

# ***OUAZ*** **BASEBALL**

## **2025-2026 Recruiting Packet**

This packet will give you information on the OUAZ Baseball program, our university, amazing facilities, coaching staff, program philosophy, academic offerings, and our many new buildings on campus. In addition, we have included the contact information for our coaches and key admissions personnel that will be involved in your process as well as support staff, such as our strength coach, trainers, compliance officers, and our financial aid team.

Feel free to reach out to any of us to learn more about how we can help you.



**x**



# ***OUAZ*** **BASEBALL**

## **OUAZ BASEBALL**

# **SURPRISE STADIUM**

**Is the Home of the OUAZ Spirit Baseball Team!** We play and practice at the Surprise Recreation Campus and have access to professional baseball fields each day, batting cages as well as professional bullpen mounds for the continued development of all of the players in our program.

Surprise Stadium is the Spring Training home for the Texas Rangers and Kansas City Royals, and has been rated as the “best place to watch a Spring Training game.” (Best of Phoenix)



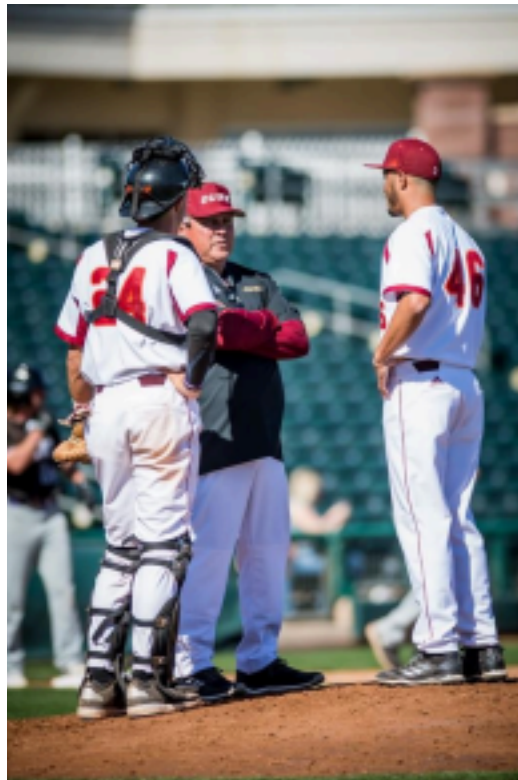
# OUAZ BASEBALL

## OUAZ BASEBALL

# HEAD COACH TIM MONTEZ

Tim Montez was named the first coach in OUAZ baseball history in early 2017. In his first season, he led the Spirit to the NCCAA World Series in Easley, SC. and in 2021 the Spirit won the GSAC East Division and competed for the conference championship, losing a heartbreaker in the championship final, in that year Montez was named GSAC Coach of the Year. This past 2025 Spring, the Spirit finished with a 31-20 record, coming off a 2024 season with a 35-19 record and earning a first ever NAIA opening round regional bid. Now entering in his 9th year, Coach Montez is fully armed with a Developmental Program (Began in Fall 2019) to help add depth and competition to an already talented Varsity Program that is poised to compete in the newly branded GSAC Conference Tournament year after year. In the summer of 2024, he was named bench coach for the Alaska Summer League Anchorage Bucs where they won the ABL Championship. A graduate from St. Paul HS (Sante Fe Springs, CA - 1979), Coach Montez also played & graduated from Pepperdine University (Malibu, CA - 1984). Montez and his lovely wife Darleen reside in Surprise and together have 3 boys (David, Ryan and Adam) and a daughter (Amy) with 6 beautiful grandkids.

- 39 years of Coaching Experience. 25 of those years in Division I Baseball
- Previous Universities:
  - Jacksonville University
  - Fresno State University
  - University of Arkansas
  - Cal State Northridge
  - UC Santa Barbara
  - Pepperdine University
- 9 NCAA Regional Appearances
- 1 Super Regional Appearance
- 1999 Overall SEC Championship / Uni. of Arkansas
- 2018 NCCAA World Series Participant
- 2021 GSAC Conference Championship Finalist
- 2024 NAIA Opening Round Regional Bid
- 2018, 2021, 2025 NCCAA West Region Coach of the Year
- 2021 GSAC Coach of the Year
- Coached and or Recruited numerous MLB Players with 5 First Round Draft Picks including:
  - Barry Zito (UCSB, USC, Giants)
  - Russ Ortiz (Montclair Prep / U. of OK / Giants)
  - Michael Young (UCSB / Rangers)
  - Matt Garza (Fresno St. / Twins)
  - Doug Fister (Fresno St. / Mariners)
  - Cliff Lee (University of Arkansas / Expos)
  - Daniel Murphy (Jacksonville University / Mets)
  - Austin Hays (Jacksonville University / Orioles)
  - Michael Baumann (Jacksonville University / Orioles)



# **OUAZ**

## **BASEBALL**

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

On the field, there will be no other team that is as tough and determined to do the absolute best as we, the Ottawa University Spirit are.

We are a confident team, but we are also humble.

We will respect the game and anyone we come into contact with; on the field, in school, and in the community.

We will implement, to the best of our abilities, our core Christian values on a daily basis.

As the Spirit, we dedicate ourselves to becoming better baseball players as well as respected young men in our community by simply doing our best.

We are individuals, but we are also a family that plays the game as a team. We are a team dedicated to representing our new traditions, representing family members, growing in our faith, and pursuing our future accomplishments with enthusiasm, passion, respect, and gratitude.



**“Good to the CORE”**

#### **BUILDING TEAM VALUE WITH VALUES**

RESPECT / FAMILY / FAITH

LOYALTY

DISCIPLINE

PASSION / AMBITION

ACCOUNTABILITY

GENUINE CONCERN FOR OTHERS

INTEGRITY / LEADERSHIP

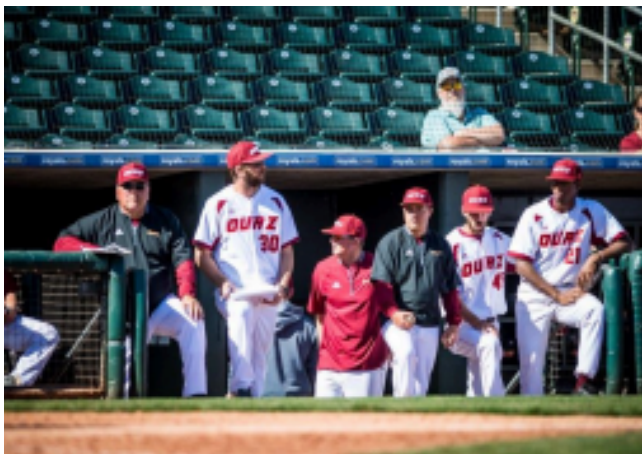
# **OUAZ**

## **BASEBALL**

### **OUAZ BASEBALL**

# **THE PROGRAM**

- We will help prepare young men to the best of our ability in the development on the field but as well as life after baseball.
- On the baseball field, we will play the game hard and fast. We will play with a no-nonsense approach, and be fundamentally strong in the areas of pitching and defense.
- Offensively, we will be an action-oriented team, which takes advantage of our player's strengths and capitalizes on the opponent's mistakes.





## **OUAZ BASEBALL**

# **BUILDING THE FOUNDATION**

### **Academic Development**

Academic Priorities must be firmly established early in a player's career and do not stop until a degree has been earned and that player has started his professional career

- Academic Support
  - Academic Counselors / Adawe Mentors
  - Mandatory Class Attendance
  - Routine Grade Checks
  - Study Hall
  - Tutors
  - Life Skills
- Bi-Weekly Player Meetings if needed
- Academic Goals
  - All Players Graduate
  - All Players receive proper direction to start careers

### **About Ottawa University**

Founded in 1865, Ottawa University prepares professional and liberal arts graduates for lifetimes of personal significance, vocational fulfillment and service to God and humanity within a Christ-inspired community of grace and open inquiry. Ottawa University is a comprehensive, not-for-profit educational institution serving 3,000 students through its residential campuses in Ottawa, Kan., and Surprise, Ariz., and adult campuses in Overland Park, Kan.; Phoenix, Queen Creek, and Surprise, Ariz.; Brookfield, Wis.; Jeffersonville, Ind.; as well as online. For more information, visit [www.ottawa.edu](http://www.ottawa.edu).



## **Ottawa University Mission Statement**

Building on its foundation as a Christ-inspired community of grace and open inquiry, Ottawa University prepares professional and liberal arts graduates for lifetimes of personal significance, vocational fulfillment, and service to God and humanity.

## **Ottawa University Vision Statement**

Ottawa University will elevate student learning and deliver exceptional outcomes for our graduates as we embrace innovation and foster a community of collaboration and belonging.

## **Player Skill Development**

Development is an ongoing process and is essential to the success of the player. This coaching staff is committed to each and every player in the program.

- **Fall Program**
  - Conditioning (Nutrition, Strength, Flexibility, Speed, and Agility)
  - Baseball Skill Self Development
  - Mental Conditioning
  - Team Concepts and Team Building
  - Individual Player meetings
- **Season**
  - Strength Training adjusting to season demands
  - Nutrition
  - Individual and Team Development
  - Academic Concerns
- **After Season**
  - Individual player meetings
  - Emphasis on Academics
  - Summer League
  - Overall physical development



## OUAZ BASEBALL

# Additional Coaching Staff

## Tanner Wickam - Assistant Head Coach / Hitting Coach, Recruiting Coordinator

“Coach Wick” Wickham comes home to AZ from sister school Ottawa University KS, where the Braves made an Opening round regional and the offense broke 8 team school records. Prior to OU KS, Wick coached at D-2 Minot, N.D., where he was an assistant coach from 2022-2024. In his three seasons at MSU, the Beavers hit .304, scored 1,075 runs, and drove in 978 runs. The Beavers broke 12 offensive school records and 6 Individual school records. Wick finished playing in 2021 at NAIA Ben U, Mesa. In his final collegiate season, he helped the Redhawks to a final ranking of 25th in the NAIA baseball coaches poll and it’s first NAIA Opening Round Regional appearance. Wick is known as a relationship builder and a relentless recruiter.

## Artie Cox - Pitching Coordinator

Cox is a native of Arizona graduating from Maryvale High School (1988), he and his wife Amy of 23 years reside in Glendale and have three kids, two sons (Brandon and Justin) and a daughter (Raleigh). Coach Cox has been coaching baseball for 27 years in Arizona with 8 years at Mountain Ridge High School where he was able to coach future professional players, Matt Liberatore (1st round/St. Louis Cardinals), Cameron Cannon (2nd round/Boston Red Sox), Matthew Dyer (4th round/New York Mets) and Alex Roth (21st Round/Pittsburgh Pirates) as well as more than 50 players who moved on to play at the college level. Coach Cox will lead all of the pitchers and catchers for the Spirit, both varsity and developmental.

## Orlando Rodriguez- Infield Coordinator “Coach O” is originally

from Las Cruces, New Mexico. He played for New Mexico State University and moved to Arizona in 2006, in which he began his coaching career. In 2018, he became the head baseball coach at Willow Canyon High School in Surprise, Arizona where he led the Wildcats to their first two Regional Championships in school history; plus 3 playoff appearances in over a decade. Coach O has been married to his wonderful wife Elisha since 2015 and will work with the infielders and bring a lot of experience and energy to the baseball program. - 18 years of coaching experience (2006-present) / 3 time Region Coach of the Year  
- 5 years of Head Coaching Experience (2018-2022)  
- 5 season of winning records (Overall Coaching Record 63-28)

# **Jeff Fallon** - Director of Baseball Operations / Leadership Program Director

Fallon is in charge of baseball operations and administrative duties while also helping with recruiting for all levels of the OUAZ baseball program. He also leads the OUAZ Business Leadership Program and has recently started the very first Club Baseball Program. A Surprise (AZ) resident of 28 years, Coach Fallon has tremendous ties to the community, his wife, Natasha has been a teacher for more than 25 years in the Dysart School District and their three boys (Koty, Tanner and Hunter) attended local schools and participated in all city sports right here in Surprise. Each of Fallon's sons have had the opportunity to play college baseball, with Koty being selected in the MLB Amateur Baseball Dra by the San Diego Padres in 2019. Over 30 years of coaching & scouting experience.

# **Alex Esquerra** - Team Chaplain & Life Skills Consultant

Alex is in his first season with the Spirit, joining the staff in December of 2024. A compassionate and resourceful Life Coach/Minister, Alex offers 30+ years of experience in helping people improve and build better lives. His vast majority of experience comes in the form of high level program growth development, team building, pastoral care, benevolence, community care, systems management, and practical and spiritual leadership. With credentials in Life Coaching, Ministry, Chaplaincy, General Construction Contracting, and Journalism, Alex brings a breadth of knowledge to the program. Alex is a graduate of Pepperdine University, where he was teammates with Coach Montez.

# **Jacob Griffin** - Developmental Program Director

Jacob Griffin brings both baseball skill and sports performance knowledge to the OUAZ Developmental Program. His passion and love for baseball began at the young age of 3 and has spanned 20 plus years and counting. This athletic journey led him to Ottawa University here in Surprise where he played college baseball for five years. He became a four-time Academic All-American, two-time recipient of the NAIA Daktronics award, and Taka Senior Teammate of the Year. During his time at Ottawa, Jacob earned a Bachelor's of Science in Biology with focus in Biomechanics, Nutrition, and Anatomy, as well as a Masters of Arts in Organizational Leadership. Jacob's commitment to excellence has extended beyond college, as he has competed in prestigious summer leagues such as the Independence League, West Coast League, and Arizona Collegiate Wood Bat League. Driven by a profound passion for nurturing young athletes, Jacob is committed to developing not only their athletic skills, but also their character. He focuses on fostering resilience, discipline, and teamwork, with the goal of shaping well-rounded individuals who are equipped for success both on and off the field. His dedication reflects his belief in the transformative power of sports to mold future athletes and leaders who will create a lasting positive impact.



## GRADUATE ASSISTANT COACHES

### **Israel Fuentes** - Varsity Bullpen Coach

Israel Fuentes brings extensive playing and coaching experience to his role as Varsity Bullpen Coach. A former standout pitcher at Hope International and Faulkner University, Fuentes earned numerous accolades, including two-time NAIA All-American and 2017 National Pitcher of the Year. After a successful collegiate career, he played professionally for the Missoula Paddleheads and Grand Junction Rockies. In 2024, Fuentes served as Pitching Coach at Faulkner University, helping guide the pitching staff through a competitive season. Currently pursuing a Master's degree in Art and Leadership, Fuentes is committed to developing players on and off the mound, with a focus on both athletic and personal growth.

### **Kyle Coburn** - Varsity Infielders / Co-Recruiting Coordinator

Coburn enters his second year at OUAZ, he comes from the University of San Francisco where he was at for 3 years. A Southern California native, Coburn attended Huntington Beach High School and was the starting second baseman for the Oilers 2015 CIF Championship team. For the 2020-21 season, he returned to the program as the assistant junior varsity coach. Coburn graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Economics from the University of Oregon in 2019. Additionally he graduated with a Master's degree in Sport Management from the University of San Francisco in December of 2022. Coburn will work with the infielders and hitters.



# Developmental Baseball Program

## Developmental Team Mission

The mission of our developmental team is to provide opportunities for deserving student-athletes to continue on their path within their Faith, Family, Academics and Baseball. We strive to provide the best possible environment that is supportive of each player's goals and expectations while earning their degree at OUAZ. We will use the game of baseball as a tool to educate, promote and instill the qualities necessary to succeed in the game of life.

## Developmental Team Purpose

The Purpose of the OUAZ Developmental team is to add depth to an already talented group of baseball players that make up the OUAZ Baseball Program. A key ingredient is to prepare these young men on the Developmental team to be able to step in on the varsity club when called upon.

All players in the OUAZ program (Developmental & Varsity) practice, attend meetings, condition and train together on a daily basis and have access to the entire coaching staff as well as the same facilities within the OUAZ Baseball program. Players on the Developmental team are students who love OUAZ first and foremost, who want to attend a four year university (instead of attending a junior college) and want to get involved in a baseball program that will afford them the opportunity to improve their skills, compete everyday and work their way into playing opportunities within the OUAZ Baseball Program.

Developmental players have every opportunity to earn a spot on the varsity team and that is our goal, to prepare these players to step in at any time and help the varsity team win. Having developmental players with the goal of earning their way to start on the varsity team is an ultimate goal as a program. During the fall season, the OUAZ Developmental Team will play 10-15 games that will prepare each player for our 25 game spring season. This will give the Developmental team nearly 40 baseball games throughout the year, providing numerous opportunities to continue to develop and work their way up the depth chart in the OUAZ Baseball Program. In addition, since 2020, during the spring season and included in the 25 game schedule, the Developmental team will play in a 15-game league schedule with the opportunity to win an NAIA Arizona State Developmental Team Championship.



## Developmental Team Coaching Staff

**Dylan Maltby** - Graduate Assistant Coach

**Dan Stitzel** - Assistant Coach

Coach Stitzel has 20+ years of experience in baseball coaching and player development. Levels covered include youth, high school, college (NCAA Div. I and III), and MLB with specializations in hitting and catching. At the University of Washington, he instructed at both player camps and coaches clinics. At Eureka College he was an Assistant Coach responsible for hitters and catchers. Stitzel was an invited coach at the 2023 Cincinnati Reds Catching Camp. In his first year with OUAZ Baseball, Coach Stitzel will work with catchers.

## Additional Student Coaches

**Antonio Saldana** - Pitchers

**Bo Kelso** - Infielders

## Support Staff

**Steven Trujillo** - Athletic Admissions Advisor

**Robert Hernandez** - Head Strength Coach

**Aaron Van Dyne** - Athletic Trainer

**Baylie Crank** - Athletic Trainer



## **Accredited Degree Programs with more to come in 2025-26**

- Accounting
- Biology
- Business Administration
- Christian Studies and Ministry
- Communications
- Early Childhood/ Special Education
- Elementary Education
- Engineering
- English
- Exercise Science
- Coaching / Administration Concentration
- Personal Training / Strength/Conditioning Concentration
- Pre-Allied Health Concentration
- History
- Human Resources
- Human Services
- Leadership and Management
- Mathematics
- Psychology
- Secondary Education
- Secondary Education (AZ) - Business Concentration
- Secondary Education (AZ) - Mathematics Concentration
- Sport Studies

## **New Residential Campus with Brand New Facilities: ●**

Brand new state of the art apartment homes.

- Full athletic facility for all teams that include locker rooms and weight rooms.
- Brand new sports turf football and soccer stadium: Spirit Field
- New soccer fields
- Parking structures
- Campus Dining

# ***OUAZ*** **BASEBALL**



**The O'Dell Center**



**Faith Arena**

# ***OUAZ*** **BASEBALL**



**Spirit Field w/ Founder's and Veritas Hall**



**Athletic Trainers Room**



**Weight Training Room**



## CONTACT INFORMATION

### **Tim Montez - Head Coach**

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### **Steven Trujillo - Student-Athlete Enrollment Advisor**

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# **OUAZ**

## **BASEBALL**

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