

Allison Rohrbaugh – Marketing & Communications
allison@hhsportsandevents.com
717.231.2980

 **PENNSYLVANIA ROSTER SET FOR 2018 BIG 26 BASEBALL CLASSIC®**

**Registration underway for the Buddy Challenger Game**

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 **HARRISBURG, PA (June 19, 2018)** -- The Hershey Harrisburg Sports & Events Authority (HHSE) today announced the final roster for Team Pennsylvania in the 2018 Big 26 Baseball Classic®. Incoming juniors and seniors from across the state were invited to try out for what will be the 6th edition of the event to be played at FNB Field in Harrisburg July 19-22. Pennsylvania will once again play host to Maryland. Pennsylvania leads the series 3-2.

The roster features 20 incoming seniors and 6 incoming juniors. More than a dozen college coaches scouted the tryout session at Lebanon Valley College on June 3. More than 20 have expressed interest in attending the event in July, with additional colleges and pro teams expected to sign on in the coming weeks.

The Big 26 Baseball Classic is under HHSE oversight for the first time due to the untimely passing of Dave Trimbur, former Big 33 Foundation Executive Director and founder of the Big 26. The Big 26 event was not played in 2017 during the management change.

“It was important to the Dauphin County Commissioners that this event continue in our region, so we were honored to be able to pick up the mantle and work hard to put this event on a path for growth and increased visibility,” said HHSE Executive Director Gregg Cook. He continued, “We’re thankful for the commissioners’ support for this event and for sports & events tourism throughout the Hershey Harrisburg region.”

“This is an incredible opportunity for high school baseball players,” said Director of Baseball Operations Mike Gingerich. “There is value in the tryout process because college scouts are on hand to evaluate talent regardless of final roster decisions. There is value in being selected to the team for a second opportunity to be seen by scouts and in having a taste of minor league atmosphere with team housing at Penn State Harrisburg and the player experience at FNB Field.” And finally, says Gingerich, “there is value in the Buddy Challenger Game experience. Our players over the years have consistently said that Challenger night is what they take with them as the most impactful experience of the event.”

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Registration for the Challenger Game is open and free of charge to children and young adults ages 5-21 with physical and/or intellectual disabilities. In addition to the Challenger game, Challenger athletes are invited to participate in an opening picnic and pre-game introductions for all games.

Buddy Challenger Welcome Picnic and Game: July 19 @ 5:15 p.m.
PA vs MD Game 1: July 20 @ 7:05 p.m.
PA vs MD Game 2: July 21 @ 4:35 p.m.
PA vs MD Game 3: July 22 @ 1:35 p.m.

Ticket information and the registration link for the Challenger Game can be found at **www.big26.com**.

PENNSYLVANIA COACHES & ROSTER

Team Coordinator: Dave Eckley – Former AAU Coach
Head Coach: Kevin Manero – Head Varsity Baseball Coach @ North Penn High School
Assistant Coach: Brian Fili – Head Varsity Baseball Coach @ Strath Haven High School
Assistant Coach: Rick Harrison – Head Varsity Baseball Coach @ Oley Valley High School

Matt Arbogast *| Infield |* Penn Crest HS ’19

Carson Barge *| Outfield |* Upper Dauphin Area HS ‘19

Brady Dallas *| Pitcher |* Wilson HS ‘19

Nick Embleton *| Dual Position – Pitcher & Infield |* East Pennsboro HS ‘19

Brady Gibble *| Outfield |* Wilson HS ‘20

Carter Heller *| Pitcher |* Faith Christian Academy ‘19

Matt Henderson *| Pitcher |* Daniel Boone HS ‘19

Ryan Jacobs *| Dual Position – Pitcher & Outfield |* Susquehanna Township HS ‘19

Dominick Kennedy *| Outfield |* Twin Valley HS ‘19

Jonathan LaBarbera *| Infield |* Cedar Crest HS ‘20

Chase Lacey *| Outfield |* Daniel Boone HS ‘19

Trey Law *| Infield |* Cedar Cliff HS ‘19

Trevor Leverington *| Pitcher |* Kutztown Area HS ‘19

Tyler Long *| Infield |* Annville-Cleona ‘20

Jake Madden *| Pitcher |* East Pennsboro HS ‘20

Brady Mutz *| Catcher |* Strath Haven HS ‘19

Brevin Neveker *| Outfield |* New Oxford HS ‘20

Trey Paige *| Infield |* Exeter Township HS ‘19

Zack Pellock *| Catcher |* Oley Valley HS ‘19

Ryan Pepler *| Infield |* Central York HS ‘19

Braden Petty *| Infield |* Big Spring HS ‘19

Jordan Siket *| Catcher |* Owen J. Roberts HS ‘19

Jake Skrocki *| Pitcher |* Spring-Ford HS ‘19

Aaron Snyder *| Dual Position – Pitcher & Outfield |* Lampeter-Strasburg HS ‘19

Anthony Swenda *| Infield |* Upper Merion HS ‘20

Gavin Troutman *| Infield |* Oley Valley HS ‘19

\*Players may work at one or more positions during scout events.

<https://www.facebook.com/Big26Baseball/>



<https://twitter.com/Big26_Baseball>



<https://www.instagram.com/big26baseballclassic/>

**About Big 26 Baseball**

The Big 26 Baseball Classic® is committed to producing the highest quality of events that provide our athletes the opportunity to learn and grow on and off the field of play. The development, competition, evaluation and exposure for our athletes will be in a welcoming and productive atmosphere for all.

**About Hershey Harrisburg Sports & Events Authority**

HHSE is committed to promoting sports tourism and events initiatives in the Hershey Harrisburg Region, forging mutually beneficial partnerships with new and existing clients, supporting locally produced events to expand audiences, and driving economic development as it relates to sports and events tourism. HHSE is a division of Visit Hershey & Harrisburg, which serves as the official non-profit partnership-based Destination Marketing Organization (DMO) for Dauphin and Perry Counties located in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

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