

Carthage College Profile

Carthage College is a four-year, liberal arts college affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Located in Kenosha, Wis., an urban-industrial city of 90,000, strategically situated midway between Chicago and Milwaukee, the college offers the bachelor of arts and master of education degrees. Carthage College classes meet on the four-one-four academic calendar.

Founded in 1847 in Hillsboro, Ill., Carthage College later moved to the state capital, Springfield, and moved again in 1870, at this time to the rural, west-central city of Carthage, where the college acquired its present name. In 1962, Carthage College relocated to Kenosha and launched an era of exciting growth. In 43 years, Carthage College has progressed from a small school with fewer than 500 students and financial assets of less than \$3 million to an institution with an enrollment exceeding 2,000 full-time students and total assets exceeding \$122 million. Similar achievements in curriculum development and faculty recruitment continue to advance the academic stature of the school.

Since moving to its new campus, Carthage College blended the old with the new - distinguished academic heritage with modern educational facilities. Carthage College offers the traditional aspects of a college experience and adds the benefits of a beautiful lakeside setting within an hour's travel time of two great metropolitan centers. The Kenosha location not only makes Carthage College easily accessible, but it also enables students to take advantage of the many cultural and social opportunities available in the "hub of the Midwest."

Head Coach Augie Schmidt IV, Carthage College

A proven winner with Carthage College in his blood, Augie Schmidt IV is in his 22nd season as head baseball coach (697-272-5, a .718 career winning percentage thru May 21, 2009). Schmidt continues the winning tradition of his father, Augie Schmidt III, who won 276 games and five College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin championships in 18 years at Carthage College.

In 22 seasons, Schmidt has transformed the Red Men from CCIW basement-dwellers to national contenders. Under his tenure, Carthage College has claimed eight outright CCIW divisional titles, one divisional-title tie, nine conference crowns, 16 NCAA regional berths, including nine straight from 1992-2000, six regional titles, third-place finishes in both the 1993 and 1994 NCAA Division III Baseball Championships and fourth place in both 1995 and 1997. For his efforts, Schmidt has been named American Baseball Coaches Association/Diamond Sports NCAA Division III Central Regional "Coach Of The Year" eight times (1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1997, 2002, 2003 and 2007) and CCIW "Baseball Coach of the Year" on 10 occasions (1989, 1990, 1992, 1993, 1995, 1999, 2002, 2003, 2007 and 2009).

A native Kenoshan and a 1979 graduate of Bradford High School, Schmidt was drafted by the Cincinnati Reds in the ninth round of that year's Major League Baseball draft. Schmidt opted to play collegiate ball at the University of New Orleans, where he was a three-year starter at shortstop. In his junior year of 1982, he batted .372 with 14 home runs and 56 RBI, was named first-team All-America by both the American Baseball Coaches Association and by *Baseball America* and was honored by the United States Baseball Federation with the "Golden Spikes Award" as amateur baseball's player of the year. In 2005, Schmidt was inducted into the Greater New Orleans Hall of Fame, and a plaque recognizing that honor hangs in the Louisiana Superdome.

Schmidt was selected by the Toronto Blue Jays as the second pick overall in the 1982 major league draft, one pick behind the Chicago Cubs and Shawn Dunston and ahead of such players as Jose Canseco, Dwight Gooden, Jimmy Key, Bret Saberhagen, Terry Pendleton, Todd Worrell and Mike Greenwell. Schmidt played three seasons in the Toronto farm system before the Blue Jays traded him to the San Francisco Giants system in 1985. He retired as an active player midway through the 1986 season and joined the Carthage College coaching staff in 1987. He spent a year as an assistant before assuming head coaching duties in 1988. In addition to his baseball responsibilities, Schmidt serves as a lecturer in Carthage College's department of exercise and sport science.

Carthage College Baseball Notes

Singin' In The Rain – After spending a week in the Quad Cities area, the Carthage finally won the NCAA Central Regional championship on May 18 with an 8-3 win over UW-Whitewater at Swanson Stadium/Brunner Field in Moline, Ill. Carthage lost to Whitewater 4-2 in the first game of the championship round on Monday, which forced a final game. Carthage advanced to the championship round on Saturday night, May 16, with a 12-5 win over Millsaps College (34-9). Both the Red Men and the Majors were 2-0 in the championship. The regional was originally scheduled to begin on Wednesday, May 13, but the schedule was pushed back one full day due to rain. The top-seeded Red Men got by sixth seeded Fontbonne University (25-18), 8-7, in a first-round game on Thursday, May 14. Second-seeded and Millsaps College (33-8) defeated fifth-seeded Wartburg College (27-19), 5-3, in Thursday's second game, with third-seeded and Wisconsin-Whitewater (27-17) edging fourth-seeded and Washington University (Mo., 25-11), 3-2, in the final game of the day. All three scheduled games on Friday, May 15 were rained out, and the championship resumed, with a compacted schedule, on Saturday, May 16. In the first game on Saturday, May 16, Wartburg (28-19) eliminated Fontbonne (25-19), 4-2. Carthage eliminated Washington (Mo., 25-12), 21-3, in Saturday's second game, and Millsaps (34-8) defeated Wisconsin-Whitewater (27-18), 12-4, in Saturday's third contest. On Sunday, May 17, Wisconsin-Whitewater (29-18) eliminated both Wartburg (28-19), 8-3, and Millsaps (34-10), 10-4. With the two wins, Wisconsin-Whitewater (29-18) advanced to play Carthage in the championship round. However, due to NCAA regulations that discourage a bracket where a team plays three times in one day, the championship round could not begin until Monday, May 18.

NCAA Regulars – The Red Men made their 16th NCAA regional appearance in 2009 and will make their seventh finals appearance this week. Carthage made its sixth national-championship appearance in 2007 and tied for fifth place. The Red Men won the 2007 Central Regional in at Illinois Wesleyan University Bloomington, Ill., and went 1-2 at the 2006 regional at Washington University (Mo.) in St. Louis, Mo. Carthage did not qualify for the championship in 2005 after reaching the regional finals in both 2003 and 2004. In 2004, the Red Men lost to Aurora, 21-4, in the championship game at Illinois Wesleyan. In 2003, Carthage lost to Emory University, 14-4, in the title game at Mississippi College in Clinton, Miss. Prior to 2007, Carthage's last regional title came in 2002 at Monmouth College in Monmouth, Ill. Carthage subsequently went 0-2 at the NCAA Division III Baseball Championship in Grand Chute, Wis., losing to Christopher Newport University, 12-4, and falling to the College of New Jersey by a 15-5 margin. The Red Men finished third at the national championship in both 1993 and 1994, fourth in both 1995 and 1997, tied for seventh in 2002 and tied for fifth in 2007.

Local Connection – Carthage has two assistant coaches from the Appleton area. Cory Everts is a native of nearby Hortonville and a former assistant at Lawrence University, and Boe Baitinger starred at Appleton East High School before playing at Carthage. Baitinger was a starter on Carthage's 2007 World Series team.

In The Polls – Defending-national-champion Trinity College (33-5, 4 first-place votes) was ranked first in the May 19 American Baseball Coaches Association/*Collegiate Baseball* NCAA Division III poll, followed by Kean University (38-9, two first-place votes) second, the College of Wooster (39-9, two first-place votes) third, Carthage College (35-7, one first-place vote) fourth, the University of St. Thomas (Minn., 36-12) fifth, Shenandoah College (37-8) sixth, Eastern Connecticut State University (39-8) seventh, Pomona-Pitzer College (37-7) eighth, Chapman University (30-15) ninth and Keystone College (40-5) 10th.

Title Time – Carthage won its 14th CCIW regular season championship this season and took the CCIW Tournament title with a 12-3 win over Wheaton (Ill.) College.

Red Men Honored – Six members of the Carthage team were named 2009 All-CCIW. Catcher Mike Hughes (Sr., Round Lake, Ill., .353, 13 doubles, eight home runs, 48 RBI) was named first-team All-CCIW, as well as CCIW “Co-Hitter of the Year” with Elmhurst College’s Zach Hofer. Pitcher Trace Ruffie (Jr., Mount Prospect, Ill., Arlington Heights-Hersey, 5-1, 2.73 earned run average, 8.05 strikeouts per nine innings, 1.56 walks per nine innings) was named first-team All-CCIW and CCIW “Pitcher of the Year.” Pitcher Jordan Jaehne-Llanas (Jr., Kenosha, Wis./Bradford/Wabash Valley College, 6-2, 2.04 ERA, 8.83 strikeouts per nine innings) was also named first-team all-conference. Outfielder Will Hodges (So., Oak Park, Ill./Naperville-North, .354, six doubles, three triple, five home runs, 30 RBI, 11 stolen bases), first baseman John Lequia (Sr., Racine, Wis./Washington Park/Bradley University, .326, 12 doubles, three home runs, 32 RBI) and pitcher Mario Perez (So., Gurnee, Ill./Warren Township, 5-0, 3.86 ERA, 7.23 strikeouts per nine innings) earned second-team all-conference honors. Hughes was named first-team All-CCIW in 2007, Ruffie second-team All-CCIW in 2008 and Perez first-team all-conference in 2008. In addition, Augie Schmidt IV was named CCIW “Baseball Coach of the Year” for 10th time.

Leading The Way – Carthage third baseman/outfielder Drew Roberts (Jr., Kenosha, Wis./Tremper/Viterbo University) is ranked third among CCIW batting leaders (.404 thru May 21. Catcher Mike Hughes (Sr., Round Lake, Ill.) is first in RBI (55), tied for second in both doubles (14) and home runs (9) and ranked third in base hits (63). Outfielder Chris Shannon (Sr., Sr., Schaumburg, Ill./Hoffman Estates-Conant) is third in stolen bases (16), while outfielder Will Hodges (So., Oak Park, Ill./Naperville-North) is fifth (12). Pitcher Jordan Jaehne-Llanas (Jr., Kenosha, Wis./Wabash Valley College) is first in earned run average (1.99) and second in strikeouts (8.26 per nine innings). Trace Ruffie (Jr., Mount Prospect, Ill./Arlington Heights-Hersey) is sixth in earned run average (3.07) and Mario Perez (So., Gurnee, Ill./Warren Township) seventh (3.60). As a team, Carthage leads the league in both batting (.334) and earned run average (3.44).

Record Thefts – With three stolen bases against Illinois Wesleyan University on May 8, Carthage collected its 72nd stolen base of the year and broke a season record of 70 set in 1994. The Red Men have swiped 84 bases through May 21.