



Established January 2016



Thank you for your interest in joining Paladin Knights Baseball! I fully believe as a coach you can make an impact that lasts forever with youth. That impact can either be a positive or negative one. It is our desire to equip you with everything that you will need to be a successful coach. Til this day I have fond memories of the different coaches that made an impact on my life. I can remember certain coaches who spoke into my life that helped me off the field. I can remember coaches who taught me the fundamentals of the game. I can remember coaches who helped take my career to the next level. As a coach myself what I take away from this is the fact that these young athletes soak up everything you say, and one day they too will have memories of how you impacted their life.

As a coach in our organization I promise that you will receive the full support needed to accomplish our mission and purpose. The family atmosphere that has been established means not only do you have my full support; you will become a part of a family that looks out for each other. Every Knights team is viewed as collective whole rather than an individual team. From rides to practices and games, birthday parties, Dbacks games, players filling in for teams short, sticking around the ballpark to watch their fellow Knights play and coaches helping more than just their own team.

Our approach to the game is unique in the fact that I fully believe sports can be played in a healthy and positive way. We see so often today an environment that breeds coaches yelling at players, parents yelling at kids, umpires being yelled at by everyone, players being disrespectful to their opponent...I could go on and on. Instead we have found success in developing our players with a positive approach, appreciating the umpires even amidst their mistakes, respecting our opponent and last of all honoring God with all of our words and actions.

I look forward to the continued success of Paladin Knights Baseball both on and off the field!

Blake Wilsford

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Executive Director
Paladin Sports Outreach



History

Back in 2013 I had a vision of competitive baseball being established through Paladin. At that time Paladin was running a t-ball program and a recreational baseball program designed for players who had never played baseball before. My 3 boys were just out of t-ball and I knew at some point they would be interested in playing at a more competitive level. I shared my vision with Abe Bawden who at the time was helping me run the Lil Pals baseball academy. He had the same vision and we began to work to create club baseball through Paladin. In January 2016 we launched Knights Baseball! I coached a team and Abe coached a team. Combined our records were 4-20. To our surprise we were chosen as All Star coaches based on our approach to the game on and off the field. We took the 8U All Star team, won the state tournament and competed in the World Series in California that 2016 summer! Since then we have produced winning teams and champion players both on and off the field!

Mission

Our mission is to share the message of Christ by being the outreach to our local communities and developing championship baseball players on the field and off the field.

Purpose

Our purpose is to play the game the way it should be played. Our approach is we will honor and respect this great game. Our players will respect each other and their opponents. Our parents will respect the youth playing this game, the umpires calling the game and the coaches managing the game. Our coaches will respect all involved including players, parents, umpires and coaches alike. Our purpose is to display a Christ-like attitude everywhere we go with our words and actions so that others may come to know Christ through Paladin Knights baseball.

Philosophy

Our philosophy is to develop players according to their abilities. This means assessing where each child's talent level is at, then implementing a plan to allow them opportunities to compete at a higher level. This doesn't mean every child plays every position, that's not player development; our philosophy is to provide the best platform for your child to become a great baseball player.



Why Become a Coach in the Knights program?

Yes, you could 100% start a team on your own or have your child sign up for a local league. Joining Paladin Knights Baseball means you are joining a family. Our goal is to provide you with as many resources as possible to become a successful coach and to create a quality team that can last for years and years to come. Some of the things we offer include:

- Non Profit status with Tax ID number so all donations and sponsorships are tax deductible.
- We are partnered with SI Play to offer a team website, online registration, online team gear and an app for easy communication with players and parents.
- Staff and team of dedicated people to help you succeed.
- Team Insurance
- Database of over 2000 families to help with recruitment.
- Multiple teams to allow sharing of players, formation of tournament teams, scrimmaging, etc.
- Tickets to Diamondbacks games throughout the season.
- Financial support.

Final Thoughts

While these are just some of the things we offer our intent is to provide you with all the tools, resources and staff to help you establish a successful Knights baseball team. I fully believe we can change the way competitive baseball is played and impact the baseball community in a positive way with our message and approach to how we play the game. God has already done big things through Knights baseball and He is looking to do more!

Our faith is who we are as an organization so if you are ready to become a Knights coach we ask that you fill out our Knights questionnaire and send it to the email address below.

If you have any other questions on what we offer or what being a Knights coach looks like then contact us!

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