

2018 Eagle Baseball Coaching Staff

Coach Chris Malec - Head Coach

Former Alumni Chris Malec once again returns to the varsity coaching staff at Santa Margarita. While playing for the Eagles, Chris earned All Serra League honors three straight seasons, as well as being selected to the All-Orange County Team. Chris then 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.

Chris began his professional career in 2005 when he was drafted by the New York Yankees. Playing AA ball, he was a three time league champion and a 2008 All-Star. Chris retired from professional baseball after reaching the AAA level. During his playing days Chris was recognized by Baseball America as the player with "The Best Plate Discipline".

Following his successful playing days, Chris jumped into coaching where he taught countless youths the art of fielding, catching and hitting. He managed at the travel ball level for three years and one year with the Mission Viejo High School's fall/winter program. Additionally, he spent two years as an assistant coach for Saddleback College where he helped six infielders transfer to four- year universities. Chris now runs the Saddleback Cowboys, an organization that has prided itself on development and exposure for their players. They have quickly established themselves as a nationally recognized organization that has competed at the highest level.

Coach Peter Mitchell - Varsity Assistant

Coach Peter Mitchell is a native of Bakersfield, CA where he played football, soccer, and baseball at Bakersfield High School. He was a four year varsity letterman for the Drillers and started 3 years at the catcher position where he received the Jim Tyack (Bakersfield Athlete of the Year) award, the Mayor's Trophy, First Team All-Area recognition, and All-State recognition. Coach Mitchell earned a scholarship to play both football and baseball for Whittier College, where he played four years of both sports. At Whittier College, Pete became a utility player starting at catcher, second base, left field, and third base during his college career.

This will Coach Mitchell's third year with the Eagles program. He previously coached at Whittier College as the third base and pitching coach before being hired on as a Mathematics Teacher for Santa Margarita. Peter now teaches math at

Northwood HS and serves as offensive coordinator for the football team under his father and Head Coach Pete Mitchell.

Coach Oscar Barreras - Varsity Assistant

Coach Oscar Barreras is entering his 1st season as Varsity assistant coach at Santa Margarita Catholic High School. For the past 10 years he has been coaching, mentoring, guiding, and motivating players of all levels. Preparing them in their youth while enhancing their physical and mental capabilities in their high school and college careers. Before becoming a coach, Oscar attended Chaffey Community College where he received his AA. He then furthered his education at Cal State University of San Bernardino where he earned his BA in Business. As an amateur player, Oscar had the opportunity of traveling the United States, Mexico, and Canada. Starting at Chaffey College, then moving on to CSUSB, and finally making stops in British Columbia, Canada and Ensenada, Mexico before ending his playing career.

Coach Jason “JJ” Navarro - Varsity Assistant

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 Tebow, 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.

Coach Adam Sorgi - Hitting Coordinator | Swing Level

Coach Adam Sorgi earned an abnormal amount of success at a very young age. By the age of 14, he had won a National championship and World championship competing in both the Junior League and Little League World Series for SMVLL. Adam followed this up by playing four years of varsity baseball at Capistrano Valley High School winning back to back Division I CIF titles and earning the 2003 South Coast League player of the year and Most Valuable Player in the So-Cal vs. Nor-

Cal All Star game. His performance on the field and in the classroom earned him a scholarship to Stanford University.

At Stanford, Adam collected two batting titles along with earning PAC-10 honors two of his three years playing. Graduating in 2007 with a degree in communication, he was then selected by the Philadelphia Phillies in the MLB draft. He played one season with the Williamsport Crosscutters, single A affiliate with the Phillies and decided after that his passion was for teaching the game that he loved so much.

In 2008, Adam accepted a job offer to coach at the Division I college level at UC Davis. He served as a hitting instructor as well as outfield coach on a full time basis for the 2008-09 year.

Adam also has international experience serving as a coach for the Rattvik Butchers during the 2009 summer in Sweden. He is the proud team captain of the Swedish National baseball team and still plays with the team currently. He is the only player in Swedish baseball history to earn MVP honors in an international tournament and was named to the All-Tournament team in the 2009 Baseball World Championships.

In 2014, his first year as an assistant coach on the Varsity level for Santa Margarita Catholic High School, the team captured their first CIF Division 1 Championship at Dodger Stadium. After 2 quick years, Adam was hired to be the Head Coach at Laguna Hills High School in 2015.

Adam is excited to be back at Santa Margarita, where he has taught for 5 years, and looks forward to helping the SM players reach their full potential.

Coach Seferino Soto - Head Junior Varsity Coach

The Eagles are pleased to welcome Coach Sef Soto for his third season back. Coach Soto comes to us with 19 plus years of active coaching experience. Coach Soto was first involve as an amateur Coach as a sports camp instructor with MLB Scouting Bureau with Dan Dixon throughout southern California helping draw up some notice for MLB potential draft picks. Taking this knowledge and experience, Coach Soto has been coaching over the past decade after his playing days throughout southern California in Travel Baseball and High School Baseball ranks. Coach Soto quickly transitioned into high school baseball starting at Chaparral High School in the tough Southwestern League under HOF coach Paul Deese. While at Chaparral high school Coach Soto lead a Pitching Staff in multiple season that lead the Southwestern League in Team ERA focusing on Catcher & Pitchers development & routines. During Coach Soto time at Chaparral HS it gave him the insight to start up a Travel Ball Organization that was ranked nationally pulling kids

from all over LA County and the Riverside County to compete against the best in the Nation. Over his years of playing, Coach Sef Soto had the opportunity to learn from some of the best coaches in the nation. His take away has been afforded the opportunities to teach the game to eager minded student athlete to learn life's lessons along with the games.

During Coach Sef Soto playing days he was a two sport standout at San Pasqual HS in Escondido, being awarded All League Honors for both baseball and football. Additionally, he was awarded the honor of playing for the All-State team under legendary Coach Bobby Zamora, as a catcher out of the San Diego County area. Coach Soto was a highly recruited catcher out of the southern California region taking notice from every D1 College in the western hemisphere. Coach Soto was a draft and follow out of High School for the Toronto Blue Forgoing to pass on D1 offers to pursue his professional career. After being actively recruited by multiple schools, Sef chose to attend Palomar College where his 97 MPH fastball earned him a spot on Palomar's pitching staff. This also garnered the attention of big league scouts as a pitcher and resulted in a 5th round draft selection by the Dodgers the next season. Sef played for both the Dodgers and Braves organization before an injury ended his playing career.

Coach Soto has helped develop many student athletes reach their ultimate goal to play at the next level. Coach Soto's proudest moments are seeing his student athletes reach their goals year in and out, and believes that with hard work and determination anything is possible on and off the field.

Coach Seth Melton - Assistant Junior Varsity Coach

Coach Seth Melton is in his first season as a coach at Santa Margarita Catholic High School. Coach Melton has been coaching for 18 years, spending 9 of those years as the Head Varsity Coach at Mingus Union High School and Thunderbird High School. Coach Melton spent the previous 5 seasons coaching at Greenway High School (Phoenix, AZ) and Mountain Pointe High School (Phoenix, AZ) as an assistant to Head Coach Matt Denny.

From 2004 to 2012 Melton served as a Head Varsity Coach at Mingus Union HS and Thunderbird HS. While at Mingus Union Melton's team won the Conference Championship in 2004 and 2005 and in both years his teams played in the Final Four during the state playoffs. From 2006 to 2012 Melton was Head Varsity Coach at Thunderbird High School. In his 7 years as the Head Coach at Thunderbird his teams qualified for the playoffs in 5 of 7 seasons and his 2011 team came up just short in state championship game and finished as runner-up. Additionally, Thunderbird won 2 Conference championships under Melton in 2010 and 2011.

Coach Melton has been named Region Coach of the Year 4 times (2004, 2005, 2008, and 2010) and Arizona Coach of the Year once (2011).

Melton has coached 8 players who were drafted and many others who earned scholarships to play college baseball and over a 5 year stretch at Thunderbird the senior class valedictorian was a member of the baseball team. Melton's teams set numerous season school records at Thunderbird including: wins, overall team batting average, homeruns, doubles, and hits in a season. From 2013 to 2016 Melton served as an assistant at Greenway HS. Melton was part of 2 State Championship teams at Greenway in 2014 and 2016. In 2013 Greenway set a new state record for most consecutive wins in a season (29) and in 2014 Greenway finished the season ranked in the top 10 in multiple national polls. Melton has also coached with USA Baseball from 2002 to 2010. His duties while with USA Baseball included field level scout for the 16U Junior Olympics and in 2009 Melton coached the 16U Mountain West team in Cary, NC.

Melton played football, soccer, and baseball at Mingus Union High School. He was a 2 time First Team All-Conference and as a senior he was honored as a 2nd Team All State midfielder in soccer. In baseball, he was also a 2 time First Team All-Conference infielder and as a senior he was named as the conference Player of the Year, as well as First Team All-State and named to the North/South All Star team. After Mingus, Melton attended Glendale Community College where he was part of team that made its first ever appearance in the JUCO World Series. After 2 years at GCC Melton attended New Mexico Highlands University. In his last year at New Mexico Highlands Melton earned First Team All-Conference, First Team All-West Region and Honorable Mention All-American honors as an infielder. Melton went undrafted after his senior season at NMHU, but was offered an opportunity to play with the Chico Heat of the Great West Independent League. He declined the opportunity to continue his career as play to pursue a future as a history teacher and baseball coach.

He has a degree in Secondary Education - History from NMHU. 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, CA. In his spare time Melton enjoys archery hunting, going to the beach, and watching his children play sports.

Coach Mike Willett - Head Frosh | Frosh/Soph Coach

Coach Mike Willett is entering his 9th year coaching baseball at SMCHS, where he has multiple league championships to his credit at the programs various lower

levels. Mike's leadership has been instrumental in preparing the younger players for successful careers at the varsity level.

Mike and his wife Beth have been a part of the Santa Margarita Eagle Family for many years. All three of their children are SMCHS graduates (Megan '03, Kyle '07, and Troy '10). Mike has been coaching youth, club and high school baseball teams in Orange County for over twenty years. Several of Coach Willett's former players, including his son Kyle, have played at the college level. Coach Willett played college baseball at Mount San Antonio College, as well as football and baseball at Pomona HS. Throughout his career in law enforcement, he continued playing the game with the Huntington Beach Police Department Team. He also played for sixteen seasons in the Men's Senior Baseball League, including two MSBL World Series Championships.

Coach Andrew Mulato - Assistant Frosh | Frosh/Soph Coach

Santa Margarita Alumni Andrew Mulato (class of 2010) enters his second year on the coaching staff. This past summer, Andrew had the honor of being selected to manage the Los Angeles Angels Senior R.B.I. team (Returning Baseball to Inner Cities), which competed in the 2017 R.B.I. World Series. Before coaching at SM, Andrew was the JV assistant and hitting instructor for the Foothill Knights baseball program in Tustin where he coached while earning his business degree from Chapman University in May of 2016.

While playing for the Eagles, Andrew was selected to represent California to play for the 2009 USA Baseball at-large team that competed in the National Team Identification Series (NTIS) Tournament in Cary, N.C. Andrew was a three-year letter-winner and three-sport athlete at Santa Margarita and played baseball under head coaches Dave Bacani and Kris Jondle. He was selected to compete in several national tournaments including the 2011 World Showcase in Fort Myers, Fla, the 2010 Wood Bat World Championships in Jupiter, Fla., the 2009 National Championships in Tucson, Ariz., and the 2008 West Coast 16U Junior Olympics in Peoria, Ariz. As a sophomore, he was selected to play in the Orange County California Ryan Lemmon Foundation All-Star game in Irvine, Calif. Andrew also lettered in Football as a defensive tackle and middle linebacker, and received the Coaches Award for basketball.

Andrew's first hit as a collegiate athlete came in the fall of 2011 as a Spartan against the fighting Irish of Notre Dame. In the summer of 2012 Andrew had the opportunity to play for the Redding Colt 45s in Redding California in the Far West League. Andrew, coached by Manager and Founder Denny Brugman, saw action in 47 games with 45 starts and was selected to the First Team All-West Coast roster after helping the Colt 45s to a 41-14 record. Andrew went on the play

summer ball in the Northwoods league under Manager Al Newman (2 World Series with Minnesota Twins) and the Valley League under Manager Brett Fuller. Andrew had success in Independent ball in 2015, including a stint with the Pericos de Puebla in the Texas Winter League where he hit .375 for the season, before suffering an injury that put his baseball career on hold for the time being.

Coach Nick Cappuccilli - Frosh | Frosh/Soph Pitching Coordinator

Coach Nick Cappuccilli is an Orange County native who played four successful seasons for Edison High School, where he was named team captain for three different seasons. Nick went on to play collegiate ball at the University of Northern Colorado, Golden West College, and Dakota Wesleyan University, again being honored 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, as well as coach 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 joins the Eagles 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.

Coach Drew Downey - Swing Level

The Eagles would like to welcome Drew Downey to the coaching staff. Drew was recently hired to teach math at SM. Drew previously coached baseball at Mission Viejo High School for the past 11 seasons. He was the head JV coach from 2008-2013 and was an Assistant Varsity coached from 2014-2017. In 2015, Drew helped

lead the Diablos to a CIF Division II Championship. When Drew was not coaching baseball, he was an assistant for the JV football team at MVHS.

As a player, Drew attended MVHS from 2002-2006 where he was a three year varsity letterman in baseball and a 4th string backup quarterback on the football team, where in 2004, he was a part of the CIF Division 1 championship team.

Coach Josh Reidt - Strength & Conditioning

Josh Reidt has over 10 years of experience as both a coach and Movement Analyst. His clientele includes the elite athlete as well as those looking to improve their health and sports performance. Josh is credentialed through the National Academy of Sports Medicine, S.P.A.R.Q., Chain Reaction 3D, The Gray Institute (AFS - Applied Functional Sciences), 3D Maps (Corrective Exercise), Onnit, as well as the National Pitching Association. Josh has trained some of the top amateur talent here in Orange County in preparation for the next level. He trained 5 players drafted in the top 3 Rounds this past MLB Draft. Josh has worked closely with some of the nation's best athletes on USA Baseball and Area Code games.

Before Josh became a trainer he was a highly sought after pitching prospect who accepted a full athletic scholarship to the University of San Francisco. While pitching in college, Josh suffered a career ending arm injury and became entrenched in the world of health and fitness. Since his career has finished Josh has worked with numerous high school, college and professional athletes and teams to keep their players injury free and performing at the highest level. This particular life experience has given to him a unique perspective toward all of his athletes, as he works in a safe manner, to ensure proper health and injury prevention. In addition to consulting with numerous teams/organizations Josh is currently the head strength coach for Irvine Valley College, Huntington Beach, Santa Margarita, Foothill and J Serra High School as well as The Evoshield Canes Organization.

