With a combination of strong returning players, a talented group of first year players and great leadership, expectations are high for the upcoming season. Led by captains Colby Morris and Hayden Smith, the Middlebury baseball team has been hard at work preparing for the upcoming season. After a disappointing end to the 2018 season, the team has come back to campus hungry for a return to the NESCAC Championship.

The team returns eight positional starters from last year’s team that finished one game away from a second-straight trip to the NESCAC tournament. Sam Graf and Phil Bernstein are the lone senior position players and both have played key roles as starters over their careers. Justin Han and Brooks Carroll are entering their junior year as two-year starters, and will be important to the team’s success. Han, Carroll and Smith will help to lead a very talented junior class that has had as many as five starters over the past two seasons.

On the mound, Morris returns as the ace of the staff and looks to finish off a stellar career with a NESCAC Championship. He is joined by seniors Colin Waters, John Tipps and Conor Himstead, who will all play important roles this season. Depth in the pitching staff is at an all-time high as the season will start with 16 pitchers competing for innings.

Following the 2018 season three members of the Panther baseball team were honored for their individual performances on the field by the New England Small College Athletic Association (NESCAC).

Colby Morris was named NESCAC Pitcher of the Year and earned a spot on the all-conference’s first team. Morris tied for the league lead in wins, complete games, innings pitched and ERA, while also finishing third in strikeouts.

Joining Morris on the first team was sophomore Justin Han, who led the team with a .369 batting average and set a school record for stolen bases with 22.

The third Panther recognized by the NESCAC was sophomore shortstop Brooks Carroll, who was named Conference Defensive Player of the Year. He had a .963 fielding percentage and only committed five errors in 136 chances.
Academic Excellence

The 2018 Middlebury Baseball team was cited for Academic Excellence by the American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA) for the second-straight year. A total of 15 Panthers were also honored with All-NESCAC Academic Honors. In addition to the team accomplishment, senior captain Rob Erickson was one of only 51 Middlebury seniors inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. For his accomplishments in the classroom and on the field, Rob also was named Karl Lindholm Scholar Athlete award winner for 2018.

Middlebury Baseball in the Offseason

This past summer, members of the Middlebury baseball team continued to develop their talents in summer leagues all over the country. Senior Colby Morris spent it competing in two of the top leagues in the country including the Cape Cod League. He details his experience in an article that was posted to the Middlebury Athletics site in October, The Collegiate Summerball Experience

Along with Morris, the team had 10 other players who competed in summer baseball:

- George Goldstein – Brockton Rox; Futures Collegiate Baseball League
- Will Oppenheim – Vermont Mountaineers; New England Collegiate Baseball League
- Evan Stewart – Watertown Rapids; Perfect Game Collegiate Baseball League
- Andrew Hennings – Windy City Prospects; Chicago Metro League
- Gray Goolsby – Lexington Blue Sox; Intercity League
- Ryan Hanrahan – Thundering Herd; Hudson Valley Collegiate Baseball League
- Jake Dianno – Northampton Orioles; Pendel Baseball League
- Jack Miller – Portsmouth Sea Monsters; Tidewater Summer League
- Bobby Sullivan – Ridgewood Rebels; American Legion
- Alan Guild – Southington Shock; Connecticut Collegiate Baseball League

Study Abroad

The study abroad experience continues to be a large part of the Middlebury student experience. This fall, seven members of our junior class studied abroad. Pictured left to right above are Gray Goolsby, Andrew Hennings, Grant Elgarten, Brooks Carroll and Justin Han in Scotland.

Community Service

Last fall, members of the Middlebury baseball team participated in several community service projects. The team partnered with Shoreham Elementary as “Recess Buddies,” worked with Middlebury Area Land Trust to improve the Trail Around Middlebury (TAM), and worked with United Way of Addison County.
### 2019 Schedule

- **March 9** – @ Stevens Institute of Technology 4:00 p.m.
- **March 10** – DH @ SUNY Purchase 11:00 a.m.
- **March 16** – DH @ Emory 12:00 p.m.
- **March 17** – @ Emory 1:00 p.m.
- **March 23** – DH vs Lawrence^ 10:00 a.m.
- **March 24** – DH vs Elmhurst^ 10:15 a.m.
- **March 25** – vs Wisconsin – Whitewater^ 9:45 a.m.
- **March 26** – vs Thomas (Maine)^ 1:30 p.m.
- **March 27** – vs Union (N.Y.)^ 1:00 p.m.
- **March 29** – vs Hamilton^# 12:00 p.m.
- **April 4** – @ Norwich University 4:00 p.m.
- **April 6** – DH @ Tufts University 12:30 p.m.
- **April 7** – @ Plymouth State University 12:00 p.m.
- **April 9** – vs Northern Vermont -Lyndon 4:00 p.m.
- **April 12** – @ Williams College# 4:00 p.m.
- **April 13** – DH @ Williams College# 12:00 p.m.
- **April 16** – @ Dartmouth College 4:00 p.m.
- **April 17** – vs Plattsburgh State 3:30 p.m.
- **April 19** – @ Amherst College# 3:30 p.m.
- **April 20** – DH @ Amherst College# 12:30 p.m.
- **April 24** – vs Plymouth State 4:00 p.m.
- **April 26** – vs Wesleyan University# 4:00 p.m.
- **April 27** – DH vs Wesleyan University# 12:00 p.m.
- **April 30** – @ Union College (N.Y.) 7:00 p.m.
- **May 5** – DH vs Castleton University 12:00 p.m.
- **May 9-11** – NESCAC Tournament

^Games played in Florida as part of Spring Break Trip
#NESCAC West Division game

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### Supporting Your Panthers

This spring, the Middlebury baseball team will look to get back to the NESCAC tournament and beyond. The 2019 is full of tough non-conference opponents as well as our NESCAC rivals. We begin the year with a trip to Hoboken, New Jersey to play Stevens Institute of Technology, followed by a doubleheader vs SUNY Purchase. The next weekend, we will head to Atlanta, Georgia to play Emory University in a DH. Following that, we will head to Florida for spring break where we will play seven games before taking on Hamilton in our first NESCAC West Division series. In all, we have 36 games scheduled.

The support from our alumni, parents and friends of the program has allowed the team to make the spring break trip part of the Middlebury baseball experience. This trip is one of the most memorable experiences for any baseball player and so much work and preparation goes into making it a success. With an annual cost of close to $50,000, your gifts to Middlebury baseball through our MiddGoals page are a huge part of making this trip happen.

Thank you so much to those of you who have already given to the program. I am so grateful for your support and generosity. Those who have not made a gift this year, I hope you will consider doing so in the near future.

Sincerely,

Coach Leonard

Support Middlebury Baseball
Middlebury Baseball Spring Alumni Events

As a way to continue to strengthen the bond between current Middlebury baseball players and our alumni, we are planning two events for Middlebury Baseball alumni during the spring. We hope that many of you will be able to attend.

Friday March 8 – NYC Alumni Event. This event will be held from 5:00-7:30 p.m. at Heartland Brewery at the Empire State Building. Alumni are invited to gather with each other and Coach Leonard from 5:00-6:30 p.m. and enjoy a cash bar and appetizers. From 6:30-7:30 p.m., the 2019 Middlebury Baseball team will join the group and give an opportunity to meet the current players on the team. Official invitation to follow. Please RSVP by completing link in official invite or by emailing Coach Leonard, dleonard@middlebury.edu.

Spring Homecoming Weekend – April 26-27. Come join alumni to watch the Panthers take on Wesleyan for our final NESCAC West series of the season. Friday’s game is at 4:00 p.m. and Saturday’s DH begins at 12:00 p.m.