

*After a tough regular season,  
Bruin baseball players fought hard and became ...*

# DISTRICT CHAMPS!



St. Joe Bruin baseball had another successful season this year, winning the District title and heading once again to the playoffs.

**Top left photo:** Junior Nick Sims readies to take a swing during the Bruin's April 26 home game against St. Andrew's.

**Top right photo:** Senior Charlie LeDoux was honored on Senior Night. LeDoux was the only senior on the team this year.

**Bottom left photo:** Sophomore Fidel Bello plays catcher during a home game at St. Joe. Bello is also a pitcher and fourth batter for the team.

*All photos by Helen Butts/  
Special to The Bear Facts*

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*Story by Jon Dale Dieckman and Jack Hall*

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**T**he Bruin baseball team has won the 2A District 6 Championship title for the first time in 33 years.

On Monday, April 21, the Bruins competed for the district title against the Pisgah Dragons of Sandhill, Mississippi.

The Dragons were defeated by the Bruins earlier in the season by a score of 7- 4.

In this second game against the Dragons, St. Joe got off to a slow start by allowing a run to be scored in the top of the first inning. It was all uphill from there.

The team was determined to make this the defining game of the season. This district championship would be the ultimate prize for a team in the process of rebuilding its program.

The batting lineup was primed with the careful foresight of Coach Miller Todd. Bruins pitcher Thomas Benson was throwing at the top of his game. This allowed for the perfect balance of brute, offensive strength and keen defensive strategy.

They continued to pound the Dragons by getting into their pitcher's mind, eventually ending with a Pisgah pitching change. After the change, the Bruins constantly racked up hits until the end of the game with the final score being 10- 1.

In conclusion with this championship game, the Bruins went undefeated in their District 6 2A season with a record of 8-0.

# BASEBALL,

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Winning the district championship surely helped the Bruins with the rest of the season. This win gave the Bruins a first-round bye in the 2A state playoffs. The Bruins made it to the second round this year.

This is the farthest the Bruins have ever managed to get in baseball. Todd said he was happy with the results of hard work and progress.

“With such a young team, I was so impressed by how they matured from Game 1 to Game 25 because they had a prize in front of them and they won it,” Todd said.

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— *Miller Todd,*  
*St. Joe athletic director*

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After the big win against Pisgah, the Bruins were humbled with a 10-1 loss of their own to rival St. Andrews. They bounced back with a four-hour, eight-inning win in rain versus the Murrah Mustangs. The final score was 20- 19.

The 2014 season was a success. A winning season, undefeated in district play, district champions, and a respectable playoff bid all contributed to this.

Sophomore designated hitter Jojo Kato tool summed up the year best.

“We did great this year,” he said. “The first time we won district in 33 years was a great accomplishment.

“We’ll work harder next year and hopefully go farther. We reached the second round of the playoffs, which is the farthest this team has ever gone.”

The Bruins must now turn to the next season. After the loss of many talented seniors from the previous season, Todd relied on freshman athletes.

As they grow in talent and skill, we should see the team as a whole improve. Sophomore Fidel Bello reiterated this.

“Our team is very young, ten freshman, five sophomores, four juniors, and a senior. The way we played this season was just great. Just imagine us in a few years when we’re all seniors. We’re going to go far. You all need to watch out.”