

“Baseball Day” on Campus

To show that math is used in real life, Ohio State University baseball pitcher Dan DeLucia did a little calculation on the blackboard, reports Sue Hagan in the May 17, 2007 ThisWeek community newspapers.

“OK, one run divided by three innings times nine,” he said. “That’s an earned run average of 3,” he said. “If it’s below 2, you’re doing really well with your pitching.”

According to the article, Hilliard resident DeLucia, a 2003 graduate of Bishop Watterson High School, and Jack Hale, of Albany in southeast Ohio, spoke to the sixth-grade class of Indianola Alternative K-6 School in May 2007. Two others on the Ohio State team—Eric Best, an Olentangy Liberty High School graduate, and Cory Kovanda, Worthington Kilbourne alumnus—spoke at Indianola Middle School.

The visits by the Ohio State baseball team players prepared the sixth graders for Baseball Day on Wednesday, May 16, 2007. The Ohio State University partnered with Columbus City Schools to design the event showing young students the opportunities for and advantages of higher education and the importance of staying in school. Nearly 3,000 sixth-grade students and staff from the Columbus City Schools came to campus for an educational pep rally in Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium followed by a Buckeye baseball game versus North Florida at Bill Davis Stadium.



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The sixth graders were welcomed to campus by the Ohio State cheerleaders, mascot Brutus Buckeye, and members of the Ohio State band. Superintendent Dr. Gene Harris, student athletes, and students representing Young Scholars and “I Know I Can” encouraged the sixth graders to study and work hard and to think about and prepare for college. A special part of the pep rally included a rescue demonstration by ROTC with a Black Hawk helicopter landing on the field. The Ohio State students taking part represented various majors.

The school system developed a curriculum oriented around baseball, which includes the history of baseball, knowledge of the game, baseball statistics, and biographies of players. The curriculum also encompasses music and art classes and a contest to design the baseball game program covers and potential careers.

Planning for the outreach effort involved Ohio State’s Department of Athletics, P-12 Project, Admissions/First-Year Experience, University Relations, Army ROTC, and Academic Affairs, as well as Columbus City Schools and the Children’s Hunger Alliance. ■