

2002 BASEBALL

This Rocket baseball squad helped to lay the foundation of what has become a decade long of diamond excellence, by finishing the season with a record of 26-10 and in the Elite 8. It was the first baseball Elite 8 appearance in school history.

Playing a regular season schedule composed heavily of Class AA schools, the rockets managed a 21-9 mark including a record of 6-5 in the old NCIC. Included in those wins were victories over the likes of Sterling, Geneseo, Rochelle, Alleman and state power Moline.

The Rockets then breezed through Regional and Sectional play before facing NCIC rival Mendota in the Supersectional. The Rockets avenged the regular season loss by defeating the Trojans 7-2 and earning the trip to state. In their quarterfinal matchup the Rockets lost a hard fought contest to state power Lombard Montini by a score of 9-7.

Five Rockets players earned post season honors. Leading the way was pitcher/shortstop Robbie Minor. Minor was a unanimous NCIC first team selection and earned All-State honors from the Illinois Baseball Coaches Association. Brook Meier and Austin Krone also earned first team All-NCIC, while Matt Miller and Richie Herrera were named second team All-NCIC.

GLENN TRUESDELL

Very few people have spent more time around Rock Falls High School than Glenn. Known as Mr. T to many here at RFHS, Glenn has served our school in some capacity for 41 years.

Starting as an educator, Glenn became Assistant Principal in 1974. He held that position until 1986 when he became the Rocket Athletic Director. He would be AD until 2000. While staying busy with his athletic director duties, Glenn found himself being called to the coaching arena. He coached the girls' softball team in 1983 & 1984 and the football squad in 1990 & 1991.

But it was baseball that most remember him as a coach. Glenn was the varsity baseball coach from 1981 through 1997. He amassed over 200 victories and had many student/athletes go on to play at the collegiate and professional level. During his time as coach and athletic director over 100 Rockets went on the play at the next level, with many earning scholarships. Also 20 former student/athletes have gone on to coach at the elementary, high school or college level.

Glenn was also the force behind many improvements at the Rocket athletic site at Hinders Field. Including the building of the baseball and softball diamonds and the first all-weather track at the field.

AMBER LAW

Amber is a 2001 graduate of Rock Falls High School. She earned seven varsity letters, three in volleyball, three in basketball and one in softball.

It was on the hardwood floors where amber really shined, as she earned multiple honors in both sports. Amber was a two-time first team All-NCIC selection in volleyball in both her junior and senior seasons. She was also the team MVP and was named to the first team All-Area by Sauk Valley Newspapers. On the basketball floor, Amber was a first team All-NCIC selection as a senior. Also during her senior year she was named to two holiday all-tournament teams, named first team All-Area and was the Lady Rockets MVP. Amber closed out her basketball career with 1250 points, which at that time made her the Lady Rockets all-time leading scorer.

Amber continued her athletic career in both basketball and volleyball first at Kankakee Community College, then Sauk Valley College, finishing her career at Missouri Baptist University in St Louis, Missouri.

TOM GILBERT

Tom was a 1999 graduate of Rock Falls High School. As a four year member of the Rocket track & field he contributed to his team's success virtually in every meet. But it was an outstanding senior season that put him in the record books and made him one of the greatest Rocket athletes of all time.

After having a dominant regular season in the sprint & jumps, Tom set his sights on the post-season. After winning multiple titles at the NCIC meet, Tom exploded at the Sectional meet by winning 3 individual titles and one more in the relays. Tom won the 100 meter dash, the 200 meter dash and the long jump. He also anchored the 1600 meter relay team to victory. With each win Tom set new Sectional records in each event. At the state meet, Tom placed 4th in the 100, 3rd in the 200, 7th in the long jump and helped the 1600 meter relay team to an 8th place finish. Earlier that spring, at the unofficial indoor state meet held at the U of Illinois, Tom won both the long jump and 200 meter titles and finished 3rd in the 100.

Along the way, Tom received team MVP honors and Rock Falls High's Male Athlete of the Year. He also broke a 50 year old school record in the long jump of 22 feet 7 inches. Tom continued his athletic career at the University of Notre Dame. While with the Irish, Tom helped to lead Notre Dame to their first Big East track championship, setting several school & Big East relay records along the way.