2003 COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAM

The tradition continues.
The Forgotten Years

How forgotten was baseball at Monmouth College during the school’s first 40 years in existence?

So forgotten that as recently as last year, the college’s sports information office listed 1893 as the dawn of Monmouth’s baseball era. We should have known to consult the historical research of MC professor William Urban, whose history of the college published in 1978 shed a clear light on the origin of the sport on campus.

“The first sport – and long the most popular – was baseball,” wrote Urban. “This sport was invented during the Civil War … and introduced throughout the northern armies; the veterans who returned to Monmouth continued to play it on warm fall and spring days, using nearby vacant lots for impromptu games. By the fall of 1867 there were three college teams – the Classic, the Charter Oak and the Resolute – which played each other. This intramural competition eventually became tiresome, and the following autumn saw Monmouth’s first intercollegiate game. The College Courier reported this event as follows:

On Saturday, October 17, was played the first game of a home-and-home match between the college nine of Monmouth College and Lombard College of Galesburg. The Lombard boys came down on the morning train, accompanied by quite a number of students.

The game commenced about two o’clock, Horace Mitchell of the Clippers acting as umpire. The Lombards won the toss and sent Monmouth to the bat for the first inning, in which they scored 11 runs. Lombard then scored 5, and Monmouth followed with 18. These two runs made it evident that Lombard would be defeated, and they did not play as well as they might have done; and at the close of the ninth inning Monmouth had scored 74 runs and Lombard 27.

Both clubs acted very gentlemanly and were well managed by captains Wilkin and Kerr. But we must say that the Lombard nine did not pay sufficient regard to the orders of their captain. We think that had the latter obeyed their captain strictly, the Monmouth score would have been much less. Monmouth did not play as well as usual, from the fact that being so far ahead all through the game they grew careless and made several wild throws and lazy bats.

Thereafter baseball was the center of campus interest, although most games were interclass games. There are, however, some references to Monmouth competing against other schools. On May 28, 1869, a game against Eureka College started late due to a washed out bridge and ended early due to rain. The next day, Monmouth competed against Abingdon College in Galesburg and won by a score of 50-11.

Although baseball never leaped to the forefront of the college sporting scene like football and basketball, the sport is still one of the oldest and most beloved in American history. Baseball had already caught on well enough by 1876 to have its own organized professional league, and at least one eventual Midwest Conference school, Beloit, was playing the sport as early as 1866. As this history is written, Fordham University is starting its 144th season. In 1882 the Intercollegiate Baseball Association was formed, with Monmouth joining Knox, Champaign Industrial Institute and Illinois College in an early conference that lasted 18 years. Monmouth was credited with at least two “state” titles, beating Champaign 11-7, 10-5 in 1886 in front of 800 fans after sweeping Knox 11-10, 19-8 in the title games the year before.

Often, the baseball meetings between the schools were held in conjunction with other events, as Urban noted in his book:

“The first real intercollegiate [football] contest was seen at the 1891 field day competition [Editor’s Note: The previous statement was proven false last summer by a college football researcher, who discovered that Knox defeated Monmouth 15-0 in 1888], when Knox and Illinois College brought their student bodies to Monmouth to compete in a series of contests, oratory being the most important, baseball next, then track and finally football – the total of the scores being used to determine the winning school … Monmouth had a good position in the field day competition, with C.F. Wishart, our unbeatable champion orator, having won yet another first prize … Likewise, in tennis and baseball Monmouth had driven Illinois College and Blackburn from the lists, but had suffered a 9-3 defeat on the diamond from the Siwashers.”

Urban’s book continued, “The Gay Nineties brought profound change to the Monmouth campus. Just as the entire country was breaking with the Victorian past and turning with zest to a new enjoyment of life and its pleasures, so did the young men and women of the college. This was obviously expressed by a new emphasis placed on the sports program. Baseball was then the reigning king … Certainly sports was of great
interest, even fascination, to the students of this pre-automobile, pre-radio, pre-television era. And all the more emphasis was given because sports activities were so poorly organized before this time."

Urban noted that baseball was long Monmouth’s premier sport, and much of that had to do with when it was played. Rather than waiting as late as April for Illinois’ harsh winters to pass, the sport was played at the beginning of the academic year.

“Student enthusiasm was never quite as high in that pleasant season as it was in the fall, when the young men and women were full of the joy of meeting new friends and sharing new experiences,” Urban wrote. “But when it was a fall sport, what fun it used to be to attend the autumn field days:

It was a jolly, noisy and enthusiastic crowd that heard this summons on the morning of Wednesday, Oct. 3, 1894. The occasion was the prospective annual meeting of the Illinois Colleges for a trial of strength of brain and brawn – or to put it more exactly – in oratory and athletics. The starting place was the Central Illinois depot in the Maple City … A special coach stood on the side of the track all glittering and resplendent in festoons of red and white … Over sixty strong we go – fifty odd, brawny giants of mind and body, and ten of the fairest of our Monmouth girls under the chaperonage of Miss Calvin.

One who had never embarked on an expedition of this kind can scarcely understand the thrill of pleasure and enthusiasm that goes from heart to heart. What a jolly, wholesouled crowd it was!

1893-1919
Good Field, No Hit

Little is known of the actual personalities that made up the first Monmouth teams, but that changed as the 19th century came to a close.

On April 11, 1896, in a game played at the college’s 11th St. ballpark, James W. Mair, a freshman second baseman from Wisconsin, broke his leg in a collision and died six days later. Besides having the college’s only known fatality from a baseball game, the 1896 squad was also the last MC team to go unbeaten on the diamond, posting a 7-0 record.

After 1896, word of the team’s personalities again faded for several years, in part because Monmouth did not have overwhelming success on the diamond, posting four straight losing seasons on two occasions.

However, a preview for the 1912 team read, “The prospects in base-ball are brighter than they have been for years … Clifford Hamilton, who is to captain the team this year, is a man of sterling qualities, and, by his example of hard, consistent work, should spur his men on to their best efforts.”

That author could say “I told you so” following the season, which saw Monmouth post a 9-3 record.

“Conference Champions, 1912, is the title by which the Monmouth College baseball team will be known in the future, and as such, they are entitled to a word of praise beyond the ordinary, not alone because they have played excellent ball, but because of the personal characteristics of the twelve men who have had a share in honor,” noted the Ravelings. “Taken as a whole, the team won because of its pitchers (William Wasson and Walter Schrenk) and because of its fielding. At the bat they were not as strong as most of their opponents (a recurring description of MC teams throughout the decade), but each man could be depended on to deliver his hits at the proper time to do the most good (or, as current coach Roger Sander more succinctly phrases it, “timely hitting”).

“The individual work of each man was of high standard,” continued the article. “First baseman Cliff) Hamilton, (left fielder Rudolph) Nottleman and (shortstop Charles) McMillan will be missed this year, as they graduated with the class of 1912. With the remainder of the squad back this year we can hope for another championship team.”

Although that reasoning was logical, the final record of the 1913 team came in worse than expected. Monmouth posted a 1-4 record to start the year and wound up 6-9 overall.
The exciting game of the season was played with Beloit at Monmouth, according to the Ravelings. "With the score a tie in the ninth Schrenk laced out a two-bagger and romped home when Wasson doubled to right." Monmouth won the game 2-1.

The 1914 team won only one game, despite still having Wasson and Schrenk, the aces from 1912. They lost many close games, including the last game of the season, when several alumni joined the team but could still not prevent a 3-2 loss at Iowa Wesleyan. Things then went from bad to worse, according to the Ravelings: "The year 1916 will go down in the annals of baseball history as one of the poorest of Monmouth College … (Belford) Van Pelt was the only one to amass a swatting average of over .300 … Among the unusual features of the season were the fourteen-inning game with William and Vashit at Aledo (won 5-4) and the forfeited game with Lombard at Galesburg (which the Red and White had safely tucked away, before the trouble arose which caused the forfeiture)."

Future Green Bay Packers Hall of Famer Jug Earp pitched for the 1918 team that "won" a two-team conference that also included Knox. Opponents such as Armour and Lake Forest had discontinued baseball until after World War I, and Beloit did not field a team, so Monmouth played only six games that year, winning four, including two over Knox.

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### Conference champions, 1912


Baseball was possibly never bigger – relative to the country’s population – than it was in the 1920s, and as Babe Ruth emerged as a superstar in the professional world, Monmouth College also produced some outstanding talent.

Although the 1920 season only produced one win, individuals who starred included Earp, Joseph Kilpatrick, (who hit a grand slam home run in a seven-inning, 10-1 trouncing of Lake Forest), and Robert Smiley, "a first year man, [who] played a classy game at second.” In 1921, “Smiley played his old position, and was one of the best infielders in the conference. He could be depended upon to stop everything. He was an expert at laying down bunts and was one of the team’s best batters … He stood especially high in the art of getting hits consistently and was one of the handiest second basemen seen in baseball circles at the college class.”

The other player on the right side of the infield was (Oscar) Firth, who was called “one of the best first sackers in the conference. He was one of the most essential men of the team. He led the team both in batting and in base stealing.”

Firth’s real contribution, though, was returning to his native southern Illinois to teach school. He convinced several of his student-athletes at Murphysboro High School to attend MC, including legends Bobby Woll, Virgil Boucher and John Weatherly.

The 1921 season also marked the arrival of identical twins Richard and Wesley Dickson, and the duo breathed new life into a program that had gone 7-19 since 1916.

“There were times when the Dicksons and the infield worked so perfectly that it would have been hard for any conference team to defeat them,” said the Ravelings. “The team had one of the best batteries in the state in the Dickson twins, who were so much alike and both wore glasses in the game that their picture appeared in the Chicago Tribune as the ‘Eighth Wonder’ of the World.”

With his brother Wesley behind the plate, “Dick” Dickson averaged 11 strikeouts per game and allowed only an average of four hits. He pitched every conference game, winning six out of eight.

The next season, Dickson struck out 18 Northwestern batters in a 2-0 shutout win and “did nearly as well on several occasions.” Kenneth Wells “made a name for himself when he hit the pill over the fence in the Lombard game.”

From the 1923 season, captain Albert “Red” Hamilton was dubbed one of the best all-around baseball players ever to grace a Monmouth field. He homered in a 4-1 win over Knox.

Another power hitter from the team was Hubert Doty, who was called “the Babe Ruth” of the team.

The highlight of the 1924 team’s 7-2 season was a thrilling 7-6 victory over Knox, which Steve Guzak finished by catching a difficult fly with Knox runners on the bases.

Guzak was called “one of the best
outfielders ever to perform upon a college diamond … his general all-round play brought many comments from all over the conference … the premier fly catcher of the Little Nineteen – he covered more territory than two ordinary outfielders, and he had a whip that caught many cold trying to pick up extra bases on hits … a streak on the bases.”

Chuck Hamilton was rated as one of the best pitchers in the state, and the same high status was attained by his senior classmate Wesley Dickson, who competed that season although his brother didn’t. Hamilton was 20-of-50 at the plate for a .400 average, and John Graham was a close second with a standing of .380.

Smiley, who had a two-year gap in his college career, was dubbed “a whiz at second base” for the 1925 team that went 12-1, winning the Little 19 and Midwest Conference titles. That squad was a special one, and besides Smiley’s all-conference efforts, other stars honored by the league were Hamilton, Guzak, catcher Carl Dixon and outfielder Russell Graham (who hit a team-high .404 in 1926).

Hamilton, in fact, was most likely the pitcher in Monmouth’s 6-0 no-hit victory against Knox. Both Smiley and Guzak tried out for the Burlington Independents following the completion of the 1925 season.

In 1927, the New York Yankees put together possibly the finest baseball team of all-time, destroying their opposition en route to winning the World Series. At the heart of their lineup was the famed “Murderers’ Row” of Tony Lazzeri, Bob Muesel, Earle Combs, Lou Gehrig and Ruth.

Out in the Midwest, Monmouth College was doing its best to keep up. The Red and White stormed to a 13-1 record, winning both the Midwest and Little Nineteen conferences with unbeaten records. At the heart of the team was a nucleus of batters who all hit above .400, including Russell Graham, who led the team with a .438 average, John Graham, Warren Taylor and Carl Dickson. As a team, Monmouth batted .344 and outscored its opposition 158-41. That last figure was aided by a blistering start to the season, when the Red and White outscored its first four foes 72-11.

On the football field, Taylor and Keith Molesworth made a name for themselves as a pass-and-catch tandem, and they were reunited on the diamond as a double-play combination. Chuck Hamilton was the team’s leading pitcher.

The next season earned the following entry in the yearbook: “In many schools of greater enrollment than Monmouth, baseball has seemed to breathe its last for one reason or another. At Monmouth, however, this does not hold true in any sense of the word, but rather every year, the Red and White take to the national pastime more and more.”

Molesworth, who went on to a seven-year career with the Chicago Bears – where one year he was voted the fastest player in the NFL – was also a professional baseball player, manning the shortstop position in Triple-A ball (he once was ejected from a game after dropping the legendary Johnny Mize with a hook to the jaw).

Although more famous for his exploits on the gridiron, Molesworth was certainly one of the finest baseball players the college had ever seen, and he earned three varsity letters apiece in baseball, track, football and basketball. He accomplished all his athletic heroics despite the fact that he was just 5-foot-7 and 98 pounds when he completed what had been a limited sports career at Washington (Iowa) High School.

1930-1938

Bobby and the Moose

Statistical ammunition to back up claims of greatness are few and far between before the rise of Scots’ baseball in the 1970s under Terry Glasgow, but one notable exception is the career of Leino “Moose” Corgnati, a shortstop who, like Molesworth, was also a huge hit in football.

In his baseball career, which spanned the 1930-32 seasons, Corgnati was credited with a .447 average – second all-time on Monmouth’s honor roll – never struck out and at one point was successful on 33 straight steal attempts. Although it’s unclear where this prototypical leadoff hitter actually batted in Monmouth’s lineup, it’s evident that Corgnati also had a sharp mind for the game. Following graduation, he compiled a record of 105-4 as a youth baseball coach in Monmouth.

With no disrespect to some of the great middle infielders from recent days at Monmouth, the Scots had perhaps
their best double-play combination in history during their 9-2 season in 1932, when Corgnati was joined by a young second baseman named Bobby Woll. The squad’s only losses came in Evanston against Northwestern University, and the team captured the Little 19 championship. Ironically, the duo played their entire baseball careers at Monmouth for a coach who knew a little about playing the infield himself – Robert Smiley.

In current times, a typical Monmouth College baseball schedule has included games against non-regional foes in Florida, plus a slate of MWC action and non-conference action against opponents from Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin. During the first half of the century, however, Monmouth’s competition was made up of more than just the standard collegiate foes. Among the stranger names that show up as the opposition for the “Monmouth nine” teams from 1893-1952 are Nebraska Indians, Company H, Outlaws, Monmouth Browns, Chinese University (Hawaii), Monmouth Central, House of David, Colored Giants, Peoria Caterpillar, Alexis Enterprises, White Stockings and Great Lakes Naval Training Station.

One of those teams, the House of David, was always an attraction because of their long hair and beards – a doctrine of their religion – and the team drew substantial crowds wherever they played on their barnstorming tours of the country.

Though largely comprised of members of the Israelite House of David religious community, the team often took on former major league players such as Grover Cleveland Alexander, Charles “Chief” Bender and John McGraw. Although those players weren’t on the squad when Monmouth met the House of David in the 1934 and 1935 seasons, evidence suggests that Babe Didrikson, who was named the Woman Athlete of the Century by the Associated Press, did indeed play in a game against the Fighting Scots. The Scots lost to the famous barnstorming team in 1934 but did win the 1935 rematch 10-7.

Twenty-five players, only three of them seniors, played on the team in 1938, but it would be the last time Monmouth fielded a team until 1947. Although World War II is surely to blame for the absence of the sport in several of those seasons, it’s unclear why baseball suddenly ceased in 1939 after a near-record turnout the year before. Perhaps it had to do with the fact that most of the surrounding schools had dropped the sport, but even that phenomenon is odd, as baseball was the national pastime. The Great Depression may have had an effect, and colleges might have cut back to just one sport in the spring, opting to keep the relatively inexpensive sport of track and field while dropping baseball.

1947-1964
The Rise of the MWC

Baseball resumed at Monmouth College in 1947, and one of the school’s first post-war stars was John “Juice” Lemon, an infielder who went on to play semi-pro ball and had a contract with the St. Louis Browns. Lemon recalls sharing the diamond with fine players such as Paul McIlvain, Sid Jackson, Jack Murphy, Dick Scholten, Bob Hofbauer and Don Shoop.

Lemon led the 1950 team to a fine 12-4 record, the school’s first double-digit win season since 1927. Monmouth would not win 10 games again in a season until 1966. The Scots’ pitchers that season included Bill Walton, Tom Feeheley, Tom Hoffman and Hofbauer. One year earlier, the 1949 team, led by .400 hitters Scholten and Lyle Bogott, had posted a record of 6-9. Other stars of the era were Don Brooks and Jack Kelly.

As huge as the Knox-Monmouth rivalry is in many sports – and baseball is no exception – the schools actually went 20 years without meeting head-to-head on the diamond. After playing in 1931, the Scots and Siwash would not clash again until late in the 1951 season.

Despite the 20-year lull, Knox is easily the opponent that Monmouth has played the most often. Entering the 2003 season, the schools have met 271 times, with the Scots holding a 152-117-2 edge. Other schools that Monmouth has faced 100 times or more include Coe (127), Grinnell (123) and Cornell (105).

In 1954, those Iowa schools, as well as Monmouth and Knox, were all part of the official addition of baseball as a championship sport sponsored by the Midwest Conference. After several unsuccessful attempts in earlier years, enough colleges arranged to field teams to make a league title possible and, in that year, the conference voted to add baseball to its official program. Under the guidance of Corgnati, who coached just the one year at Monmouth, the Scots placed third in the league, despite posting victories over co-champions Knox and Coe. One of the stars of that team was Ken Gould.

The 1956 team posted a 7-3-1 mark, and they did it with offense. Two of the Scots’ wins were 21-15 and 17-16 affairs with Cornell and Augustana, respectively. The tie game came when Knox and Monmouth couldn’t settle a 7-7 deadlock after a staggering 16 innings.

With Gould as their coach, the 1955-57 teams posted a combined record of 17-17-1. Two of Monmouth’s storied “Three Macs” – Bob Mc Kee and Jerry McBride – were part of those teams, and the third, Bob McLoskey, suited up in 1958.

In 1960, Bob Cooper was called one of the conference’s best catchers. Cooper was the nucleus of a team which posted a 21-15-1 record from 1958-60 under coach Joe Pelisek. The team was above .500 all three seasons, the first time that feat had been accomplished since 1925-27. Following Cooper behind the plate was another fine player, Terry Wilkison, who earned all-conference honors at catcher in 1962-63.

1965-1972
Close, but No Cigar

Starting in 1965, winning began to be the norm. Monmouth posted .500-plus seasons from 1965-69 and has had only four campaigns below .500 since ‘65.
Despite the success of the teams – which included stars such as Don Ingerson, Don Campbell, Skip Scherrer, Bob Eiserman and Dale Brooks, Monmouth couldn’t get over the hump and win its first MWC championship.

With the exception of 1970, the Scots reached the title series every year from 1966-72, but they were defeated all six times, including twice in a decisive third game. Monmouth lost the 1966 series to Ripon when the Redmen won game three 5-2, and the Scots also forced a three-game series in 1969, losing the rubber game 5-3 to St. Olaf.

One of Monmouth’s hardest-hitting squads was its 1971 team which featured big basher first baseman Bruce Stotlar, who led the nation that year in home runs per game (10 dingers in 20 contests) and slugging percentage (.953). Along with Stotlar, Eiserman (catcher), Joel Vistein (outfielder) and Rich Hode and Brooks (pitchers) made the all-conference team. The teams from 1968-72 were coached by Jim Wasem.

1973-1993

The Glasgow Era

After posting a 7-14 record in his first season at Monmouth in 1973, Terry Glasgow guided the Scots to 20 straight non-losing seasons. While the Scots were in that stretch of non-losing, there was a whole lot of winning going on.

Monmouth’s first big win under Glasgow came in 1975, when the Scots swept through the MWC championship series, which had been expanded to include four teams. Monmouth topped Cornell 8-5 and then won a pair of games from Coe, 8-4 and 13-7, to capture their first outright MWC championship. The victories pushed Monmouth, which finished 21-6-1, above 20 wins for the first time in school history.

The Scots’ first MWC title had actually come the year before, when rain washed away the four-team playoffs. Monmouth shared the league crown with Ripon, Coe and St. Olaf. Rain struck again in 1976 after Monmouth had opened the playoffs with an 11-10 win over Lawrence. Officially, no champion honor was bestowed that year, but Glasgow and Co., had their eyes on another prize, the national championship.

Monmouth received a berth in the NCAA tournament, which opened with a best-of-3 series against Nebraska Wesleyan. After splitting the first two games, the teams staged a rollercoaster ride in the finale. Monmouth scored first but trailed 3-1 entering the top of the eighth. A six-run rally, keyed by a two-run double by Neil Alexander, put the Scots up 7-3, but Wesleyan hit a two-out, three-run homer in the bottom of the ninth to force extra innings. Rick Conn singled and scored in the top of the 10th, and Gary Halls came on to get the last three outs.

The victory advanced Monmouth to the regional championship and a chance to be one of four teams to go to the College World Series. Unfortunately, MC drew a Cal State-Stanislaus team that wound up winning the national championship, and the Scots fell 13-10 and 7-3.

Ron Smith, a former Division I player who starred for the 1974-75 teams, was drafted by the Milwaukee Brewers, and Halls, who posted a career record of 16-4, signed a pro contract with the San Francisco Giants.

While the championships stopped for a few years, the Scots continued to produce some professional prospects as teammates Denny Jacobs and Max Kreps were both signed by the Pittsburgh Pirates in 1979.

From 1980-83, Monmouth won the MWC crown each year, and members of the Class of ’83 who were there to see it all included Ken Clary, Jim Golianis and Dave Vance. The ’81 and ’83 seasons ended with the Scots’ second and third experiences with NCAA tournament play, but the Scots failed to win a game either year. Monmouth had entered the six-team 1983 regional on an 18-game winning streak, and they finished the year 21-4.

Sophomore Rich Well hit .457 for that squad, but his best was still to come. In 1985, the senior hit an astonishing .506, leading the Scots to an 18-6 record and a return to the MWC championship series, which they won by sweeping St. Norbert.

Well’s big season lifted his career batting average at Monmouth to .441, which at the time was the second-highest mark ever posted by a Division III player. He went on to play in the Expos minor league system. As this history is written, Well, who is a coach at Vandalia (Ill.) High School, is also a scout for the Kansas City Royals.

Screening the action

Before the advent of aluminum bats, three Fighting Scots take in a game from the dugout at Monmouth Park, one of several venues that Monmouth College has used to play home games throughout the years.
#22 – Mason Abner  
#18 – Lukas Atkins  
#48 – Ricky Barnett  
#27 – Alan Betourne

#10 – Adam Carlson  
#30 – Nathan Clark  
#1 – Michael Current  
#26 – Deon Dinsmore

#16 – Matt Engelhardt  
#40 – Kyle Gibbs  
#7 – Chad Goad  
#37 – Matt Gordon

#45 – Adam Gudgel  
#47 – Josh Hall  
#17 – Jeremy Hamilton  
#16 – Beau Hellman
# | Name            | Yr  | Pos | B/T | Hometown/HS                  |
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<td>Michael Current</td>
<td>So.</td>
<td>2B</td>
<td>R/R Bloomington, IL/Bloomington</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Jeremy Przybylo</td>
<td>Sr.</td>
<td>OF</td>
<td>R/R Tinley Park, IL/Andrew</td>
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<td>Beau Hellman</td>
<td>Sr.</td>
<td>SS/P</td>
<td>R/R Ottawa, IL/Marquette</td>
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<td>OF</td>
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<td>R/R Galesburg, IL/Galesburg</td>
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<td>Fr.</td>
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<td>So.</td>
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<td>OF</td>
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<td>R/R Normal, IL/West</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Jarad Mason</td>
<td>So.</td>
<td>OF</td>
<td>R/R Frankfort, IL/Lincoln Way</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Toby Lannholm</td>
<td>Sr.</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>Deon Dinsmore</td>
<td>Sr.</td>
<td>IF</td>
<td>R/R Belvidere, IL/Belvidere</td>
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<td>Alan Betourne</td>
<td>So.</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>Kevin Meinhart</td>
<td>Fr.</td>
<td>P</td>
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<td>John Scudella</td>
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<td>Nathan Clark</td>
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<td>Scott Taylor</td>
<td>Fr.</td>
<td>1B</td>
<td>R/L Evanston, IL/Evanston</td>
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<td>Matt Murphy</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>Jeffrey Zurawicz</td>
<td>Jr.</td>
<td>P</td>
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<td>Jeff Tucker</td>
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<td>Matt Gordon</td>
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<td>38</td>
<td>Seth Spivey</td>
<td>Sr.</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>R/R Alpha, IL/AlWood</td>
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<td>39</td>
<td>Lukas Young</td>
<td>Fr.</td>
<td>IF</td>
<td>R/R Glasford, IL/Illini Bluffs</td>
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<td>Kyle Gibbs</td>
<td>Fr.</td>
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<td>Roy Tylkowski</td>
<td>Fr.</td>
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<td>R/R Amboy, IL/Amboy</td>
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<td>Trenton Jordan</td>
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<td>Ryne Sherman</td>
<td>Fr.</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>R/R Atlanta, IL/Olympia</td>
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<td>45</td>
<td>Adam Gudgel</td>
<td>Fr.</td>
<td>IF</td>
<td>L/R Keokuk, IA/Keokuk</td>
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<td>Josh Hall</td>
<td>Fr.</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>R/R Monmouth, IL/Monmouth</td>
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<td>48</td>
<td>Ricky Barnett</td>
<td>Fr.</td>
<td>IF</td>
<td>R/R Chicago, IL/Niles Notre Dame</td>
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<td>James Kohlbacher</td>
<td>Fr.</td>
<td>U</td>
<td>L/R Frankfort, IL/Lincoln-Way C.</td>
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<td>81</td>
<td>Brian Mieszala</td>
<td>Fr.</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>R/R Chicago, IL/St. Rita</td>
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</table>

**Head Coach:** Roger Sander  
**Assistant Coaches:** Doug Winebright, Brent Dugan, Taylor Thiel
The 2003 Monmouth College Fighting Scots

#44 – Ryne Sherman
#21 – Tyler Snyder
#38 – Seth Spivey
#31 – Scott Taylor
#14 – Steve Turner
#39 – Lukas Young
#33 – Jeffrey Zurawicz
Monmouth slipped a bit in 1986 but forged back to prominence in 1987, a season which marked the debut of another outstanding hitter, Chris Wheat. The Scots captured the 1987 MWC crown, going 19-7 and scoring 10 runs or more 11 times, and they really turned on the offense the following year, going 18-7 and leading the nation in batting (.391). Wheat was right in the thick of things with a staggering .522 mark, and Terry Dove (.455) and Travis Wyatt (.438) also starred.

The Scots reached double figures in runs in 14 of their 25 games – twice scoring 20 or more – and they tallied 257 runs to average over 10 per game. In one of the victories, a 23-12 slugfest with Knox, Wheat was 5-for-6 with a homer, Dave Kittell was 4-for-4 with a homer and three RBI. Arnold Gonzalez went all the way and didn’t allow an earned run. Terry Suhre capped a perfect season on the hill to win the title clincher. John Robbins starred in the No. 8 spot with a 3-for-3 day that included a homer and three RBI.

Those two wins over Ripon were the second and third victories of a school-record 23-game win streak by Monmouth. The Scots started the 1989 campaign with an amazing 20-0 record, finally falling 9-5 to Knox. The team won four more games, including the championship opener against Ripon, before the Redmen topped Monmouth 6-5 and 4-2 to suddenly end the Scots’ season.

That 1989 campaign was the first year of the best four-year string percentage-wise that Glasgow posted in his 21-year baseball career. Monmouth was 89-15 from 1989-92 and the Scots were First MWC champs
It didn’t take long for coach Terry Glasgow to steer the Fighting Scots to their first-ever Midwest Conference title. In his second season at Monmouth, his 1974 team, pictured above, shared the title, and the 1975 team won the crown outright. Glasgow’s teams won 14 league titles in all.

Although he’s still patrolling the sidelines as the Monmouth’s basketball coach, Terry Glasgow has always been a baseball man at heart. He starred at Keokuk (Iowa) High School and played two years at SCC in West Burlington, Iowa.

A baseball man
50-8 in MWC regular season action during that time, winning three league titles with a cumulative playoff record of 10-3. Monmouth was 29-4 against non-conference teams during the blitz. Seniors on the '92 squad who were with the program all four years included Nick D’Alfonso, Brad Fekete and Mike McNeive. The 1990 team went 22-2, leading the nation in winning percentage.

The '90 squad nearly had to settle for a 21-3 mark, but one of the most memorable comebacks in the school’s 135 years of baseball snatched a victory from the jaws of defeat. After shutting out Knox in the first game of a double-header behind a two-hitter from Jake Libby, the Scots found themselves behind 11-3 in the nightcap as the game entered the final inning. The previous inning, recalled current head coach Roger Sander, had ended when Todd Porter “hit a screamer to dead center with the bases loaded, but their center fielder made a great catch a la Willie Mays to kill the rally.”

At stake was the MWC South Division title, as the teams entered the final game with identical 12-2 marks. It looked like Knox was going to celebrate a championship on its own field, but Wheat, who had homered earlier in the game, started the top of the seventh with a double, several players walked and Troy Wheat and Porter each had two-run singles. Doug Mote then struck the decisive blow, a go-ahead three-run homer, which was his second hit of the inning. In the bottom of the frame, McNeive sealed the deal with the final frame of his 3-1/3 innings of hitless relief.

“This was probably the greatest win in our history,” said Glasgow at the time. “Not because of the championship we won – we have won a lot of them – but to come back like that and coming over here having to win two. Under those conditions, it has to be one of the greatest wins in our history.”

Even in present times, Glasgow ranks the win among his top moments at Monmouth, which also include blowing out Ripon to win the 1990 MWC basketball title and sweeping Knox in all head-to-head athletic competition in the 2000-01 academic year.

“I remember the mass on the field and jumping all over one another,” said Fekete, who walked and scored in the fateful frame. “We pretty much went nuts. You would have thought we won the national championship.”

Fekete also fondly recalled the “Nick-O-Meter,” a system for charting the current batting average of D’Alfonso that mimicked Wrigley Field’s “Shawon-O-Meter” for the Cubs’ Shawon Dunston.

With another title in 1993, his last year at the helm of the baseball team, Glasgow had strung together another

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**Jubilation!**

Monmouth players, fans and coaches – including Terry Glasgow (far left), a young Steve Glasgow (center) and Roger Sander (26) – pour onto the field after the final out was made in MC’s dramatic 13-11 victory over Knox in 1990. The Scots, who trailed 11-3 entering the final innings, rallied to earn the victory and capture the MWC South Division title, which would have gone to Knox if it had won.
four straight conference championships. The Fighting Scot who was on the team for all four of those seasons was speedster Todd Steele.

Glasgow finished his career with three straight victories at the MWC playoffs, including a 14-8 triumph over Ripon that gave him his 14th league title in 21 years.

“We expected to win the championship every year,” said Sander, who noted the Scots would have won seven consecutive titles if the 1989 team that entered the tournament 24-1 had not stubbed their toe twice against Ripon. “We had a great run of kids in through there.”

History shows that when Glasgow was good, he was very good. The long-time basketball coach and athletic director has guided his hoopsters to four Midwest Conference championships. In each of those seasons, Glasgow followed up with MWC titles in baseball in the spring. Two-sport athletes who were part of those championship sweeps include Tom Gillhouse, Dave Purlee and Alexander (1974), Well, Bill Seiler, Tim Hollinrake and Rocky Bennett (1985), Herman (1988) and McNeive and Fekete (1990).

While great hitting certainly characterized his teams of the late 1980s and early 1990s, two starting pitchers were money in the bank for Glasgow. Gonzalez ended his career with a record of 26-7 and an ERA of 3.07, and Libby flat-out dominated teams from 1990-92, posting a 27-3 mark with a sparkling 1.93 ERA. His ERA, winning percentage and victory total are all school records (Todd Briggs, who pitched from 1994-97, shares the victory mark).

“Looking back, I’m disappointed that we couldn’t get it going that first year I was here,” said Glasgow. “But in time, we were able to resurrect a baseball program that was almost breathless, and I don’t think anyone has dominated a sport in the Midwest Conference like we dominated baseball for those two decades. The 1993 title was particularly satisfying, because I was able to retire knowing that I left a team with seven or eight freshman starters that had won the MWC title.”

1994-2003
Home, Sweet, Home

Sander, who had assisted Glasgow since 1984, took over the team in 1994 and extended Monmouth’s streak of non-losing seasons to 23 before posting a 15-18 mark in 1997. His first year was certainly memorable, as senior Brent Dugan had one of the most remarkable performances for a Monmouth pitcher.

Dugan threw in four straight games at the conference tournament, logging 23-1/3 consecutive innings as he pitched Monmouth all the way back from a first-round loss in the double-elimination event to the title game. His victories included a 6-2 decision over Illinois College, a 15-4 win over St. Norbert and a 10-1 triumph against Ripon which forced a winner-take-all title game. Dugan, who finished the year with a single-season record 13 victories, finally ran out of gas in the third inning of the final game, which Ripon won 11-4.

“I’ve been around this conference a lot of years, and I don’t think I’ve ever seen anything like it,” praised Sander. “He was a senior who stepped up and just did a great job.”

“We ended up losing that second game in the championship, but that certainly does not diminish the individual effort that he put forth that weekend in leading our team through that tournament,” said Dave Bratten, who posted a .478 average that season.

“Watching him pitch that weekend was one of the best highlights of my time at MC. Coach Glasgow and Coach Sander are good men, and the short time I had to play for them certainly has had a tremendous positive impact on my life. I truly enjoyed every second of it.”

“Another thing I’ll always remember about that tournament is that Randy Mettemeyer, a substitute on that team, missed his own college graduation just to be with the team and sit on the bench,” said Sander. Mettemeyer is now the head baseball coach at Quincy High School, one of several former Fighting Scots now in the coaching world.

Despite fielding solid teams, Monmouth struggled to make it back to the championship game over the next seven seasons, getting knocked out of the tournament prior to the final in 1995, 1997, 1998, 2000 and 2001. The exceptions were 1996, when the Scots took second to St. Norbert, and 1999, the only year under Sander when they failed to reach the playoffs.

While the team continued to have success on the field, the college’s baseball facility deteriorated to the point where Monmouth was forced to play its “home” games 15

Smokin’ Joe

Flame-throwing righthander Joe Larkins was a double-threat for the Scots, posting a career record of 21-7 with a 2.84 ERA and batting .303 in four years with 17 home runs and 85 RBI.
miles away in Galesburg. That all changed in 2000, when the $1.7 million Peacock Memorial Athletic Park was opened. The Peacock Park complex, which also features two men’s and women’s soccer fields, has a professional-quality baseball diamond that ranks as one of the finest in the Midwest for a Division III program. The diamond is called Glasgow Field in honor of Coach Glasgow and in memory of his late daughter, Angela. It also served as the home field for three seasons for Glasgow’s son, Steve.

The elder Glasgow posted a 343-165-3 record in his 21 seasons as baseball coach, and Sander is approaching the halfway mark of that win total, entering the 2003 season with a mark of 163-132-1.

“Since 1994, the highlight for me has to be getting the new field, and also our conference championship and hosting the regional in 2002,” said Sander. “I inherited a very good program, and it would have stayed very good if we’d had the facilities. I feel bad for the kids in those middle years who didn’t have a home field to play or practice on.”

Still, Sander’s teams have a solid track record in the MWC’s South Division, and one reason behind their success has been the superb players he’s been able to pencil in at the shortstop position each season. The trend began with Dugan and then was picked up by Michael Blaesing, who holds the career record for doubles and was the former holder of the hits record. His career average of .411 is good for fourth all-time at Monmouth, and he hit five home runs at the 1994 MWC tournament, a feat that wound up being overshadowed by Dugan’s ironman efforts on the mound.

Blaesing graduated in 1996 and Casey Boydstun took over the position in 1998. He didn’t relinquish it for four years, playing a Ripken-esque streak of 130 straight games. As of this writing, he has the Monmouth records for at-bats, hits, triples, total bases, stolen bases and times hit by pitch. He batted .347 in his outstanding career.

Boydstun’s absence created a vacancy that Beau Hellman was happy to fill in 2002. The junior, who had already earned all-conference honors as a pitcher and a second baseman the prior two seasons, led Monmouth’s regulars in hitting with a .333 average, and he even had a three-homer game on the team’s trip to Florida. But as good as Hellman – and record-setting catcher Taylor Thiel (11 homers) – were, it was pitching that carried the 2002 Scots to one of their best seasons ever.

Throughout their careers, southpaw Ryan Johnson and righthander Joe Larkins had taken turns being the team’s ace. Johnson led the Scots in victories in 1999 and 2000, but Larkins came through with an outstanding junior season that saw him go 8-1 with a 1.77 ERA.

As seniors, the pair were both on top of their games. Larkins had the early success, posting quality starts at every turn. He wound up 6-2 on the year with a 2.64 ERA. Johnson started slowly, getting rocked twice in his first three outings, but he then went on an amazing run, posting a 9-0 record and a 0.90 ERA in his final 10 appearances.

The duo posted their 20th career victories on the same day, a 4-0, 5-0 doubleheader sweep against Knox, and they each recorded victories at the rain-shortened MWC championships, helping Monmouth qualify for its first NCAA tournament berth since 1983. Although many of Glasgow’s teams had certainly deserved the honor, the MWC champion did not automatically qualify for nationals until 1999.

Johnson continued his outstanding pitching in what would prove to be his final collegiate start, a 4-0 shutout of Aurora University at the Monmouth Regional. The Spartans, who were ranked third in the country, entered the game as the nation’s top-hitting team.

Monmouth dropped its next contest, a heart-breaking 9-7 loss in 14 innings against Carthage and, after the Scots once again topped Aurora to reach the championship, they fell again to Carthage, 4-0. The victory put the Redmen into the eight-team College World Series.

“It was a great weekend for our baseball team,” Sander concluded, “and it was a great weekend for Monmouth College. Glasgow Field is a great facility and we wanted to showcase it. We really got a lot of sincere compliments from the other coaches about our ballpark and how we ran the tournament.”
2002 – 1st Team: Joe Larkins (SR, Pitcher), Adam Schweitzer (SR, Pitcher), Taylor Thiel (SR, Catcher), Ryan Johnson (SR, Pitcher), Beau Hellman (JR, Shortstop), Dustin White (SR, Third Base), Thad King (FR, Utility); 2nd Team: Chad Goad (FR, Third Base); Co-Player of the Year: Taylor Thiel (SR, Catcher); Pitcher of the Year: Ryan Johnson (SR, Pitcher); Coach of the Year: Roger Sander

2001 – 1st Team: Casey Boydstun (SR, Shortstop), Joe Larkins (JR, Pitcher), Steve Glasgow (JR, Outfield), Taylor Thiel (JR, Catcher), Ryan Johnson (JR, Pitcher), Beau Hellman (SO, Second Base), Jim Brady (SO, Pitcher); 2nd Team: Dustin White (JR, Third Base), Adam Carlson (FR, Pitcher); Player of the Year: Casey Boydstun (SR, Shortstop); Co-Pitcher of the Year: Joe Larkins (JR, Pitcher); Coach of the Year: Roger Sander

2000 – 1st Team: Kevin Clarey (SR, First Base), Casey Boydstun (JR, Shortstop), Taylor Thiel (SO, Catcher), Steve Glasgow (SO, Outfield), Jim Starcevich (SO, Outfield), Joe Larkins (SO, Designated Hitter), Ryan Johnson (SO, Pitcher), Beau Hellman (FR, Pitcher); Honorable Mention: Shawn Hickey (SR, Second Base); Player of the Year: Casey Boydstun (JR, Shortstop)

1999 – 1st Team: Matt Carlson (JR, Second Base), Ryan Johnson (FR, Pitcher), Andy Kahlenberg (SR, Outfield), Joe Larkins (FR, Utility), Casey Boydstun (FR, Shortstop); Honorable Mention: Jake Bilyeu (JR, Pitcher)

1998 – 1st Team: Matt Carlson (SO, Pitcher), Brad Davis (SO, Pitcher), Joel Fulgenzi (SR, Catcher), Shawn Hickey (SO, Third Base), Casey Boydstun (FR, Shortstop), Dustin Salman (SR, Outfield); 2nd Team: Jay Turnbull (JR, Utility)

1997 – 1st Team: Todd Briggs (SR, Pitcher), Joel Fulgenzi (JR, Catcher), Chris Canfield (SR, Utility); 2nd Team: Kevin Gordon (FR, Infield), Shawn Hickey (FR, Infield)

1996 – 1st Team: Todd Briggs (JR, Pitcher), Phil Tweedy (SR, First Base), Sean Kane (SR, Second Base), Mike Bleming (SR, Shortstop), Jay Turnbull (FR, Third Base), Craig Foxall (SR, Outfield), Mike Louk (SR, Designated Hitter); 2nd Team: Joel Fulgenzi (SO, Catcher)

1995 – 1st Team: Todd Briggs (SO, Pitcher), Mike Bleming (JR, Second Base), Jimmy Herget (FR, Outfield); 2nd Team: Brent Dugan (SR, Pitcher), Mike Bleming (SO, Shortstop), Lamar Rudd (SR, Outfield), Dave Bratten (SO, Outfield); 2nd Team: Craig Foxall (SO, Outfield)

1993 – 1st Team: Eric Gillenwater (JR, Pitcher), Dave Bratten (FR, Outfield), Brent Dugan (JR, Shortstop), Lamar Rudd (JR, Outfield); 2nd Team: Jake Libby (SR, Pitcher), Brad Fekete (SR, Infield), Mike McNeive (SR, Utility), Jim Ryan (SR, Outfield), Trent Griffith (SR, Infield)

1991 – 1st Team: Jake Libby (JR, Pitcher), Trent Griffith (JR, Third Base), Bret Bruington (JR, Infield); 2000 – 1st Team: Joe Larkins (SR, Pitcher), Adam Schweitzer (SR, Pitcher), Taylor Thiel (SR, Catcher), Ryan Johnson (SR, Pitcher), Beau Hellman (JR, Shortstop), Dustin White (SR, Third Base), Thad King (FR, Utility); 2nd Team: Chad Goad (FR, Third Base); Co-Player of the Year: Taylor Thiel (SR, Catcher); Pitcher of the Year: Ryan Johnson (SR, Pitcher); Coach of the Year: Roger Sander

1990 – 2nd Team: Chris Lemon (SR, Pitcher)

1979 – 1st Team: Dan Jacobs (SR, Pitcher), Jim Fabianski (SO, Outfield); 2nd Team: Max Kreps (SR, Catcher)

1978 – 1st Team: Dan Jacobs (JR, Pitcher), Jim Fabianski (FR, Outfield), Joe McElade (SO, First Base), Dale McKillip (JR, Outfield), Max Kreps (JR, Catcher)

1977 – 2nd Team: Rick Conn (SR, Third Base), Lou Vitali (SR, Outfield)

1976 – 1st Team: Gary Halls (SR, Pitcher), Rick Conn (JR, Third Base), Lou Vitali (JR, Outfield); 2nd Team: Ron Nelson (SO, Shortstop), Neil Alexander (SR, Outfield), Randy Flowers (SR, Designated Hitter)

1975 – 1st Team: Ben Dalton (SR, Outfield), Matt Entup (SR, Catcher), Randy Flowers (JR, Pitcher), Bill Seiple (SR, Infield), Lou Vitali (SO, Outfield)

1972 – 1st Team: Bob Eiserman (SR, Catcher), Dale Brooks (SR, Pitcher)


1970 – 1st Team: Bob Eiserman (SO, Catcher)

1969 – 1st Team: Charles Schacht (SR, First Base), Dave Nelson (SR, Second Base), Skip Scherrer (SR, Third Base), Dick DePuy (SR, Outfield), Terry Henderson (JR, Catcher), Ray Carlstedt (JR, Pitcher)

1968 – 1st Team: Skip Scherrer (JR, Third Base)

1967 – 1st Team: Don Campbell (SO, Shortstop), Skip Scherrer (SO, Third Base), Mike Drak (SO, Center Field), Don Ingerson (SR, Pitcher); 2nd Team: Barry Corbin (SO, Pitcher), Mike Fredrick (SR, Catcher)

1966 – 1st Team: Don Ingerson (JR, Pitcher)

1965 – 1st Team: Don Ingerson (SO, Pitcher)

1964 – 1st Team: Don Moore (Outfield)

1963 – 1st Team: Terry Wilkison (Catcher)

1962 – 1st Team: Jerry Greer (Outfield), Terry Wilkison (Catcher), Don Moore (Outfield), Gene Dawson (Pitcher)

1954 – 1st Team: Pete Nelson (Second Base), Pete Kovacs (Outfield), Art Benedetto (Pitcher)

1953 – 1st Team: Ken Gould (Second Base), Pete Kovacs (Outfield); 2nd Team: Tom Hoffman (Pitcher), Jack McBride (Third Base)