

PLAY BALL!!

With the start of a new spring came the beginning of another season of baseball. Along with the season came another valuable chance for the Patriots to gain a spot in the Region VA Play-offs. As late January rolled around, Coach Joe Ritter began shaping a group of largely inexperienced young men who would compete well in their division.

The team was anchored by returning starters: third baseman, Roderick Broughton; left-fielder, Sharell Drain; pitcher/shortstop, Terrance Adams, and pitcher/shortstop Keith Bunch. Returnees included Rodney Broughton, Roger Breland, and Jerrod Breland. Newcomers were Wayne Fender, Travis Taylor, Billy Cain, Paul Lawton, Kelly Getz, Preston Warren, and Matthew Claxton.

After dropping the first two games of the season to Harleyville-Ridgeville and Wade Hampton, the Patriots went on to defeat Estill and Bowman twice, split with Denmark-Olar and lost to Branchville and North both twice. Their final records were 5-7 overall and 5-5 in conference play. This would be enough for the Patriots to finish in 3rd place and gave them a playoff spot.

In the first round of the play-offs the Patriots faced Ben Lippen. The Patriots fought hard but lost. In the second round the Patriots would face conference rival Branchville. Again, the Patriots fought hard, but could not come out on top and were eliminated from the play-offs. Although their appearance was brief, the experience the Patriots gained from the play-offs was worth it.

On behalf of the baseball team, I would like to thank all of those who helped in our success this year. THANK YOU! I would like to send our blessings out to Travis Taylor who was injured midway during the season. May you have a speedy recovery and we look forward to seeing you next year.

— Keith Bunch

Harleyville-Ridgeville	L
Wade Hampton	L
Bowman	W
Bowman	W
Branchville	L
North	L
Estill	W
Estill	W
Branchville	L
North	L
Denmark-Olar	S
Denmark-Olar	S
Playoffs Region 5-A	
Ben Lippen	L
Branchville	L
W=win L=loss S=split win	



YOU'RE OUT!! Roderick Broughton, the Patriot's third baseman, tags out a Bowman runner after he tries to steal third.

STRIKE THREE!! Pitcher Keith Bunch delivers a pitch in hopes of helping his team. This was Keith's fourth year on the baseball team.

CRACK!! Outfielder Billy Cain tries to beat out an infield hit. Billy was another rookie on the Patriot's squad.

