

Season Review and Preview

The Fighting Tigers of Andrew College begin the 2007 season in hopes of another successful season. In his third season, Coach Scot Hemmings hopes to build on the turnaround from last year. After winning 24 games in 2005 and 34 games in 2006, Coach Hemmings thinks that this year's team is more talented and more focused on the task at hand. Andrew College had several highlights in the 2006 season. First, Andrew College finished 3rd in the GJCAA conference tournament. The Fighting Tigers took a six run lead into the top of the ninth against Young Harris, only to see it slip away and lose in thirteen innings. Also, both Mike Morris and Ric Bishop were named to the GJCAA Region XVII all-conference 2nd team. Joe Sutton and Kenny Faulk were named to the all tournament team after their performance in the conference tournament. Andrew College set a school record for wins (34) and made the play-offs for the first time since 1989. Andrew College's baseball team also held a 3.05 team GPA for the 2005-06 academic year. Hemmings' stated "It was an exciting year all the way around. We did some great things and it was a lot of fun watching our freshman develop throughout the course of the year." Five sophomores signed at the next level to continue their baseball careers. The sophomores from last year were a big reason for the quick rebuilding process that Andrew College faced when Coach Hemmings received the head coaching job in July of 2004. "Our sophomore class stuck by my side through the ups and downs of our rebuilding process. I will be indebted to them forever for their hard work, dedication, and the process that we went through to achieve our successful results.

Key Returners: RHP Beau Burnette, RHP Chase Hargraves, RHP Rad Mitchell, RHP Jim Reynolds, RHP Jacob Watson, LHP Kenny Faulk, LHP Marcus Luton, C Joe Sutton, INF Schley Eldridge, 1B Jud Jones, SS Carson Tate, OF Jay Barefield, OF Ric Bishop, OF Adam Fuller, OF Casey Townsend.

New Faces: RM Cozza, Jimmy Lamourt, Terry Nash, Aaron West, Chris McKenna, Randy J Williams, Merit Hicks, Josh Higginbotham, Ellis Logeman, Zach Martin, Seth Reber, Rhett Smith, and Brian Stewart.

Key Losses: David Collings, Mike Furman, Adam Green, Jeff Horne, Shawn Kirkland, Adam Matos, Jud Spruill, Pat Wyatt.

The Fighting Tigers of 2007 hope to build on last year's success with a school record of 34 wins and a 3rd place finish in the GJCAA conference tournament. This year's team is full of returners who saw a lot of action on the field in 2006. The infield returns Carson Tate, Schley Eldridge and Jud Jones. Tate who played in 61 games last year batted .260 with 28 RBI's will play SS and 2B for the Tigers this season. Eldridge, batted .340 3HR, and 7 2B will play 2B and Jones, who batted .262 with 15 RBI's will play 1B and DH. Zach Martin transferred in from Auburn and will hold down the hot corner at 3B while Josh Higginbotham, Rhett Smith, and Brian Stewart will help out in the middle infield as they develop as freshman. Seth Reber will contribute as a quality pinch hitter for the Tigers in the late innings of games. Merit Hicks will play 1B and will bat in clean-up spot in the batting order. Coach Hemmings' states," We have a very talented group of infielders who are very athletic and can do great things both offensively and defensively. We are going to rely on our sophomores to lead and help develop our young group of freshman."

The Tigers outfield returns every starter from last year and expect big seasons from Jay Barefield, Ric Bishop, Adam Fuller, and Casey Townsend. Barefield played in 37 games last year and will play all three outfield positions and may see some time in the infield as a late inning defense replacement. Ric Bishop will play left field and hit 3rd in the order after a solid freshman season. Bishop batted .358, 44 runs, 16 2B, 5 HR, 38 RBI's and 18 SB and signed a letter of intent with Kennesaw State in the early signing period. Fuller played in all 61 games last season and batted .329, 44 runs, 3 HR, 36 RBI's, and 25 SB. Fuller will play right field and hit in the 2 hole this season. Townsend will control the outfield in CF and hit leadoff or 6th for this year's line-up. Townsend hit .281, 50 runs, 31 RBI's and 24 SB. Hemmings' states," This is a very talented group of outfielders who know how to play the game. They are athletic and all four guys are a threat in the box. It is going to be fun to watch this group of players continue to develop and the offensive numbers that I hope they put together."

Behind the plate, the Tigers will be lead by sophomore Joe Sutton who signed at the University of Alabama-Huntsville in the early signing period.

Newcomer Randy J. Williams will see a lot of action as he develops during his freshman season along with freshman Ellis Logeman. Sutton batted .341 and 23 RBI's and only struck out 5 times in 126 at bats. Sutton will leadoff for the Tigers while Williams will hit in the 8 hole this season. "Our catchers can really catch and throw and do a great job of handling our pitching staff. Joe has really developed into a great catcher and we are excited about Randy being in our program for the next two years."

The pitching staff will have many familiar faces this season as they start to prepare for the spring. Mike Morris who led the Tigers in wins last season had Tommy John surgery in December and will miss the entire 2007 season. Hemmings' states, "We are going to miss Mike tremendously. It is tough to replace 8 wins and Mike's competitive spirit on the field." Morris, Jacob Watson, and Kenny Faulk had 20 combined wins last season as freshman and Rad Mitchell led the conference in saves with nine. Chase Hargraves, Jim Reynolds, Beau Burnette, and Marcus Luton will anchor down the Tiger bullpen. Newcomers RM Cozza, Jimmy Lamourt, Terry Nash, Aaron West, and Chris McKenna will be asked to step in right away and contribute as freshman. Faulk and Watson will return as starters after a great freshman season. "Our staff is full of sophomores who threw the majority of our innings last season. Each one of them will be asked to serve in a role in hopes of a conference title. Each one of them have worked hard and developed over the course of this fall and we expect quality innings out of each of our pitchers."

The coaching staff at Andrew College will remain the same with DJ King being added to the staff in January. Coach King played for Coach Hemmings in 2003 and 2004 while Hemmings was an assistant coach at CVCC. Coach Phil Krum and Ryan Dean will return and have added responsibilities after the great job they did last season. "We have a great group of coaches who relate to the kids well. I have given a lot more responsibility to Coach Krum and Coach Dean in all areas of our program. Coach Krum did a great job with last season's recruiting class and we have 10 commitments already for 2007-08."

The Fighting Tigers are looking forward to starting the 2007 spring season. The Tigers were in a rebuilding mode the last two years and this will be the first year that Coach Hemmings has his two recruiting classes playing together. Hemmings states, "I am excited about the upcoming season with

the amount of returners that we have this year. Our sophomores have given me two seasons of hard work and dedication that is greatly appreciated. We are also going to ask a lot out of our freshman this year to come in and contribute right away.” The Tigers begin their season on the road on **January 26-27** at North Florida CC for a three game set.