jr., Shawsheen Tech; Ben Lawrence, sr., Westford Academy  
**Pitchers:** Jake Hobart, so., Alvirne; Chris Rooney, so., Ayer Shirley; Ryan Murphy, jr., Billerica; Shea Ryan, sr., Chelmsford; Patrick Crowley, jr., Dracut; Brian Bosia, jr., Greater Lowell; Jacob Yurkoski, sr., Littleton; Alex Graves, sr., Lowell Catholic; Adam Betty, so., Lowell; Tim Scott, sr., Lowell; Brandon Gauthier, sr., Nashoba Tech; Pat Aubuchon, sr., North Middlesex; Justin Marr, so., North Middlesex; C.J. Zemetres, sr., Shawsheen Tech; Tyler Hapenny, sr., Tyngsboro; Matt Laverdure, sr., Westford Academy; Chris Stokes, sr., Wilmington

### ROAD RACE CALENDAR

**SUNDAY, APRIL 7**  
LOWELL — The Dudley's Irish Clover 5 Mile Race will begin at 11:30 a.m. from Dudley's on Merrimack Street. This is the third and final race over the Wild Rover Series. Entry fee \$45. Shirts to all entrants. For registration, go to [lightboxreg.com/wild-rover-2019](http://lightboxreg.com/wild-rover-2019).  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 13**  
ANDOVER — The 28th annual Merrimack River 10 mile trail race will begin at 9 a.m. from the back parking lot of the DoubleTree by Hilton hotel, Old River Road. Entry fee \$10 prior to April 10, \$15 after. Add \$10 for a T-shirt (only 75 available). Make checks payable to Stephen Peterson, mail to 134 Robin Hill Road, Chelmsford, Ma., 01824. Post-race raffle and awards at 10:45 a.m.  
**SUNDAY, APRIL 28**  
DRACUT — The fifth annual LouLou Gookin Lung Cancer Awareness 5K Walk/Run will begin at 11 a.m. at O'Hara's Tavern, 1734 Lakeview Ave. T-shirts to first 125 entrants. Register online at [lightboxreg.com](http://lightboxreg.com). Entry fee \$30 prior to race, \$35 race day.  
**SUNDAY, MAY 5**  
WESTFORD — The 20th annual Westford Road Race will start at the Abbot School on Depot Street. The event consists of a Family Fun Run (2 p.m.), 5K (2:20 p.m.) and 10K (2:25 p.m.). Pre-entry fee before April 21: Fun Run \$15, 5K \$25, 10K \$30. T-shirts to first 600 entrants. Runners can register at [roadrace.westford.org/regform.html](http://roadrace.westford.org/regform.html) or can register the day of the event from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Abbot School.  
**SUNDAY, MAY 19**  
AYER — The 15th annual Janis Bresnahan 5K Run for Education and Family Fun Day will be held at the Ayer Shirley Regional High School track, 141 Washington St. Registration/sign in begins at 9:30 a.m. Tot Trot at 10:30 a.m., 2K Fun Run and Walk at 11:15 a.m., and 5K run at 12 p.m. For more information and to register or make a donation, please go to [janisbresnahanforeducation.com](http://janisbresnahanforeducation.com).  
**THURSDAY, JULY 4**  
CHELMSFORD — The annual John Carson July 4th two-mile road race will begin at 9:30 a.m. behind Hannaford supermarket at 80 Parkhurst Road. Pre-register at Sullivan Farms until July 3. Limited race-day registration from 7:30-9 a.m. E-mail [Sulfarms@aol.com](mailto:Sulfarms@aol.com) or call 978-649-9202 for information and applications.