

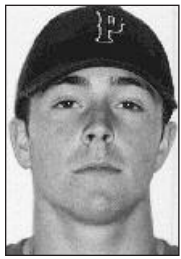
2008 ALL-MOHAWK VALLEY BASEBALL TEAM

C PHILIP POHL Cooperstown, Senior



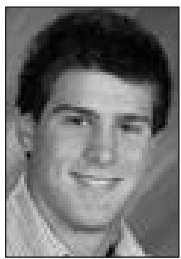
State's Class C Player of the Year as a junior, Pohl hit .417 with four homers, 26 RBIs, 31 stolen bases and .675 on-base percentage; Clemson University recruit also starred behind the plate, was 6-1 as a pitcher, and was named N.Y.'s Gatorade Player of the Year.

1B RYAN DONOVAN Thomas R. Proctor, Sophomore



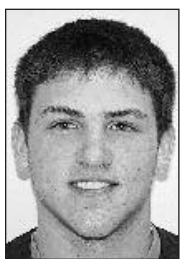
After seeing limited playing time as a freshman on state championship team, Donovan played first and third base and helped Raiders win another Section III Class AA title; first-team all-star led Proctor with .394 batting average, 37 hits, eight doubles, and 27 RBIs.

2B JOE CARCONE New Hartford, Sophomore



Gritty Spartan earned second straight first-team All-Tri Valley League honors after leading New Hartford with .425 batting average; also led Spartans with 34 hits, eight doubles, four triples, .625 slugging percentage, and 14 stolen bases in as many attempts.

3B NATE MALLINDER Oneida, Sophomore



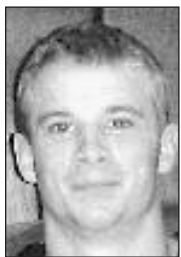
A starter as a freshman, Mallinder returned to earn first-team Tri Valley League all-star honors after hitting .460 and leading the Indians with seven doubles, five home runs and 28 RBIs; he also went 4-1 with one save and a 2.00 earned-run average as a pitcher.

SS ALEX FERENTI Whitesboro, Senior



Named Tri Valley League East Player of the Year for the second straight time, Ferenti batted .393 with two homers and 26 RBIs; three-time, first-team all-star had an on-base percentage of .500, committed only three errors, and was 7-1 with two saves and a 2.22 ERA.

OF CODY HITT Adirondack, Senior



Two-time, first-team all-star was named CSC I Player of the Year after leading 'Cats to Section III Class B final; led team with .481 average, 28 runs, 28 RBIs, .864 slugging percentage, and .570 on-base percentage; ace lefty also was 9-1 with 1.18 ERA, 95 strikeouts.

OF GEORGE HAJJAR Whitesboro, Senior



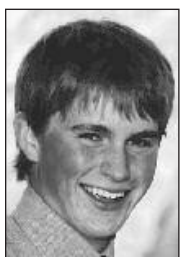
Earned first-team Tri Valley League all-star honors for third straight year, helping power Warriors to Section III Class A title; led team with .407 average, four homers, and 23 stolen bases in 24 attempts, and drove in 26 runs; strong-armed right fielder had five assists.

OF KYLE RICHARDSON Rome Free Academy, Senior



Two-time, first-team all-star helped Black Knights win CNY Counties League's National Division title; speedy leadoff man led RFA with .431 average, 31 hits, 33 runs, 11 walks, and 14 stolen bases; also started seven games as a pitcher and went 4-2 with 2.17 ERA.

DH CHRIS HUGHES Clinton, Senior



In his third season as the Warriors' starting catcher, team MVP Hughes earned Tri Valley League all-star honors after leading team with a .472 batting average, an on-base percentage of .553, and 17 extra-base hits (14 doubles, three triples); second on team with 28 RBIs.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR JOE MELIORIS

ROME CATHOLIC, SENIOR, PITCHER/FIRST BASE

Not long after Chapel Field left-hander Travis Renwick's three-hit shutout had ended Rome Catholic High School's baseball season with a 2-0 victory in the finals of the Class D state tournament, he had nothing but good things to say about his counterpart. "He threw gas," said Renwick, "and his curve ball completely fooled everybody." "He" was Rome Catholic High pitcher Joe Melioris, the 6-foot-10 senior whose five-year varsity career had just ended with that hard-luck loss at Binghamton University.

With a Class D state championship on the line, Melioris pitched a two-hitter, struck out 10, and did not walk a batter. On that particular day, against the 6-foot-7 Renwick and a Chapel Field team playing in its second straight Class D final, that wasn't quite enough.

But what Melioris did for a Rome Catholic High team that won Center State Conference Division IV, Section III, and Central Region titles on its road to the Final Four makes him the Observer-Dispatch's All-Mohawk Valley Baseball Player of the Year.

On the mound, Melioris was 8-1 with one save, a 0.94 ERA, and 131 strikeouts in 67 innings. The Stony Brook University recruit recorded his third shutout of the season in the Section III Class D final at DeLutis Field, blanking Otselic Valley 4-0 with a three-hitter and 16 strikeouts.

At the plate, Rome Catholic's cleanup man was a .500 hitter, finishing 40-for-80 and leading the Redwings (21-5) with seven doubles and 30 RBIs. He was 3-for-3, including a pair of two-out, RBI singles in that championship game win over Otselic Valley. He also had three hits and two RBIs in a 13-4 victory over previously unbeaten Crown Point in the state semifinals.

Melioris, an all-state baseball and basketball player who was coached by his father, former RCH standout Joe Melioris Sr., recorded seven wins in both 2007 and 2005. In five seasons, he was 26-10 with a 1.27 ERA and 426 strikeouts in 248 innings.



By the numbers: Joe Melioris

	W-L	IP	BB	SO	ERA
2008	8-1	67	19	131	0.94
2007	7-2	57	16	117	0.74
2006	2-2	29	11	50	1.93
2005	7-3	57	13	85	1.72
2004	2-2	38	7	43	1.47
Career	26-10	248	66	426	1.27

O-D'S ALL-MOHAWK VALLEY PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

- 2008 Joe Melioris (Rome Catholic)
- 2007 Jason Simone (Thomas R. Proctor)
- 2006 Artie Loomis (Notre Dame)
- 2005 George Jweid (New Hartford)
- 2004 Rob Raux (Ilion)
- 2003 Rob Cronk (Rome Free Academy)
- 2002 Dustin Atty (Richfield Springs)
- 2001 Andy Wengert (Thomas R. Proctor)
- 2000 Jeremy Davis (Little Falls)
- 1999 J.T. LaFountain (Thomas R. Proctor)
- 1998 Steve Baker (Rome Free Academy)



COACH OF THE YEAR DAVE GUIDO

THOMAS R. PROCTOR

What was Class AA state champion Thomas R. Proctor High School going to do for an encore?

Presumably, not much. After last year's Raiders won a school-record 23 games and captured their first-ever state title, long-time head coach Dave Guido lost seven full-time starters to graduation and then started over.



GUIDO

Even that didn't stop this year's young team - with as many as four sophomores in the lineup - from making another remarkable post-season run.

Instead of writing off 2008 as a rebuilding year, the Raiders repeated as Section III Class AA champions - this time, as the No. 10 seed in the tournament - and Guido was named the Observer-Dispatch's All-Mohawk

Valley Baseball Coach of the Year.

Proctor beat three straight state-ranked teams, including top-seeded Auburn, in the Section III playoffs, then lost to a state-ranked No. 1 and unbeaten Troy La Salle team in the regional finals.

The Raiders (14-13) finished 18th in the state rankings, and Guido, who was recently inducted into the Greater Utica Sports Hall of Fame, raised his career mark to 395-120 in 22 seasons as Proctor's head coach.

P T.J. ABOUNADER Whitesboro, Senior

Tri Valley League East Division Pitcher of the Year was the complete-game winner in the Section III Class A final, helping Warriors win first title since 1974; won again in state regionals and finished 8-0 with 2.10 earned-run average and 83 strikeouts in 70 innings.



P GARRETT BAKER Rome Free Academy, Senior

Western Carolina University recruit ended high school career by leading Black Knights to CNY Counties League National Division title; lefty threw seven complete games and finished 6-3 with 2.02 ERA and 74 strikeouts in 58 innings; also batted .422 with 14 RBIs.



P MARK DIXON Vernon-Verona-Sherrill, Senior

The Tri Valley League West Pitcher of the Year as a junior, Dixon helped Red Devils repeat as TVL West champs by going 7-2 with one save, a 1.35 ERA, three shutouts, and 60 strikeouts in 57 innings; threw six complete games; held opposing hitters to .187 average.



P JIM FORT Cooperstown, Senior

Left-hander helped defending Section III champions repeat as CSC Division II champs; had a no-hitter and a no-hitter, and allowed only four hits in a 1-0 loss to Pulaski in Class C-1 final; finished 7-2 with two saves, 1.29 ERA, 72 strikeouts and 11 walks in 54 1/3 innings.



P DEREK SMITH Vernon-Verona-Sherrill, Senior

After going 2-2 and throwing 23 innings as a junior, Smith earned first-team Tri Valley League all-star honors while helping Red Devils win another TVL West title; finished 6-1 with one save, and had a 1.08 ERA, one shutout, and 65 strikeouts in 58 1/3 innings.



P DAN DEKALB West Canada Valley, Senior

Three-time, first-team all-star got off to shaky start because of shoulder problems, but still led Indians to a share of CSC Division III title with his arm and his bat; drew tough pitching assignments, but finished 6-3 overall with 3.96 ERA, and hit .543 with 23 RBIs.



P JAKE ROSS Rome Catholic, Senior

Hard-throwing right-hander earned first-team all-star honors for second straight year; finished 11-2, including one no-hitter, four shutouts, and complete-game win in Class D state semis; had a 1.40 ERA and 113 strikeouts in 75 innings; ended varsity career with 23-7 mark.



P SEAN REDMOND Thomas R. Proctor, Senior

A year after starring for a team that won a Class AA state title, rightly returned to help Raiders repeat as Section III champs; finished 4-3 with 2.69 ERA, including 6-0 win in semis; with great command of his curve ball, he struck out 53 and walked only 12 in 57 1/3 innings.



DH MATT ROTUNDO Frankfort-Schuyler, Senior

Strong-armed shortstop was named first-team all-league for the second time after repeating as top hitter in CSC Division I; batted .513 and also led Maroon Knights in runs (29), hits (39), doubles (8), triples (5), home runs (2), RBIs (21), walks (15) and stolen bases (12).



DH ANDY MUNN Westmoreland, Senior

Catcher and cleanup man was named CSC Division III Player of the Year after leading the Bulldogs with .561 average and 30 RBIs; tied for team lead with 29 runs scored; was walked 14 times, five times intentionally, and had an on-base percentage of .646.



DH DAN BLOOMFIELD Richfield Springs, Senior

Playing in a league featuring two Class C teams and the two-time defending Section III Class D champ, shortstop batted .602 with 33 runs, 44 hits, 21 RBIs and 22 stolen bases; struck out twice in 86 at bats; also was 5-5 as a pitcher, with 2.33 ERA and 74 strikeouts in 56 2/3 innings.



DH RYAN KRAMER Oneida, Junior

Already a three-time, first-team Tri Valley League all-star shortstop, Kramer was named TVL West Player of the Year this spring after leading team with .520 average, 37 runs, 24 walks and 24 stolen bases; also went 3-2 with a 2.19 earned-run average as a pitcher.



DH MIKE SRECA Oriskany, Senior

After helping Redskins repeat as Section III Class D champs last year, slick-fielding shortstop returned to lead them to a share of CSC Division III title; led the team with a .523 batting average, nine doubles, five triples, two homers, 27 stolen bases, and 38 runs.

