

July 10, 2020

Dear Aztec Family,

As stated by American author and keynote speaker Tim Fargo, “Who you are tomorrow begins with what you do today.” Today, my journey begins as the Head Baseball Coach at Esperanza High School. My goal is to set expectations of excellence both on and off the field, by developing our athletes, invigorating our family/boosters, restoring our facilities, and creating a program that attracts the local talent for years to come.

I have been involved with baseball my entire adult life. As a player, I began at Cal State Los Angeles. Drafted by the Chicago White Sox with their ninth pick in 1995, I was fortunate to experience a nine-year professional career. Among my highlights, I was added to the 2000 Chicago White Sox Major League roster, won the 1999 International League Championship, awarded 2002 AAA Minor League Pitcher of the Year for the Florida Marlins, and pitched for our hometown Los Angeles Angels. My playing years set the foundation for my passion for the game of baseball that I hope to extend to all aspects of Esperanza Baseball.

Starting now, I want to put a stamp on the program that will be known for character, diligence, toughness, positivity, and teamwork. The result should lead to success on the field. Through my experience of private instruction over the last twenty years, I developed a system of improving technique, maximizing power, reducing injury, and building mental preparedness. I currently work with professional, college, and high school players that continue to develop and thrive. My goal for each player is to reach the pinnacle of his talent and contribute to the overall team success.

But, my influence on our players extends far beyond what we do on the baseball field. In a quote from Billy Graham, “a coach will impact more people in one year than the average person will in a lifetime.” I will never forget the indelible impact of the coaches in my past experience. To list a few, I have

learned organization and attention to detail from CIF football legend Mike Marrujo, passion and commitment from Jon Herbold, steadiness from Angel manager Mike Scioscia, and a winning mindset from World Series Champion pitching coach Don Cooper. These are just a few of the characteristics that have become ingrained in me that I plan to pass on to each player at Esperanza.

The success in our future is not dependent on me alone. Today, I am asking for your support in making Aztec baseball the best it can be. First, we need to instill excitement in our program. I look to extend outreach and player development assistance into our local leagues and travel ball organizations. More importantly, our reputation is also dependent upon you. Share our successes and Aztec PRIDE throughout the community and encourage others to join the Aztec family. Next, we need to restore our facilities and equipment. Our playing surfaces, batting cages, lower level fields should all be top notch. Whether it be fundraising, donation, or just plain hard work, we need everyone on board to provide the best for our boys. Lastly, I want to ensure the success of our program for the future. Providing a quality coaching staff and focusing on development at all levels will be a key to our future success.

Esperanza Baseball has produced several major league players, 3 CIF baseball titles, and a National Championship. Our program's history is as successful as any in the area. Let's embrace the tradition of our past while guiding Esperanza baseball into the future. As your Head Coach, I treasure the opportunity of helping mold our young players into quality individuals, using the game of baseball as my tool. I hope to instill invaluable life skills and create memories that will last a lifetime. I look forward to meeting the players and families as soon we can meet in person.

Sincerely,

Jason A. Secoda