

Baseball

George Fox University Athletics

2015

2015 Media Guide

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GEORGE FOX UNIVERSITY

BRIUINS



Baseball

SPRING 2015

At George Fox University, student-athletes pursue conference and national titles at a Christ-centered university where athletic competition hinges on what is learned in classrooms and practices. George Fox teams are members of the Northwest Conference and compete in the Division III level of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).

Vision: To be “the team to beat” in NCAA Div. III sports with the most formative athletic experience in the country.

George Fox has earned 26 conference titles, two national team championships, and five individual national championships during the last decade.

Values:

- Christ-centered Community
- High Respect for the Sport
- Relentless Pursuit of Excellence
- Integrity in All Things
- Self-Discipline
- Total Commitment to Team

Mission: To provide a competitive experience that breeds athletic excellence, academic success and Christ-like character.

More than 15 percent of George Fox’s traditional undergraduate students participate in sports.

Season Preview

The George Fox University Bruins are ready to take the field and earn their 20th consecutive winning season. The Northwest Conference looks to be very competitive again, and the team was placed third in the Northwest Conference preseason coaches’ poll, behind only Pacific Lutheran and first-ranked Linfield College. The Bruins finished last season with a 15-9 record en-route to a 28-12 overall finish and successful season.

The Bruins’ third-place ranking in the poll corresponds with an optimistic feeling about the upcoming season, despite heavy roster turnover. Starting pitchers Ian Buckles and Tom Zarosinski return with another year of invaluable experience and a proven record of success – Buckles was named Second Team All-NWC last season, and Zarosinski took home an honorable mention spot. The two combined to go 13-4, and Zarosinski turned in a scintillating 1.99 ERA. Right fielder Zach Rapacz’s formidable bat also returns to the middle of the Bruin lineup after a successful 2014 season in which he batted .303 and knocked in 28 runs, earning him Second Team All-NWC honors.

The Bruins did lose star catcher Josh Rapacz, last year an All-West Region second-teamer and a 2013 first-team All-American, who signed as a free agent with the Tampa Bay Rays after leading George Fox with a .391 average. First baseman Derek Dixon, an All-NWC first-teamer, is also gone, along with his .356 average and 33 RBIs. Also graduated are staff ace Clay Gartner, himself an All-West Region second-teamer who paced the Bruin arms

with a 10-2 record; designated hitter Danny Clifford and his team-leading eight home runs and 38 RBIs; and outfielder Matt Zeller, whose .328 average was good enough for an All-NWC second-team nod. As if those losses weren’t sufficient enough, the Bruins also said goodbye to All-NWC honorable mentions Derek Blankenship, Zachary Israel and reliever Connor Harris, who posted a stingy 1.38 ERA.

Nevertheless, head coach Marty Hunter’s impressive .656 career winning percentage over seven seasons with the Bruins proves his ability to keep a fluid and untested roster competitive in the NWC, which is always a hotly contested league. Despite Gartner’s absence, the Bruins should feature a strong starting rotation led by the six-foot righty Zarosinski, and Hunter’s teams are always clinical in the field, as their .972 fielding percentage last year proves. Besides the reliable Zach Rapacz, the Bruins also return junior outfielder Kadyn Nannini, who boasted a perfect 1.000 fielding percentage last season.

George Fox kicked off the season on Feb. 6 in Texas against Concordia and Centenary.

The Bruins will finish their schedule with four games against Linfield and a single meeting with Pacific Lutheran, picked to finish one-two in the pool. If all goes right for the Bruins, those games could very well determine how the top of the league shakes out.

Head Coach Marty Hunter



Marty Hunter, the 2009 Northwest Conference Co-Coach of the Year, enters his eighth season at the helm of the nationally recognized Bruin baseball program with a record of 187-98 (.656).

In 2014, Hunter’s squad went 28-12 (.700) overall and 15-9 (.625) in the Northwest Conference, good for third place in the NWC standings. Leading the way were 11 players who earned All-NWC accolades. The season prior, the Bruins posted a 26-12 overall record and finished second in the NWC at 17-7, behind eventual national champion Linfield. A 5-1 home win over Whitworth in the first game of a doubleheader on March 29 of that season gave Hunter his 150th career victory. Ranked as high as eighth in the ABCA / Collegiate Baseball poll at one point, the Bruins eventually finished among “others receiving votes” in two national polls.

Hunter’s 2009 team went 36-11, recording the second-most wins in a season in Bruin history. After tying for the conference championship with Pacific Lutheran, both at 27-5, the Bruins defeated PLU in a one-game playoff to earn the NWC’s automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament. The playoff win gave the Bruins a 33-9 regular-season record, the most wins prior to postseason play in team history.

Hunter arrived at George Fox as an assistant coach in 2003, with a primary focus on the infielders, and was named the Bruins’ associate head coach in 2005. Under his tutelage, the George Fox defense ranked in the top six nationally in fielding average for five straight seasons (2003-2007), leading the nation in both 2003 and 2005 and setting a Division III record in 2005 with a .979 fielding mark.

A graduate of Gresham (Ore.) High School, Hunter attended Linfield College, where he received two letters as a football cornerback and three as a second baseman and catcher on the baseball team. He earned both dual business and health degrees from Linfield in 1984, then worked at Gladstone, Gresham and West Albany high schools, all in Oregon, before landing coaching jobs in Bend (Ore.) and later Canby (Ore.). He completed a master of education degree from Linfield in 1991.

In addition to his coaching duties, Hunter serves as an instructor in the George Fox department of health and human performance. He and his late wife Kim have two sons: Taylor, 25, a two-time All-Conference shortstop for the Bruins who enters his third year as an assistant coach for his alma mater, and Tucker, 22, who attends Oklahoma State.

Assistant Coaches



Kevin Kopple enters his eighth season with the Bruins serving under head coach Marty Hunter.

Kopple serves as the recruiting coordinator for the Bruin baseball team, as well as working with the catchers and third basemen.

He coached in the West Coast Collegiate League-Portland for four summers and now serves as the commissioner of the league, which is now known as the NCBL-Portland.

As a player, Kopple was a part of the 2006 team that made an appearance in the NCAA D-III National Tournament, and the 2005 team that won the Northwest Conference Championship.

Before his playing days at George Fox, Kopple spent two years at Napa Valley College in Napa, Calif.

A 2006 graduate of George Fox, he is now working toward a master’s degree in sports management from the United States Sports Academy.



Trey Watt enters his fourth season as an assistant coach for the Bruins under head coach Marty Hunter. Watt has been working with the pitchers since his arrival in 2012.

He began his coaching career at George Fox after working out with the Bruin baseball team while he played in the Arizona Diamondbacks organization. He also played for the independent Rockford Riverhawks.

Watt played for Pacific Lutheran University and was a three-time first-team All-Northwest Conference pitcher. He posted a 9-1 record and a 2.81 ERA in his senior season. He currently is tied for fourth in school history with 22 career wins. Watt also ranks in the all-time top10 list in innings pitched (7th, 231.1), strikeouts (3rd, 212) and earned run average (7th, 3.54). He was just the second player in PLU history to sign a free agent contract.

He currently is in his third year working fulltime for the Newberg School District as a behavior coach at the primary level.



Randy Rutschman
Assistant Coach
(2004-)



Taylor Hunter
Assistant Coach
(2012-)



Brent Trask
Assistant Coach/Pitchers
(2014-)



Jared Norris
Assistant Coach
(2014-)



2015 ROSTER

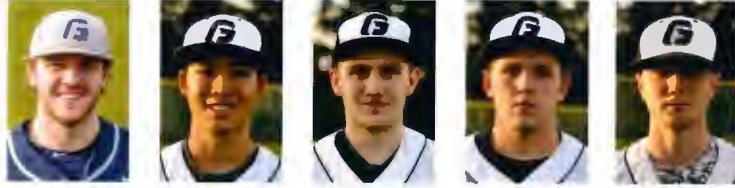
PITCHERS



7 Camden Muller 8 Nathan Higa 10 Michael Hirko 11 Dustin Wells 17 Nick Auld



22 Sean Eberhardt 24 Taylor Dunn 29 Sean Moran 31 Sam Morland 32 Blake Stassi



33 Tom Zarusinski 35 Mikah Takashige 37 Zach Johnson 44 Ian Buckles Rowdy Huston



Jake Timlin

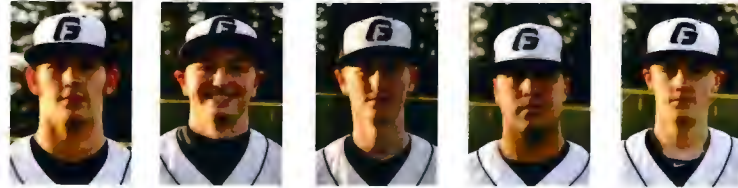
INFIELD



1 Jalen Drath 2 Riley McKean 13 Mason Dunning 14 Jason Mishler 16 Zachery Muenster



18 Kyle Esquerra 21 Blake Christopher 25 Jake Thran 26 Clay Mott 34 Jacob Woehler



Bryan Branstatter Connor Forsyth Cameron Lewis Taylor Lindquist Mitchell Milburn



Scotty Strickland

OUTFIELD



3 Gabe Louthan 4 AJ Valencia 5 Kady Nannini 6 Brandon Wileman 12 Dillon Blankenship



19 Zach Rapacz 20 Caleb Schwitters 23 Demitri Cranshaw 30 Eli Skiles Houston Thom

CATCHERS



9 Tyler Hamilton 15 Ansel Webster 27 Brandon Peterson 28 Andrew Reichenbach Chris Bones

NO.	Name	Pos.	B/T	Ht.	Wt.	Yr./El.	Hometown/High School
1	Jalen Drath	UT	L/R	5-8	175	So./So.	Eugene, Ore. / Willamette
2	Riley McKean	IF	R/R	5-9	165	So./So.	Belfair, Wash. / North Mason
3	Gabe Louthan	OF	R/R	5-11	165	Jr./Jr.	Dayton, Ore. / Western Mennonite
4	AJ Valencia	CF/OF	L/L	5-8	155	Fr./Fr.	Phoenix, Ariz. / Desert Vista
5	Kady Nannini	OF	R/R	5-8	170	Jr./Jr.	Gresham, Ore. / Gresham
6	Brandon Wileman	OF	R/R	5-11	190	So./So.	Mesa, Ariz. / Red Mountain
7	Camden Muller	P	R/R	5-11	160	Fr./Fr.	Tualatin, Ore. / Horizon Christian
8	Nathan Higa	P-IF	L/R	5-10	190	So./So.	Pearl City, Hawai'i / Punahou
9	Tyler Hamilton	C	R/R	6-2	175	So./So.	Lindon, Utah / Timpanogos
10	Michael Hirko	IF-P	R/R	6-0	165	Sr./Sr.	Bend, Ore. / Bend
11	Dustin Wells	P	L/L	5-10	170	Jr./So.	Glendale, Ariz. / Brophy Prep
12	Dillon Blankenship	OF	R/R	6-1	195	So./So.	Baker City, Ore. / Baker
13	Mason Dunning	1B	R/R	6-2	210	Jr./Jr.	Milwaukie, Ore. / Rex Putnam
14	Jason Mishler	2B	R/R	6-1	170	Fr./Fr.	Highlands Ranch, Colo. / Valor Christian
15	Ansel Webster	C	R/R	5-11	195	So./So.	Milwaukie, Ore. / Lakeridge
16	Zachery Muenster	RHP/IF	R/R	6-1	185	Jr./So.	Waianae, Hawai'i / Punahou
17	Nick Auld	P	R/R	6-0	165	Fr./Fr.	Newberg, Ore. / Newberg
18	Kyle Esquerra	SS/2B	R/R	5-11	165	Fr./Fr.	Tualatin, Ore. / Horizon Christian
19	Zach Rapacz	OF	R/R	5-11	215	Sr./Sr.	West Richland, Wash. / Richland
20	Caleb Schwitters	OF	R/R	6-0	195	Fr./Fr.	Clayton, Calif. / Berean Christian
21	Blake Christopher	3B	R/R	5-11	195	Fr./Fr.	Camas, Wash. / Camas
22	Sean Eberhardt	P	R/R	6-1	211	Sr./Sr.	Milwaukie, Ore. / Rex Putnam
23	Demitri Cranshaw	OF	R/R	5-9	175	Jr./Jr.	Sacramento, Cali. / Capital Christian
24	Taylor Dunn	P	R/R	6-3	200	Sr./Sr.	Lake Oswego, Ore. / Lake Oswego
25	Jake Thran	1B	R/R	6-3	230	Jr./Jr.	Gresham, Ore. / Barlow
26	Clay Mott	IF	R/R	6-0	175	Jr./Jr.	Gresham, Ore. / Gresham
27	Brandon Peterson	C	R/R	5-10	160	So./So.	Richland, Wash. / Liberty Christian
28	Andrew Reichenbach	C	L/R	6-1	225	So./So.	Newberg, Ore. / Newberg
29	Sean Moran	RHP	R/R	6-5	205	Jr./Jr.	Lake Stevens, Wash. / Lake Stevens
30	Eli Skiles	OF	R/R	5-8	160	So./So.	Milwaukie, Ore. / Rex Putnam
31	Sam Morland	P	L/L	6-0	210	Sr./Sr.	Newberg, Ore. / Newberg
32	Blake Stassi	P	R/R	5-8	145	So./So.	Elk Grove, California / Bradshaw Christian
33	Tom Zarusinski	P	R/R	6-0	225	Sr./Sr.	Lake Oswego, Ore. / Lake Oswego
34	Jacob Woehler	1B	L/L	6-2	215	Jr./Jr.	Sacramento, Calif. / Capital Christian
35	Mikah Takashige	P/SS	R/R	5-9	170	Fr./Fr.	Wahiawa, Hawaii / Leilehua
37	Zach Johnson	P	R/R	6-4	195	Fr./Fr.	Portland, Ore. / Grant
44	Ian Buckles	P	R/R	6-0	230	Sr./Sr.	Kent, Wash. / Kentridge
	Chris Bones	C	R/L	5-10	180	Jr./Jr.	Ridgefield, Wash. / Ridgefield
	Bryan Branstatter	1B	R/R	6-5	235	Fr./Fr.	Pendleton, Ore. / Pendleton
	Connor Forsyth	SS	R/R	6-0	175	Fr./Fr.	Tukwila, Wash. / Foster
	Rowdy Huston	RHP	R/R	5-9	170	Fr./Fr.	Eugene, Ore. / Marist
	Cameron Lewis	2B	R/R	5-10	145	Fr./Fr.	Irvine, Calif. / Beckman
	Taylor Lindquist	3B	R/R	6-0	200	Fr./Fr.	Richland, Wash. / Liberty Christian
	Mitchell Milburn	IF	R/R	5-11	160	Fr./Fr.	Eagle, Idaho / Bishop Kelly
	Scotty Strickland	1B	R/R	6-4	224	So./So.	Eugene, Ore. / Churchill
	Houston Thom	OF	R/R	5-11	190	Fr./Fr.	Gresham, Ore. / Barlow
	Jake Timlin	RHP	R/R	6-1	165	Fr./Fr.	Castle Rock, Colo. / Valor Christian



A WINNING TRADITION

2015 SEASON SCHEDULE



Teams rise and teams fall; it's one of the surest stats in sports. Rare is the program that can stand the test of time for one decade, let alone two. And yet, here is the George Fox University baseball team -- currently in pursuit of its 20th consecutive winning season.

The Bruin Athletics vision is to be the team to beat with the most formative athletic experience in the country. Head coach Marty Hunter and his coaching staff, as well as the coaches who have come before him, have assembled teams with grit, determination, raw talent, and an undying commitment to their teammates. At the center of all they do is the ethos that they are more as a unit than as individuals; that they play as a family because they are a family. These men love the game, and they are a committed to their teams, even after graduation.

Together, these teams have achieved incredible results. Most notably, the 2004 team earned a national championship trophy that sits proudly on display in Wheeler Sports Center. That year, the Bruins were an at-large bid into the national tournament. They went 4-0 in the West Regional and 5-1 in the World Series to bring the title back home to Newberg.

Baseball is a game for the purists. It's the antithesis of glitz and glam; rather, it's dirt and grass, technique and precision, hard work and determination. This is a program that has stood the test of time. Their tradition is a winning one, both in the caliber of men who graduate from their teams and from the success they've had on the field.

Bruin Baseball By the Numbers:

- 1 NCAA D-III National Championship (2004)
- 8 NCAA D-III National Tournaments (2000, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009)
- 1 NCAA Regional Championship (West 2004)
- 7 Northwest Conference Championships (2000, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2009)
- 19 consecutive winning seasons
- 7 Top 25 national rankings (2000, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2009)
- 5 players have gone on to play professional ball since 2004

DATE	VERSUS	NOTES	TIME
FEBRUARY			
Fri. 6	vs. Concordia @ Sequin, Texas (Texas Lutheran)		11:00 AM
	vs. Centenary (LA.) @ San Antonio, Texas (Trinity)		7:00 AM
Sat. 7	at Trinity		10:00 AM
Sun. 8	vs. Concordia @ Austin, Texas		11:00 AM
Thu. 12	Corban		2:00 PM*
Sat. 14	vs. Oregon Tech @ Concordia-Portland		11:00 AM
Sun. 15	at Concordia-Portland		2:00 PM
Sat. 21	at Pacific (Ore.) *		11:00 AM
	at Pacific (Ore.) *		2:00 PM
Sun. 22	at Pacific (Ore.) *		12:00 PM
Sat. 28	Willamette *		11:00 AM
	Willamette *		2:00 PM
MARCH			
Sun. 1	Willamette *		12:00 PM
Sat. 7	at Whitworth *		12:00 PM
	at Whitworth *		3:00 PM
Sun. 8	at Whitworth *		12:00 PM
Tue. 10	Lewis & Clark		3:30 PM
Sat. 14	Whitman *		12:00 PM
	Whitman *		3:00 PM
Sun. 15	Whitman *		12:00 PM
Wed. 18	at Corban		3:00 PM
Fri. 20	at Chapman		3:00 PM
Sat. 21	at Chapman		12:00 PM
	at Chapman		4:30 PM
Sun. 22	at Chapman		12:00 PM
Sat. 28	at Pacific Lutheran *		12:00 PM
	at Pacific Lutheran *		3:00 PM
Sun. 29	at Pacific Lutheran *		12:00 PM
APRIL			
Fri. 3	Puget Sound *		12:00 PM
	Puget Sound *		2:00 PM
Sat. 4	Puget Sound *		12:00 PM
Tue. 7	Pacific (Ore.) *		3:30 PM
Sat. 11	at Lewis & Clark *		12:00 PM
	at Lewis & Clark *		3:00 PM
Sun. 12	at Lewis & Clark *		12:00 PM
Sat. 18	Linfield *		12:00 PM
	Linfield *		3:00 PM
Sun. 19	Linfield *		12:00 PM
MAY			
Sun. 3	at Linfield *		12:00 PM
	at Pacific Lutheran	PLU Tournament	3:00 PM

* Conference | **Bold:** Home Event | Schedule is subject to change based on weather conditions.



GEORGE FOX
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