KWHS BASEBALL RECORDS:

All records come from our **Conch Historian** Mr. Glynn Archer Jr. who compiled them from the **1940's to 24 games in 1996**, Coach Wise finished the **96** season and found the **97** Stats from the Library. Our **Voice of the Conchs, Mr. Marconi winner** Rick Lopez has kept the records from **1998** till the **present**. **Coach Judd A. Wise** has gone back through both **Archer/Lopez** files, plus the citizen and microfilm from our great library and with the help from former Conch players **Chris Valdez**, and **Jack Niles**, this is what **I** came up with to help the fans of Key West see who the leaders are. ***These*** are the **official/unofficial records** from **1949** to **present**. We are beginning season **74**. In **2020**, the season was shortened due to the **Coronavirus.** I have **dedicated** this information to **Mr. Archer**, as he bled **Red** and **Gray**. **I** understand how much this **meant** to him. It has been and **honor** for **me** to publish this History for our Conchs to read. Below is the **Conch Baseball History** that **I** have put together for you to enjoy. **I** know there could be Conchs **I** may have missed, but at least we have something to discuss. If you the fan, have any info, just contact our Athletic Director, or Head Baseball Coach.

Yours in Baseball,
Coach Judd A. Wise

PITCHING RECORDS: CAREER:

WINS: ***GEORGE LASTRES 37 1952-54***
STRIKEOUTS: ***RANDY STERLING Sr. 553 1967-69***
MOST INNINGS PITCHED: ***RANDY STERLING Sr. 211 1967-1969***

THERE ARE 5 PITCHERS WHO COMPLETED THEIR CAREERS WITH OVER 30+ WINS:

GEORGE LASTRES 37 1952-54
TONY HOPEY 36 1955-57
RANDY STERLING Sr. 34 1967-69
BROOKS CAREY 33 1972-74
JOHN McCORMICK 30 1958-61

SEASON RECORDS:

WINS: GEORGE LASTRES 16 1953
STRIKEOUTS: RANDY STERLING Sr. 235 1969
ERA: RANDY STERLING Sr. .45 1969
LONGEST SCORELESS STREAK: TONEY HOPEY 29 2/3 innings 1956
MOST CONSECUTIVE WINS: GEORGE LASTRES: 14 1953
MOST INNINGS PITCHED: RANDY STERLING Sr. 123 1969

SINGLE GAME RECORDS:

STRIKEOUTS:

RANDY STERLING Sr. STRUCK OUT 24 (11 innings) MARCH 11, 1969
RANDY STERLING Sr. STRUCK OUT 22 (10 innings 1969), VS VENICE
RANDY STERLING Sr. STRUCK OUT 19 BATTERS OUT OF 21 IN A 7 INNING GAME APRIL 5 1968 VS KILLIAN
IN 1956

IN THE SEMIFINALS OF THE STATE TOURNAMENT, KEY WEST HIGH PITCHER TONEY HOPEY STRUCK OUT 18 LAKELAND HIGH BATTERS IN A 7 INNING GAME TO TIE HERB SCORE FOR THE MOST K'S IN A STATE TOURNAMENT GAME.
GEORGE LASTRES STRUCK OUT 18 IN 7 INNING GAME VS GESU IN 1953
BILLY SAWYER STRUCK OUT 18 IN A 7 INNING GAME VS COCONUT CREEK IN 86
GEORGE LASTRES STRUCK OUT 17 IN A 7 INNING GAME IN 1954
RANDY STERLING Sr. STRUCK OUT 17 IN A 7 INNING GAME IN 1969
FRANK PADRON STRUCK OUT 17 IN A 7 INNING GAME IN 1969
SHAUN NILES STRUCK OUT 16 IN A 7 INNNING GAME IN 1984
HAROLD MILLIKEN STRUCK OUT 16 IN A 7 INNING GAME IN 1986
GEORGE MIRA STRUCK OUT 15 IN A 7 INNING GAME VS VENICE IN 1959

MOST INNINGS PITCHED IN A GAME: 12 PAUL HAMMONDS 2-22-72 VS CORAL PARK,
MIKE MICHAUD 3-28-90 VS SEBRING

100 + STRIKEOUTS IN A SEASON:

LES WEECH	1962	134
RANDY STERLING Sr.	1967	156
RANDY STERLING Sr.	1968	162
RANDY STERLING Sr.	1969	235
BROOKS CAREY	1973	108
BROOKS CAREY	1974	109
RAYMOND REVAK	1982	111
ONERI DAVID FLEITA	1984	122
SHAUN NILES	1984	101
HAROLD MILLIKEN	1986	107
RANDY NILES	1994	103
ANTONIO KNOWLES	2018	104

NO HITTERS: (41)

GEORGE LASTRES	1953
JOHN McCORMICK	1959
VICTOR ALBURY	1964
LARRY DERRISO	1966
RANDY STERLING Sr. (4) & (6-1 HITTERS)	1967-69
RANDY STERLING Sr. & PETER VALDEZ	1968
DAVID CAMPO	1971
PAUL HAMMONDS	1972
BROOKS CAREY	1974
CARLOS HERRERA (PERFECT GAME 5 INN) 4-19	1975
MARK INGRAHAM	1977
LARRY DAVILA	1977
LARRY DAVILA---(BACK TO BACK)	1977
ONERI DAVID FLEITA	1983
AL delVALLE (PERFECT GAME 7 INN) 3-9	1985
HAROLD MILLIKEN	1986
CHRIS HALL	1988
BRIAN MERKEY	1989
CHRIS ZUELCH	1990
MIKE MICHUAD	1990
MIKE MICHUAD	1991
TONY DiPAOLO	1992

MARTIN NILES 1993
MARCUS DAVILA 1999
DARYL LEWIS & REIDER GONZALEZ 2003
BOBBY HERNANDEZ & CHAS SPOTTSWOOD 2004
CHAS SPOTTSWOOD 2005
SANTI ARENCIBIA 2006
KYLE MALONE, BLAYNE WELLER, MATT WAGNER 2006
DANIEL FOLTZ 2007
ANDREW FREEMAN, & DONJAY VALDEZ 2012
BRANDON PRESLEY & STEVEN WELLS Jr. 2013
BRANDON PRESLEY 2014
KYLE IARROBINO & ANTOINE KNOWLES 2017
JACOB BURNHAM & ANDRIS "LUCKY" BARROSO 2022
ANDRIS "LUCKY" BARROSO 2022
JACOB BURNHAM 2022
ANDRIS "LUCKY" BARROSO & FELIX ONG 2023

UNDEFEATED SEASON: (MIN. 7 GAMES)

RANDY STERLING Jr. 12-0 1995
PAULIE WALTERSON 9-0 1995
JOHN McCORMICK 8-0 1961
DAX RANKINE 8-0 1995
GREG VELIZ 8-0 2014
JONATHAN GATES 7-0 1996
FELIX ONG 7-0 2022

ONLY PITCHERS TO COMPLETE THEIR CAREERS UNDEFEATED (MINIMUM 10 STARTS):

JONATHON GATES 12-0
BOBBY HERNANDEZ 12-0

HITTING RECORDS:

GAME:

***MOST HITS**: 5 -- GLEN MOSER 1968, JOEY WARDLOW 1982, ONERI DAVID FLEITA 1984 TONY LOPEZ 2006*

***MOST DOUBLES**: 3—CARL TAYLOR 1963, XAVY PEREZ 2001, RAIKO ALFONSO 2008, NOLAN THOMAS 2009,*
KYLE SNOW 2016

***MOST TRIPLES**: 2—JULIO HENRIQUEZ 1953, JOEY WARDLOW 1984, JOHN JACKSON 87, RALPH SANCHEZ 88, BLANE BARROSO 90, MARIO MIRA 92, DAVID MONROE 93, ERIC BALBUENA 93, MARTIN NILES 94,*
LAZARO CHAVEZ 98, MIKEY EDWARDS 2000, BLAKE BARBER 2004, FRANKIE RATCLIFF JR. 2008 (3 times), GREG VELIZ 2015, LANDON LOWE 2021, MIKEY GREENBERG 2023

***MOST HOMERUNS**: 3—MICHAEL BALBUENA 1997 vs ST. BRENDAN*

***2 HOMER GAME*—JOHN "BOOG" POWELL 59, SCOTT SAUNDERS 79, JOEY WARDLOW 84, SHAUN NILES 84, LOUIE BLANCO 85, EARL FINDLEY 89, DARREN MILLS 94, CRAIG LARIZ 94 & 96, ADRIAN MERKEY 95,**
FLYNN SMITH 95, MICHAEL BALBUENA 97, LAZARO CHAVEZ 98, BEN HARRISON 98, AARON MARN 99, LOUIE PAEZ 2002, DEXTER BUTLER 2003, DJ RANDOLPH 2005, DESI PEREZ 2006, RAIKO ALFONSO 2006,
ANDREW RODRIGUEZ 2009, FRANKIE RATCLIFF Jr. 2009, MICHAEL ARENCIBIA 2009, PRESTON HERCE 2022

***GRAND SLAMS*: JULITO SANTANA, CARL TAYLOR, STEVE GIBBS, STEVE BARRIOS, EARL FINDLEY, MICHAEL JAYCOCKS, IGNACIO GONZALEZ, TONY ACOSTA, JR MOUNTS, AARON MARN, KHALIL GREEN, BEN HARRISON, CLAY FRAGA, EDDIE ROBERTS, REIDER GONZALEZ, TJ NILES, DEXTER BUTLER,**
RALPH HENRIQUEZ III, DESI PEREZ, DJ RANDOLPH, MICHAEL ANDERSON, BEN HARRISON, MATHEW ROBERTS, KYLE LEPINE, FRANKIE RATCLIFF, MICHAEL ARENCIBIA, MIKEY ABREU, ANDREW RODRIGUEZ, DARREN MILLER, ANDY PEREZ, PRESTON HERCE, ANDEN RADY, ANTHONY LARIZ

***HIT FOR THE CYCLE*: TONY ACOSTA VS ST. BRENDAN 1996**

***MOST RBI'S*: 7—DJ RANDOLPH 2005, ANDREW RODRIGUEZ 2009, NOLAN THOMAS 2010**

***MOST RUNS SCORED*: 4—ROBERT SANTANA, VICTOR ALBURY, LENY CAREY, BLANE BARROSO,**
MIGUEL MENENDEZ, LAZARO CHAVEZ, AARON MARN, BEN HARRISON, CLAY FRAGA, TJ NILES,
MIGUEL MENENEZ, DANNY DIFABIO, CLINTON STORR, RALPH HENRIQUEZ III, DESI PEREZ, ANDY MENDEZ, NICKY BERTIAUX, MIKEY HENRIQUEZ Jr., STEVEN WELLS Jr., GREG VELIZ, HUNTER SELLERS,
PRESTON HERCE (Twice), TREVOR ZUELCH

***MOST STOLEN BASES:* 4 DARREN MILLS & DAVID MONROE VS HOLLLYWOOD CHAMINADE 1994**

***MOST TIMES HIT BY A PITCH:* MIKEY ABREU--3**

SEASON:

***HIGHEST BATTING AVERAGE:* KHALIL GREENE--.500 1998**

***HIGHEST ON BASE %:* PRESTON HERCE--.630 2022**

***SLUGGING %:* PRESTON HERCE--.924 2022**

***MOST HITS:* MIGUEL MENENDEZ--57 1995**

***MOST DOUBLES*: ELOY RODRIQUEZ, & STEVEN WELLS Jr.--13 1954, & 2014**

***MOST TRIPLES:* FRANKIE RATCLIFF Jr.--9 2008**

MOST HOME RUNS: ***CRAIG LARIZ--8 1996***
7 KHALIL GREENE 1998, CLINTON STORR 2005, & FRANKIE RATCLIFF Jr. 2009

MOST EXTRA BASE HITS: ***20—CRAIG LARIZ: 11 DOUBLES 4 TRIPLES 5 HOMERUNS—1995,***
FRANKIE RATCLIFF Jr.: 10 DOUBLES, 9 TRIPLES, 1 HOMERUN--2008
MOST TIMES HIT BY A PITCH: ***PRESTON HERCE & WYATT KUHN----14 2021, 2023***

MOST WALKS: ***CRAIG LARIZ--31 1996***

MOST RBI'S: ***CRAIG LARIZ--54 1996***

MOST RUNS SCORED: ***KHALIL GREENE--50 1998***

MOST STOLEN BASES: ***DARREN MILLS, KHALIL GREENE--30 1994, & 1998***

LEAST AMOUNT OF STRIKE OUTS BASED ON MINIMUM 50 AB'S: ***3--MIGUEL MENENDEZ IN 123 AB'S----1995***

CAREER RECORDS:

HIGHEST AVG.: DEXTER BUTLER---.451 2002-2004—minimum 150 AB'S in a 3 yr. career

MOST HITS: ***RALPH HENRIQUEZ III---142 2002-05***

DOUBLES: ***NOLAN THOMAS---29 2007-10***

TRIPLES: ***FRANKIE RATCLIFF Jr.---12 2007-09***

HOME RUNS: ***NOLAN THOMAS=---15 2007-10 CRAIG LARIZ 1993-96, & BEN HARRISON—14 1997-2000***

MOST EXTRA BASE HITS: ***NOLAN THOMAS---49 2007-10 29 DOUBLES, 5 TRIPLES, 15 HOMERUNS***

RBI'S: ***CRAIG LARIZ --120 1993-96***

RUNS SCORED: ***FRANKIE RATCLIFF Jr.--107 2006-09***

WALKS: ***DARREN MILLER--63 2011-2014***

HIT BY A PITCH: ***PRESTON HERCE--21 2019-22***

CONCHS WITH 100 OR MORE HITS IN THEIR CAREERS:

RALPHIE HENRIQUEZ III 142 2002-05
KHALIL GREENE 133 1996-98

CLINTON STORR	*117*	*2003-05*
BEN HARRISON	*116*	*1997-2000*
JUANITO MENENDEZ	*116*	*1997-99*
CRAIG LARIZ	*114*	*1993-96*
STEVEN WELLS Jr.	*106*	*2011-14*
MIGUEL MENENDEZ	*102*	*1993-95*
JOEY WARDLOW	*100*	*1981-84*

TEAM RECORDS:

MOST WINS IN A SEASON---35---1996
MOST LOSSES IN A SEASON---16---2021
MOST SHUT OUTS IN A SEASON---10—1999, & 2005
MOST RUNS SCORED IN A GAME---25---2000, 24 in 1964 & 2000, and 23 runs in 2000
MOST HITS IN A GAME---20 VS RANSOM EVERGLADES 3-21-2000
MOST RUNS SCORED IN AN INNING—16 VS CHAMPAGNAT 4-11-15
BEST FIELDING % IN A SEASON---.962—2014
MOST TIMES HIT BY A PITCH IN A SEASON---52—2023
HIGHEST TEAM BATTING AVG. IN A SEASON--.354----2014
MOST TOTAL HITS IN A SEASON—299----1996
MOST SINGLES IN A SEASON—220----1996
MOST DOUBLES IN A SEASON—68----2014
MOST TRIPLES IN A SEASON—21----97
MOST HOMERUNS IN A SEASON—27----2005
MOST XTRA BASE HITS IN A SEASON---102---1995—60 DOUBLES, 24 TRIPLES, 18 HR'S
MOST RUNS IN A SEASON—294----1996
MOST RBI'S IN A SEASON—226---2005
MOST K'S BY OUR PITCHING STAFF IN A SEASON----280---1984
LOWEST TEAM E.R.A. IN A SEASON----1.46---1976
MOST RUNS GIVEN UP IN A GAME----21 AGAINST ROYAL PALM BEACH
MOST HITS GIVEN UP IN A GAME-----23 AGAINST GULLIVER 2003
LONGEST WINNING STREAK 43 GAMES—95 & 96 (ENDED WITH 27, THEN CONTINUED WITH 16 TO START THE FOLLOWING YEAR)
LONGEST HOME WINNING STREAK 36—95 & 96
MOST HOMERUNS IN A GAME---6 VS ST. THOMAS AQUINAS FEB. 26-1983
LONGEST GAME---14 INNINGS IN 1985 VS SOUTHRIDGE

TOP 10 HITTERS

NAME	AVG.	YEAR
KHALIL GREENE	.500	98
BEN HARRISON	.494	98

2.PRESTON HERCE	.494	2022	
JOHN “BOOG” POWELL	.489	59	
RICHIE PAZO	.479	75	
4.DARREN MILLS	.479	94	
RALPHIE HENRIQUEZ 3rd	.478	2005	
DEXTER BUTLER	.473	2004	
JEFF HOLMES	.466	73	
FRANKIE RATCLIFF Jr.	.465	2008	
ONERI DAVID FLEITA	.458	83	
CRAIG LARIZ	.458	96	
9.STEVEN WELLS Jr.	.458	2014	
MIGUEL MENENDEZ	.457	94	

ALL OTHER 400 + HITTERS:

11. DEXTER BUTLER	.456	2003	
12. HENRY ESQUINALDO	.449	63	
12. TONY LOPEZ	.449	2006	
13. SAM HOLLAND	.448	59	
13. ADRIAN MERKEY	.448	95	
14. LOUIE PAZO Sr.	.447	76	
15. CLINTON STORR	.446	2005	
16. CRAIG LARIZ	.444	95	
17. ROBERT SANTANA	.442	61	
17. MIGUEL MENENDEZ	.442	95	
17. DARREN MILLER	.442	2014	
18. JULIO HENRIQUEZ	.440	54	
18. ROBERT SANTANA	.440	61	
19. JACK HAGGARD	.436	23	
20. GEORGE LASTRES	.434	54	
20. GREG VELIZ	.434	2014	
21. KENNY ALLEN	.432	72	
21. RAIKO ALFONSO	.432	2008	
22. NOLAN THOMAS	.430	2010	
23. JOHN “BOOG” POWELL	.425	58	
23. BILLY WARDLOW Jr.	.425	92	
24. JOEY WARDLOW	.424	84	
25. GARY MOORE	.422	88	
25. ONERI DAVID FLEITA	.421	84	
26. NICKY BERTIAUX	.421	2009	
26. MICHAEL HENRIQUEZ Jr.	.421	2011	
27. FREDDY VARELA Jr.	.420	85	
27. DEXTER BUTLER	.420	2002	
28. LENNY CAREY	.417	63	
28. KHALIL GREENE	.417	97	
29. ELOY RODRIQUEZ	.413	55	
29. DARREN MILLER	.413	2014	
30. JOEY WARDLOW	.410	82	
31. LOUIE PAZO	.409	75	
31. FREDDY VARELA Jr.	.409	84	
31. JOHNNY MONTSALVATGE	.409	2011	
32. EZRA JOSEPHSON	.406	06	
33. DON CRUZ	.405	54	
34. JOEY WARDLOW	.402	84	
34. GREG VELIZ	.402	2015	

35. RUSS MILLIKEN	.400	81	
35. KEVIN CABANAS	.400	86	
35. TREVOR ZUELCH	.400		2022

******* In 1949, Ralph Henriquez, and John Solomon both might have hit over .500, but there are no records to confirm this.***

<u>WILLIAMSPORT, PENNSYLVANIA—LITTLE LEAGUE WORLD SERIES-1953</u>
JOHN " BOOG " POWELL-- PITCHER, CARL TAYLOR—CATCHER, CHARLIE POWELL-OUTFIELDER

<u>MAJOR LEAGUE ALL STAR:</u>
JOHN "BOOG" POWELL –1969 & 70 AMERICAN LEAGUE WITH THE BALTIMORE ORIOLES

<u>MAJOR LEAGUE MOST VALUABLE PLAYER:</u>
JOHN "BOOG" POWELL-1970 AMERICAN LEAGUE WITH THE BALTIMORE ORIOLES

<u>BALTIMORE ORIOLES HALL OF FAME:</u>
JOHN "BOOG" POWELL
RICHIE BANCELL

<u>MAJOR LEAGUE COMEBACK PLAYER OF THE YEAR:</u> JOHN "BOOG" POWELL-1975 WITH THE CLEVELAND INDIANS

<u>BASEBALL AMERICA'S ROOKIE OF THE YEAR</u>: KHALIL GREEN 2004

<u>MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL WORLD SERIES APPEARANCES:</u>
JOHN "BOOG" POWELL---1966, 69, 70, 71--BALTIMORE ORIOLES
CARL TAYLOR---1971--PITTSBURGH PIRATES
RICHIE GARCIA---1981, 84, 89, & 98—MLB UMPIRE

<u>TOPPS ALL AMERICAN:</u>
RANDY STERLING Sr. 1969

1972, The Conchs played a two game set against Miami Southwest. The conchs were known as the hitless wonders. That weekend Southwest and Key West's Paul Hammond threw a no-hitter against each other and the Conchs won 1-0. The next day, Southwest threw another no-hitter against Key West, and the Conchs pitcher Brooks Carey threw a one hitter. Key West wins 1-0. Three no hitters and a one hitter. These games appeared in the Sports Illustrated magazine believe it or not.

<u>ONLY FAMILY TO HAVE 4 CHILDREN PLAY VARSITY BASEBALL AND GO ON TO PLAY IN COLLEGE:</u>

THE MILLIKENS: ***RUSS, RANDY, HAROLD, AND CHRISTIAN. AT KWHS AND PLAYED AT ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITY.***

GOLDEN SPIKES AWARD (BEST PLAYER IN COLLEGE NCAA DIVISION 1):

KHALIL GREENE--------CLEMSON UNIVERSITY 2002
HE HAD HIS NUMBER 14 RETIRED AT CLEMSON.
TOP 10 ALL-TIME GREATEST BASEBALL PLAYERS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA:
BEN HARRISON

UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA BASEBALL HALL OF FAME:
JOEY WARDLOW

KWHS BASEBALL ON ESPN SCHOLASTIC SPORTS AMERICA APRIL 8 1996

KWHS BASEBALL IS ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE SPORTS SECTION IN THE USA TODAY 1996.

ESPN FILMS WEEKLY SHOW FOR HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS WHICH FEATURED OUR CONCHS ON MARCH 22, 1996.

NUMBER ONE RANKED HIGHSCHOOL TEAM IN THE COUNTRY ON MARCH 13, 1996.

NOT ONLY WERE THE CONCHS NUMBER 1 IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA, BUT THEY WERE RANKED THE TOP DOG (NUMBER 1) IN 4 NATIONAL POLLS AS OF APRIL 3, 1996.

STEVE WELLS Jr. HITS THE GAME WINNING HOMERUN FOR FSU TO GIVE COACH MARTIN A VICTORY THAT MADE HIM THE ALL-TIME WINNGEST COACH IN DIVISION 1 BASEBALL IN THE NCAA.

MIZUNO ALL AMERICAN BASEBALL TEAM:

CRAIG LARIZ—1995, 1996
PAULIE WALTERSON—HONORABLE MENTION—1996

AFLAC ALL-AMERICAN TEAM:

RALPHIE HENRIQUEZ III 2005

TOP 64 PLAYERS IN AMERICA: TEAM ONE NATIONAL BASEBALL SHOWCASE GAMES JUNE 20-23 1996:

JR MOUNTS & RANDY STERLING Jr.

AFLAC ALL-STAR GAME

RALPHIE HENRIQUEZ III 2005
MICHAEL ARENCIBIA 2009

GEICO BASEBALL CLASSIC

ANTHON LARIZ 2023

HSBN ALL-STAR GAME

ANDRIS "LUCKY" BARROSO 2023
JACK HAGGARD 2023
ANDEN RADY 2023

BROTHERS THAT WERE BATTERY MATES:

HAROLD AND CHRISTIAN MILLIKEN 1986
JACOB AND NOAH BURNHAM 2022-24

PLAYERS WHO WON A NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP IN COLLEGE:

ROBERT "SPEEDY' NEAL—UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI-FOOTBALL 1983
MIGUEL MENENDEZ------UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA-BASEBALL 1998
ADRIAN MERKEY---------- UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA-BASEBALL 1998
FRANKIE GRIZZLE-MALGRAT---FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY-FOOTBALL 2014

FORMER CONCH PLAYERS WHO HAVE BECOME A HEAD COACH AND COACHED AGAINST EACH OTHER:

COACH	*SCHOOL*	*KWHS HEAD COACH:*
RANDY MILLIKEN	**NORTH MIAMI BEACH**	**VS PEDRO FRAGA**
RANDY MILLIKEN	**NORTH MIAMI BEACH**	**VS RUSS MILLIKEN**
RUSS MILLIKEN	**FOREST HILL**	**VS BROOKS CAREY**
RUSS MILLIKEN	**FOREST HILL**	**VS MIGUEL MENENDEZ**
RALPH HENRIQUEZ Jr.	**BELEN**	**VS MIGUEL MENENDEZ**
DAX RANKINE	**ATLANTIC DELRAY**	**VS MIGUEL MENENDEZ**
JOEY WARDLOW	**ST. THOMAS AQUAINAS**	**VS RALPH HENRIQUEZ JR.**
DAVID PARRA	**JOHN CARROLL CATHOLIC**	**VS RALPH HENRIQUEZ JR.**

CONCHS WITH A COMBO: A STATE TITLE, NATIONAL TITLE, A WORLD SERIES, OR HAS COACHED A TEAM TO A STATE TITLE:

JOHN BOOG POWELL- STATE TITLE AND WORLD SERIES
CARL TAYLOR- STATE TITLE AND WORLD SERIES

GEORGE MIRA- STATE TITLE, SUPERBOWL & WORLD BOWL
RICHIE GARCIA- STATE TITLE AND WORLD SERIES UMPIRE
MIGUEL MENENDEZ- STATE TITLE, COLLEGE NATIONAL TITLE BASEBALL, & COACHED A TEAM TO A STATE TITLE
ADRIAN MERKEY- STATE TITLE, COLLEGE NATIONAL TITLE BASEBALL

SAM "SAMBILL" HOLLAND PLAYED ON 3 STATE TITLES 56, 58- & 59

LOOK AT THE LIST BELOW OF WHO MADE THE SHOW, AND WHO WAS DRAFTED AND PLAYED IN THE MINORS!!!

CONCHS & MARINER WHO MADE THE SHOW:

RICHIE GARCIA-MLB UMPIRE
BOOG POWEL-ORIOLES- INDIANS, DODGERS
CARL TAYLOR-PIRATES- CARDINALS, ROYALS
VICTOR ALBURY- INDIANS,TWINS
RANDY STERLING Sr.-METS
RICHIE BANCELLS-MARY IMMACULATE-HEAD TRIANER-ORIOLES
KHALIL GREENE-PADRES & CARDINALS
BILLY WARDLOW Jr.-HEAD EQUIPMENT MANAGER FOR THE BLUEJAYS

RETIRED NUMBERS:

BOOG POWELL—23
RICHIE GARCIA—2
CARL TAYLOR—2
RANDY STERLING Sr.—16
VICTOR ALBURY—20
PEDRO FRAGA---15
KHALIL GREENE—5
BILLY WARDLOW Jr.—1
JONATHAN WELLS—7
RALPH HENRIQUEZ JR.---17

RANDY STERLING SR. (4TH-METS) AND KHALIL GREEN (13TH-PADRES) ARE THE ONLY CONCH PLAYERS TO BE DRAFTED IN ROUND 1 OF THE MLB DRAFT.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL STARTED TO DRAFT PLAYERS IN 1966. THESE CONCHS PLAYERS SIGNED TO PLAY PRO BALL:

NAME	*CLUB*
KENNETH MEADOR	*DELAND (FLS) CO-OP CLUB*
RALPH HENRIQUEZ Sr.	*INDIANS*

GEORGE LASTRES	NY GIANTS
JAMES "ROCKY" PORTIER	BROOKLYN DODGERS
DONNIE CRUZ	BROOKLYN DODGERS
GIBBY GATES	BROOKLYN DODGERS
RICHARD SALGADO	BROOKLYN DODGERS
JULIO HENRIQUEZ	BROOKLYN DODGERS
ROBERT LASTRES	BROOKLYN DODGERS
VINCENT CATALA	BROOKLYN DODGERS
ELOY RODRIGUEZ	NY GIANTS
JULIO SANTANA	NY GIANTS
ROGER BEAN	BROOKLYN DODGERS
TONY HOPEY	BROOKLYN DODGERS
JAMES PORTIER	BROOKLYN DODGERS
JOHN "BOOG" POWELL	ORIOLES
ROBERT SANTANA	INDIANS
CHARLIE POWELL	ORIOLES
CARL TAYLOR	PIRATES
STEVE THOMPSON	SUNCATS (FSL) KW
MARTY ARNOLD	SUNCATS (FSL) KW

DRAFTED PLAYERS AND ROUNDS:

ROUND	NAME	SCHOOL ATTENDED	TEAM
1	Randy Sterling	Key West High	Mets
1	Khalil Greene	Clemson Univ.	Padres
2	Ralphie Henriquez 3rd	Key West High	Astros
3	J.R. Mounts	Key West High	White Sox
4	Ben Harrison	Univ. of Florida	Indians
6	Harold Milliken	Key West High	Athletics
7	Ralph Henriquez Jr.	Indian River Community College	Indians
7	Ben Harrison	Univ. of Florida	Rangers
9	Victor Albury	Key West High	Indians
10	Lawrence Davila	Key West High	Phillies
10	Brooks Carey	Florida State Univ.	Orioles
13	Ray Revak	Key West High	Red Sox
13	Antonio Knowles	Fl. Southwestern State College	Dodgers
14	Khalil Greene	Clemson Univ.	Cubs
14	Blayne Weller	Key West High	Twins
17	Mike Abreu	Hillsborough Community College	Diamondbacks
17	Michael Alfonso	Key West High	Rangers
18	Michael Balbuena	Key West High	Dodgers
19	Mark Robinson	Key West High	Angels
19	David Oneri Fleita	Key West High	Expos
19	Reidier Gonzalez	St. Pete Community College	Blue Jays
20	Joey Wardlow	Univ. of Tampa	Rangers
20	Randy Niles	Florida State Univ.	Athletics
21	David (Martin) Niles	Key West High	Rockies
22	Clinton Storr	Key West High	Indians
22	Brandon Presley	Fl. Southwestern St.	Brewers
24	Marcus Davila	Tallahassee Community College	Pirates
26	Steven Parker	Key West High	Cardinals

27	Antonio Knowles	Key West High	Rangers
28	Terrence Stofer	Key West High	Giants
28	Bobby Hernandez	Barry Univ.	Dodgers
30	Eddy Roberts	Key West High	Dodgers
37	Craig Lariz	Key West High	Blue Jays
38	Reidier Gonzalez	St. Pete Community College	Rockies
38	Bobby Hernandez	Barry Univ.	Red Sox
39	Kenny Rhaming	Miami Dade Community College	Indians
40	Frankie Ratcliffe	Univ. of Houston	Diamondbacks
43	Darren Miller	Key West High	Marlins
43	Ben Lowe	Indian River Community College	BlueJays
45	Devin Butler	Key West High	Brewers
46	Marcus Davila	Key West High	Dodgers
47	Randy Niles	Key West High	Brewers
47	Adrian Merkey	Polk Jr. College	Angels
54	Craig Lariz	Indian River Community College	BlueJays

COACHING YEARS

YEAR	NAME	RECORD	%
1944	R H Stone	no records found	
1946	Fred Hoffmeister,	no records found	
1948	Nathan Pepper	no records found	
1949,50 & 52	Winston "Win" Jones	16-3	.842
1953-55	Paul Davis	74-8	.902**
1956-57	Harold Allen	36-9	.800**
1958-60	Jim Anderson	57-15	.791*
1961-64	Paul Gallagher	63-11	.851
1965-66	Jim Pannell	25-18	.581
1967-74	Otto Tufenkjian	126-56	.692*
1975-1991	Pedro Fraga	274-16	.663*
1992-93	Russ Milliken	30-19	.612
1998-00	Brooks Carey	80-20	.800*
2006-13	Miguel Menendez	120-94	.560
1994-97, 2001-2005, 2014-Present	Ralph Henriquez Jr.	383-168-2	.692***
		1,284-437-2	.745

*= number of State Championships for that coach.

MOST CAREER WINS: RALPH HENRIQUEZ Jr.--------360 (REG SEASON & PLAYOFFS ONLY) 19 SEASONS AND STILL COACHING.

FORMER CONCH PLAYERS HAVE COME BACK TO LEAD THE CONCH BASEBALL PROGRAM:

PEDRO FRAGA	1975-91
RUSS MILLIKEN	1992-93
RALPH HENRIQUEZ Jr. (3 TIMES)	1994-97, 2001-05, 2014-PRESENT
BROOKS CAREY	1998-00
MIGUEL MENENDEZ	2006-13

FLORIDA ATHLETIC COACHES ASSOCIATION COACH OF THE YEAR:

OTTO TUFENKJIAN---1969
PEDRO FRAGA--------1984
RALPH HENRIQUEZ Jr.----1996

FLORIDA DIAMOND CLUB COACH OF THE YEAR:

RALPH HENRIQUEZ Jr.----1996

HIGHSCHOOL BASEBALL NETWORK HALL OF FAME:

RALPH HENRIQUEZ Jr.----2023

LONGEST TENURED HEAD COACH:

RALPH HENRIQUEZ Jr. 19 YEARS

DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIPS--(32): 1949, 50, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 69, 72, 74, 82, 84, 86, 88, 89, 93, 94, 95, 96, 2003, 04, 05, 11, 14, 17, 18, 19, 22, & 23

THERE ARE ONLY 6 LOSING SEASONS IN OUR PROGRAM'S HISTORY: 1966, 71, 2013, 17, 19 & 21

AFTER 73 SEASONS, THE PROGRAM HAS 1,284 WINS, & 11 STATE TITLES. NOT BAD FOR A SMALL ISLAND, WHERE BASEBALL IS KING!

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP APPEARANCES (14): 11-3

1953	*KEY WEST 7	TATE 3
1954	ST. PETERSBURG 9	KEY WEST 5
1955	* KEY WEST 3	JACKSONVILLE ANDREW JACKSON 2
1956	*KEY WEST 8	JACKSONVILLE ANDREW JACKSON 3
1958	* KEY WEST 1	AVON PARK 0
1959	* KEY WEST 3	MILTON 2
1969	*KEY WEST 3	LAKELAND KATHLEEN 0
1972	ST. PETERSBURG BISHOP BERRY 5	KEY WEST 0
1984	*KEY WEST 7	MELBOURNE PALM BAY 5
1994	PALMETTO 7	KEY WEST 6
1995	* KEY WEST 6	SEMINOLE OSCEOLA 4
1996	* KEY WEST 11	JACKSONVILLE BISHOP KENNY 6
1998	* KEY WEST 4	MONSIGNOR PACE 3
2005	*KEY WEST 7	ORLANDO BISHOP MOORE 0

KEY WEST IS TIED FOR THE MOST STATE TITLES WITH----------11

KEY WEST IS THE ONLY SCHOOL TO* EVER WIN *5 TITLES IN ONE DECADE!!! (50'S)
THE CONCHS HAVE PLAYED IN 100 TOURNAMENT GAMES (AFTER DISTRICTS) AND WON 69
NO SCHOOL TRAVELS TO A STATE TOURNAMENT BETTER THAN KEY WEST AS THEY AVERAGE OVER 2,000 LOYAL SUPPORTERS AT THE STATE FINAL 4!!!!!!!

I INCLUDED THIS, AS MARY IMMACULATE AND DOUGLAS ARE APART OF OUR KEY WEST HISTORY.

MARY IMMACULATE INFO:

MAY 4, 1966 THEY DEFEAT KEY WEST HIGH 3-2 AT WICKERS FIELD.
1966 State Semi's: AVON PARK 13 MARY IMMACULATE 3
1971 CLEARWATER CENTRAL CATHOLIC 1 MARY IMMACULATE 0
1972 MARY IMMACULATE 12 CLEARWATER CENTRAL CATHOLIC 4
HEAD COACH WILLIAM ZUMBERIS
KELLY SCOTT LEADS DIVISION II VALDOSTA STATE TO A NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP IN 1980,
THEN IS SIGNED BY THE YANKEES AND GETS AS HIGH AS AAA.

DOUGLAS HIGH SCHOOL:

THEY HAD NO BASEBALL PROGRAM.

JAMES "ROCKY" PORTIER PLAYED IN THE INDEPENDENT NEGRO LEAGUE, THEN THE NEGRO LEAGUE (1956-1958) FOR THE INDIANAPOLIS CLOWNS. HE WAS INDUCTED INTO THE NEGRO HALL OF FAME AND THE BASEBALL HALL OF FAME 2022.

HISTORY:

1940'S:

*There were teams in the **40'S**, but information is sketchy. The **44** team was led by **R H Stone**, and the **Conchs** played **Lake Worth High** in their **very first game** and **lost 19-0**. On that squad were: Harry "Bubba" Smelting, Charles Roche, Kenneth Meador, Jim Barker, Joe Alonso, Florencio Reyes, Adolph Lastres, Jimmy Register, Claude Valdez, Galey Sweeting, Joe Fleitas, Arthur Boza, Lee Griffin, Donald Lund, Zanzetti (1st name unknown). The **46** squad was led by **Fred Hoffmeister**. On that team were the following: Ed Head, Adolph Lastres, Claude Valdez, Galey Sweeting, Gilbert Valdez, Charles Perez, Kenneth Kerr, Oscar Cruz, Jack McCoy, Billy Albury, Robert Cruz, Curry Herring, Joe Fleitas, Al Cruz, Kenneth Meador, Harry Stonesipher, and Fred Miller the manager. **Nathan Pepper** took the helm in **48**. Players on the team were: Lee Griffin, Eggie Kerr, Kenneth "Bo" Meador, Eugene "Bubba" Sweeting, Paul Higgenbotham, Claude Valdez, Adolph Lastres, Charles Ogden, Bobby Brown,*

Tito Anguera, Joe Lewis, Ralph "Moe" Henriquez, John "Tinky" Knowles, O.B. Ingraham, John "Jingles" Solomon, Oscar Oropeza, Terry Doughtry, Raymond Gwinn, Charlie Wells and Alton Goehring

Coach Winston "Win" Jones** took over the **49** squad. He led the Conchs to their very **First District Title**. The Conchs made it to the **Quarter Finals, losing** to **Avon Park 5-2** in **Class B.

*On that squad were: Raymond Gywnn, John Solomon, Overton Ingraham, Ralph Henriquez, Terry Daughtry, Joe Lewis, Oscar Oropeza, Gerald Hernandez, Alton Goehring, George Cathey, Sam Roberts, John Knowles, James Sheppard, Jose Fernandez, and manager James Carey. They finished the season **7-1.** **1 District Championship, 0 state titles.***

1950'S:

*The **50** team won the **District Title**, but we don't know how far they made it into the play-offs. There wasn't a team in **51**.*

*The **52** team played a limited schedule and didn't meet the requirements of playing enough games to qualify for the state tournament.*

*The **53** Team under **Coach Paul Davis**, went **26-2** and won the very **First State Title** in the school's history. They **defeated Tate 7-3** in the **Class A**. The Conchs went on to **represent Florida** in the **Southeastern Regional High School Tournament,** where they **beat** the **State Champions** from **Alabama** and **Kentucky** before **losing** to the **State Champion from Georgia** in the **finals**. The **School District** has a stadium built on Kennedy Dr. for both Football and Baseball.*

*In **54**, with the nucleus of returning players from the **First State Title** in **53**, the Conchs went **25-2**, **losing** in the State Class **2A finals** to **St. Petersburg 9-5**.*

*The **55** team won the **Second State 2A Title** with a **3-2 win** over **Andrew Jackson** of Jacksonville, the Conchs finished the year with a **25-4** record. Paul Davis wins his **second Title**. On that team were: Eloy Rodriguez, Julio Santana, Roger Bean, Paul Higgs, and a great left handed pitcher, Toney Hopey.*

***Coach Harold Allen** took over the reins, and the **56** team went on to win another **State Class 2A Championship** as we had a repeat of the 55 game. Key West **Defeats Andrew Jackson** of Jacksonville **8-3**. They finished the year with an **18-5** record. Toney Hopey struck out **18** batters in one game in the tournament to tie **Herb Score** for the **tournament record**. Julito Santana hit the **first homerun** it went out of Ft. Pierce's Jaycee Field in the **State Tournament**, then hit a **Grand Slam** against Lakeland. Members of this squad were: Sid "Mockingbird" Kerr, "Jungle Rat" Diaz, Stu Yates, Robbie Knowles, Everett Atwell, Danny Oropeza and Jimmy Mira.*

*In **57**, the Conchs made it to the **State Title** game for the **3rd** year in a row. Unfortunately they **lost** to Winter Park **2-1**. They finished the season **18-4**. Toney Hopey went **6-1**, pitching in the State Tournament for **2** years.*

*The **58** & **59** teams were under a new Head Coach. **Coach Jim Anderson** took over and led the Conchs to **Back to Back State Titles.** Key West **Defeated Avon***

Park 1-0 *in the* ***58 A State Title*** *game and* ***beat Milton 3-2*** *for the* ***59 2A State Title****. The Conchs won* ***52*** *games, going* ***23-3*** *in* ***58*** *and* ***19-7*** *in* ***59****. George Mira was the main pitcher and John* ***"Boog"*** *Powell did the blasting of homeruns and hitting. Powell, Taylor and Garcia all had careers in the* ***Majors****, and Mira in the* ***NFL, CFL, and WFL! Not bad for a school on a 4 mile long by 2 mile wide island.*** *Team Members for those years were: George Mira, John "Boog" Powell, Bill Solomon, Carl Taylor, Mike Hughes, Mono Casas, Sam Holland, Bobby Pazo, Ritchie Garcia, Robert "Cuban" Santana, Ronnie Young, Richard Curry, Nib Rodriquez, Howie Barnwell, Jimmy Williams, Evelio "Pint" Estevez, and Eckie Solomon* ***loses*** *his* ***life Serving*** *our* ***Country*** *in the* **Vietnam War.**

The Conchs made the State Final 4, 7 years in a row, winning 5 State Titles in the decade, a feat no other High School has ever matched!!!!!!!!

8 District Championships, & 5 State Titles

<u>1960's:</u>

The ***60*** *team led by George Mira went* ***15-5****, and made the* ***State Tournament****, but were eliminated early. Mira lost his first game in the State Tournament in* ***3*** *years of pitching.*

Pat Gallagher *took over as the Head Coach from* ***61-64****. The Conchs would win* ***63*** *games during that span losing only* ***11****. They set a record with* ***19*** *wins in a row in* ***61*** *as they finished that season* ***20-1****. The loss that season knocked them out of the State Tournament. Members of the early* ***60*** *teams were: John McCormick, Leslie Weech, Serge Sanchez (Pitchers), while Robert Santana, Carl Taylor, Charlie Powell and Danny McCormick were the top players.*

The ***65 & 66*** *teams were coached by* ***Jim Pannell****. The Conchs won* ***25*** *games in that time span. He would later be replaced by New coach****, Otto Tufenkjian****. On* ***May 4****,* ***1966*** *Key West played* ***Mary Immaculate*** *for the first time at Wickers field in front of* ***400*** *fans and* ***lost 3-2*** *as ninth grader* ***Randy Sterling Sr****. pitched the victory for the* ***Mariners****, he would later transfer to* ***Key West High*** *for the rest of his High School career.*

67 *Tufenkjian's team won* ***29*** *games his first* ***2*** *years. The stand out performers in the* ***mid 60's*** *were: Vic Albury, Lenny Carey, Damaso Santana, Henry Esquinaldo, Kenny Mesa, Chuck King, Pedro Fraga, Terry Stofer, Phillip Montero, Steve Thompson, and Ralph and Marty Arnold.*

The ***69*** *Key West Conchs* ***hit the Jackpot****. The Conchs made it back to the* ***State Tournament*** *and Coach Tufenkjian's team* ***won the Class A Title defeating Lakeland Kathleen*** *in their backyard in Lakeland! After that great victory, the Conchs then played* ***Class AA Champion Hialeah*** *in the* ***playoff game*** *for the* ***Greater Miami Athletic Conference Title****. The Conchs* ***won*** *the contest over the* ***Thoroughbreds*** *to lay claim to the* ***<u>Overall State Championship</u>****. (Shouldn't this be* ***two*** *instead of* ***one****?) The Conchs went* ***22-4****, and Randy Sterling capped a spectacular high School career with an amazing* ***553*** *strike outs in* ***211*** *innings pitched. He was the* ***4th*** *overall pick in the* ***Major League Draft*** *by the* ***New York Mets.*** *Key members of that squad: Battery*

mate Wayne "Goldie" Goldstein, Peter Valdez, Bill Spottswood, Kenny Wardlow, Clarence "Gully" Poitier, David Campo Cliff Lunn, Armando Quesada, and Dennis Bell.

***2 District championships, &* 1 State Title**

1970's:

Mary Immaculate *goes to the* ***71*** *State Tournament and* ***loses*** *in the* ***Finals*** *to* ***Clearwater Central Catholic 1-0.***

The Conchs went back to the State Tournament in ***72****. They reached the* ***Finals*** *of the* ***State Tournament*** *losing to* ***Class AAA Champion St. Petersburg Bishop Berry 5-0****. The final record was* ***18-8****. In that same season,* ***Mary Immaculate*** *goes to the* ***State Tournament*** *and has a rematch and* ***defeats Clearwater Central Catholic 12-4.*** *Hard to believe that an island* ***4*** *miles long by* ***2*** *miles wide sent* ***two*** *teams to the* ***FHSAA STATE TOURNAMENT!!!!!!!!***

The ***74*** *squad lost in the* ***Semi Finals of the State Tournament to Leesburg 2-1*** *in* ***nine*** *innings. Their final record was* ***16-11.*** *Key Members of these teams were: Brooks Carey, Paulie Hammond, Ritchie Pazo, Victor Gallardo, Sid Poitier, Bobby Whyms, Steve Barrios, Ralph Henriquez Jr., Donald Brown, Louie Pazo, Kenny Allen, John Domenech, Bill Robinson, Bruce Tingley, and* ***Eloy Rodriguez Jr****. a member of the* ***74*** *team would* ***lose*** *his* ***life Serving*** *his* ***Country*** *as an* ***Army Medic in Operation Desert Storm. Coach Tufenkjian gets fired.***

The ***75*** *team has a new Coach in* ***Pedro Fraga****, the* ***first alumni*** *to graduate and come back to be the Head Coach of his* ***Alma Mater****. March 22,1975 John I. Leonard* ***no hits*** *Key West, but loses the game in* ***9*** *innings* ***1-0****, also that season Key West plays* ***Marathon High*** *for the* ***first*** *meeting between the Keys schools. Key West wins* ***5-4*** *in* ***9*** *innings.* ***Carlos Herrera*** *pitches a* ***Perfect game****,* ***15 up, 15 down*** *in a* ***10-0*** *rout of Pace on April 19. Key West plays* ***Mary Immaculate*** *for the second time in* ***77*** *at KWHS stadium in front of* ***300*** *fans, beating them* ***16-1****. In that same season, they had* ***three*** *straight* ***no-hitters*** *pitched by Larry Davila, Mark Ingraham, and Davila again. The teams they no hit were Charlotte twice and Hallandale. In 1978 the Conchs played* ***Marathon*** *for the second time and beat them* ***7-1*** *on April 22. On March 19,1978 the Conchs defeat* ***Mary Immaculate*** *for the third time* ***16-3*** *at Wickers Stadium. The Conchs fielded good teams for the remainder of the* ***70's*** *but* ***failed*** *to win a* ***State Title****. Players from the mid to end of the* ***70's*** *were: Larry Davila, Frank Padron, Mark Ingraham, Richie Quesada, Tim Tucker, Ricky Warren, Derek Parker, Ricky Jones, Bard Capas, Benny Aleman, Keith and Kevin Butler, George Menendez, Mike Cooper, Steve Wells, Toney Roberts, and Robert* ***"Speedy"*** *Neal who was* ***drafted*** *in the* ***NFL*** *by the* ***Buffalo Bills****.*

2 District Championships, & 0 State Titles

1980's:

In ***80 & 81*** *the Conchs fielded competitive teams but couldn't get out of District Play. They beat Marathon for the third time in their tournament 5-0 on April 18, 1981. They were led by the Milliken Twins: Randy and Russ along with Chris Curry, Timmy Rodriguez, Randy Ealy, John Sellers, Gene Findley, and Bobby Schreiber.*

*The **82** team was within one game of making the **State Final 4, losing** in the **Sectional Class 3A Championship** to **Palm Beach North Shore 6-4.** They finished the season **19-9.** They were **District Champions** led by: Joey Wardlow, George Lopez, Shecky Archer, Carl Allen, John Correll, Mike Henriquez Sr., Joe **"Bubba"** Santana, Kenny Rahming, Trond Welters, Donnie Catala, Raymond Revak and Reinaldo Rojas. Joey Wardlow goes **5-5** against Columbus and Key West played Coral Shores. The Hurricanes throw a **2** hitter at the Conchs but lose 5-1.*

*The **84** squad, **won** the **District, Region, and Sectional Championships** on their way to the **States Final 4**. Coach Fraga wins his Championship **beating Melbourne Palm Bay 7-5** for the Schools **7th State Title in Class 3A.** The Conchs finished the year **24-8**. **Todd Swofford of WKIZ 1500 am broadcasts the game back to Key West.** The Conchs were led by Oneri David Fleita and Freddy Varela Jr., Key West got a huge surprise from pitcher Shaun Niles who was the pitching star in the State Tournament. Members of this team were: Joey Wardlow, Marc Lastres, Louie Blanco, Joey Diaz, Joey Gandolfo, Vince Bervaldi, Alvin Whyms, Alan Brickhouse, Al del Valle, Ricky Jaynes, Louie Gonzalez, and Donnie Elomina.*

*In **85**, Left hander Al delValle earned a **special** place in **KWHS Baseball Lore** when he pitched a **Perfect game 21 up and 21 down** in **beating Ft. Pierce Central 3-0**. **Ironically,** his battery mate, catcher Louie Gonzalez and Al were born only hours apart on the same day at **Monroe General Hospital.***

***86, 88, & 89** teams all **win District Championships** but don't advance to the State's Final 4. The streak of **18** consecutive winning seasons continue. Key players were:*
Scott Russell, Diego Caso, Kenny Hart, James Howard, Harold and Christian Milliken, John and Chris Hall, Alan Collins, Gary Moore, Kevin Cabanas, Ronnie Acevedo, Matt Alfonso, John Jackson, Billy Sawyer, Steve Pita, Harry Russell, Tad Cervantes, Andy Barrera, Ralph Sanchez, Juan Perez, Brian Merkey, Chris Valdez, and Kenny Wardlow Jr..

5 District Championships, & 1 State Title

<u>1990's:</u>

*After **2** more winning seasons, but no championships, Coach Fraga **retires** after the 91 season, and was the Conchs longest tenured Head Coach for **17** seasons, (the Most of any coach at Key West High) and **274** wins, the **2nd** most amongst Conch coaches in **all** sports.*

*In **92, KWHS GRAD Russ Milliken** takes the reins of his **Alma Mater.** Doing a **two** year stint. Coach Milliken wins the **District Title** in 93 but **loses** a heart breaker in the Regional **Championship 1-0**. Coach Milliken moves and takes over the baseball program at **Forest Hill High school in West Palm Beach**. Members of these two squads were: Blane Barroso, Jonathan Jolly, JP Garcia, Jason Garcia, Chris Huffine, Jack Niles, Timmy Veliz, Mike Michaud, Sherman Hamlin, Willie Zerpa, Peter Fraga, Billy Parker, Billy Wardlow, Benny Lower, Alan Cruz, Jeff Hart, Mario Mira, Chris Zuelch, Tony Dipaolo, and Kevin Artigue.*

94, KWHS GRAD and JV Head Coach, Ralph Henriquez Jr*. takes the helm. On* ***Jan. 11.*** *Legendary* ***Grounds keeper Rex Weech passes*** *and will be forever missed****!*** *Coach Henriquez brings a new* ***work ethic*** *to the program like never before. Every situation broken down to the littlest detail is covered in practice. It pays off as Key West goes back to the* ***State Tournament*** *with a tremendous team that had pitching, hitting and defense. Key West wins the* ***Districts.*** *The Conchs* ***set records*** *with* ***home attendance*** *for the play-offs leading up to the States. The State goes to a different format with the first game after districts being a* ***Sub Regional****. The Conchs play* ***South Broward*** *and* ***win 10-0****. Next up is the* ***Regional Finals*** *where* ***4*** *teams play at the No.1 seeded school, which is Key West. The Conchs take care of business cruising by* ***Naples Lely 13-1****, and the next night they crush* ***Clearwater 9-2*** *in front of 1,800 screaming Conch fans. Key West is headed to the* ***State's Final 4****. Key West plays* ***Clearwater*** *in the Semi's and* ***wins 9-2.*** *Key West loses to* ***Palmetto 7-6*** *in the* ***Championship*** *game before* ***2,000 loyal Conch fans****. It is the* ***third runner-up*** *trophy for the program, and the team finishes* ***25-7.*** *Players who were part of this team were: Martin and Randy Niles, Phil Dillmore, Timmy Parker, Darren Mills, Aaron Johnson Eric Balbuena, and Heath Brundage.*

95*, This turned out to be the* ***season*** *of* ***seasons*** *for the Conchs. The town was abuzz with excitement. Playing in front of an average of* ***1,000 fans*** *at each* ***home*** *game, the Conchs were unbeatable. They* ***win*** *their* ***District*** *handily and* ***crush South Broward 7-0 in the Sub Regional.*** *In the Regional Semi's Key West* ***defeats Estero 6-3****, and the next night in front of* ***2,700 fans*** *the Conchs* ***crush*** *Okeechobee* ***10-0*** *to head back to the* ***State's final 4****. Key West faces* ***Nease*** *in the* ***Semi's*** *and* ***wins a nail biter 2-1****. The Conchs go on to* ***defeat Seminole Osceola 6-4*** *in front of more than* ***2,000*** *Conch fans and over 3,000 total for the game. This is the* ***schools 8th State Championship****. The final record was* ***35-2****. Key West finished number* ***4*** *in the* ***USA TODAY National Baseball Poll*** *and end the season with a* ***27 game winning streak,*** *that breaks the* ***old record*** *of* ***19*** *in 1961. Players were: Adrian Merkey, Paulie Walterson, Randy Sterling Jr.,*
Craig Lariz, Miguel Menendez, Bobby Lower, Michael Balbuena, Ignacio Gonzalez, J.R. Mounts, Steve Layne, Jonathon Gonzalez, Dax Rankine, Nate Gordon, Steven Sawyer, Flynn Smith, Michael Olasin, Steven Simeon, and Donald Trujillo.

96, *The season that was* ***Bittersweet****. It starts off with the* ***Renaming*** *of our field to* ***Rex Weech Field****, but the City of Key West, lost* ***three Conchs*** *with the* ***passing*** *of* ***Fire Chief Dickie Wardlow and his Wife Nina****, the* ***Brother****,* ***Uncle*** *and* ***Aunt*** *of baseball greats* ***Kenny Sr., Joey, Kenny Jr., & Billy Jr.****, and Conch* ***legend/Historian Glynn Archer Jr****. who became* ***ill*** *at the Dole Tournament, and would later* ***lose*** *his battle against* ***Cancer.***

The media was ***abuzz*** *with Key West. The Conchs make the* ***Front page*** *with a complete story in the* ***USA TODAY SPORTS SECTION****. How can a* ***4 x 2*** *mile Island produce so many great baseball players?* ***ESPN Films*** *does a show about the Conchs in* ***March****. They begin the year, the pre season* ***Number 1*** *in the* ***Country****. A team that practiced* ***6*** *days a week, were very closely knit, and never complained. The fans poured into* ***Rex Weech Field*** *like never before to see their beloved Conchs play.*

*Attendance at the games averaged **over 1,500 fans**. They continue their winning streak by winning the first **16** games of the season and ran it to **43** games before **losing** on a very **controversial** call to **Bishop Moore 8-7.** They **travel** to **California** to play in the **Nationally acclaimed Dole Tournament**. When they return, they head to **Mark Light Stadium** at the **University of Miami** to face the number **3** team in the Country, **Westminster Christian**. In front of **5,000** fans, both squads put on a great show as both teams battle against one another. With Key West leading **3-2**, the Conchs give up a **3 run homer** and lose **5-3**. Key West remains Number **1** and Westminster moves up to Number **2.** The Conchs continue their winning ways demolishing **District opponents** for the **Championship**, then **crushing Hollywood Chaminade & Rockledge** in the **Regionals at the Rex**. **Rex Weech Field** had people everywhere. Key West travels to **Winter Haven** and **defeats** them **7-0** for the **Regional Championship**. Key West heads back to the **State's Final 4** for the **3rd time** in a row. The **FHSAA** loves it when Key West makes a final **4** because they know our fans travel better than any other school in the state. More than **2,500 loyal Conch fans** make the trip to **Tampa.** Key West doesn't disappoint with a* **Semi-final** ***win*** *demolishing **South Lake 13-3** behind Craig Lariz's **two homeruns**. Key West goes on to get the **School's 9th State Title**, with an **11-6 victory** over **Bishop Kenny from Jacksonville**. Paulie Walterson pitches the victory and Lariz hits another bomb to lead the way. They finish the year **32-5**, Number **1** in the **State of Florida,** Number **2 Nationally**. The first **back to back State titles** since the **58** and **59** seasons, plus **back to back 30+** win seasons. A **2nd** Title for Coach Henriquez.*

*A season **dedicated** to all Conch **fans**, **supporters**, and especially the **Wardlows** and **Archers!***

Team members were: Craig Lariz, Bobby Lowe, Tony "Crush" Acosta, Michael Olasin, Steven Sawyer, Steven Simeon, Paulie Walterson, and Johnathon Gates.

***97,** In a rebuilding year for the Conchs, hard work and dedication payed off as they finished with a winning season. They lose the District Championship. This meant they had to be on the road for the Play-offs. The Conchs travel to Tampa to play **Tampa Jesuit** for the **Regional Championship** and a trip to the State Final **4**. Key West loses to Jesuit who would win the State Title. The Conchs win **21** games that season. Conch baseball wins **123** (**131**, with preseason) games in the regular seasons and playoffs under Coach Henriquez. Coach **steps down** and moves on to take a **Head Coaching position** in the **Atlanta Braves minor league system**. Key Players were: Randy Sterling Jr., J.R. Mounts, Danny Schooley, Shane Curry, and Michael Balbuena.*

***98,** For the **4th** time in a row, a **KWHS Grad** takes over the program. **Brooks Carey** is named the new coach of the Conchs. Coach Carey brings in a completely different style of coaching. The Conchs respond well. Key West **loses** to Monsignor Pace in the District Championship. The Conchs rename themselves the **"THE ROAD WARRIORS",** as the Conchs had to travel for **District** play, **Regional** play, and **State** play. They went to **Ft. Lauderdale**, **West Palm Beach**, **Sebring, Daytona Beach**, and **Tampa**. In a strange series of events, the Conchs played The Spartans of Pace **5** times that season. **Twice** in the regular season, **once** in a tournament, **Once** for the **District Championship** game, then they both **met** for the **State Title**. The **rivalry** was*

intense *between the two schools. Neither one liked each other. In the end, the Conchs came away with their* ***10th State Title*** *in a thrilling contest* ***defeating*** *the* ***Spartans*** *at* ***Legions Field*** *in Tampa* ***4-3.*** *The* ***FHSAA changes the play-off system*** *for the next season, it will no longer let two teams from the same District play for a State Title. Members of the team were: Khalil Greene, Ben Harrison, Devin Butler, Christian Twyman, Eddie Williams, Tony Ramos, Eduardo Rodriguez, Steven Parker, Lazaro Chavez, Peter Dunick, and Billy Spottswood Jr.*

99, *Keeping with the winning tradition, the Conchs had another winning year but fell short in the play-offs* ***losing*** *in the* ***Regional Semi-Finals****. This stopped their bid for a repeat title.*
Seniors of this team were: Juan Menendez, Aaron Marn, Luis Leal, Sean Morales, and Leandre Washington.

4 District Championships, & 3 State Titles

THE NEW MILLENNIUM: THE 2000'S

2000, *In Coach Carey's* ***last season****, the Conchs came in with high hopes with a number of key returning players for their senior season. Their season ended in the* ***Regional Quarter Final****, but another winning season for the Conchs. Key Members were: Ben Harrison, Billy Spottswood Jr., Michael Anderson, John Paul Castro, Ryan Baker, Todd Means, Damian Varela, Lucas Bacle, Buck Francis, Marcus Davila, and Daniel Hersey.*

01, *For a* ***second*** *time* ***Coach Henriquez*** *takes over the team. They have a winning season, with* ***18*** *wins, and they make it to the* ***Regional Finals*** *were they come up short in their bid to return to the* ***States.*** *Senior were: T.J. Niles, Mike Edwards, and J.J. Fallon.*

02, *The Conchs continue their winning ways, make the play-offs but lose in the* ***Regional Quarter Finals.*** *Key West finishes with* ***20*** *wins. Seniors Were: Tommy Bouchard, Julio Abella, Jesus Blanco, Xavier Perez, Eddie Roberts, Danny Difabio, Luis Paez, and John T. Davila.*

03, *With another winning season under their belt. The Conchs looked to the play-offs with high hopes. Major rain was the calling, and the Conchs had to wait to play the* ***District finals*** *until* ***11*** *pm, Winning the* ***District Finals*** *on a* ***combined No-Hitter*** *from Reidier Gonzalez and Daryl Lewis, the Conchs lose at home for the* ***Regional Quarter Finals*** *and come up short. The season ends with* ***16*** *wins.*

04, *The winning continues for Key West, another* ***District Championship****, and a chance play at home for the* ***Regional Quarter Finals****. The Conchs* ***win*** *and get to host the* ***Regional Semi Finals.*** *Key West loses and the season comes to and end with* ***18*** *wins. Seniors on the team:*
Dexter Butler, Gary Hersey, Osmay Guiterrez, Keith Jones, and Eduardo Rodriguez.

05, *Going into this season, Coach Henriquez know he had a very talented group of baseball players. From defense, to hitting to the most important part, pitching. Having a good regular season until they went to play in Georgia, where they didn't play well, they returned to Key West, and for the rest of the season into the play-offs, the Conchs*

*were lights out. They couldn't be touched. Between the **big three**, Daryl Lewis, Bobby Hernandez, and Chaz Spottswood, they were unhittable. Chaz Spottswood throws a **no hitter** in the **State Semi Finals**. With over **2,500** loyal Conch fans who traveled up to see their beloved Conchs, Key West didn't disappoint as the Conchs score **7** runs in the first inning to shell shock Orlando Bishop Moore. Daryl Lewis was the Conch starter and he had a magical performance on the hill. The Conchs bring home their **11th State Title** in Sarasota. Seniors on the team were: Clinton Storr, DJ Randolph, Blake Barber, Jordan Rivas, Daryl Lewis, Bobby Hernandez, and Chaz Spottswood. Coach Henriquez steps down after **State Title number 3**.*

***06, Athletic Director**, Judd A. Wise wastes no time in hiring the next Conch Coach. He is **Key West High Grad**, and Assistant Coach Miguel Menendez. With another winning season, the Conchs believed they had a great opportunity going into District play. Key West gets **upset** in the **District Semi Finals** by **Belen with their lefty "The Conch Killer"** on a **walk off Homerun**, and their season comes to an end. Seniors were: Tony Lopez, Ezra Josephson, Desi Perez, Andy Mendez, Chris Vazquez, Matthew Roberts, Santi Arencibia, and Matt Wagner.*

***07,** Another winning season, the Conchs again head into District play ready, unfortunately a Belen team which had beaten Key West earlier in the season with their little lefty, **"The Conch Killer"** got stymied again, and he also hits a **homerun**. Season over. Seniors:*
Louie Pazo, Artie Grizzle, and Daniel Foltz.

***08,** The winning ways continue and this time the Conchs make the play-offs but are on the road. Key West wins, the **Regional Quarter Final**, and the **Quarter Semi Finals**. There is a **new format** for the **Regional Championship**. It is a **best of 3 format**. The Conchs have to travel **7** hours to **Rockledge** and they must play a **double header** on Friday and if need be, a single game on **Saturday.** Rockledge proves to be too much and the Conchs **lose both games on Friday** in the **Regional Quarter Finals.** Seniors: Raiko Alfonso, Kyle Lepine, and*
Blayne Weller.

***09,** With **12** returning players the confidence level was high for a return to the States. The Conchs have a winning season return to the play-offs but get **beat i**n the **Regional Quarter Finals** to end what they thought would be a great opportunity for State Title 12. Seniors:*
Frankie Ratcliff Jr., Cole Harrison, Drew Riveria, Charlie Walker-Yhap, Noah Josephson, Andrew Rodriguez, Nicky Bertiuax and Jason Zamora.

3 District Championships & 1 State Title

***2010,** Bringing back **8** seniors, the Conchs set the bar high, but they just fell short. The season was good, but in the play-offs, things fell apart. Seniors: Michael Arencibia, Nolan Thomas, Joesph Gandolfo, Freddy Varela 3rd, DJ Elomina, Jon Doughtry, Zack Harden, and Leo Arza-Sosa.*

***11,** Key West puts together another winning season and **wins** the **District Championship** for the first time since **05**. This means play-off games at home! The Conchs **win** the **Regional Quarter Finals** and head to the Semi's at home. With a*

great crowd on hand, the Conchs played well but come up on the losing end and the season comes to an end. Seniors: Michael Henriquez Jr., Johnny Monsalvatge, JP Mallott, Frankie Grizzle-Malgrat, Clinton McCoy, and Cameron Henry.

12, *Key West plays a tough schedule and the players play to the best of their ability, but in the end, they* ***lose*** *in the* ***Semi Finals*** *of* ***District play*** *and fail to qualify for the play-offs.*
Seniors: Mikey Abreu, Matthew Chelekis, Reny Garcia, Garret Pita, Tommy Ruffenach Jr.,
and Joseph Varela.

13*, It was a season the Coach Menendez would like to* ***forget****, the Conchs just couldn't put it together. A year when they couldn't hit, play defense or pitch after they returned from the* ***Sanford Spring Break*** *trip. For the* ***first*** *time since* ***1971,*** *Key West has a* ***losing*** *season, and didn't qualify for the State play-offs. The only Senior: Chris Garcia*
Coach Menendez steps down and ***moves*** *to become the* ***Head Baseball Coach*** *at* ***Tampa Jesuit****.*

14, *Back for his* ***3rd stint*** *as Head Coach, Ralph Henriquez returns to the diamond. He brings his knowledge and expertise back to the program. The Conchs have a stellar regular season which included a* ***spring break trip*** *to* ***Knoxville Tennessee*** *to show the rest of the country how Key West plays ball. It is a trip of a lifetime and memories are made for the players. The Conchs* ***win*** *the* ***District Championship*** *over hated rival* ***Gulliver****. It is back on between these two teams. Key West will host the* ***Regional Quarter Final****, and with a jammed stadium they take care of St. Brendan. Next up is the* ***Regional Semi Final*** *against, raiders of Gulliver. Rex Weech Field is standing room only and Key West* ***wins*** *again. The Conchs are now headed to the* ***Regional Final*** *in Ft. Lauderdale against* ***North Broward Prep****. The Conchs give it their all but North Broward Prep hits a* ***homerun*** *to* ***beat*** *Key West* ***4-3****. The Conchs finish the season with a fabulous* ***26-4-1*** *record. Seniors graduating: Andy Perez, Steven Wells Jr. (FSU)*
Hugo Valdes, and Darren Miller (FSU).

15, *Key West is playing very good baseball and the winning continues. The Conchs have a very good regular season but lose to Gulliver in the* ***District Championship*** *after two days of heavy rain postponed the Semi's. Key West had to play Keys Gate at* ***9 am*** *in the morning at Gulliver and the temperatures soared to* ***90 +*** *degrees with no wind. The Conchs win in extra innings, but they were completely exhausted and out of gas, they were given and hour and a half to get ready to play again and lose to Gulliver. Key West goes on the road to play in the* ***Quarter Regional Final*** *against St. Brendan. The Sabres proved too much for the Conchs and their season comes to an end with a* ***19-9*** *Record. Seniors: Anthony Henriquez, Joey Figueroa, Chris Varela, Andrew Freeman, Kyle Pierce, Carlos O' Farrill, and Brandon Presley.* ***5*** *of these seniors go on to play in college.*

16, *This is a season of streaks. The Conchs win* ***6*** *in a row, then lose* ***5*** *in a row. The season was up and down. The highlight of the regular season is a* ***trip*** *to* ***Myrtle Beach South Carolina*** *to play in their spring break tournament. The Conchs lose*

*their first two, then win the last two, and the players had a great time with a lot of memories. As District play came around Key West **wins** the **District Semi Final** over **Keys Gate** but **loses** the **District Championship** to **Gulliver.** Fortunes are reversed and Key West will have to travel for the Regional play.*
*The Conchs have to travel to another long time **rival/enemy, Monsignor Pace**. Key West travels well, and Spartan stadium is packed. Hunter Mattheessen pitched the game of his life, but it wasn't enough as a costly error hurt the Conchs and they lose the game **2-1**. Seniors: Hunter Sellers, Hunter Mattheessen, Patrick Edwards, Randy Garcia, Matthew Herrington, and Damon Taylor.*

***17,** A year in which Key West seemed loaded on the mound, and expected to play great defense and hit. The problem was, the schedule was very demanding and **the bats** went **silent**.*
*Key West **wins** the **District Championship**, on the combined no hitter of **Kyle Iarrobino** and **Antonio Knowles**. They will play host in the **Quarter Regional Final**. **I-Mater Academy** comes to Rex Weech Field and spoils the Conchs dream of winning another State Title, and **Key West** ends up with a **losing** season at **13-15**. Coach Henriquez **ties** former Head Coach Pedro Fraga for most wins in the regular season and playoffs with **274**. Seniors: Christian Luna, Kyle Snow, Ty Hughes, and Jason Garcia Jr.*

***18,** Winning the **Districts** for the last **2** years, Key West was going to enter the season with a dominant pitcher on the mound. Antonio Knowles returns for his senior campaign to lead the Conchs. The season was very good for the Conchs. All three phases of the game did well. Pitching, solid defense, hitting and the Conchs **win** the **District Title** for the **2nd** year in a row, number **30** overall. Key West hosts the **Regional Quarter Finals** against **Mater Academy** another **Mater** school. They, like their sister school come to Key West and in front of a packed stadium stuns the Conchs. Key West finishes the year **17-10.** Coach Henriquez becomes the **All-Time Winningest** coach in **Conch Baseball.** Seniors: Antonio Knowles gets **drafted in the 27th** round by the **Rangers**, Michael Mayor, Danny Galvan, Orlando Peter Estevez, Kyle Iarrobino, Grevert Soza, Patrick Spenser, Will Anderson and Andrew Karch. **5** go on to play college ball.*

***19,** Entering this season, Coach Henriquez was unsure who his **no. 1** starter would be. Emerged was senior Callan Carn. Carn was efficient and kept Key West in a lot of games. The **bats** were **hot** and **cold** all season as consistency never happened. This schedule was by far one of the most difficult in the programs history. The Conchs **dominated** their **District** opponents and **won** the **District Championship** for the **3rd** year in a row. Coach Henriquez's squad headed for the play-offs for the **15 straight time under his leadership**. This team had as many as **4** Freshman start on the field, and never more than **3** Seniors, maturation was a major factor. By **winning** the **District**, the Conchs hosted the **Regional Quarter Final**. Losing the last two Quarter Finals at home haunted the Conchs. Rex Weech Field should be a demon for other teams. The Conchs play host to **I-Mater Academy**, a team who defeated them two years ago. In front of a jammed stadium, the combined pitching of Callan Carn and Dale Michaud, plus error-less defense and the timely two run rbi single by Preston*

*Herce, the Conchs **defeat** the Lions **4-1.** Long time **rival** and **enemy** the Monsignor Pace Spartans will be coming to Key West to play the **Regional Semi Final**. The Spartans defeated Key West in 2016 in a heart wrenching loss **2-1**. Revenge is on the mind of this squad. When these two teams get together, throw away any records, it is a battle till the end. The **"Rex"** was filled to capacity and after two innings of play Key West was **leading** the Spartans **3-2**. Pace makes a pitching change and the Conch bats go very silent. Key West was unable to score and the Spartans would go and score **3** times to win the contest **5-2** ending the season for Key West. Final Record of **13-15.** Seniors: Caspian Packard, Callan Carn, Tommy Morales, Jonathan Wells, Dale Michaud, and Spenser Vinson. **Coach Henriquez, passes** Conch **Coach Dave Fedor** as the **all-Time Winningest Coach for any sport at Key West High School**. With **7** starters returning, **2020** looks to be promising. **3** Conchs go on to play in college.*

5 District Championships, 0 State Titles

***20*20,** Having an established team, Coach Henriquez and the boys set the bar high, a District championship wouldn't be good enough, **only** the **12th State Championship** will make this season a success. The boys have worked extremely hard since the end of last season. Dedication is what will make this year great. Coach Henriquez added a great addition to the program with a strength and conditioning Coach. **Coach Burnett** came to us from Panama City, after Hurricane Michael destroyed so much up there, Coach Burnett is a PE teacher at Key West High. He brings a wealth of knowledge about Strength, lifting and stretching. This took a load off the coaches and they can now concentrate on the other aspects of the game. The Conchs are returning **8** seniors, **5** of which are starters. Brendan Roney (Boston College), and Dane Black (Nova Southeastern Univ.) are four year returning starters, along with Mason Neller (Daytona St. College), Jordan Parks (Lynn Univ.), Josh Conn (Northeast Community College), Lazaro Valdez (Inspirational Academy), and Zack Albury (Daytona St. College). These men set the standards for practice and games, and the younger players have learned about work ethic. A **new play-off format** by the **FHSAA** has been put in place, meaning, no longer does the top **two** teams in your District advance, only the District Champion is guaranteed a place in the State Play-offs. The Conchs realize that **winning** the **District** was the only way to assure themselves to be in the play-offs. The other **four** play-off teams are selected by a **point system** from all **4 Districts** in the **South Region 4.** Coach Henriquez set a schedule up with difficult teams from all around the state. Rockledge, Merritt Island, Westminster Christian, Russell County from Alabama were just a few. The season started with the Pre-Season Classic against Taravella, then the regular season began with Miami Killian, followed by West Broward, Keys Gate, then on to Columbus. After the Columbus game, the **news** came out that the **NBA** had **suspended** it season and the word was spreading that other Pro sports, and the NCAA would do the same. Rumors abound that weekend with Merritt Island may be the last for a while. The Conchs and Mustangs played a hard fought game that Friday March 13, and after the Conch victory, **Superintendent Porter** released a statement that schools were being

CLOSED, and **Distance/Virtual learning** will take place. A worldwide virus call **THE <u>CORONAVIRUS</u>**, was spreading like wild fire. Saturday's game was cancelled, and the **rest** of the **season** was suddenly put **on hold**. **Schools** and all **Athletic** Fa**cilities** were **shut down**, no practices allowed, only on your own, a **one** week spring break turned into **two** weeks. Then the **news** came from the **Superintendent** that students will stay home to learn **virtually**, and teachers were getting a crash course about having to teach online. Everyone waited to see what was going to happen as the **FHSAA** would **not** cancel spring sports, they were hoping to reinstate them May 3 and go until June 30. Fans, Players, Coaches all awaiting the word, can we come back? Rex Weech Field sitting empty, No radio for the fans all over the world. Then Saturday April 18 turned **Black**, as the **Governor of Florida** had his press conference, and stated "all students will continue with Online classes as **campuses** will be **closed** for the **remainder of the school year**." The **FHSAA** followed suit with their announcement on Monday April 20 that the **spring sports season is over**. For our Conchs, especially our Seniors, the season came to an abrupt end. Final record **5-3**. A year in which we will **never never** know an outcome, but in our hearts, the Coaches and players won our **12**th State Championship. We dedicate this season to **Leroy** (**a lifelong fan**) and **Mrs. Webste**r (**Statistician, and Team Mom**) Who both **passed** away, and were **intrical** parts of our Conch Baseball Program. We will sorely miss them at our games, but they will be in our hearts forever!

21, *Coming into this season, Coach Henriquez had **high** expectations, but also a lot of worry. **Covid** had shut down **2020** after just **8** games. School was back in session with alternate days. The fall and winter sports teams were able to complete their seasons, would spring sports happen? Coach had a normal schedule set up with **25** games and **22** of them at **home**. **Covid** came back into play and the schedule would **change** numerous times. Teams were calling and telling Coach, their district will not let them travel. The Spring Break Tournament which was going to be in Key West had to be cancelled, and the team went back to **Sanford** to play in the Orlando Tournament. When the final schedule came out Key West would play a **24** game schedule but they would have **9** away trips which meant **12** games on the road. How strange a year when the first two months of the season, only **4** home games. Day games instead of night games. Coral Shores cancels two regular season games with the Conchs, and not due to Covid, and now the schedule is down to **22** games. The players had to police themselves and do the right thing to have a full season. Would they? Could they? With all this craziness, the Conchs didn't lose one game to **Covid!** The parents took their child to the games, and those that needed a ride Coach Burnett drove the bus with the players 6 feet apart, even Coach Henriquez drove himself to the games. The season began at Gulliver Prep where the Conchs lost on a walk off homerun. Doral was next and they weren't gracious hosts and the Conchs headed home for a **2** game series against Hialeah Champagnat. Champagnat swung the bats well and pitched to two victories over the Conchs. February couldn't come to an end quick enough. March came in like a lion, and the Conchs got a great extra inning win over Keys Gate in **9** innings. Losses to Killian, St. Brendan on a balk call and **2** to Coral Reef sent the Conchs reeling heading into the Sanford Tournament. Key West*

*picked up two wins, with one of them being over the **8th** ranked team in the **Country,** Spruce Creek. The Conchs then hit a skid again losing **5** in a row. **Injuries** were starting to mount up as our second baseman, centerfielder and right fielder were out. The Conchs finally got **hot** at the right time with big wins over Gulliver at their place again, and home against Westminster Christian, **Coach called this rivalry week.**
With **2** more wins over Keys Gate to end the regular season, Key West was riding a **4** game win streak for the first time this year as they headed into the District Tournament. The Conchs were playing their best ball and their confidence level was rising. Could they turn the season around by winning Districts?? The District Tournament was held at Miami Springs, and the Conchs were the number **3** seed and they would be playing the host school, Miami Springs Golden Hawks. The FHSAA went back to the old format which meant all Key West needs to do is make it into the District Championship game to move on. With everything on the line the Conchs handed the ball to Senior Michael Alfonso. Key West quickly fell behind **3-0** but battled back to take a **7-5** lead heading into the bottom of the fifth. After two outs, the **Golden Hawks** scored **5** runs and the Conchs just couldn't come back and lose **10-7**. The final record for this season ended at **7-16.** There is an old saying: "All streaks come to an end." After **16** straight years, Coach Henriquez has led his team into the State-Play-offs, that streak came to an end. Landon Lowe will go on to play at Indian River State College, and Logan Pellicier will play at Polk Community College, Jayden Burchfield at Kaiser University. We say good bye to Nate Barroso, and Daniel Varela. Michael Alfonso gets **drafted** by the **Texas Rangers** in the **17th round,** and former Conch Antonio Knowles gets **drafted** in round 13 by the **Dodgers.***

***22,** Having to be on the road for most of last season, Coach has a schedule with **24** home games and **3** on the road. The **spring break tournament** will be in **Key West**. Killian will host the **District Tournament**. Coach Henriquez is now the **longest tenured** Head Coach in the program's history. The pre-season games with Taravella were split and now it is on to the regular season. The conchs sweep the opening weekend of the regular season against University School. Gabe Williams hits the first homerun of the year, and Jacob Burnham is masterful on the mound. Trevor Zuelch scores **4** runs in a game, and Preston Herce hits a **grand slam** to lead the conchs to a victory behind Burnham and Talkovich. On Saturday, another come from behind victory to keep Key West undefeated, and a sweep of Barron Collier.*
*Merritt Island comes to town and takes two from the Conchs. Key West now will play **6** games in 8 days. The Conchs sweep Bishop Verot, and defeat St. Thomas Aquainas in **Alex Rodriquez Park at Mark Light Stadium, the University of Miami.** The **1st** Key West Spring Break Tournament was held with Westminster Christian, North Fort Myers, and John Carroll Catholic along with the Conchs. Key West goes **1-2** in the tournament. Key West has a very good week with wins over Academy at the lakes and Coral Shores, highlighted by Lucky Barroso's **no hitter**. West Broward came to town and took **two** from the Conchs, but they rebounded by beating Marathon and winning the county championship. The Conchs keep the winning streak going with sweeps of Rockledge and Keys Gate. Next up is the White Whale for Coach, Columbus. Behind the two hit pitching of Lucky Barrroso and the homerun of Trevor Zuelch, the Conchs*

*harpoon Moby Dick, and Coach Henriquez and the boys beats Columbus **3-0,** and with a sweep of Killian the Conchs go into the District play-offs as the number **1** seed. Key West wins **District championship 31** with wins over Sunset (Jacob Burnham throws a **no hitter**) and a dramatic come from behind extra inning game with St. Brendan **7-6**. Now the State play-offs begin. Behind the pitching of Lucky Barroso and the hitting of Trevor Zuelch, the Conchs roll the Tritons of Mariner High **7-0** in the ¼ **Regionals** at the **Rex** in front of **1,000** screaming conchs all in red. The **Semi Regionals** were held at the **Rex** in front of **1,200 fans in a Red Out**. The place was electrified and it turned out to be a fantastic game, but for Key West the season came to a close with a heartbreaking **4-2 loss** to Miami Springs. The season ends at **22-7,** what a great turnaround from last year. For our **5** seniors: Jason Yarborough, Billy Kight, Kai Smith (Columbia International College), Trevor Zuelch (Hope College), and Preston Herce (Pensacola State College), It was magical with Preston Herce flirting with a .**500 avg.** for most of the season and ended at **.494**, and Tevor Zuelch hitting **.400.** Lucky Barroso ended the season with a **0.76** era **second** only to the great Randy Sterling Sr. The entire pitching staff returns for next season, plus **5** starters in the field, next season could be the one!*

***23,** Heading into this season, the conchs are stacked on the mound. Lead by Lucky Barroso, Jacob Burnham, and Felix Ong, Coach Henriquez is very confident that these young men will get the job done. He knows he has to replace three 3 infielders from last season, and two tremendous bats that are playing at the next level. Coach feels this could be the year the conchs return to the **State Final 4**. The conchs led by Jack Haggard at the plate are playing great baseball. They had a special addition to the team as Mike Greenberg joined the squad and has sparked the conchs in emotions we haven't seen in a long time. Lucky Barroso has been the dominant pitcher for Key West. The biggest game of the regular season was against the **No. 1 team** in the State of Florida and No. 2 in the National Rankings Stoneman Douglas. Stoneman Douglas proved why they are the best team in the State as they beat the conchs at Douglas. Key West came back and won the final three games of the regular season to finish **18-5**. The Conchs are the number **1** seed in District play and in the Semi-Finals they beat Killian **3-1** behind the pitching of Lucky Barroso. They will now face Miami Sunset in the finals.*
*Key West wins it's **32 District Championship** by beating Miami Sunset. Behind the **one hit** pitching of Felix Ong, and the **Homerun** power supplied by Anden Rady and his **6** RBI's the conchs demolish Miami Sunset for **Back to Back District Championships** and this is number **32.** The conchs are the Number **1** seed in Regional play which means the road to the State's Final Four runs through Key West. Coach Henriquez asks the fans to wear their **conch white for the WHITE OUT.** The Conchs faced Somerset Academy out of Ft. Lauderdale in the ¼ **Regionals**. Noah Burnham and Mikey Greenberg lead the conchs to an **8-5** victory in front of **1,000** screaming fans. Next up is the **Regional Semi's** against Miami Springs, the team who has knocked the Conchs out the last two seasons. The **WHITE OUT** continues in the **Regional Semi's.** A packed house of more than **1,200** fans screaming and cheering*

*the Conchs. We get the monkey off our back as Anthony Lariz hits **a grand slam** to propel the Conchs to the victory over the Golden Hawks **7-2**. In the **Regional Championship,** the conchs face the Knights. The **WHITE OUT** continues. Over **1,500** fans pack the **Rex.** Lucky Barroso gets the call to the mound. The game is intense and close and Key West takes a 1-0 lead heading into the top of the 6th inning. Sunset changes strategy and starts swinging at the first pitch. They mount a rally and score two runs and take the lead. The starting pitcher for the Knights gets the first out and then is lifted for their closer. He strikes out the first conch, then hits the next. Mikey Greenberg is up and hits a hotshot which looks like it is going up the middle. Their second baseman makes a great play to get the ball and flip it to the shortstop at second for the third out and Sunset upsets Key West **2-1.** The Rex becomes silent, but what a game, and then the fans show their appreciation with cheering for what the Conchs have done!! The Conchs finish the year at **22-6.** For the seniors; Jack Haggard .**436 avg.** (Quincy), Lucky Barroso (Indian River), Marlin Takovich (F.I.U.), Anden Rady **2 Hr's.** (La Grange), and Wyatt Khun (Dyersburgh), we thank you for all the great memories. It's on to next season with a team that will be ready and willing to go after another possible State Championship.*

24**, The Conchs will be playing on a new outfield as the School District put in phase one of the stadium upgrade. The football side is complete and the new outfield grass is laid. Rick and Judd, and the stadium announcing crew have a new press box to announce the games, the scoreboard was moved down to the leftfield line, and the flag pole was moved to behind the leftfield fence. The preseason gets underway with a packed house watching Key West and Taravella play to a **3-3** tie. On Saturday Key West gets crushed by Taravella **10-0**. Opening Weekend saw the Conchs play and sweep North Fort Myers **5-0**, and **7-2**. In a thrilling **10** inning contest, the Conchs squeeze by University School 4-3, as the Freshman lead the way with **8** hits of the **12** Key West had. Against Spanish River, the Conchs left **12** men on base and couldn't come with a clutch in their first loss of the season, **5-3**. The second game with Spanish River was played with extremely **heavy hearts** as Key West High loses a son. Great Conch **Dexter Butler** who played Baseball and has the highest batting avg. for a career passed. Dexter was a teacher and the Head Basketball coach for the Conchs. With a stadium filled to capacity, **Anthony Lariz** pitches the best game of his career going the distance. **7** Innings, and **10 K's** later, Key West wins **3-2**. This ones for you Coach Dexter Butler, **surely missed, never forgotten!!!!** Fort Pierce's John Carroll comes in for a two game set and takes game one **4-1.
*They make **5** great defensive plays and come up with great pitching and timely hitting to defeat the Conchs. In game two, Anthony Lariz continues his torrid pitching pace from last week tossing a complete game 2 hitter with 9K's to lead the Conchs to a 2-0 win.*