



ARMY BASEBALL NEWSLETTER

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2026 ARMY WEST POINT BASEBALL

SCHEDULE

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| FEB. 13-15 | AT CLEMSON |
| FEB. 20 | AT SOUTH CAROLINA |
| FEB. 21 | • AIR FORCE |
| FEB. 22 | AT THE CITADEL |
| FEB. 27-MARCH 1 | AT QUEENS |
| MARCH 3 | SAINT PETER'S |
| MARCH 8-9 | AT VCU |
| MARCH 10-11 | MERRIMACK |
| MARCH 13-15 | * HOLY CROSS |
| MARCH 17 | UALBANY |
| MARCH 18 | UMASS |
| MARCH 21-22* | * AT LAFAYETTE |
| MARCH 27-29 | ☆ *NAVY |
| MARCH 31 | CORNELL |
| APRIL 4-5* | * AT HOLY CROSS |
| APRIL 7 | AT FAIRFIELD |
| APRIL 10-12* | * AT LEHIGH |
| APRIL 14 | WAGNER |
| APRIL 17-19* | *BUCKNELL |
| APRIL 21 | MARIST |
| APRIL 25-28* | *LAFAYETTE |
| APRIL 29 | LIU |
| MAY 2-3* | * AT NAVY |
| MAY 9-10 | % PL SEMIFINALS |
| MAY 16-18 | % PL CHAMPIONSHIPS |

AWAY | HOME
 *PL GAME
 • IN COLUMBIA, SC
 % HOSTED BY HIGHER SEED
 *SERIES INCLUDES A DOUBLEHEADER

PLEASE VISIT
 GOARMYWESTPOINT.COM FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION.
 SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

COACH'S CORNER

Army Baseball Family,

Happy New Year to our entire Army Baseball Family! As we close the book on 2025, thank you for an incredible Army West Point Baseball Giving Day! Over 300 donors and a 95% increase in participation show the true strength of our families, friends, and alumni. Every year, I am inspired by the time, energy, and generosity given to our program by so many people out of their love for Army Baseball. To every person who has provided support in the many ways that we have asked, THANK YOU! From the Golf Tournament, Giving Day, Newsletter, and meals, THANK YOU! To everyone who is out front on so many of these projects, but equally important are the unseen folks who provide vital support and help make things happen. THANK YOU! Our work never ends, and we need to keep growing as a family. Every day, I am thankful to be here, in this position, surrounded by all of you who support this program and our great players.

We are excited to begin our preparation for the spring season starting on February 13th at #19 Clemson. See our schedule above in this newsletter, and on our website. We are fortunate to have some of the best facilities in the country to utilize during the winter, including the Foley Athletic Center, our Hitting Facility, and, on rare occasions when it warms up, Doubleday Field. The team is focused on three simple characteristics: Energy, Attitude, and Toughness. A staple of our program will be winning the controllable, non-talent parts of the game. These guys are excited to represent all of you each day.

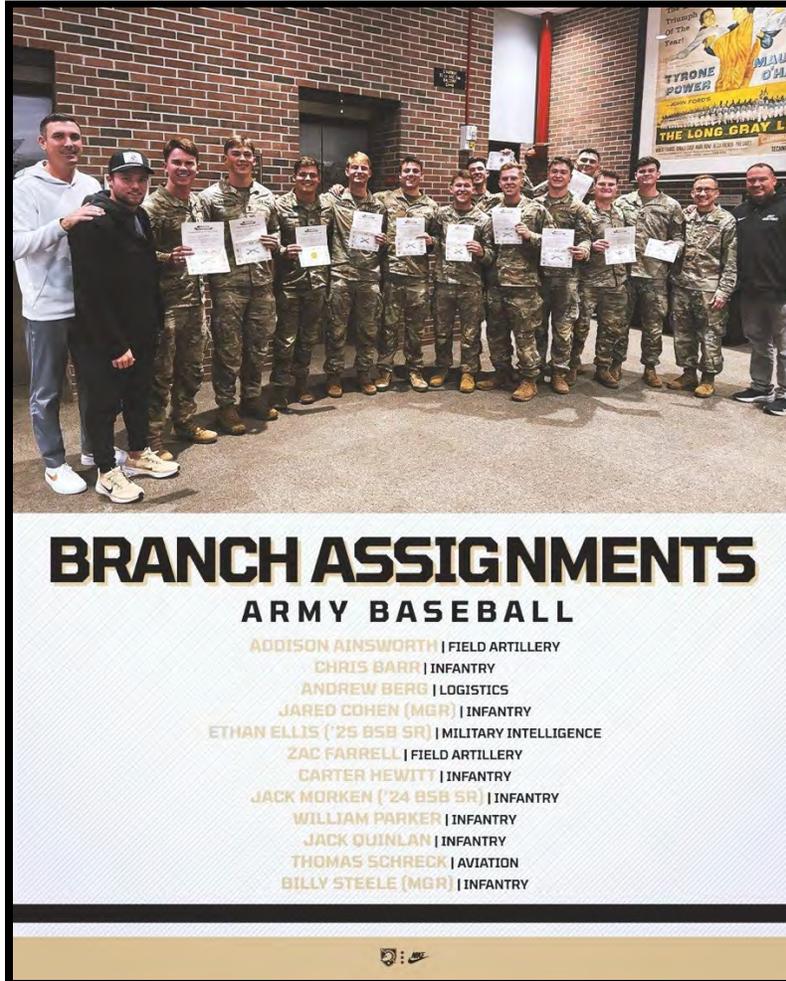
Finally, to all our alumni, friends, and families- watch us play, home or away. Your support means the world to our program and players. It is a vital link that connects us all to the program we love!

GO ARMY! BEAT EVERYONE!

Coach Chris Tracz

CLASS OF '26 BRANCH NIGHT RECAP

The “dirty dozen” baseball firsties celebrated Branch Night on December 3, 2025 along with the entire Class of 2026 as they opened their envelopes to receive their branch assignments. Each cadet from the senior class at West Point will be commissioned at graduation this year into one of 16 Army branches. Members of the Class of 1976, their 50-Year Affiliate Class, attended the event with GEN (R) David Rodriguez '76 serving as keynote speaker. BG R.J. Garcia '96, 81st Commandant of Cadets, gave the signal to open the envelopes as a rousing rendition of the Army Song concluded. Several members of the Class of 1976 were in attendance, and they assisted in presenting each member of the Class of 2026 with their “first brass” branch insignia pins.



Coaches and the OR join the seniors with their branch letters.

THE ENDURING LEGACY OF THREE WEST POINT BASEBALL ALUMNI TURNED UMPIRES

The United States Military Academy at West Point has long been a crucible for leadership, discipline, and teamwork—qualities that shine brightly on the baseball diamond as much as they do in military service. Doubleday Field, the historic home of Army Black Knights baseball since the program's early days in the late 19th century, has produced countless players who embodied these values. Among them are three remarkable alumni: Skip Dietz 78', Jim Bagwell 81', and Collin Agee 80'. These men not only excelled on the field during the 1970s era of Army baseball but carried those lessons into distinguished Army careers, civilian professions, and ultimately back to the game they love—as dedicated umpires. Their stories highlight a continued dedication to teammates, units, organizations, and the sport of baseball itself.

Skip Dietz: Perseverance Behind the Plate and Beyond

Skip Dietz's most indelible memory from his West Point playing days came during his junior year in 1976, a moment that defined his resilience. As the team's catcher, Skip was involved in a violent collision at home plate during a mid-week non-conference game. "I was 'blown up' on a tag play at the plate," he recalls. "I held on to the ball, got the out, but was knocked unconscious and had my right shoulder dislocated." The injury sidelined him for two weeks, forcing him to miss key conference trips. Upon return, with his arm still questionable, he played right field and made a crucial throw to nail a runner advancing to third. By season's end, he was back catching, and completed a very successful season for the team, a team which had previously defeated Navy in '75 and earned the "BEAT NAVY" Star—a coveted honor in the storied Army-Navy rivalry.

This experience of persevering through pain and rehab became a cornerstone for Skip's life. "I believe this experience of coming back strong and persevering... set the stage for my success in the Army and life." His teammates fostered lifelong bonds: from 1975 classmates like Augie Fucci and Brent Clark, to Ray O'Dierno (later Army Chief of Staff) and Jim Gerberman in 1976, Mike Trubia and Bill Scully in 1977, Tom Snukis, Jim Hoffman, and Jeff Foley in 1978, Jeff Wright and Al Westfield in 1979, and Jim Bagwell in 1980. These relationships underscored the team's ethos: "Almost every guy on the team, at one point, was a two-sport athlete. The talent was incredible. Players had to earn their starting positions every season and every day."

As an umpire, Skip drew directly from his catching days. "As a catcher in High School, at Army and when playing in Men's Leagues, it was always important to know the Umpire and develop a rapport. The respectful give and take... often go unnoticed. The catcher and the umpire can both learn a lot from each other." He likens this to the officer-NCO relationship in the military.

Skip's Army career exemplified team-building. His most rewarding role was Battery/Company Commander of a 200+ soldier Field Artillery unit in Germany (1981-1983), with a NATO "go-to-war" mission. "Building and leading a team of great NCOs and Junior Officers and having them conduct themselves as teammates was important." Later roles in the Pennsylvania National Guard assignments honed these skills further.

In civilian life, as a Sales Manager and Director of Business Development, the lessons from his Army baseball life of "team building and being a good teammate resulted in closing many challenging Sales."

Skip began umpiring at age 40 in Pennsylvania, progressing rapidly from 10U to high school varsity in his first year. By his third season, he was working Division III and JUCO games, then moved to New Jersey in 2001 and qualified for Division I. He has officiated in major conferences like the Big East, Big 10, A-10, and ACC, calling 12 conference championships and five consecutive College World Series Regionals (2012-2016). Retiring after 2024, Skip's journey reflects giving back: "Having been a catcher my whole baseball life challenged me to being the best umpire I could be."



Umpires Skip Dietz (at right) and Jim Bagwell at Doubleday Field

Jim Bagwell: Brotherhood, Leadership, and Arbiter of the Game

For Jim, the heart of West Point baseball was the profound relationships forged amid shared hardships. "The most memorable part... was the relationships I shared with my teammates. We spent a tremendous amount of time together both on and off the field. Our shared challenges created a level of brotherhood that is rare." Personal achievements like being selected Team Captain (with co-captain Paul Divis) and setting the team's stolen-base record at the time are points of pride for Jim but the bonds created with his teammates remain the most meaningful and lasting part of his time with the program.



Jim "Bags" Bagwell w/ his record-setting stolen base

Lifelong friendships endure: Teammates in his wedding party included Paul Divis, Jim Towey, Tim Morris, and Rich Brudzynski—"We're still in touch regularly going on 45+ years now." He reconnects at the annual Stephen Reich Memorial Golf Tournament, honoring Major Stephen Reich ('93), partnering with Towey, Brudzynski, Dave Toth, Ken Boretti, Skip Dietz, and Allan Westfield. He also enjoys seeing Jeff Wright and Kevin Batule, now leaders in the Army Baseball Family Association (ABFA).

Jim's path to umpiring was serendipitous. "I'm often asked what made me want to be an umpire... I can't point to a specific reason, but I've always been interested." Starting in 2014 during a career break, he found it a way "to stay connected to the game I've loved since childhood and give something back." He views it as community service amid official shortages, ensuring fair competition. "Doing it well requires preparation, discipline and focus... when you've had a good game, it's very rewarding."

Jim served 24 years on active duty, retiring as the Professor of Military Science at Canisius College in Buffalo, NY. Post-military, he was the Director Graduate Admissions at Canisius for eight years, then served 10 years with U.S. Customs and Border Protection, retiring for good in May 2025.

Umpiring for 12 seasons, Jim's spring season is devoted to high school baseball (including playoffs). During the summer, Jim works various games and leagues including collegiate summer leagues, reaching the Perfect Game Collegiate Baseball League (PGCBL) - a top summer circuit featuring draft-eligible college stars. His dedication mirrors his military ethos: fairness, discipline, and service.

Collin Agee: Empathy, Anticipation, and Giving Back Through the Mask

Collin's standout memory, though dramatic and unfortunate, forged an unbreakable bond. As a plebe in 1976, indoor practices in the dusty field house led to a tough injury for a friend and teammate. Pitching batting practice, "my roommate, Frank Hudson, was shagging balls for me.



Collin Agee (far left) at Washington Nationals Park

This incident strengthened their friendship: "Frank and I have remained close ever since 1976." Stationed long-term at Fort Bragg as a civilian, they reunite for Army games, planning to meet at this year's Military Appreciation Weekend at the University of South Carolina.

Collin served as a Military Intelligence Officer for more than 20 years. His tours included Haiti for Operation Uphold Democracy in 1994 (and lived on a Navy ship for five weeks) and was a Jumpmaster and the ACE Chief for XVIII Airborne Corps, G2 for the 10th Mountain Division, and commanded the Los Angeles Recruiting Battalion. His post Active-duty career led to a Army Civilian career of more than 21 years which included a tour in Iraq in 2005 as Deputy J2 for General Petraeus in 2005.

Collin's playing experience shapes his umpiring philosophy. As a left-handed pitcher, he values anticipation and positioning: "It helps to have a sense for the game, to anticipate what might happen next." He emphasizes understanding players' and coaches' passion and enforcing rules fairly — "There's a saying in umpiring, 'Don't go looking for boogers.'... If it's a minor infraction and it doesn't give one team an advantage, we are not compelled to call it." Collin's officiating duties included the annual Congressional Baseball Game for Charity.

He encourages players to umpire. Being an umpire will make you a better player. "When your playing days are over, it's a way to stay involved and give back. Veterans tend to thrive as umpires due their appreciation for teamwork, physical fitness and respect for authority figures."

A Shared Legacy: Duty, Teamwork, and the Love of the Game

Skip Dietz, Jim Bagwell, and Collin Agee exemplify the West Point motto: Duty, Honor, Country—extended to the baseball field. From overcoming injuries and building brotherhood at Doubleday Field, to leading units and teams in the Army and beyond, they translated perseverance and camaraderie into success. As umpires, they give back, ensuring the game's fairness with the same dedication shown to teammates and comrades.

In an era of official shortages, these Army Baseball Family luminaries stand behind the plate, calling balls and strikes with wisdom earned from life's pitches. Their stories remind us that true leaders—on the field, in uniform, or in blue—prioritize the team, the mission, and the game.

This article was researched and written by newest ABF Newsletter staff member Mike Dubrule. Please share your ideas for articles, or if you'd like to submit one for publication, please reach out to us at <mailto:info@armybaseballfamily.org>

ARMY BASEBALL "BROTHERHOOD" RUNS DEEP A VISIT WITH "BROTHER-COMBOS," PAST AND PRESENT

We are fond of labelling the profession of arms a brotherhood - a shared, intimate investment in something bigger than ourselves that forges a bond as strong as family. A few siblings have made this investment to follow one another, wearing the Army Baseball uniform, walking in a similar path, in pursuit of a calling much bigger than themselves. ABF writing staff spent some time looking back at the past 40-plus years through current day investigating this unique phenomenon. We are thrilled to feature three sets of Army Baseball brothers in this quarter's issue so that we can share a small slice of their personal stories with all our readers.

This article is not intended to be inclusive of every brother combination in the entirety of Army baseball's rich and glorious history. The Army West Point Baseball record book shows that certain family names are repeated numerous times throughout the years, and we acknowledge that there are likely other sets of brothers which we just don't have the privilege of interviewing today. You might not be surprised to know that there are uncle-nephew and father-son combinations too, but we will leave that exploration for another issue!

Towey Brothers Team Up at West Point's Doubleday Field

Separated by only two years, **John** ('79) and **Jim** ('81) Towey came to West Point from a large family in Alabama. Siblings in a large family learn very quickly that opportunities to further their education are often determined by a scholarship gained through scholastic or athletic achievements. John and Jim both excelled playing baseball at John S. Shaw High School in Mobile, AL, and eventually sought to translate their baseball achievements and success from high school into a Division1 Baseball program at America's premiere military academy - West Point.

Since West Point experiences the brutal cold and snowy conditions of winter, the baseball season is decidedly shorter and so naturally it's difficult to build early season momentum transitioning from the harsh winter. John's coach Bill Permakoff pioneered the idea of a Spring trip to a warmer climate when he arrived at West Point a few years earlier. These trips would both lengthen the season and help prepare the team early by playing quality opponents (see our previous spotlight on Coach Permakoff in an earlier newsletter issue). John said that trip to the California Riverside baseball tournament "really stood out" during his firstie year. Not only was it, "an excellent opportunity to get outdoors before the regular season got underway, the team represented West Point very well."

Playing for Coach Permakoff John remembers his coach's superb insights into the game, and how he enforced high standards for baseball basics. John also recalls the remarkable sense of camaraderie in his Class of '79, Top of the Line. "There was no griping or complaining. We genuinely wanted to see one another succeed."

Jim Towey turned down several scholarships, as well as an appointment to Annapolis, to come to West Point. After playing plebe baseball his first year, Jim came to the varsity team in the Fall of 1978 and he lettered the three-remaining years as an outfielder. Playing collegiate at baseball at West Point was certainly a significant personal reward, but for him it was also a fabulous “respite from the rigors of cadet life.” Jim feels an extraordinary bond with his baseball teammates, especially the members of his class, Strength as One '81, with whom he shares a “lifetime brotherhood.” He also acknowledges the instrumental role Coach Permakoff played in his development. In his words, “I never knew how much baseball I didn’t know until he was my coach.”

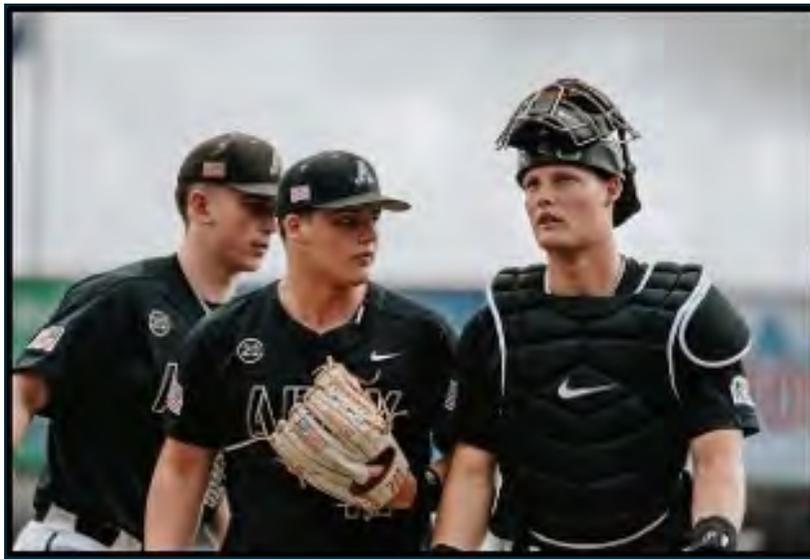


John and Jim Towey scoring together at their home field

John served in the Army ‘til 2000 and has worked for CACI, a defense industry firm, until present day. Jim’s post Army career began in 1986 and included 22 years in telecommunications, followed by 14 years as a business owner. The Towey brothers built strong relationships with their “other” brothers on Doubleday Field and reflect with fondness and pride on how those relationships contributed to their success in the Army, and in business.

Conroe, Texas Siblings - A Formidable Pitcher-Catcher Battery

Brothers **Derek** ('24) and **Andrew** ('26) Berg are close in age, but also very close in playing position on the diamond. They have been a pitcher-catcher combination competitively both in high school and college! During the dramatic season in 2024 their combined performance fueled a spectacular end of season run that included a chance to pair as a pitcher-catcher battery in the successful series against Navy to complete the season. That run also resulted in the team’s sixth consecutive Patriot league title and selection to an NCAA world series regional. This accomplishment has now become the benchmark for a successful Army season, and something very few Division 1 baseball programs can boast.



Derek and Andrew Berg discuss the next batter

Tied for second on the Army Baseball record book in home runs in a season with 15, and third for a career with 29, Derek's spectacular player behind the plate and at the plate during his Black Knight playing days put him a category which only a few Army baseball players have enjoyed - a selection in the MLB draft! In his second full year with the Pittsburgh Pirates organization, Derek plans to return this year to the Double A affiliate Altoona Curve in central PA.

Named to the Patriot league All League First Team as a pitcher two years in a row, his brother Andrew aims this year at putting together a successful final season to add to what has already been a sterling record on the mound for Army Baseball. The Berg brothers can also claim one other unique Army baseball distinction - in consecutive years (2024-25) they were each awarded the coveted Red Reeder MVP award. The award is named for COL Red Reeder - a West Point legend, distinguished graduate, who led a regiment of troops during the Normandy Invasion in WWII, and who persevered after losing a leg in combat to remain on active duty.

Dubrulle Brothers Carry On The Family Tradition

Kevin ('23) and **David** ('29) Dubrulle are following in their family's tradition of baseball and selfless service. Their oldest brother Scott is a firefighter and former outstanding baseball player at Mississippi State who won the College World Series in 2021. Dad Mike is a former Marine, and their Mom Deborah is a registered nurse. She is the true family MVP. With Mike deployed often during much of the boys' formative years playing on various teams, it was Deborah who really made things happen, not only managing the busy family activities but creating the opportunity for all three young men to flourish in the classroom, in the community, and on the baseball diamond. She is the epitome of selfless service - in her career, in her family, and in her role as a mother and a wife. When their parents introduced the boys at an early age and spoke highly of the cadets who attended USMA, it seemed inevitable that they would be naturally attracted to this type of college experience. Two of them sought this path.

Shortstop and team captain both in '22 and '23, Kevin was a finalist in the 2023 Brooks Wallace College Player of the Year Award, and he remains near the very top of several offensive categories in the Army record book. He shared with us that he values immensely the spectacular leadership example he was treated to by teammate Tim Simoes. A Patriot All League player in his own right, it was however his character and leadership as “a caring teammate” that stood out mostly in Kevin’s eyes and “helped him develop his own leadership style” today as an officer in the 10th Mountain Division. He is currently stationed at Fort Drum, serving as an Aviation Maintenance Platoon Leader in 2-10 Assault Helicopter Battalion.



David and Kevin Dubrule at Doubleday

Though David just joined the long gray line this past Summer, if he develops the talent in the next few years that his older brothers displayed in college, we’re bound to be in for more excitement, talent, and success at Doubleday Field in the next few years. David echoed the sentiment Jim Towe shared earlier in the article when he credited the connections he made with his future teammates as the key to “making the very challenging Beast Barracks just a little smoother.”