

11U Banditos back Stronger than Ever

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The Houston Banditos was consistently one of the top teams in the nation last year. But, Coach Sanson Faltine and his staff seems to keep finding ways to continue developing this team so that they just simply get better and better - year after year. They are coming off an outstanding 2011 season having compiled an overall record of 59-16-1 while competing in tough Nations, Super Series, and USSSA events. Down the stretch of their 2011 season, this team won the Super Series Nationals and went on to finish strong at the NYBC National Championships losing a close semi-finals matchup against the #1 ranked Oakley Stingrays.

While they have played a limited schedule, due to player commitments to other sports, the Banditos have been busy reinforcing their roster. Their current 2012 Fall/Winter record stands at 17-5-2. Most of their play has been playing up a level in 12U Nations baseball events.

The 2012 edition of the 11U Banditos Black are returning a solid core of 9 players from last year's team while adding some outstanding new players. Prominent among the new comers are; Jose Gonzalez (a 1st Baseman/Pitcher who is a big time hitter), Matthew Thompson (who brings a first rate arm to lead the Banditos pitching rotation), and Kameron Johnson (who not only brings another big arm with electric stuff to their pitching rotation, but also brings a very heavy bat to go along with it).

Following is a snapshot preview of the 11U 2012 Banditos Black.



#2 Justin Wishkoski (SS, OF, P - 4'8" R/R) is a 4 year returns vacuum cleaner at short stop, but can play any position on the field. He has both smooth hands and slick fielding abilities. He also has tremendous speed with above average power from both sides of the plate - he's a game changer.

#4 Cameron Godfrey (2B, P - 5'2" R/R) is another 5 year returner. G-Money is a go "getter" in the outfield, he's got mad speed and the ability to track the ball in the air like no other. Cameron is one those kids that can do it all on the field...a modern era Willie Mays, he can also carry a team with his bat so don't let his size fool you, because he hits with authority. This kid comes ready to play every day; no bad attitude, no excuses just 110% hustle and effort!



#7 Elijah Bear (OF, P - 4'9" L/L) is a 4 year Bandito. At only 10 years old, he has been playing up since he was 6 years old. He might be younger, but he can still hold his own and is a very dangerous hitter with power to all fields - a flat out RBI machine.



#8 Sammy Faltine (C, P, OF - 5'1" S/R) is a switch hitter who is returning for his 6th season. He is one of those kids that was born to play baseball. He will beat you with his glove or speed; he covers so much ground in the middle infield that it's just unbelievable. A hard grounder over second base...he's there, a line drive 6' up in the air...he's got it. Sammy "The Kid" is a clutch contact hitter with occasional pop.



#9 Hagen Barcello (IF, OF, P - 4'10" R/R) is a 3 Year Bandito who is returning once again this year. Hollywood is a very smart and coachable kid who can play infield and outfield. Hagen is a true competitor on the mound; he has command of all his pitches and has a very deceiving delivery that throws hitters off. At the plate snag is all business "Can you say Clutch" Hagen packs a heavy bat, he has great gap to gap power with occasional HR POP, a real pitchers nightmare.

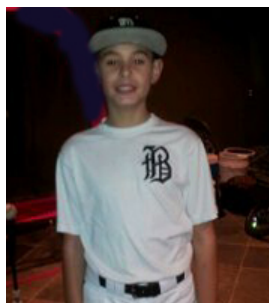
#11 Bobby Lada

(IF, OF, P - 4'8" R/R) is another newcomer this year. He is a smooth defensive player that can play any infield or outfield position, including pitching. He brings tremendous range, a BIG arm, and blazing speed. He has already made his presence known by making several spectacular plays.



#15 Jose Gonzalez (1B, OF, P - 5'1" L/L) is a big time newcomer to the Banditos this year. He is a BIG, strong kid that has raw power to all fields along with a very smooth, balance and compact lefty swing. Jose is also starting to pitch this year for the first time - so, look for him to also give Banditos some quality innings on the mound.

#17 Matthew Thompson (OF, P, C - 5'2" R/R) is another key addition to the Banditos this year. He is one of those kids that flat out "BRING IT". At only 11 years old, he is already throwing nearly 70mph. That's what you call a BIG LEAGUE ARM. To top it off, he also has a nasty hook to offset his fastballs. Look for him to be one of their big game pitchers this year.



#18 Rene Ramos (OF, IF, P - 5'2" R/R) is another one of the Banditos outstanding newcomers this year. Look for him to make his mark on the team as the spring season gets going. He has played just a hand full of games with the team, but is already making an impact b on the mound as well as getting some key hits.

#21 Ramsey Amador (C,P,IF - 5'5" R/R) is

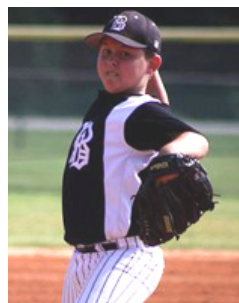


another newcomer this year. This kid brings size to the team. He is a very talented ball player who has played up most of his life and has a great understanding of the game. He is a "Bulldog" on the mound with a very heavy and very sneaky fastball to go along with both a "nasty" curveball and a "biting" slider. Ramsey is not only is a great pitcher; he's also an outstanding catcher who has the ability to shut down the running game.



#28 Kameron Johnson (OF, P - 5'5" R/R) is a very talented new comer this season. When this kid is on the mound, he can bring the kind of electricity that can shut down a powerful lineup of batters. In addition, he is not only is a really good pitcher, but he is also an outstanding hitter with major pop to all fields.

#29 Kevin "Knockout" Ortiz (3B, OF, C - 5'1" R/R) Kevin has played with the Banditos over the past 2 ½ years. He is a right handed hitter with major pop to all fields, a doubles type hitter. Knock Out also has come into his own at the catcher position, he has the ability of receiving and blocking behind the plate and in addition has great velocity with good off speed stuff on the bump.



#44 Preston Hoffart (P, C - 4'9" R/R) is a 6 year returner who is a top rate catcher. He can call, receive, block and shut down the running game; He is a hard nose kid with phenomenal understanding of the game. He brings good power with great gap to gap strength, This young athlete has a great work ethic and a leader.

#90 Joe Davis (1B, 3B, P - 5'2" R/R) has been with the team for the past 5 years. Davis brings an A+ attitude to the game. He is a big kid who is blessed with tremendous power. He also has great control at the mound.



Given the talent that the Banditos are returning combined together with the outstanding players that they have added and you can see why we say that this team has got to be included as one of the teams who are odds on favorites to finish at the very top of the heap this year!

You'll see them at the TbS Nationals this year.