

## **TEAM OF DISTINCTION**

### **1956 STATE CHAMPION BASEBALL TEAM**

We honor the 1956 Baseball State Champions as the 2008 "Team of Distinction". The Newport Catholic Thoroughbreds were nicknamed "The Kentucky Yankees" for their dominance over the competition during that era. Newport Catholic previously won titles in '46, '50 and '54 prior to this team winning the fourth Kentucky State title in ten years. The Championship run culminated with the team's 4-3 victory over Murray. Head Coach Jim Connor credited pitcher Paul "Lefty" Meyer and outfielder Dan Shea as being outstanding in the state classic.

In the championship game, pitcher Paul Meyer limited Murray to five hits and struck out ten batters along the way. He also contributed two hits in the contest. Dan Shea's three hits paced the Newport Catholic's nine hit attack as the Thoroughbreds sprinted out to a 3-0 lead and never looked back.

In the semi-final game, it was Shea who tossed a shutout with a three hitter and fanned seven in a 2-0 win over Louisville Southern. He didn't allow a single Southern player to get past second base. Newport Catholic's two runs came after a walk, a single by Shea and a sacrifice by Dave Schneider. Jay Rice plated the first run with a sacrifice fly and Meyer scored on a wild throw as Southern's pitcher attempted to pick off Schneider.

The 'Breds earned that nickname because they never suffered a defeat at the hands of a team on this side of the Ohio River! It was the timely hitting of Tom Ferring, Paul Schidel and Paul Carr as well as the outstanding play of Jay Rice, Dave Schneider and Paul Meyer that allowed them to accomplish this feat. This Newport Catholic team ended the hugely successful season with a record of 29-5 and victories over Fort Knox, Louisville Southern and Murray to claim the 1956 Kentucky Baseball State Championship.

Members of the 1956 State Champion Team include:

**Jerry Beiting  
Tom Ferring  
Paul Meyer  
Ron Panko  
Paul Ruwe  
Dave Schneider  
John Sena  
Roy Stevens**

**Paul Carr  
Tom Mershon  
George Niles  
Jay Rice  
Paul Scheidel  
Larry Schwartz  
Dan Shea  
Jerry Welscher**

**Jim Connor, Head Coach**

**Neal Connor, Assistant Coach  
George Schneider Assistant Coach**