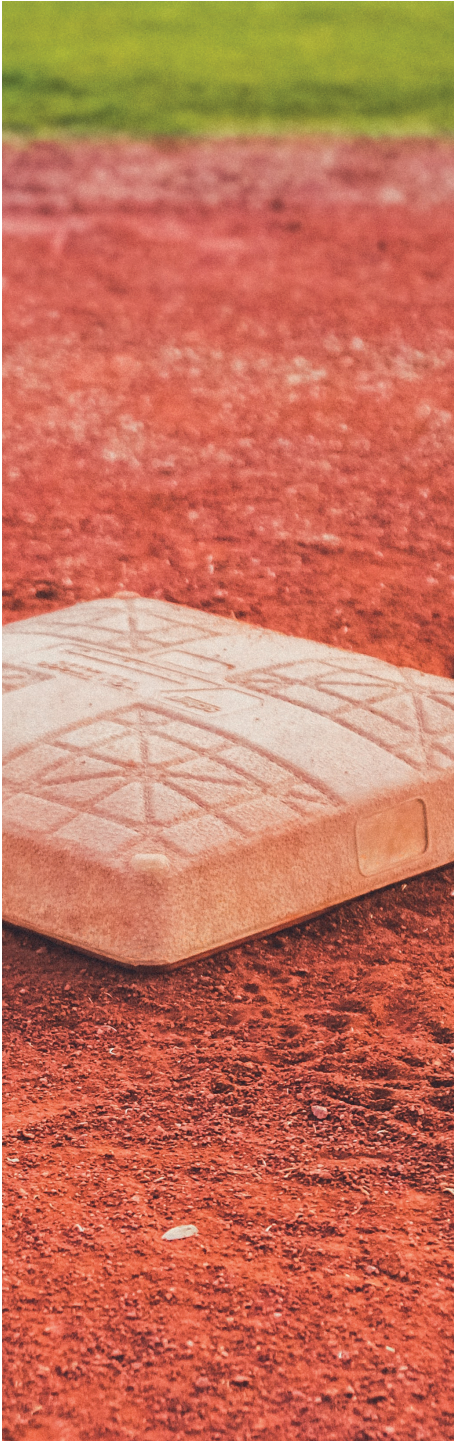




COMMODORES CONNECTION

SUMMER 2020
VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1



PRESIDENT'S LETTER ON 2020 SEASON CANCELLATION

To Our Loyal Commodores Fans, Sponsors, Donors, Host Families,
and Volunteers:

On April 24, 2020, a meeting of all the franchises of the Cape Cod Baseball League resulted in a unanimous vote to cancel the 2020 season because of the Covid-19 virus pandemic. After weeks of internal deliberations, this difficult decision was made as it became clear that the risk to all involved is too high to move forward with the season, or even partial season. This is an extremely challenging time for college baseball, as all college games were cancelled this spring; but the hope was that players would be able to display their talents this summer.

I would like to take this time to thank all of those supporters of the team, including the volunteers who have put in countless hours over the past year in preparation for a 2020 season. This unprecedented cancellation of the season reveals the difficult and challenging times we are facing. First and foremost, this decision was made to ensure the safety of the players, fans, and members of the Commodores organization.

While the lights on Guv Fuller Field will not be aglow this summer, we expect to return fully prepared for the 2021 season. We hope to have an extensive refurbishment of Guv Fuller Field completed by then to enable our Commodores fans to experience the best amateur summer baseball ever. In the meantime, please continue to keep in touch by following our Facebook and Instagram pages and visiting our website.

Thank you to all for your continuing support. On behalf of the Falmouth Commodores, please continue to stay safe and be well. We'll look forward to seeing you in 2021!

Sincerely,

Visit our website for all the latest news on the Commodores!
www.falmouthcommodores.com



WELCOME BACK CHUCK STURTEVANT



The Falmouth Commodores are delighted to welcome back Chuck Sturtevant as the new President in 2020. Chuck started with the Cape Cod Baseball League (CCBL) in 1987 as President of the Commodores, and from 1989 to 2006 served as the General Manager and Treasurer. Chuck then served four years as a Vice President with the league, and then moved on to the Bourne Braves where he served as Treasurer for 2 years and General Manager for 4 years.

Chuck concurrently serves as the CCBL President, a position he's held since 2016. He has been a member of the Finance Committee and the Hall of Fame Committee. He is a current "lifetime" member of the Commodores Board of Directors. Chuck's notable recognitions include being the first recipient of the Dick Sullivan Executive of the Year award in 2006, and the John Wylde General Manager of the Year Award in both 2014 and 2015. He brings a wealth of knowledge and understanding of the league to the Commodores organization.

RESTORATION OF GUV FULLER FIELD, HISTORY AND NEXT PHASE

Guv Fuller Field, home to the Falmouth Commodores since 1964, was dedicated in honor of Elmer "Guv" Fuller, a former coach and athletic director at Falmouth High School in 1952. In 2004, the baseball diamond was named the Arnie Allen Diamond as he was a long-time Commodores volunteer who started as a bat boy at the age of 7 and served with the team

for 46 seasons. With the exception of the installation of new lights in 2008, funded in part by the Yawkey Foundation, it has been decades since improvements have been made in the field's infrastructure.

The effort to restore the physical infrastructure and improve safety features at Guv Fuller Field started in 2015. The first project involved

replacing an antiquated and malfunctioning electronic scoreboard that dated back to 1988. The required lightbulbs for displaying game information were no longer available thereby resulting in missing pieces of the number displays, which confused fans who were unable to determine a 7 from a 9 from a 0. The new state-of-the-art, solar-powered scoreboard is environmentally friendly, with LED bulb display. This was made possible by a generous grant from the Fal-

Continued on page 10

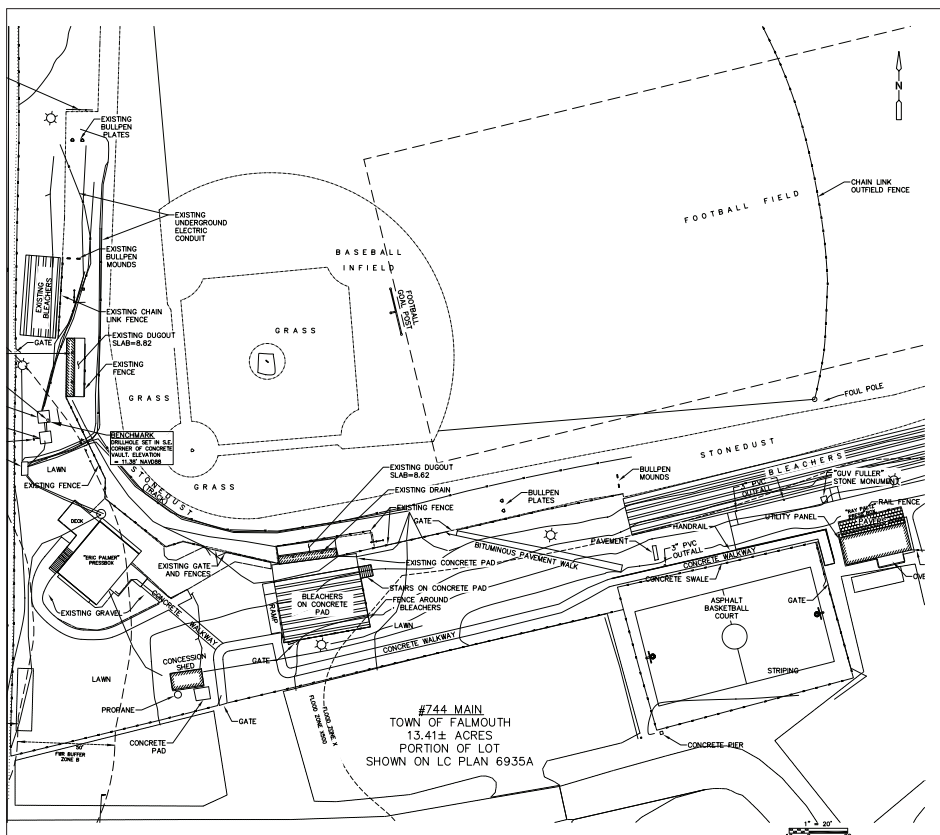


Diagram describing new construction and improvements to Guv Fuller Field

THANK YOU MARK



A special thank you to Mark Kasprzyk who is the outgoing President of the Falmouth Commodores. Mark has been

President since 2016 and has spent countless hours spearheading numerous renovation projects at Guv Fuller Field and has led the organization through a period of extraordinary growth. Mark is a long-time Falmouth resident and Commodores Board member.

2019 SEASON RECAP

By Maxwell Trink



With many rainouts, over 50 collegiate baseball players from around the country and the longest win streak in 'Dores history, the 2019 Falmouth Commodores season was historic.

For the third time in the past four seasons, manager Jeff Trundy led the Commodores to the top of the Western Division in the regular season. The 'Dores also finished with the best record in the CCBL.

But no matter who was involved, whether it was new general manager Chris Fitzgerald or the coaching staff, Trundy felt the players were the influential piece of this season. "The players defined the season without question," Trundy said. "This was a really, really special group of kids and they made the season what it was."

Multiple 'Dores finished the regular season with awards. Coach Jeff Trundy won the CCBL's Manager of the Year, reliever Zach Brzykcy (Virginia Tech) was selected as the Russ Ford Outstanding Relief Pitcher, outfielder Austin Masel (Holy Cross) earned the Manny Robello 10th Player Award and outfielder Zach Deloach (Texas A&M) received the Thurman Munson Batting Champion Award.

Deloach finished with the best batting average on the Cape. This followed a season at Texas A&M where Deloach batted .200 in 160 at-bats.

"I had to open up my eyes and see the atmosphere," the

6-foot-2, 200-pound right fielder said. "Being able to be with your teammates and knowing they have your back and you have theirs is what it's really all about."

What was also unforgettable was the rain. The Commodores had the most rainouts of any team in any summer collegiate baseball league with a total of 14. In June, five consecutive games were postponed due to rain.

This led to a stretch of 32 games in 31 days throughout the month of July. There were little-to-no off days for the Falmouth Commodores for the rest of the season.

July 2019 was a magical time for the Falmouth Commodores. The highlight of the season was an 11-game win-streak that capped off the month. This was the longest win-streak in modern Commodores history.

In the postseason, the 'Dores defeated the Bourne Braves in the first round of the playoffs. The series took three games. Falmouth ended their season in the Western Division Championship Series after getting swept by the 2019 Cape League champion Cotuit Kettleers.

Every year manager Jeff Trundy wants his team to have fun and appreciate the small details about the game. While the season didn't end with a championship, the 2019 Falmouth Commodores truly had fun and developed into a strong family.

STELLAR SHOWING FOR FALMOUTH COMMODORES IN 2019 MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL DRAFT

A record number of former Falmouth Commodores players were selected in the 2019 Major League Baseball (MLB) draft, including first overall pick, Adley Rutschman, a catcher from Oregon State, who went to the Baltimore Orioles. His contract included the highest-ever MLB signing bonus of \$8.1M. Rutschman was a member of the 2017 Falmouth Commodores roster and played for the Collegiate National

Team USA in 2018, the summer preceding the draft.

A total of 11 Commodores players were selected in the top 5 rounds, with an additional 2 players in the next 5 rounds, totaling 13 players drafted in the first 10 rounds. An additional 15 players were selected in the next 30 rounds for a total of 19 different MLB teams. We congratulate all of our former Commodores and wish them tremendous future success.

2020 COMMODORE HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



CLIFF PENNINGTON

Cliff is an 11-year Major League Baseball veteran, playing from 2008-2018. He played for 5 different teams while making his debut with the Oakland Athletics, the same team that drafted him in the first round, 21st overall. Cliff was born and raised in Corpus Christi,

TX, and attended Texas A&M University as a baseball player, where he is currently an assistant coach. As a Falmouth Commodore in 2004, Cliff helped lead the team to the divisional championship. Cliff impacted the team with both his advanced defensive prowess at SS and solid contributions with the bat, hitting .277 with 3 HRs, 21 RBIs, and 21 stolen bases.



KEVIN NEWMAN

Kevin Newman is currently a short-stop with the Pittsburgh Pirates. He was drafted in 2015 by Pittsburgh in the first round as the 19th overall pick. Kevin is originally from Poway, CA and attended the University of Arizona. Kevin was a Falmouth Commodore in 2013 & 2014 with a batting average of .375 and .380,

respectively. He is the only CCBL player ever to have won the Batting Title 2 years in a row. Since joining the major leagues in 2018 Kevin has an overall batting average of .293 in 584 at bat appearances with 12 HRs.

BIG CHANGES ARE COMING TO AMATEUR AND MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

The advent of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) has had a tremendously negative impact on all amateur and professional sports, but probably none more severe than in baseball. The pandemic sparked by this virus resulted in an unprecedented cancellation of the spring 2020 college baseball season and, as of this writing, has significantly delayed the beginning of the MLB season. Spring is usually a time for college players, while at the top of their game, to exhibit their skills and talents to scouts from all MLB teams prior to the draft, which was held this year on June 10th and 11th. The delayed opening of the MLB season and the significant decrease in revenues, coupled with the lack of a spring college season, are certain to affect the breadth of the MLB draft. The 2020 draft was limited to 5 rounds, a substantial decrease from the traditional 40 rounds. In dollar amounts, this translates to \$235M spent on 5 rounds of selections, down from \$316M for 40 rounds in 2019. Players not selected in the first 5 rounds of the draft became free agents and can sign with any team for a maximum signing bonus of \$20,000, plus payment for remaining school costs. This has significantly reduced the financial commitments by the teams given the lack of revenues from major league play. Compared with 2019, when approximately 1200 players from colleges and high schools were drafted, the number of selections in 2020 was reduced to 160 players in 5 rounds. Historically, many MLB all-stars were drafted after the fifth round, such as Michael Brantley (7th round), Justin Turner (7th round), Anthony Rizzo (6th round), as well as many everyday contributors, like Brock Holt (7th round) and Christian Vazquez (9th round), and were paid a significantly higher signing bonus than the \$20K being offered this year. So the fate of many college players is still unclear. Those not formally drafted in the 5 rounds could sign as a free agent at a fraction of the value of previous years, or

return again for their junior year of college (as the National Collegiate Athletic Association has extended their eligibility by a year) and enter the 2021 draft (expected to have a minimum of 20 rounds). This could also be an incentive for potential draftees from high school to enter and play at the college and junior college level. The story is still actively playing out.

To further confound the fate of current amateur and minor league baseball players, MLB is pursuing further cost-cutting policies by reducing the number of MLB-affiliated minor league baseball teams from 160 to 120, a decrease of 40 teams. These will largely include single A or early-stage affiliated teams, but will certainly impact the need for future players. This compression of the baseball farm team system will impact the number of college and high school players drafted, also feeding into the reduced draft plan. There is some speculation that while the number of MLB-affiliated minor league teams will be reduced, thereby decreasing financial exposure for the MLB owners, there may be an expansion of the current Independent Baseball League. This league involves minor league players on privately owned teams that are wholly supported by revenues at the field but do not enjoy the financial support from MLB and national television broadcasts.

NINE COMMODORES DRAFTED IN 5 ROUNDS OF 2020 MLB DRAFT

On June 10th and 11th, MLB held their draft from the ranks of college and high school players. A total of 72 CCBL players were drafted, representing 44% of all draftees, including the No. 1 overall pick.

The following Commodores were drafted in the greatly reduced 5 rounds of selections:

Carmen Mlodzinski, Pirates, Round 1, Pick 37

Zach Deloach, Mariners, Round 2, Pick 43

Trei Cruz, Tigers, Round 3, Pick 73

Sam Weatherly, Rockies, Round 3 Pick 81

Spencer Strider, Braves, Round 4 Pick 126

Logan Hofmann, Pirates, Round 5, Pick 138

Baron Radcliff, Phillies, Round 5, Pick 146

Shane Drohan, Red Sox, Round 5, Pick 148

Hayden Cantrelle, Brewers, Round 5, Pick 151

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THE 2020 DRAFTEES.

SAVE THE DATE

CAPE COD BASEBALL LEAGUE
HALL OF FAME INDUCTION
CEREMONY

NOVEMBER 21, 2020

Wequassett Resort and Golf Club, Harwich, Mass.

COMMODORES DRAFTED BY MLB IN 2019

ADLEY RUTSCHMAN

Orioles – round 1, pick 1

LOGAN DAVIDSON

Athletics – round 1, pick 29

TJ SIKKEMA

Yankees – CB A, pick 38

MATT WALLNER

Twins – CB A, pick 39

CAMERON CANNON

Red Sox – round 2, pick 43

MATT CANTERINO

Twins – round 2, pick 54

KYLE STOWERS

Orioles – CB B, pick 71

RYAN ZEFERJAHN

Red Sox – round 3, pick 107

TYLER DYSON

Nationals – round 5, pick 153

WILL ETHRIDGE

Rockies – round 5, pick 159

JACK LITTLE

Dodgers – round 5, pick 161

MAVERICK HANDLEY

Orioles – round 6, pick 168

WILL BRENNAN

Indians – round 8, pick 250

BRENT KILLAM

Angels – round 11, pick 331

NICK MIKOLAJCHAK

Indians – round 11, pick 340

JOSH WATSON

Athletics – round 15, pick 464

NIC GADDIS

Mets – round 16, pick 478

LOGAN RINEHART

Mariners – round 16, pick 486

A.J. BLOCK

Tigers – round 17, pick 502

EDOUARD JULIEN

Twins – round 18, pick 539

ADAM LASKEY

Cubs – round 19, pick 582

HERBERT ISER

Phillies – round 23, pick 690

ROBBIE PETO

Rays – round 26, pick 788

SCOTT POLITZ

Cardinals – round 29, pick 875

MARTY BECHINA

Athletics – round 32, pick 974

LOGAN HOFMANN

Cardinals – round 35, pick 1055

DECLAN CRONIN

White Sox – round 36, pick 1070

TREI CRUZ

Nationals – round 37, pick 1113

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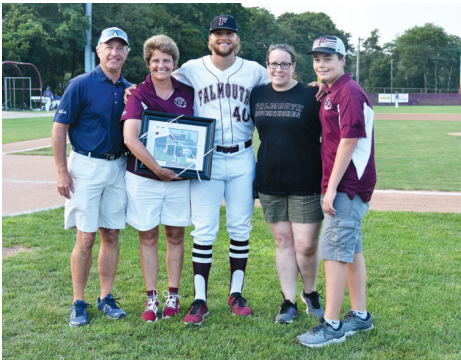
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THANK YOU TO OUR 2019 HOST FAMILIES

At this time of year, when we normally would have been contacting our host families with player arrivals, we want to highlight just how vital these people are to the Commodores organization. We greatly appreciate all that our families do, as we could not field a team without their support. With the cancellation of the 2020 season, we are looking ahead to the 2021 season. Anyone interested in hosting a Commodores player, please visit www.falmouthcommodores.com. See a superb video of interviews with past players created by former Commodores interns David Lauterbach and Gabrielle Lucivero. Visit falmouthcommodores.com/volunteer/host-families. For more information, contact Lisa Zmuda (lisatz143@comcast.net).



The Ahern family, hosting Austin Masel and Steven Moretto.



The Brocklebank/Uhl families, hosting Carmen Mlodzinski.



The Bruce family, hosting Jackson Coutts and Brad Littleton.



The Cloonan family, hosting Taylor Smith.



The Curtis family, hosting Thomas Girard.



The Dutra family, hosting Trei Cruz.



The Emery family, hosting Tyler Ras.



The Frostholm family, hosting Caleb Wurster.



The Griesbauer family, hosting Troy Claunch and Logan Hofmann.



The Jespersen family, hosting Sean Mullen and Nick Nastrini.



The Johnson family, hosting Baron Radcliff.



The Kapulka family, hosting Aidan Maldonado.



The Mancinelli family, hosting Chris Gonzalez.



The Marden-Johnsen family, hosting Justin Wroblewski.



The Banks/Maziarski family, hosting Kevin Kendall.



The McGann family, hosting Hayden Cantrelle.



The Miller family, hosting Austin Langworthy.



The Murray family, hosting Sam Weatherly.



The Simons family, hosting Zack Brzykcy.



The Teal family, hosting Franco Aleman and Matheu Nelson.



The Wells family, hosting Blake Dunn.



The Zmuda family, hosting Zach Deloach, Tim Tawa, and Christian Edwards.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

The contributions from our donors help us to field our Falmouth Commodores team each season. We wholeheartedly thank all of you who have made contributions in response to our campaign mailing, newsletter mailing, and other donations. We greatly appreciate your generosity. Contributions received from the 2019 mailing campaigns are recognized in this issue of the Falmouth Commodores Newsletter; those received in the 2020 mailing campaigns will be recognized in the 2021 Falmouth Commodores Program Book.

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FIELD IMPROVEMENTS... *Continued from page 2*

mouth Road Race, Inc.

The replacement of the scoreboard stimulated further thoughts about field improvements, and a multi-phased effort to improve the field's infrastructure and safety for players and fans.

Phase 1, which occurred in 2017, involved a major undertaking to expand and renovate the Eric Palmer Press Box, used by the Commodores and Falmouth High School for broadcasting games. This building serves as a base for a high-profile sports media internship program overseen by the Commodores, with budding sports announcers participating from colleges across the country. The Eric Palmer Press Box improvement project was truly a community effort, as substantial funding from the Falmouth Road Race, the Pat Loftus Memorial fund, and numerous individual donors were combined along with major donations of materials and in-kind support from local contractors. Today the building also houses the Commodores' merchandise shack for selling apparel as well as provid-

ing expanded storage space.

Phase 2 of the Guv Fuller Field restoration has been a multi-year joint effort with the Department of Recreation to secure funding and develop plans for major renovations to the field. This effort began with a series of grant requests to the Falmouth Community Preservation Committee (CPC) between 2017 and 2019 for a total of \$776,000 plus financial and in-kind services contributed by the Commodores, CCBL and local businesses of \$63,000. The majority of the CPC funding was approved at a Falmouth Town Meeting in 2018. The last tranche is up for review and approval at the 2020 Town Meeting, with a final decision being delayed until November 2020 because of the limitations imposed on meetings due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The goal is to replace the existing concrete dugouts, which are in major disrepair; install safety netting along the first and third base lines to protect spectators from errant foul balls; and replace the existing fencing around the baseball diamond, with a brick

wall to serve as a barrier and base for the new netting. New visitor side bleachers will be installed as will concrete walkways that are Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant throughout the field. The CPC included funding of approximately \$50,000 for the installation of a new elevated lift to the second floor of the broadcast booth and observation deck for the Eric Palmer Press Box rendering the building compliant with ADA regulations. The engineering firm CDM Smith was retained by the Town to serve as a coordinating contractor and will oversee the bidding and construction of the project.

It is hoped that the 2021 baseball season for both Falmouth High School and the Falmouth Commodores will enjoy vastly improved and safer facilities. Many volunteers, businesses such as Integrata Architects and Holmes and McGrath, and organizations, along with the Town and CPC have contributed countless hours, resources, and funding to make this project come to fruition and we wish to express our sincere appreciation.

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HOW CAN YOU HELP?

 The Falmouth Commodores greatly appreciate the generous support you have always given us.

If you would like to continue to contribute in these uncertain times, we are gratefully accepting donations at www.falmouthcommodores.com



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GEORGE CREIGHTON SCHOLARSHIP

The Falmouth Commodores award scholarships to high school seniors who are residents of Falmouth. This scholarship is awarded each year in memory of George Creighton, a long-time volunteer and past president of the Falmouth Commodores. Mr. Creighton was very active in youth sports and baseball in particular. The scholarships are awarded in recognition of student sports participation, academic achievement, volunteerism and financial need. If you have any questions or need more information, contact Sean Gallagher at ssgdc@aol.com.

2020 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

LIADAN GALLAGHER – Liadan is a graduate of Falmouth Academy. She has enjoyed attending Falmouth Commodores games over the years, and for the past 2 years she has had the honor of singing the National Anthem during the opening ceremonies of several games. In the fall she will attend Hobart and William Smith Colleges.

SOPHIA GILLIS – Sophia has been involved with the Falmouth Commodores for a number of years and has helped organize the annual Commodores golf tournament. A graduate of Sturgis Charter Public School, Sophia will attend Bridgewater State College in the fall.

LUCAS JOHNSEN – Lucas is a graduate of Falmouth High School. Since 2012, Lucas and his family have been a host family to over 20 Commodores players. In the fall he will attend Framingham State University.

JAKE MCKENZIE – For several years, Jake and his family have been involved with the Falmouth Commodores as a host family to Commodores players. Jake is a graduate of Falmouth High School and will attend Bryant University in the fall.

CALISTA SHANK – A graduate of Falmouth High School, Calista has enjoyed working in the concessions stand at Falmouth Commodores games over the past several years. In the fall she will attend the University of Delaware.