



Name

Brian Stavisky

Year of Graduation

1999

What have you done since graduating from Port Allegany High School?

After high school graduation, I attended the University of Notre Dame on a baseball scholarship. I wanted to go to Notre Dame my whole life, and I greatly thank the teachers of the Port Allegany School District, especially during my high school years, for preparing me for the academic challenges of such a prestigious institution. Baseball alone would not have allowed me to attend Notre Dame. It was that combined with my academic background that earned me that honor.

While playing baseball there I helped the Fighting Irish to a #1 national ranking during my sophomore season and the college World Series as a junior. I was drafted in the 6th round of the 2002 professional baseball draft by the Oakland Athletics and decided to forego my senior year of eligibility to start my pro baseball career. That was the "*Moneyball*" year for the A's, so it was really neat to be part of that. I returned to Notre Dame during my senior fall semester and following fall semester to complete my business management degree (3.6 GPA...thanks again Port Allegany teachers!).

I played pro baseball from 2002-2010 in the A's, Angels, and Phillies organizations, reaching the AAA level right below the Majors. I was part of four league championship teams from the A to AAA levels, and also crossed paths with Josh Kinney, my hometown friend and teammate. It was amazing to see him in the majors, especially when he helped the St. Louis Cardinals win the 2006 World Series.

Since pro baseball, I've worked at St. Bonaventure University in athletics, have held two sales positions, and have reunited with baseball as an instructor at Diamond Pro baseball in Rochester, NY.

Where do you currently live?

Farmington, NY (just outside Rochester)

Who was your favorite teacher in high school? Why were they your favorite?

If I don't say Mr. Stavisky, the physical education teacher I might get in trouble! I did enjoy having my dad in the high school with me (and mom while in elementary school), but I also enjoyed all of the other teachers. I have so many great memories of all the teachers across all the traditional academic subjects, but I've always remembered the attention to detail that Mr. Myers brought to the high school chorus and show choir. To this day, nearly 16 years after graduation, I remember how he taught us to sing certain words and how to be precise with dance moves. Thank you Mr. Myers, for pushing us to be as close to perfect as possible while also still having a ton of fun!

What is your fondest memory of Port Allegany High School?

As an athlete, there are many games that stand out in my mind. From playing in front of standing-room-only crowds against Coudersport as a freshman, or on the basketball team to winning the district 9 baseball championship as a senior. I loved everything about the games, my coaches, teammates, fellow students, parents, and fans that gave us so much support. Aside from sports, I really enjoyed playing "Danny" in Grease during my junior year. That was so much work but also so much fun for everyone involved!

Lastly, I'd like to comment on growing up in Port Allegany in general. I've been all around the country, but there's no place where people work harder, are more friendly and caring, and are more genuine. I'm so proud to be from Port Allegany with the upbringing and education I received there. There's no place like home!