

Welcome to another edition of 1186 the podcast the official podcast of the uva baseball program who's off to a 3-0 start after taking care of Hofstra three games at dishroom park this weekend we'll talk about that and a whole lot more. I am Damon Dillman joined again by Andrew Ramsbacher, Scott Fitzgerald and the head baseball coach of the uva baseball program Brian O'connor. We also have a very special guest coming up in a couple of minutes. We will get to him shortly. But first, we want to start with you, Oak. And Oak, before we get into this past weekend, I know it's been kind of a tough couple of days around the program. Monday was a really difficult day for a lot of guys I know. Can you just talk about what the last few days have been like with Matthew Buchanan's father passing away and the way things have kind of shaken out from there?

Yeah, Damon, thanks. Welcome everybody to episode two for sure. You know, this weekend was a tough time for our Virginia baseball family. One of our players, Matt Buchanan, a left-handed pitcher, a third-year left-handed pitcher from Southwest Virginia. His father passed away on Friday and was battling cancer for the last two months. And I had an opportunity to spend Friday morning in the UVA hospital with Matt's family. And unfortunately, late Friday, Matt's father passed away at the UVA hospital. Certainly difficult for Matt and his family and the entire team. So what we did, Damon, was I called the ODU coach early on Monday morning, asked him if he would be willing to move the Tuesday game to Wednesday. And he's great. Chris Fenwood was very accommodating and that allowed us to take a bus and take the team down to the service down in Southwest Virginia. So our guys could support the Buchanan family. And then we arrived back to Charlottesville late, late last night. And you know, so certainly our hearts are, are with the Buchanan family and Matt will be joining us back shortly. But certainly, you know, when you're, around young people like I am as a coach all the time and have been for years. Unfortunately, these tragedies happen. And part of our responsibility, all of us, is to help Matt and his family through this difficult time. But I appreciate you asking. They're doing fine. And, you know, we'll look forward to Matt joining our team whenever he's ready.

Obviously there's no easy way to segue from such unfortunate, such sad news, but turning our attention back to the way your team played this past weekend, getting those three wins against Hofstra, what are just your overarching impressions of what you saw from your ball club on opening weekend? Well, I liked what we saw. It's early. It's interesting. I got together with one of our former players and his family on Sunday night and just was reminded that it's early in the season right it's not supposed to be you're not supposed to be playing your best baseball you know that's you know we strive to do that but the reality is it's about getting better and you know certainly we swung the bats very, very well to put up the offensive numbers that we did this weekend we were very opportunistic and had good pitching at times and certainly times that we need to get better and improve. But hey, anytime you can go into a series and win every game and get the season started off right, you'll take it. And then, you know, it's about growth and learning and getting better. And, you know, we had a nice workout today and, you know, talked about some of the things that we need to improve on coming out of the first weekend. And, you know, our guys are excited to get the season rolling and certainly have a great opponent tomorrow in Old Dominion. They won all three of their games this weekend and we've always had great baseball games with them.

It seems like as good a time as any to bring in our very special guest. He was at the ballpark for Saturday's win over Hofstra. We thought we'd get a former player for the second episode of 1186, the podcast. And who better than Ryan Zimmerman to join us here? Ryan, like we said, you were at the game on Saturday. First of all, thanks for joining us. I know you're on assignment right now. Tough assignment in Florida. But you got to see Saturday's game, got to see a couple of runs across the plate. What did you think of the Hoos from what you got to see?

Yeah, I mean, they scored 21 runs when I when I showed up, so I got to come back a couple more times. But I mean, I think, you know, it's like like Oak was saying, it's early in the year when you have, you know, it seems like their offense obviously has some people back with the pitching young. You know, these games early in the year, you just have to try and win. It doesn't matter if it's pretty, if it's ugly, especially when you have young pitchers that are kind of learning how to pitch at this level. It's not an easy thing to do. So hopefully the offense can keep putting up runs, play some good defense, and let those young pitchers kind of settle in and get more comfortable. And I think as the year goes on, those guys will get better and better. And, you know, as you guys know, all you have to do is be playing well at the end. It's nice to win early, but you don't necessarily have to. But, you know, as these guys continue to, kind of mature as the year goes on. You know, you want to be peaking at the right time at the end of the year.

Yeah, Zim, Damon mentioned that you're on a tough assignment right now down in Florida with your former team with the Nationals. Can you kind of fill us in on what your role is in spring training with the Nats?

Yeah, I come down here and I come down for a week every year and kind of hang out with the players, but also around you know, Mike Rizzo, the GM and some of the player development people and kind of pick their brains. And I mean, my role is kind of just to learn as much as I can, I guess is the best way to put it. You know, I obviously played for a long time, but I never really got to see the other side. So that's kind of my goal these next couple of years is to learn how the front office side of it works, to learn how hard it is to run a professional baseball team and try and use my, kind of expertise as a player that was playing not too long ago to try and help them kind of run as efficient as they can and let them know what really means a lot to the players and what really doesn't mean a lot to the players and just make sure they're not wasting kind of time or money in places that they don't need to be. But I still know so many of the people down here and I'll always have a connection with this team and this organization. And, you know, the Lerner family has always been very nice to me. to be able to continue on and be a part of this organization is, you know, it's fun for me too. I miss, I miss the game. I miss not being around all the time. And so this gives me a, a little bit of my baseball fix without having to be, be gone, you know, every other week for six months out of the year.

So here's, this is the one question that I've been looking forward to asking you once we found out that you'd be able to do this. What were your initial impressions as a second year UVA when you met this new coaching staff for the first time, when Oak and Mac and K's come walking in for the first time?

Oh, no. Oh, no.

I was going to say, he unmuted real quick right there.

What color was his hair, first of all, when you first saw him?

Yeah, he was a young stud back then. No it's funny I was I took my kids and our friend our family friends kind of down in the batting cage after the game on Saturday just to let the kids run around the field and they played around a little bit and uh some of the guys and a couple of the former players that were there as well kind of asked like hey what was oak like when you guys first got here we've heard a bunch of stories and uh you know I said what do you mean? They said well was he tough was he you know I said well I can't compare to what you guys have I said but yeah I mean he was tough but to me growing up and you know growing up in Virginia beach I had a great AAU coach and um that's kind of the way I was taught to play the game I mean you were when you didn't do things correctly or when a point needed to be made you were coached and you were told this is the way things need to be done and that's what makes you better. And then on the other hand, when you did things well, I feel like your coaches had your back even more than when they don't want you to fail, but it's their job to kind of let you know you did and make sure we try not to do that again. But I wouldn't, yeah, I mean, they never did anything crazier than they do now. I mean, the relay races, the, you know, I think that's, but honestly, I think that's part of the reason why they've had so much success. with kids going to the big leagues, but we always talk when we, when we meet up about how many kids go on to be successful in other things in baseball, you know, the truth is not very few people are going to go play. You're going to have a good amount playing the minor leagues. You're gonna have an even fewer amount playing the big leagues. You have a really small amount playing the big leagues for a long time. So the majority of these kids are going to be doing something other than baseball and I know I've said it oak says it all the time baseball is a great sport because it parallels life so much I mean if you can if you can succeed in baseball and deal with the failures and grind out a season whether it's college or minor league ball or whatever it is if you don't end up making it I think you're in a good spot in a good position to be successful sort of in whatever you do so you know, I think that's their goal. They obviously want to win. They want all their kids to do well in baseball, but, you know, I think they look at it more as we're preparing these guys to go out and be successful members of society and people in the world. And if baseball works out, that's great. But to do that, I think sometimes you got to maybe be a little tough, which, uh, I have four kids now and I understand it's not always nice to teach the lessons or I feel like I'm always teaching lessons and maybe I should chill out sometimes. But, you know, I think, you know, that's a job as a coach and I think they do a good job.

Hey, guys, we talked about this briefly last week that, you know, part of our responsibility as coaches is no different than Zim and his wife, Heather, parenting, right? Is that like there's a right way to do things. There's standards that are within our program. and within a family and raising kids and there's parallels across both. And, and, uh, you know, I've just, we've just always really believed that if you have certain standards and you hold the players accountable to that

standard, how they go about their business every day, um, then if you have talent, you're gonna have a chance to win. Right. But if you just have talent and you don't have the everyday standards of which you ask them to carry themselves, then you won't win, even if you do have great talent. So it's all connected. And we're just fortunate that this place attracts young men that want to be held accountable to what those standards are. And it's the big thing. Zim and I had dinner on Sunday night and we talked about, over the years you hear coaches, you hear people out there saying that, you know, kids have changed and Zim and I had a conversation about this on Sunday night. And I know he feels like I feel that kids haven't changed, candidly adults have changed and, and young people that aspire to achieve greatness and whatever it is, they want those high standards and they want to be held accountable, uh, to that level. So, um, Yeah, you know. Oak, was it obvious with Zim that he was – that he wanted to be held to that level.

What was your first – he gave your – or his first impression of you. What was your first impression of him? Well, I'll tell you, like, I first want to say my first impression of the whole team. Early on in the first few days and the first week was that – I certainly did my homework and looked at the stats and things like that and knew what we had coming back from the previous year and our first year. First and foremost, you figured out pretty quickly that we had skill. We ended up having three big leaguers on our infield my first year there. Mark Reynolds, Zim, obviously, and Joe Koshansky. And so you figured out pretty quickly that, hey, there was a lot of talent and skill that we just need to learn how to work, right? And we need to understand what the standards were and that we needed to inject in them that we really believed in them that they could be successful. But I'll tell you, after two or three days, you could tell that Ryan Zimmerman was special. Right. You just first and foremost, his defense. I remember calling friends of mine after two or three days and they said, hey, you know what? What's it like? What's the talent like and things like that? And I'd say there's a third baseman here that is incredibly special. Right. Especially from the defensive standpoint and his approach at the plate, the way he went about his business, was next level kind of stuff. And certainly we leaned on that right away, and hey, listen, in today's day and age, it's all about home runs. Right. That's what everybody's infatuated by. And you look at the home runs that Zim hit in his career for the Washington Nationals. Right. I mean, what did he hit at the University of Virginia? Seven in his whole career. Right. And so like and. He was consumed with just being a great hitter. Then as you physically mature and develop as a player, the home runs come. Certainly was a tremendous player for us and obviously went on to have an incredible major league career. You can tell pretty quickly. It's like going to a high school game. You can walk out there within the first 10 minutes watching in and out, and you were watching BP, you can tell who the baseball players are, and that was the case certainly for Zim as well.

Zim, do you want to give yourself a little more credit with the lack of power numbers?

I got worn out. I get worn out, especially when Doolittle came over to our team. When the guys realized that he had more college home runs than me.

In your defense, though, it was a big park back then, right?

What was it like to – Yeah, it was big. To my defense, I don't know if that would really help me. I just basically go back to people and just told them I waited until they started paying me to hit home runs. Now you can get paid to hit home runs in college, so I just miss my time, you know? But I think, too, going back to what Oak said about that team, we were very talented, I think, but we just didn't know how to win. You have to learn how to win. Winning, you have to learn how to win baseball games. And I think we did that in college. And then I obviously also learned that kind of the hard way in the big leagues. You know, I lost a lot of games, you know, early on in my career. And you just have to have a complete team and you have to have everyone kind of buy in to the program. And I think especially in college, if you can be a mentally tougher team than a lot of those other schools, I mean, no doubt you have to be talented and you have to have people that can pitch and hit the ball and throw the ball and all that as well. But I think there's certain games that are won just because the other team is mentally tougher or has experience or knows how to win games or knows how to do the small things and they take pride in doing those small things. I think that stuff is a lot of what Oak and Mac and all those guys have taught there for the past 20-some years. And it really gets magnified, in the postseason, whether it's the NCAA tournaments or as I experienced in the playoffs as well. We couldn't get past the first round, not necessarily because we played bad baseball. You just didn't take advantage of the little opportunities that you had. And as you continue to play baseball and as you continue to prepare for every season, you kind of realize that that's what you're preparing for is those opportunities. And usually the teams or the groups of guys that are ready to take advantage of those opportunities are the ones that become sort of those special teams and that make a run and do something like win a national championship or win a World Series.

I remember I actually have it still recorded on my phone when the Nats won the World Championship and Howie Kendrick's interview after and him talking specifically about what Zim was talking about there is learning how to win. And that was his post-game talk when they interviewed him on the field. And I just thought that was so cool. And Zim got to experience it at the highest level of baseball. And that's what we try to do. And every team this year, it's the 2024 team, this is their journey. right and every team a program's got to learn how to win and we've been fortunate to do a lot of that here but every team within that program has to learn about what are the little things that it takes to for this year's team to win.

Zim touched on a little bit about your AAU team and the guys that you played with it's kind of been well documented about the talent rich tidewater area with David Wright and the Uptons was there a you know communication between you guys say hey you know me and Mark Reynolds are over here at Virginia let's uh let's all let's go down there and make a super team.

Yeah I mean I think me and mark might have been the only ones that had to go to college. My senior year in high school I think we had six or seven guys get d1 scholarships and three or four guys get drafted, and I was not one of them to get drafted. So our senior year team was pretty incredible. But, yeah, I mean, the baseball down there, and I've said it before, I think the level of coaching the game that we were learning just the things that you're not supposed to learn until you're 15, 16, 17 years old. We're learning it. 10, 11, and 12. So you combine that with playing

the type of competition that we played all summer. And that's kind of the recipe for how guys kept coming out of there. It's a small area. It doesn't have a ton of people there. But for a while we were producing California and Florida and Texas numbers of people going to the big leagues and things like that. So, it just goes back to knowing how to play the game the right way, playing the game at a high level from a young age and basically just getting that experience and gaining confidence. And it was a fun place to grow up and play against all those guys. And it's definitely, I think, the main reason why a lot of us are who we are and who we became as players.

So how did you wind up at UVA? Because the way Coach Womack and Steve Heon tell him, they were afraid you were going to wind up at JMU is the way they remember it. Is that the way you remember it?

Yeah. I mean, like I said, I wasn't highly recruited out of high school. So my birthday is in September and I was 17. So I was kind of that young birthday. And, you know, I was a good high school player. And like I said, we had a lot of good players on our team. So there's obviously scouts and things in the area quite a bit at all of our games. And I think I just, nobody can really project if I was going to mature physically, what was going to happen. And I went on visits to, I think UNC Wilmington, UNC Charlotte, JMU, and a couple other of those types of schools, which are obviously still really good schools and, would have been, a great accomplishment to go play college baseball at those schools as well. And then I kind of went down to, I think it was Jupiter, Florida, which is crazy. Cause that's basically where I'm doing this podcast right now and played on like that wood bat team. And that was the team with David (Wright) and BJ (Upton) and Mark Reynolds was on that team. And that's the team that everyone talks about. And I had a pretty good, uh, pretty good tournament down there, and Steve and Dennis were down there. And when me and my dad got back, we had a message on our answering machine in the house, which a lot of people listening probably won't even know what an answering machine is. And they were like, yeah we'd like to have you come take a look at the school. We liked what you did this weekend. And that was sort of how it took off. But that was really, really late in the game. You know, I was lucky to get on there and have a good weekend and be able to have the opportunity to play in a big time conference, which is obviously that's a great school and a great opportunity education wise. But, you know, for me, it was an easy decision because it allowed me to play against some of the best players in the country and in one of the best conferences.

You made the joke earlier about you didn't start hitting home runs until you were getting paid to hit home runs. But, uh, obviously NIL, like everything is, the landscape is changing and it's constantly evolving now with all the changes.

What, what are your impressions of kind of the importance of NIL for baseball and for UVA baseball in particular?

Yeah. I mean, I was, you know, when all this stuff started, um, a couple of our former players actually kind of led the charge to educate us and try and actually set something up to help. And, I didn't really know much about it then, and I'm starting to learn more about it now, but I think what I've learned is I'm just like, I would bet the majority of the general public is kind of

consumed with basketball and football. And those are the two sports that get the most attention and the headlines about how, you know, the Georgia quarterback buys a Lamborghini SUV and these guys are getting paid two and three million bucks to transfer schools. And I think that rubs a lot of people the wrong way. I think some people don't really care. They say good for those kids. It's up to them. They give they make a lot of money for their school. Why can't they do that as well? But I think what I've learned over the last month or so is for the for the sports that aren't full scholarship sports, this is a game changer for obviously for the coaches and the teams to be able to recruit better, but I think honestly for the families to be able to pay, help pay for their kids' education. When I came to UVA, I think I was on 25% scholarship my first year. So I think a lot of people assume that if you go to UVA to play a sport, that you're on a full ride and you have a full scholarship and you don't have to pay anything and how lucky that you get to go to that school and not have to do anything when, in all honesty, for 99% of the cases, it's not that at all. So if we can kind of get organized and continue to raise some money and do some things to help these guys have a little bit more funds at their disposal to obviously recruit great players and great people, but to also help them and their families out so that they're not having to pay the other 50% of whatever it is for in-state or out-of-state. And, I think once I learned that, it made me feel better about the sports that aren't full scholarship sports. And I think I'm all for helping families who might not be able to afford that school, because I know my parents and my family was one of those who couldn't afford it. And my parents did whatever they could to give me that opportunity. So if we can do stuff to help those kids and their families out and give them a better chance also to come to school. I think a lot of these kids that come from nothing or maybe their family doesn't have a lot of money, if they get drafted and there's \$750,000 in front of them, it's hard for them to say no. We need to set up the system so they can come to school, they can make the better decision to come to college and mature and develop and leave Virginia better than they came. And I think this gives us a chance to do that.

Yeah, Zim, I think you bring up great points. I think it's part of its education, right? A lot of people out there don't know that you're allowed to have 40 players on your roster in Division I college baseball, and you have 11.7 scholarships to support that. So the majority of your players, most all of them are in that 25% to 50% scholarship. You think about if you're out of state student at the university of virginia and the total bill is 75-80 grand and you're on a 40 percent scholarship you know now the rules allow them to based on their nil to be you know compensated a little bit to close that gap between what the cost of attendance is and what their you know what their scholarship is so you know I personally as a coach I think it's a good thing. We do a good job with it here at the university and need to continue to do what it takes to help these young players out and help, as I call it, close the gap between the cost of attendance and what you used to be able to get two years ago. And so it's certainly an interesting topic, but it's something that certainly can benefit all of college athletics.

Right, what's from your perspective? In the major leagues, you know Oak might have the stat on hand, but what's the percentage of players that played college baseball to that are in the major leagues? And then Ryan, from your perspective, how did that? How's that prep? Not only you, but the players that you saw over the portion of your career?

Yeah, I'll just, I'll start off before Ryan talks, Fitz, about, you know, we've been very fortunate. Ryan had shared, had talked about it, about the amount of players that out of the University of Virginia that have went on to play professional baseball and make the major leagues. But, you know, I'm incredibly proud that the fact that over the last 20 years, the players that have left our program, if they've left our program as a top 10 round pick, 54% of those players have played in the major leagues. And I'm proud of that because every player that comes to the University of Virginia, sure, not only do they want to get a great education, they're going to get that here, they have dreams and aspirations of playing the game at the highest level. So the fact that they know that they can come here and get it into a development system that will help them and prepare them for professional baseball to have a chance to realize their dream. Fitz, it's incredibly hard. The percentages are low for anybody, whether a player signs out of high school or signs out of college, right? Certainly a first round draft choice has a much higher percentage chance of making the major leagues, and then it significantly drops down from there. But, you know, we've shown a track record here that we're incredibly proud of that they get the development system here that then can give them the best chance possible to make that journey to the major leagues.

How much do you think your time here, what was it, 88 days and you were in the big leagues? How much do you think your time at UVA helped you prepare for that? I think that's one advantage of going to college is you can skip a lot of those lower minor league levels. If you're playing elite college baseball, I think they now equate that to those lower minor league levels. and they know you're going to be a little bit more mature. And, you know, obviously, baseball-wise, you're going to be more mature. You have three more years of playing. But I think, you know, mentally and kind of as growing up as a man when you go to college, you kind of – it's the first time you're away from home. But, you know, for me, I always tell kids, I mean, unless you're a top pick – for me it's it would have been an easy decision I think you know and they're doing a better job now I think we just need to better inform people of what a signing bonus ends up being after all the unfortunate uh things are taken away from it um you know and I think a lot of kids are you know are well educated of those uh you know taxes and agent fees and you know, buying a car and paying off your parents' house and doing something fun. And, you know, by the time you, by the time you run through that, it's, it's 70 to 75% of whatever number you're getting. So, and now you're, you know, 17, 18 years old making literally below poverty line for the, you know, for, for a wage and you're going to work somewhere in the off season and you're taking 14, 16 hour bus trips. Not to say that plenty of people haven't been successful doing that. And, you know, for some people that might be the way they want to go. But, you know, for me, I think going to college, having the experience of college, which was three of the best years of my life, I'm still really good friends with so many people that I met at UVA, both based through baseball and just randomly met while I went to school there. Um, And if we're being honest, you know, the percentages say that you're not going to make it to the big leagues. Like, you know, you might have a good minor league career. You might play for, you know, five, six, seven years. You might only play for one year. So, you know, if you have the opportunity to go get an education and then all of a sudden you continue to progress and after your third year, they're ready to draft you, then that's good. Now, you know, you only have one year of school left or if you know, you go to school and, you know, maybe you don't progress as much as you liked and,



you know, you kind of realize maybe I'm not going to be a big leaguer, then you're already at school and you can finish school and then you're well prepared to do whatever's next in life. So, you know, for me, I always kind of tell kids to go that route. If you're a top 10 pick and you're looking at six, seven, eight, 9 million bucks. That's a, that's a different decision between you and your family. That's, that's a different kind of a different kind of decision. But, you know, for the kids that are on the, you know, teetering on the decision of, you know, 750 grand, even up to one, 1.5 million bucks, it's a lot of money. And it's, it's easy, easy for me to sit here and say that, you know, that's not life changing money. And I, I've had this talk many times and, People say that to me. Well, it's easy for you to say, you know, but I just I just think and hope people are given all the facts and know what they're getting into and just know how much of a benefit going to college can be.

All right, Zim, before we let you go, we're going to add a new segment here this week whenever we have a guest. So you're the guinea pig for this one since you're our first guest. We're going to ask you a trivia question and see if we can stump you. So our trivia question for you is Oak was drafted in 1993. We're not going to say who the team was. That same team that same year drafted a third baseman who went on to get voted to the Hall of Fame. Do you know who it is?

Oh gosh. Oh, 1993.

Yeah.

Here's a hint. You might've competed with this guy for a few gold gloves.

Yeah. Scott Rolen.

There you go.

Oh, that was an easy hint.

I gave that one away.

Yeah. It's just tough to place the, uh, drafted in 93, uh, Yeah, there's not many guys that played that long.

I was sent to Martinsville, Virginia, and Scott Rolen had just signed. It was like the first few days that I watched Zim at Virginia. Here I was, this college player coming out of Creighton. drafted by the Phillies, and I'm watching Scott Rolen play for about three or four days, and I'm like, wow. I can see why this guy was a first-round pick. I can see why he was scheduled to go to Indiana to play basketball and baseball. What an incredible, gifted athlete, competitor. So it was pretty impressive right away, Scott's ability for sure.

Was this trivia brought to you by Mamitas or anything? We need to get some kind of sponsor. Brought to you by Mamitas. There you go. That's our assignment for next week is to find a sponsor.

I'm going to get with the sales team, Oak, and just make sure the sales side of the podcast here.

Hey, Zim, thanks for joining us. Really appreciate you and obviously your time here at Virginia, and your engagement in the program through your time in Washington and still today. I mean, you know, listen, what this guy has done in our community of Charlottesville. you know, through his foundation, through the Zim's foundation while he was a player in DC and the proceeds going back to the UVA hospital and what he's done in the Washington, him and his wife have done in the Washington DC community. Just really one of the, one of the greats and, And, you know, Zim, thank you so much for joining us. And we appreciate you. And we look forward to seeing you down here again this spring. And I know you're going to come down for a midweek game and be with the guys. And we appreciate you and appreciate how much the university has meant to you. And, you know, stay cool down there in Florida. We'll be back up here. Somebody has to do it.

Yeah, it's a nice escape in February to come down here for a week or so. But yeah, I look forward to getting back there. And, you know, I think it's just it's fun to be able to come back and be around, whether it's, you know, down here with the Nationals or back there with UVA. And, you know, I think I realized my last couple of years how much I actually enjoy talking baseball and kind of being around the young guys and trying to do sort of what the older guys did for me when I came up. And then that's just basically teach them what I learned and try and pass on some knowledge, but more importantly, you know, teach them to do things the right way and carry themselves the right way. And, you know, that's kind of what I was taught to leave the game sort of better than it was when you got there. And, you know, it's not an easy thing to do, you know, and I think you know, this day and age, these kids need to, need to be told some of that stuff. And they're all good kids, like we were saying. And they want to learn and they want to soak everything up. And, you know, I almost would get more excited the last couple of years when I wasn't playing every day, if I would talk to a kid and then he'd go out there and have a good at bat and get a hit or do something. It almost was better than me getting the hit. I think I knew I could do it. I had done it and, know to see a kid that kind of doubted themselves or maybe didn't have a plan and and then to see that sort of happen in front of you was fun so you know that kind of led me to staying involved and you know as my kids get a little bit older and have a little bit more free time maybe getting more involved in a couple different places but you know I'm lucky to have two really good organizations to go back to and be welcome at and um yeah I look forward to uh to getting back there and hanging out with the boys one, one midweek game and maybe taking some BP with a metal bat and see if I can still see if I can still hit. Yeah. Coach Mack will probably throw me sliders and stuff.

We'll call those kids before you go to bed. So, um, just, uh, thanks for taking the time and, and, uh, we'll, we'll see you soon.

All right, guys. Thanks for having me.

That was fun. Yeah.

Next time you're on, we want your best coach Mac story.

Thank you, Ryan.

Thank you. See you guys. A

Il right. What do we think? Is that a good place as any to wrap it up? That's pretty good. Yeah.  
All right. Well, that's going to wrap up episode two of 1186, the podcast, obviously a big one at home tomorrow night, tomorrow afternoon, excuse me, against ODU and then some tests this weekend in Florida. We will get in all that next week on episode three for now. Thanks for joining us here on 1186, the podcast. We'll see you next time.