

Michael Wanamaker

Baseball

Class of 2005

Of the many great Baseball players to come through Nyack High, Mike Wanamaker certainly ranks as one of the finest. Wanamaker became one of the area's most dominant pitchers, going 22-2 in his career while breaking several school records. Mike also starred as one of Nyack's best hitters as he led Nyack to 3 league titles and a section championship. He went on to play Division 1 baseball at major conference programs at Boston College and Penn State.

After making the varsity Baseball team as a freshman Wanamaker established himself as a major part of the team as a sophomore. Playing under the direction of legendary Head Coach Dave Siegriest (NHSAHOF 2019), Mike went 6-0 with a 1.40 ERA and 53 strikeouts as a pitcher while also hitting .353 as a batter. He helped lead Nyack to a league title, a top seed in the playoffs, and a 20-win season. As a junior, Wanamaker led Rockland and Section 1 with a 9-1 record and 128 strikeouts pitching, and also hit .453 with 23 RBI. He was named First Team All-State, along with earning All-Section and All-Conference honors. Mike had several incredible performances, including pitching a 16-strikeout no-hitter in a road win over Greeley, helping himself at the plate with a homer and 3 RBI. Wanamaker was counted on as a leader on a young team, even being named co-captain despite not being a senior. He led host Nyack to the Red and Black Tournament title, and was named tournament MVP. After capturing the league title and earning another 1-seed, Mike helped lead Nyack to the section semifinals by pitching a 2-hit, 12-strikeout complete game shutout in a quarterfinal win over Greeley. In the end he was named Journal News Player of the Year. Wanamaker reached even greater heights as a senior. After being named a preseason Louisville Slugger All-American, Mike went 7-1 with 89 strikeouts and a section-best 0.56 ERA. He threw 2 no-hitters in just 5 regular season starts, won the Dom Cecere Award as Section 1 Pitcher of the Year, and was named All Northeast Region Player of the Year amongst other honors. He had a monster game in a win over Tappan Zee, recording 19 strikeouts and giving up just 3 hits on the mound while also finishing with 2 homers and 6 RBI from the plate. A captain once again, Wanamaker led Nyack to another league title and 1-seed. He struck out 9 in 5 shutout innings in a quarterfinal win over Somers despite needing treatment between innings for an injury. In the section final Mike struck out 8 in a complete game performance to lead Nyack to a 4-1 win over Lourdes and the team's first section title since 1999, He even had Nyack's only hit of the game, a 2-run single. By the time his high school career was over, Wanamaker held 10 single-season and all-time pitching records, cementing his status as one of the best NHS Baseball players ever. His records include single season strikeouts (128), overall strikeouts (285), overall wins (22), overall complete games (18), single season ERA (0.54), overall. ERA (0.75), least hits per game in a single season (2.58) and

least hits per game overall (3.01).

Mike's phenomenal play caught the attention of numerous scouts, and he ended up being drafted by the Pittsburgh Pirates in the 25th round of the 2005 MLB June Amateur Draft. However, he decided to follow through with his commitment to play at Boston College, where he pitched well before transferring to St. Petersburg College when BC's head coach left. Wanamaker pitched very well there and then transferred to Penn State, where his father Steven Wanamaker Sr. (NHSAHOF 2015) had played Football. Mike became the Nittany Lions' top starter, leading the team in several categories and earning 2nd Team All-Big Ten honors. In the 2008 Big Ten Tournament, he pitched a complete-game 3-hitter in leading his team to a first round win.

Along with his elite performances, Wanamaker also proved his value off the diamond. He was an honorary student who became a Journal News Scholar Athlete while at NHS. Mike also volunteered with his grandfather, delivering food to the hungry with Meals on Wheels, showcasing admirable character to go with his amazing athletic prowess.