

BRET HOYER - Head Coach

Bret Hoyer joined the coaching staff at Kennedy at the start of the 1992-1993 school year. He has compiled a 844-455-2 record in 33 years with the Cougars and has an overall mark of 908--493-2 in 36 years as a head coach.

Kennedy has made 14 trips to the Class 4A state tournament under Coach Hoyer beginning in 1993 with his first Kennedy squad reaching the Final Four. His 2024 and 2010 Kennedy teams won the Class 4A State Baseball Championship after second place finishes in the 2006 and 2002 state tournaments. The Cougars played in four straight state tournaments - 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003 - the first time that's been accomplished by any school in the Cedar Rapids Metro area. Coach Hoyer was inducted into the Iowa High School Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2014. In 2024 and 2010, he was named Class 4A State Coach of the Year by the Iowa High School Baseball Association. Under Coach Hoyer, Kennedy has won 8 MVC Championships.

In three years as the head coach at Iowa City Regina from 1990-1992, his Runnin Regal squads went 64-38 with 2 EIHC championships including a State Runner Up finish in 1991. Coach Hoyer spent one year as an assistant coach at Sioux City Heelan and one year as an assistant at Regina before becoming a head coach. He played baseball at Wartburg College. Bret is married to Jill Dennis and the proud father of Chrissie Hoyer, 25, Braden Hoyer, 23, and Joey Dennis, 20..

ETHAN DIVIS - VARSITY ASSISTANT COACH

Coach Divis begins his 11th summer season with the JFK staff and his seventh as a Varsity assistant. Ethan served as an assistant to Coach Winter and the sophomore team for 4 seasons prior to moving to the varsity level. At the 2025 IHSBCA Awards Banquet, Coach Divis was named the IHSBCA Class 4A Assistant Coach of the Year. Ethan participated in our Jr Cougar and Kennedy baseball programs. He was a member of the 2014 Metro and MVC championship teams that reached the State Quarterfinals. He was a catcher, DH, and pitcher. Coach Divis just finished his 6th year as social studies teacher at Kennedy after working one year in the same capacity at Anamosa High School. He also serves as the Head Women's Tennis coach. Coach Divis assumes the responsibilities of first base coach, pitch design, and catching coach. He also handles all in game communication with the catchers. The Kennedy players benefit tremendously from the knowledge Coach Divis has acquired over the last several years as a student of the game who loves John F. Kennedy Sr. High School and Kennedy baseball.

DAVID YANCEY – VARSITY ASSISTANT COACH

Coach Yancey begins his 6th summer with the Kennedy Varsity baseball staff after serving as a volunteer spring/fall league coach for several seasons. David was a member of our

2010 State Championship team and the 2011 MVC Championship team that also qualified for the State tournament. He pitched and played left field, earning All-Conference and All District honors. He is second in school history with 7 saves in his senior season. David pitched at Southeastern Community College, Blackhawk Community College and St. Ambrose University. Following his playing career at St. Ambrose he served as an assistant coach with the Bees program. David was inducted into the Kennedy Baseball Hall of Fame in 2022. Coach Yancey will work with Coach Divis and our pitchers in addition to helping Coach Hoyer with our outfielders.

BEN SASS – VARSITY ASSISTANT COACH

Ben begins his 5th summer with the Varsity staff after serving several years as a spring league coach. Ben played infield and pitched for the Cougs, playing with Coach Divis on the 2014 MVC Championship team that also qualified for the 2014 State Tournament. He earned All Conference and All Metro honors. Ben played with Coach Divis all throughout his youth baseball years in our Jr Cougar program. Coach Sass went on to play at Wartburg College. Following graduation Ben served as the head coach of Tripoli HS, taking them from a 2 win team to an above .500 team in his first season. He took a job with Simmons, Perrine, Moyer, and Bergman PLC, working in their Administration and Management department. Ben is married to another JFK grad, Lydia (Martin). They are proud parents of Hayden (9 months)

JAKE NAUMAN - VARSITY ASSISTANT COACH

The Kennedy Baseball program is thrilled to have Coach Nauman return to the Cougar dugout in 2023 after taking several years away to coach his daughter's softball teams. Coach Nauman was in the dugout with Coach Hoyer for each of Kennedy's 12 trips to the state tournament between 2000 and 2015 making him one of the top assistants in the state. The Iowa High School Baseball Coaches Association honored Jake by naming him the 2004 Northeast Iowa Assistant Coach of the Year. He works closely with the Kennedy pitchers, infielders, and base runners. Both of JFK's state baseball championships happened with Coach Nauman on staff.

Coach Nauman pitched at Kirkwood Community College in 1994-95 and helped the Eagles place second at the National Junior College Athletic Association tournament in 1995. He then spent two years at Mount Mercy College, setting a record for the most shutouts in one season and another record for the most consecutive scoreless innings.

Coach Nauman has a business degree from Mount Mercy and works for Insmid Incorporated as a sales representative. Coach Nauman and his wife Heidi have a daughter, Madelyn, 18.

TREVOR SCOTT - ASSISTANT VARSITY COACH

“Coach Trevor” Scott returns for a second summer helping the Varsity hitters and catchers. He played on the 2024 Conference, Sub State, and State Championship squad. Trevor was the first ever 4 year starting catcher at JFK.. We are thrilled to have him on staff as he transitions into this position of leadership. His passion for coaching is unmatched. Trevor is attending Kirkwood Community College where he is playing baseball under IHSBCA Hall of Fame coach, Todd Rima. We are excited to have him contribute to our program several of the things he is learning at the collegiate level.

MATT WINTER - HEAD SOPHOMORE COACH

Matt begins his 17th year on the Kennedy Baseball staff following a successful 5-year stint at Laurens-Marathon High School. He was the head boys' basketball and head baseball coach for four seasons from 2006 through 2009. Coach Winter was looking for an opportunity to return to Eastern Iowa and accepted a Social Studies position at Alburnett H.S In the fall of 2009. In addition to his teaching duties, he serves as junior high basketball coach. He has led the JFK sophomores to four Mississippi Valley Conference championships, including the 2024 title, and two CRANDIC Metro Tournament titles.

Matt pitched and played first base on Kennedy's 2000 state tournament team. He served as a sophomore assistant coach at JFK in 2001 and 2002 while earning his degree from the University of Northern Iowa. Coach Winter also assists with the Varsity program, focusing on helping develop our infielders. Matt is married to Danielle and they are proud parents to two Labrador retrievers.

OWEN ANDERSON - ASSISTANT SOPHOMORE COACH

Owen begins his first summer as a member of the Kennedy staff. He just finished his sophomore year at Central College where he played football and baseball.. Owen played varsity baseball for 3 summers, including the 2024 Conference, Sub State, and State Championship squad. Coach Anderson will be responsible with working individualized hitting plans for our sophomore team as well as working with the outfielders. We are excited to have Owen begin his coaching career with us!

TONY MAIERS - ASSISTANT SOPHOMORE COACH

Tony begins his fifth season with the Kennedy staff after serving several years as a volunteer spring league coach. Tony played for the Kennedy varsity from 2011 through 2013 earning All Metro honors his senior year. His primary playing responsibilities were catching, however, he developed into a very effective pitcher as well. Tony also played in the Jr Cougar baseball program for all of his youth baseball years. He went on to play at Des Moines Area Community College in Boone, before injuries ended his competitive playing career. He was instrumental in helping guide our Sophomore team to the 2024 Sophomore MVC title. Coach Maiers' primary responsibilities will be working with our catchers, first basemen and hitters. He is a project manager for Rockwell Collins. He is married to Allison Monroe and are the proud parents of a GoldenDoodle.

ETHAN HAFNER - 9TH GRADE COACH

Coach Hafner begins his 4th season with the Kennedy baseball program as one of our 9th grade coaches. Ethan grew up in Illinois playing multiple sports at Sterling Newman Central Catholic. From there he continued baseball at Ellsworth CC and Sauk Valley CC before finishing his last two years at Mount Mercy University. Coach Hafner is currently finishing his 4th year teaching social studies at Roosevelt Creative Corridor Business Academy (RCCBA). Coach Hafner also coaches football, basketball, and track for Roosevelt. Two of his main disciplines in school, sports, and life are attitude and effort, as this was strongly introduced to him at Mount Mercy under Coach Dahm. He has been promoted by the CRCSD to a facilitator position at one of the CRCSD schools.

In his free time Coach Hafner enjoys golfing with friends, going to the gym, visiting friends, and traveling.

JACE SCOTT - 9TH GRADE COACH

"Coach Jace" Scott (no relation to "Coach Trevor" Scott) begins his coaching career at the 9th grade level with Coach Hafner. Jace was also a member of the 2024 Conference, Sub State, and State Championship squad with Trevor and Owen. Jace was also a 3 year starter on the Varsity. Coach Jace completed his sophomore year at the University of Iowa - completing a winter-spring internship experience at Trans America. We are thrilled to have another 2024 State Championship team member work with our young ball players!

