

COACHING STAFF



CHRIS MALEC Varsity Head Coach

Santa Margarita alum Chris Malec 01' enters his 2nd season as the Head Coach of Eagle Baseball. Chris took over as Head Coach in December of 2017. The Eagles went 13-18 in his first season. Chris served as an Assistant Varsity Coach for the Eagles during 2016 and 2017 seasons prior to taking the helm.

Before coming to SM, Chris was the Associate Head Coach/Associate Faculty at Saddleback College from 2012-2015 seasons. Chris primarily worked as the infield coach and hitting coach in addition to running the offense. During his time Coaching the Gauchos, he saw 41 of his players move on to 4 year schools. All 3 of the shortstops Chris coached at Saddleback moved on to 4 year schools and eventually, professional baseball (Josh Fuentes - Rockies, Colby Schultz - Royals, Luke Jarvis - Marlins). The Gauchos made the playoffs 3 of 4 years during Chris' tenure, advancing to the Super Regionals twice.

While coaching at Saddleback College Chris founded the Saddleback Cowboys Baseball Club in 2014, a developmental baseball program from youth athletes ranging from 11-17. The Cowboys have grown into a nationally recognized program, both for their tournament success and ability to assist players move on the the next level. In all, the Cowboys have over 60 players graduate and move on to 4 years schools in their short 4 years. The Cowboys have placed in the top 4 in numerous age groups at the USA National Team Championships several different times.

As a player, Chris earned All Serra League honors three straight seasons at Santa Magarita, as well as being selected to the All-Orange County Team. Chris attended UC Santa Barbara where he was selected as a Freshman All-American. By the time Chris finished his college career he added three All

Big West Selections to his resume and a Baseball America Summer All American for his performance for the YD Red Sox in the Cape Cod League, where he was also named an All Star. Chris gained national attention when he he was diagnosed with cancer during his senior season. After missing 4 weeks undergoing surgery and chemotherapy treatments, Chris returned to action against Long Beach State, and hit a grand slam in his first at bat. Chris continued treatments through the season while continuing to play. He has been in remission since the summer of 2005.

Chris began his professional career in 2005 when he was drafted by the New York Yankees, reaching as high as Class AAA. He was a three-time league champion and a 2008 All-Star. Chris retired from professional baseball after after the 2010 season. During his playing days Chris was recognized by Baseball America as the player with "The Best Plate Discipline." Chris resides in Rancho Santa Margarita with his wife Caitlin, a teacher at SMCHS, and their two children, Tomás (4) and Colin (2).

LETTER FROM THE COACHES

Dear Family and Friends of Santa Margarita Baseball,

We are excited to get rolling into the 2019 Spring Baseball Season. The student athletes have shown tremendous efforts in our off-season program, training hard and making strides in the weight room and on the field since June. We hope to produce a memorable and exciting experience for players, parents and fans this coming spring season.

Our mission is to create and empower successful young men of character through the sport of baseball. We believe baseball has a unique ability to mirror life in so many ways, from the commitment to the daily process, to the highs and lows of each day, and to the relationships built on and within the team. We strive to cultivate a competitive atmosphere that encourages players to grow on and off the field.

We want to thank you for supporting our Eagle Baseball program. The Eagle Baseball family would not be possible without your generous gifts of time, money and care that truly makes for a special community. We look forward to having you and your student athletes as a part of our Eagle Baseball family for years to come.



WILLIE KUHL Varsity Pitching Coach | Pitching Coordinator

Coach Willie Kuhl is entering his 1st season as the Varsity Pitching Coach for the Eagles. Willie pitched for 4 seasons at Cal State Fullerton. In his 4 years, Willie compiled a 6-6 record with 2 saves, a 3.13 career ERA (Team Leading 1.37 ERA in 2014), 137 strikeouts in 110.0 career innings (11.01 K/9). Willie also ranks 9th in All-Time Appearances at CSF (87). Willie was part of 4 postseason teams, including 2 trips to the Super Regionals and 1 College World Series trip (2015).

After finishing his playing career at CSF, Willie began his coaching career at Mission Viejo HS (2016) before moving on to become the Pitching Coach at Fullerton College (2017-2018). In 2 full seasons as the Hornets pitching coach, Fullerton had 4 All Conference Pitchers and multiple pitchers sign on to 4-year schools. In 2018, The Hornets finished in the top 3 in Conference ERA and Walks Allowed. In just their second year under Coach Kuhl, The Hornets pitching staff performed better in all major statistical categories by lowering their H/9, BB/9, ERA and increasing their K/9.

Willie will also be serving as a Contract Substitute Teacher for Santa Margarita High School. Helping cover many different subjects throughout the year. Willie and his wife Jessica currently reside in Laguna Hills.



SETH MELTON Varsity Hitting Coach | 3rd Base Coach

Coach Seth Melton is in his 2nd season as a coach at Santa Margarita Catholic High School. Coach Melton has been coaching for 19 years, primarily in Arizona. Melton's teams in Arizona played in 3 state championship games, winning 2 state titles (2014 and 2016) and has coached multiple players that have gone on to play at the college and professional levels.

In addition to coaching, Melton will serve as a world history teacher at Santa Margarita. Coach Melton has been married to Brande for 18 years and together they have two children: Tyler (16) and Paige (12). Coach Melton and his family currently reside in San Clemente. In his spare time Melton enjoys archery hunting, surfing, and watching his children play sports.



OSCAR BARRERAS Varsity Outfield | Hitting Coach

Coach Oscar Barreras is entering his second season as varsity assistant coach at Santa Margarita Catholic High School. Before becoming a coach, Oscar played collegiately at Chaffey Community College where he received his AA degree. He then continued his education and playing career at Cal State University, San Bernardino where he earned his bachelor's degree in Business. A power hitting corner infielder and outfielder, Oscar has had the opportunity of traveling the United States, Mexico, and Canada to play the game of baseball. He shares these experiences with his players and prepares them to take advantage of the educational and playing opportunities that baseball can provide.

Oscar began coaching about 10 years ago and has become a highly successful travel baseball coach in Orange County. His teams have competed mostly in the 12U-16U age groups and have won multiple league and tournament championships in Nevada, Arizona and California. In addition, Oscar has served on the coaching staff at Woodbridge High School in Irvine. Oscar now makes his home in Rancho Santa Margarita with his wife, Mahsa and their two wonderful children.

COACHING STAFF



WADE JACKSON Assistant Varsity Coach

Coach Wade Jackson is from Lake Forest, where he played football and baseball at El Toro High School. He was a two-year varsity letterman in football and baseball. Wade earned All South Coast League honors two years in a row for each sport. Wade attended Saddleback Community College where he was selected All Orange Empire Conference two years in a row. Wade was elected to the Saddleback Hall of Fame. He then transferred to University of Nevada, Reno where he earned Big West honors two years in a row. Wade was then drafted by the Anaheim Angels where he played in the minor league system for two years before hanging up his cleats.

After Wade's playing days, he jumped into the coaching atmosphere teaching young boys to play the game at highest level. He has managed at the travel ball level for 20 plus years. He also coached at El Toro High School at the varsity and JV levels for 3 years. Wade spent 5 years running teams for BPA coaching teams to National Championships and Perfect Game champions.

Wade now co-runs the Saddleback Cowboys Baseball Organization, which has become a nationally recognized organization enables players to compete at the highest level.



NICK CAPPUCILLI Junior Varsity Pitching Coach

Coach Nick Cappuccilli is an Orange County native who played four successful seasons for Edison High School, where he was team captain for three of the four seasons. Nick went on to play collegiate ball at the University of Northern Colorado, Golden West College, and Dakota Wesleyan University, again serving as team captain in two of his college seasons. Additionally he played in multiple collegiate summer leagues in the U.S. and Canada.

Coach Cappuccilli studied Spanish and psychology on his way to a bachelor's degree and received his master's degree in 2012. Coach Cappuccilli traveled to Europe to compete in the European Professional Baseball League, while also coaching youth players and coaches to introduce and expand baseball in various European countries. In 2014, he traveled to Vladivostok, Russia and Santiago, Dominican Republic where he conducted clinics for local coaches and players.

In 2015 he travelled to Shanghai, China to work with Major League Baseball in their player development department in order to promote Chinese, Taiwanese, and Korean baseball players to the major leagues. Upon completion in China, he returned to Russia as part of a baseball development and expansion project, where he conducted clinics and demonstrations for over 250 youth athletes and coaches.

Coach Cappuccilli joined the Eagle's program after spending the 2012 season assisting at Costa Mesa High School and the 2013 season as the pitching coach for Newport Harbor. Baseball runs in his family as his brother is a hitting coach in the Los Angeles Dodgers organization and his brother in law is former major league baseball player, Dale Thayer.

Coach Cap recently moved to Rancho Santa Margarita with his wife Ornela and their daughter Reya. He brings with him a natural and an infectious enthusiasm as he is welcomed back for his 4th year as a valuable member of the Eagles coaching staff.

PATRICK VISCONTI Junior Varsity Head Coach

Coach Visconti is in his 1st year of coaching baseball at SMCHS. He is an SM baseball alum from the class of 2006, and he is also the Director of Campus Ministry on campus. Patrick played throughout high school and after receiving a few opportunities to play D-1 collegiate baseball, decided to pursue a career in education/ministry. Patrick credits his love for the game and excitement for coaching from his experience of playing alongside several future major leaguers and from coaching in the Challenger Baseball League, a league for kids age 5-20 with developmental disabilities.

JASON "JJ" NAVARRO Freshman Head Coach

Coach Jason "JJ" Navarro is entering his first year as the varsity pitching coach for the Eagles. Jason played for the travel ball organization ABD under the late Mike Speirs. In 2007, Jason was chosen to play for a national travel organization where he had the opportunity to play in Puerto Rico against some of the best young talent on the island.

He went on to play college baseball at Lon Morris College in east Texas. When Jason was fifteen years old he met Tom House and the National Pitching Association, which is a research based training facility for rotational athletes. Over the last 12 years Jason has assisted in working with and next to many elite Major League pitchers and a number of NFL quarterbacks, such as Ian Kennedy, Cole Hamels, Barry Zito, Tim Lincecum, Matt Barkley and many more, as well as the "Million Dollar Arm" competition winners Rinku Singh and Dinesh Patel.

Jason is also in his third year of coaching with the Saddleback Cowboys who have gained national recognition after being established only five years ago.

MATT HAMILTON Freshman Assistant Coach

Coach Hamilton is a 2018 graduate from SMCHS and former Eagle Baseball pitcher. As a scholar athlete, Matt was not only involved in Eagle Baseball, but served in Peer Ministry his senior year and excelled in academics all four years at SM. This past fall of 2018 he attended a military preparatory school and plans on attending a United States Service Academy this summer. He is happy to return to Eagles Baseball as a part of the 2019 season coaching staff.