

2017

2017 Media Guide

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GEORGE FOX UNIVERSITY

BRUINS



SEASON PREVIEW

NEWBERG, Ore. -- With the addition of a new turf infield and a host of key returners, the George Fox baseball team is eager to take the diamond for the 2017 season.

The Bruins' 2016 campaign ended a game above .500 at 21-20, and their 14-10 conference record placed them tied for third. Even so, by averaging just under seven runs a game, the Bruins had the firepower to make a run in the Northwest Conference Tournament.

The graduation of experienced players Kady Nannini, Gabe Louthan, Clay Mott and Sam Moreland leaves big shoes to fill, but head coach Marty Hunter has brought in a recruiting class that has already made an impression on Hunter and his staff.

"They are good athletes and good guys," Hunter said about his group of newcomers. "One of the best things about them is that they like to play, like to practice, and they are really good about taking the coaching."

Hunter feels that his mixture of freshman talent and returning leadership will produce positive results.

"The culture of this team is very good. They get along, things are going well, and they need to continue to build on that and carry it to the baseball field."

The Bruins return three of their five All-NWC selections from a year ago: AJ Valencia, an honorable mention selection, and first-teamers Andrew Reichenbach and Dustin Wells. Wells also earned Pitcher of the Year honors, throwing the most innings pitched of any player in the NWC while also finishing tied for second in wins (7).

"Dustin Wells, he has to be one of those guys (that we can lean on)," Hunter said of his pitching staff. "Alex Jondal is a returning guy, and Nathan Higa is another one who has to provide that [leadership] for the other guys."



Among other impact returners to the pitching staff are Zach Stouder and Liam Kent, while junior transfer Garrett Day has already fallen into a leadership role.

"He's a good guy, and he is going to do a good job for us," Hunter said of Day.

Hunter feels that there is experience, talent and leadership in Reichenbach, Valencia, Connor Newell, Brandon Wileman and Zachary Muenster to bolster the development and cohesiveness of his team. The bats will also be a huge factor, as the Bruins will rely on Reichenbach, Valencia and Kyle Esquerra to lead the way offensively.

The Bruins will travel to Arizona during the second week of February to face competition that is sure to get them acclimated to the type of talent they will be up against the rest of the year.

"It is a great challenge for us because we are going to face good pitching the whole time we are there," Hunter said. "It is going to prepare us for conference because our conference is a grinder."

The Bruins will have their sights set on Whitworth and Pacific Lutheran come conference play, but Hunter feels his club has what it takes to insert themselves into that conversation of teams to beat.

"What is important is being consistent with our play and continuing to improve. If we do that, we will challenge those guys," Hunter said.

"Physically we have guys that can do what we need them to do. Now it's putting it all together."

George Fox kicks off its season by hosting the NWC Preseason Tournament on Feb. 2-5. During that time the Bruins will play four games -- one on each day. Pacific (Ore.), Pacific Lutheran, Whitworth and Whitman make up the rest of the field.



SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
FEBRUARY		
Thu. 2	Pacific (Ore.)	1:30 PM
Fri. 3	Pacific Lutheran	1:30 PM
Sat. 4	Whitworth	1:00 PM
Sun. 5	Whitman	1:00 PM
Thu. 9	vs. La Verne - Tucson Invitational @ Tucson, Ariz.	1:00 PM
Fri. 10	vs. Chapman @ Tucson, Ariz.	5:00 PM
	vs. Redlands - Cactus Classic @ Tucson, Ariz.	11:30 AM
Sat. 11	vs. Occidental - Tucson Invitational @ Tucson, Ariz.	10:00 AM
Sat. 18	at Lewis & Clark *	11:00 AM
	at Lewis & Clark *	2:00 PM
Sun. 19	at Lewis & Clark *	12:00 PM
Sat. 25	Linfield *	11:00 AM
	Linfield *	2:00 PM
Sun. 26	Linfield *	12:00 PM
MARCH		
Sat. 4	at Pacific (Ore.) *	12:00 PM
	at Pacific (Ore.) *	3:00 PM
Sun. 5	at Pacific (Ore.) *	12:00 PM
Sat. 11	Whitworth *	11:00 AM
	Whitworth *	2:00 PM
Sun. 12	Whitworth *	11:00 AM
Sat. 18	at Whitman *	12:00 PM
	at Whitman *	2:00 PM
Sun. 19	at Whitman *	12:00 PM
Sat. 25	Willamette *	12:00 PM
	Willamette *	3:00 PM
Sun. 26	Willamette *	12:00 PM
Tue. 28	at Willamette	2:00 PM
Fri. 31	Whittier	3:00 PM
APRIL		
Sat. 1	Whittier	12:00 PM
	Whittier	2:00 PM
Sat. 8	at Pacific Lutheran *	12:00 PM
	at Pacific Lutheran *	3:00 PM
Sun. 9	at Pacific Lutheran *	12:00 PM
Fri. 14	Puget Sound *	12:00 PM
	Puget Sound *	2:00 PM
Sat. 15	Puget Sound *	12:00 PM
Fri. 21	vs. TBA % @ (Hosted by Regular Season Champion)	TBA
Fri. 28	Pacific Lutheran	3:00 PM
Sun. 30	at Linfield	3:30 PM
MAY		
Mon. 1	Pacific (Ore.)	4:00 PM

2016 ROSTER



1 Jalen
Drath



2 Zach
Rhoads



3 Michael
Ziccarelli



4 AJ
Valencia



5 Matt
Voelzke



6 Connor
Newell



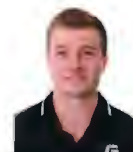
7 Jantzen
Tamanaha



8 Nathan
Higa



9 Mikah
Takashige



10 Brandon
Wileman



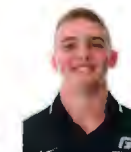
11 Dustin
Wells



12 David
Howell



13 Dillon
Blankenship



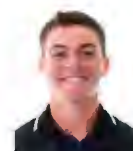
14 Houston
Thom



15 Gavin
Speegle



16 Zachery
Muenster



17 Liam
Kent



18 Ryan
Johnson



19 Sam
Swenson



20 Kyle
Esquerra



21 Derek
Johnson



22 AJ
Atherton



23 Caleb
Bell



24 Colby
Watilo



25 Matthew
Ramirez



26 CJ
Ibara



27 Garrett
Day



28 Andrew
Reichenbach



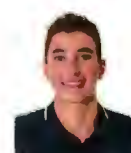
29 Neal
Hassan



30 Zach
Stouder



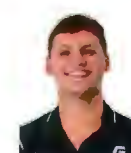
31 Tristan
Guillen



32 Lane
Kimbro



33 Isaac
Olson



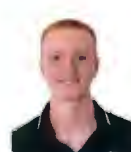
35 Alex
Jondal



37 Bryan
Branstatter



38 Nick
Auld



39 Rowdy
Huston



40 Troy
Lacy



41 Brandon
Ikehara



42 Jarrod
Infante



43 Bradley
Mason



45 Connor
Carter



46 Richard
Costa III



47 Dilan
Casupang



48 Brock
Jackson



49 Davis
Yasuda



50 Justin
Targett

No.	Name	Pos.	Ac./El.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown/High School/College
1	Jalen Drath	INF	Sr./Sr.	5-8	180	Eugene, Ore. / Willamette / -
2	Zach Rhoads	OF	So./So.	5-7	175	McMinnville, Ore. / McMinnville / -
3	Michael Ziccarelli	OF	So./So.	5-7	165	Auburn, Wash. / Thomas Jefferson / -
4	AJ Valencia	OF	Jr./Jr.	5-8	155	Phoenix, Ariz. / Desert Vista / -
5	Matt Voelzke	INF/RHP	Fr./Fr.	6-3	185	Lake Oswego, Ore. / Lake Oswego / -
6	Connor Newell	INF	Sr./Sr.	5-9	165	Roseburg, Ore. / Roseburg / Mt. Hood CC
7	Jantzen Tamanaha	INF	So./So.	5-7	155	Aiea, Hawai'i / Punahou / -
8	Nathan Higa	RHP	Sr./Sr.	5-9	188	Pearl City, Hawai'i / Punahou / -
9	Mikah Takashige	RHP	Jr./Jr.	5-9	170	Wahiawa, Hawaii / Leilehua / -
10	Brandon Wileman	OF	Sr./Sr.	5-11	195	Mesa, Ariz. / Red Mountain / -
11	Dustin Wells	LHP	Sr./Sr.	5-11	175	Glendale, Ariz. / Brophy Prep / -
12	David Howell	LHP	Fr./Fr.	6-2	175	Tigard, Ore. / Tigard / -
13	Dillon Blankenship	UT	Sr./Sr.	6-2	200	Baker City, Ore. / Baker / -
14	Houston Thom	UT	Jr./Jr.	6-0	190	Gresham, Ore. / Barlow / -
15	Gavin Speegle	C	So./So.	6-3	205	Eagle, Idaho / Eagle / -
16	Zachery Muenster	P/INF	Jr./Sr.	6-1	190	Waianae, Hawaii / Punahou / Alcorn State University
17	Liam Kent	LHP	So./So.	6-0	185	Torrance, Calif. / Bishop Montgomery / -
18	Ryan Johnson	RHP	Fr./Fr.	6-2	185	West Linn, Ore. / West Linn / -
19	Sam Swenson	1B	Fr./Fr.	6-3	220	McMinnville, Ore. / McMinnville / -
20	Kyle Esquerra	INF	Jr./Jr.	5-11	175	Tualatin, Ore. / Horizon Christian / -
21	Derek Johnson	OF	So./So.	6-1	190	Spring Branch, Texas / Smithson Valley / -
22	AJ Atherton	LHP	Fr./Fr.	5-10	185	Portland, Ore. / Grant / -
23	Caleb Bell	RHP	Fr./Fr.	5-10	190	Jacksonville, Ore. / Ashland / -
24	Colby Watilo	C	So./So.	5-11	180	Walla Walla, Wash. / Walla Walla / -
25	Matthew Ramirez	INF	Fr./Fr.	5-11	170	San Ramon, Calif. / California / -
26	CJ Ibara	INF	Fr./Fr.	5-8	165	Mililani, Hawai'i / Mililani / -
27	Garrett Day	RHP	Jr./Jr.	6-2	170	Mesa, Ariz. / Mountain View / Arizona Christian
28	Andrew Reichenbach	C	Sr./Sr.	6-1	225	Newberg, Ore. / Newberg / -
29	Neal Hassan	UT	Fr./Fr.	6-0	175	Gig Harbor, Wash. / Gig Harbor / -
30	Zach Stouder	RHP	So./So.	6-2	200	Clackamas, Ore. / Clackamas / -
31	Tristan Guillen	OF	So./So.	5-10	170	Roseburg, Ore. / Roseburg / Clackamas CC
32	Lane Kimbro	RHP	Fr./Fr.	6-4	195	Golden, Colo. / Ralston Valley / -
33	Isaac Olson	RHP	Fr./Fr.	6-1	195	Stanwood, Wash. / Stanwood / -
35	Alex Jondal	RHP	Jr./Jr.	6-4	220	Spokane, Wash. / Ferris / Univ. of Hawai'i
37	Bryan Branstatter	INF	Jr./Jr.	6-5	235	Pendleton, Ore. / Pendleton / -
38	Nick Auld	RHP	Jr./So.	6-0	165	Newberg, Ore. / Newberg / -
39	Rowdy Huston	RHP	Jr./So.	5-9	170	Eugene, Ore. / Marist / -
40	Troy Lacy	C/OF	Fr./Fr.	6-0	165	Ferndale, Wash. / Ferndale / -
41	Brandon Ikehara	RHP	Fr./Fr.	5-5	140	Honolulu, Hawai'i / Moanalua / -
42	Jarrod Infante	OF	Fr./Fr.	5-6	160	Honolulu, Hawai'i / Mid-Pacific Institute / -
43	Bradley Mason	RHP	Fr./Fr.	6-3	225	Santa Maria, Calif. / Orcutt Academy Charter / -
45	Connor Carter	RHP	Fr./Fr.	6-2	195	Homedale, Idaho / Homedale / -
46	Richard Costa III	INF	Fr./Fr.	5-9	180	Waipahu, Hawai'i / Kamehameha / -
47	Dilan Casupang	INF	Fr./Fr.	5-5	150	Honolulu, Hawai'i / Moanalua / -
48	Brock Jackson	RHP	So./So.	6-4	210	Portland, Ore. / David Douglas / -
49	Davis Yasuda	RHP	Fr./Fr.	6-1	190	Sacramento, Calif. / Christian Brothers / -
50	Justin Targett	C	Fr./Fr.	5-8	185	Moraga, Calif. / Campolindo / -

COACHING STAFF



Marty Hunter

Head Coach (2008-)

Marty Hunter, the 2009 Northwest Conference Co-Coach of the Year, enters his 10th season at the helm of the nationally recognized Bruin baseball program with a record of 225-143 (.611). Last season, the Bruins finished with an overall record of 21-20 and 14-10 in the Northwest Conference. They also qualified for the NWC Conference Tournament for the second straight year, placing fourth in the tournament. Junior Dustin Wells was named NWC Pitcher of the Year, marking the first time since 2012 that a Bruin won the award. Andrew Reichenbach and Wells were named to the All-NWC first team, while Jacob Woehler, Caylen Clardy and AJ Valencia received honorable mention honors. The season before, Hunter led his team to an overall record of 28-12 (.700) and 15-9 (.625) in the Northwest Conference. They finished third in the NWC standings and had 11 players garner All-NWC accolades.

Hunter's 2009 team went 36-11, 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. In the West Regional in McMinnville, Ore., the Bruins battled back after an opening-round loss to California Lutheran with wins over No. 1-ranked Pomona-Pitzer, Texas-Tyler, and Chapman, before Chapman eliminated the Bruins in the regional title game. Hunter was named NWC Co-Coach of the Year along with PLU's Geoff Loomis, a former George Fox assistant coach.



Kevin Kopple

Assistant Coach &
Recruiting Coordinator (2007-)

Kevin Kopple enters his 11th season with the Bruins serving under head coach Marty Hunter. Kopple serves as the recruiting coordinator for the Bruins.

Kopple has previously served as a Head Coach in the WCL-Portland for four summers winning two league championships. In 2015, Kopple helped guide the Bend Elks to the West Coast Collegiate League Championship.

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, California.

He is 2006 graduate of George Fox University with a bachelor's degree in history. He earned a master's degree in sports management from the United States Sports Academy in 2015.

Hunter first came to George Fox as an assistant baseball 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.

Prior to joining the George Fox staff, Hunter led Canby (Ore.) High School to a 132-63 record from 1995-2002. His teams made the state Class 4A playoffs every year and won Pacific-9 Conference titles in 1997, 1998 and 2002. He was the Pac-9 Coach of the Year in '97, '98, '01 and '02. He also continued as a teacher at Canby while working with the Bruin baseball team.

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 in Bend. 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 graduated from Oklahoma State University and lives in Dallas, Texas. Marty resides in Canby.



Brent Trask

Assistant Coach &
Catchers (2014-)

Brent Trask enters his third season for the Bruins serving under head coach Marty Hunter. Trask will work with the catchers for the 2017 season.

He graduated from George Fox in December of 2010. A George Fox standout, Trask was named second-team All-NWC his junior season ('09) and first-team All-NWC his senior season ('10) as a catcher. He finished his career hitting .308 and played in over 60 games. He was a part of the 2009 season, in which the team won the Northwest Conference Championship and made the NCAA D-III National Tournament.

Trask works for local Newberg School Edwards Elementary as a teacher in physical education.

Brent married former women's basketball national champion Elise (Kuenzi) Trask on August 13, 2011.



Seth Anderson

Assistant Coach/Outfield (2015-)

Seth Anderson enters his second season as an assistant coach under head coach Marty Hunter. Anderson will work with the first/third basemen and hitters. Anderson graduated from George Fox in the spring of 2010 with a bachelor's degree

in business administration with a concentration in marketing. Anderson was the starting first baseman for the 2009 season, when the team won the Northwest Conference championship and made the NCAA D-III National Tournament. Seth and his lovely wife, Kristin, reside in Newberg.



Taylor Hunter

Assistant Coach/Infield (2012-)

Taylor Hunter enters his fourth season under head coach Marty Hunter.

Hunter graduated from George Fox in 2012 with a bachelor's degree in health and human performance. He was a four-year standout athlete for the Bruins and holds 10 records in the baseball records book. His biggest claim to fame is topping the chart in sac hits with 35, which is seventh in Division III.



Trey Watt

Assistant Coach/Pitchers (2012-)

Trey Watt enters his sixth season as an assistant coach for the Bruins under head coach Marty Hunter. Watt has been working with pitchers since his arrival in 2012. He spent the 2016 season working for NCAA Division I University

of Portland Pilots as a pitching coach. 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.



Randy Rutschman

Assistant Coach/Catchers (2004-)



Jon Strohmaier

Assistant Coach/Infield (2016-)

Jon Strohmaier enters his first season as an assistant coach under head coach Marty Hunter. He will work with the corner infielders and help coach the junior varsity team. Before coming to George Fox, Strohmaier served as the head baseball coach at Sherwood High. During his 24 seasons at Sherwood, Strohmaier won two state championships (2011, 2013). He lives in Sherwood and has two daughters, Sydney and Ashlyn. Sydney is a sophomore at Oregon State, while Ashlyn is a junior at Sherwood High School.



Tim Wright

Strength & Conditioning Coach (2013-)

Tim Wright has served as the Strength and conditioning coach for the George Fox Baseball program since 2013.

Wright graduated from Vanguard University in Costa Mesa, California, in 2004 with a BS in exercise and sport science. In 2008, he received his MS in education.



Ansel Webster

Student Intern Coach/Catchers (2016-)

Ansel Webster starts his first season as a student intern coach under head coach Marty Hunter. He will work with the catchers and the JV team. Webster plans on graduating in the spring with a degree in fitness management. He played two seasons for the Bruins, recording a total of 58 games behind the plate. He finished his two-year career hitting .280 with 40 hits, 10 doubles, 24 RBIs and 18 runs scored.

