



Oscar Espinal, 10u Coach

How long have you been with Koa, and in what capacity: I joined the Koa family in January 2018.

Playing/coaching experience: Assistant coach for one season at my HS before joining Koa. 2x champion in Koa's BABL A division. I am also a coach in the BABL AA division and assist in the Travel program.

What makes you tick (what motivates you)? Living in each moment as if it were my last. I try to make the best out of every situation. There might not be a tomorrow, "Yesterday is history and tomorrow's a mystery, today is a gift, which is why they call it the present."

What's the best thing about baseball? The best thing about baseball, in my opinion, is, once the cleats are laced, and the umpire yells "PLAY BALL!." That feeling of "alright, let's do this!" knowing that your team is behind you, that they're all there for the same common goal and they are going to give it their ALL!

Non-baseball interests: I have been doing stand-up comedy since the age of 18, Besides writing jokes, I spend my spare time working on a screen play.



Koa Travel Baseball Staff Bios



KoaSports

Lorenzo Christy, 11u Coach

What Makes You Tick/Motivated: Family, Growth, and Learning. Knowing I have the opportunity to change someone's life on a daily basis.

Previous Baseball Experience: I was an outfielder at Seneca Valley HS and a Collegiate Outfielder at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES). I was the Assistant Coach at Seneca Valley HS for 3 years and also coached with the Baseball Factory for 2 Travel Seasons including National Events.

Off-field Interests: Playing football and basketball. I also enjoy reading and would like to see myself traveling more in the near future to learn about other cultures first hand.



Stephen Cuccia, 11u Coach

How Long Coaching for Koa, Capacities: Fall of 2019 will be my first season with Koa Sports and I'll be with the 11U Travel Team.

What Makes You Tick/Motivated: My mother is the most powerful, selfless, loving person I know. Having been taught by the best I expect to be nothing less, high expectations produce next level results.

Previous Baseball Experience: Played Travel Baseball from little league through high school (including a trip to Cooperstown) with the Crofton Baseball Club. He was a pitcher and first basemen for 4 years at Arundel HS. I look forward to sharing my love and passion for the game. Baseball was a focal point in my journey, helping shape the person I am today. I want to instill the same attributes I was taught by the many influential coaches I've had in my life. Let's have fun and get to work!

Local Connection: Graduated from Arundel HS (in Maryland) and recently moved back to the area after spending time in Colorado and Florida. Currently, I am an Emergency Medical Technician with aspirations to pursue Nursing and/or a Paramedic career.

Off-field Interests: I am an adventure enthusiast. I'm an avid skier, downhill mountain biker, and love to go off-roading. I was a Ski Instructor at Winter Park Resort in Colorado which I made countless memories and experiences that will last a life time. I am also an avid golfer and have coached youth and women's clinics.





Howard Bolden, 12u Coach

How Long Coaching for Koa, Capacities: I have been with Koa for 3 years. 3 season coaching BABL with one undefeated season + one championship. 6 seasons of travel baseball, 3 with 12u, 2 with 13u, 1 fall season with 14u.

What Makes You Tick/Motivated: I love the game and I love seeing the kids get better. I want to teach them as much as possible about the game I have + make them the best coaches possible.

Previous Baseball Experience: 4 years varsity baseball in High School. 2 years of club baseball at UVA.

Local Connection: Lives in Falls Church, originally from Lynchburg, VA. Lived in the DC Area for 20 years.

Off-field Interests: I DJ as a hobby and work with a pit bull rescue group.



John Paseur, 12u Coach

How Long Coaching for Koa, Capacities: This is my second year with Koa; I've coached the Splitters in the fall of 2016, spring of 2017, including a championship in the fall of 2017, and will continue into 2018. I've also had the pleasure of coaching Koa's 10u Travel team in the spring, summer, and fall of 2017, and am excited about our upcoming 2018 schedule.

What Makes You Tick/Motivated: I enjoy coaching because I love the game. Teaching and sharing my knowledge, experience, and skills with young men, I hope to not only enable them to succeed on the playing field but in the classroom, and in life beyond baseball.

Previous Baseball Experience: I played a little D3 baseball for Johns Hopkins University, where I graduated from in 2016.

Local Connection: I'm from McLean, Virginia, and attended The Landon School in Bethesda, Maryland.

Off-field Interests: When I'm not out on the field, I can be found around Koa's HQ, helping out with hitting or catching clinics.



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Brock Hayden, 13u Coach

How Long Coaching for Koa: Began coaching KOA Fall 18' with the 12U travel team.

Previous Baseball Coaching Experience: Began coaching at Lake Braddock Secondary School in fall of 2017. Once playing career was over I started as a pitching coach for the Loudoun Riverdogs in the Cal Ripken Collegiate league in the summer of 2018 and joining the T Bolts for 2019.

What Makes You Tick/Motivated: Being able to show up to the baseball field on a daily basis always motivates me. Especially being able to do it in the area I grew up and played.

Previous Baseball experience: Played in Great Falls Little League and McLean Babe Ruth when I was a kid. Graduated from McLean High school and played three years at Coastal Carolina before Tommy John. I then played my senior season at George Mason. Also played two summers in the Valley baseball summer league for the Strasburg Express.

Local Connection: I grew up in McLean Va and I played for KOA back in 2010 to 2012. I still stay in touch with the majority of my friends from KOA

Off-field Interests: When I'm not coaching or playing sports I like hanging out with the dogs (Richard and Vickey) and watch sports or movies. Also, enjoy going on hikes around Great Falls Park. Big Texas Rangers fan.



Bruce Beatty, 13u Coach

How Long Coaching for Koa, Capacities: 2 Years, 11u in 2016 and both 12/14u this summer

What Makes You Tick/ Motivated: Bringing energy to everything I do.

Previous Baseball Experience: 3-year Varsity Player at Mclean High School where I was awarded 1st Team All-District my Senior year.

Local Connection: Grew up in the Mclean area, played on Next Level Baseball (The team before they changed the name to Koa), then Koa for another 2 years.

Off-field Interests: I'm a PE teacher, so I enjoy getting outside and playing games or doing different activities. Also, love just watching the Nationals every night.





Mark Brown, 14u Coach

How Long Coaching for Koa, Capacities: 2 years, 2 years with AA Changeups, 3 years of Travel.

What Makes You Tick/Motivated: Winning while bringing the team together. I love seeing the progress and hard work that brings the team together.

Previous Baseball Experience: Played 4 years at Wootton High School, finished 3rd in ERA in the county. Won 3 state championships at the travel level and also 1 world series.

Local Connection: Grew up in Gaithersburg, went to Frost Middle School and Wootton High School.

Off-field Interests: I love hanging with friends, just relaxing, watching sports. I find any time I can to be outside and playing basketball, football or baseball. I've been working with kids since I was 16 so I thoroughly enjoy being around and spending time with kids.



Gregory Albertini, 14u Coach

How Long Coaching for Koa, Capacities: Starting year 2 as a baseball coach. Coached AAA, and 11u Travel.

What Makes You Tick/Motivated: I want to be successful, seeing kids waste their time and ability is what makes me tick.

Previous Baseball Experience: I played baseball my whole life, through high school. Played 3rd, SS, and pitched.

Local Connection: Born and raised in Rockville and lived in Montgomery County my whole life.

Off-field Interests: I love music as well as hanging out at the beach. Playing golf is how I really like to spend time and relax.





Steve Christakos, JV East Coach

How Long Coaching for Koa, Capacities: Been with Koa since 2012, both as a BABL and Travel Head Coach. Currently coaches the BABL Baysox and Koa's 14U East Travel Team

What Makes You Tick/Motivated: Effort/attitude that is given when no one is watching. Teaching proper pitching mechanics to ensure pitchers can throw efficiently and reduce injury and help hitter drive the ball into the gap.

Previous Baseball Experience: 3 years Varsity starting pitcher in high school, Montgomery County All-Star as a pitcher, 4-year college pitcher at Ursinus College.

Local Connection: Next Level (Koa) Travel Player and Walter Johnson High School.

Off-field Interests: Red Sox fan.



Carlos Mesa, JV East Coach

Before Koa: I was teaching swim lessons at meadow brook aquatic center where Michael Phelps trained.

What Makes You Tick/Motivated: What motivates me is my mother ever since my father passed away when I was younger. She raised my 3 siblings and I all by herself.

Previous Baseball Experience: I've played baseball my entire life; starting from little league to Montgomery Blair High to playing just one year at the University of Maryland eastern shore.

Local Connection: Born in the silver spring Maryland area.

Off the field interest: I enjoy shooting, editing film, and watching movies.





Mike Evans, JV West/North Coach

How Long Coaching for Koa, Capacities: Started coaching with Koa in 2011 through 2014. Returned to coach in the summer of 2017. Have coached most age groups with Koa travel baseball, mainly 10U-16U travel teams. I have coached High School Varsity and Junior Varsity teams for Koa. I am also an Assistant Coach for the Green Wave, Koa's summer collegiate team.

What Makes You Tick/Motivated: I love the game of baseball and seeing players grow and make progress over time. I enjoy building team chemistry, and I try to be the coach that I always loved to play for. With a background in Education, I get motivated by helping players develop and seeing them reach their full potential.

Previous Baseball Experience: 1994 Little League State Champion (Florida). Played AAU baseball for multiple teams in central Florida. Four sport athlete in High School.

Local Connection: Live in Alexandria, Virginia. George Mason University Alumni.

Off-Field Interest: Surfing, visiting history museums, playing adult softball and basketball with friends. I enjoy University of Florida athletics and watching the New York Mets.



Steven Friedman, JV West/North Coach

How long have you been with Koa, and in what capacities: I have been with Koa since January of 2017. I coached 3 seasons of BABL and this Spring will be my 4th season coaching travel.

Playing/Coaching Experience: I played many years of travel baseball in MCBA, JV, and Varsity starting shortstop at Rockville High School, 1 fall season at Montgomery College.

What Makes You Tick/Motivated: The opportunity to get better in any way, every day. Nothing is more rewarding for me than seeing the potential in a kid and being able to help them reach their goals and be the best player and person they can be.

Non-baseball interests: Going on bike rides and playing pick up basketball.



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Jack Cheney, JV South Coach

Before Koa: I started coaching baseball at 18 years old as a part-time assistant coach. Following my playing career, I decided to coach as much as possible. In 2019, I was the head coach of an All-Star team in the Babe Ruth League, while also becoming a volunteer assistant coach at my former high school Oakland Mills.

What Makes You Tick/Motivated: With hard work anything is possible. If you really want something, it's never too far out of reach. You can make anything out of yourself, and not a product of your environment. Everybody has potential, it's how bad you want it? That is what I believe separates you from the next person.

Previous baseball experience: During my two years at Salisbury University, I was apart of 2 Conference Championships and had the pleasure of pitching in 2 NCAA Tournaments. This was the 18th & 19th consecutive year attending the NCAA Tournament! One year we came up 9 outs short of a World Series appearance.

Local Connection: Born, raised, and currently reside in Prince Georges County, Maryland. Lived 1 year in Howard County where I graduated from Oakland Mills High School. I am also an Assistant Vice President for CWR Inc.



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KoaSports

Tony Korson, CEO

If you haven't met him, you surely will soon. CEO Tony Korson is a Bethesda boy with a love of baseball and a belief in the power of youth sports.

Playing/coaching experience: After attending Whitman HS (where he's now a proud member of the Hall of Fame!!), he received his BA in Finance and tossed his 12-6 curveball at Florida Gulf Coast University. After graduation, Tony decided to forego the world of suits and ties for jerseys and cleats...and Koa Sports was born!

Favorite De-Stresser: Cruising in the Jeep, top down, doors off!

Signature Look: Crazy hair

Walkup Song: Pursuit of Happiness – Kid Cudi



Andrew Cresci, Director of Baseball Operations

How long have you been with Koa, and in what capacity:

I started working at Koa in February 2018 as a coach/instructor and baseball operations assistant. I will be coaching the BABL A Dingers as well as providing instruction for clinics and private lessons.

Playing/coaching experience: In 2017 I played overseas in Rome, Italy for S.S. Lazio. Prior to that, I played collegiate baseball at Sacred Heart University. I have 5+ years coaching in both individual and team environments and have coached several rec and travel teams in both, New Jersey and New York.

What makes you tick (what motivates you)? The passion for coaching and the sport of baseball. Coaching is the only job I've ever had where I do not have to look at the clock and hope my day is over. Nothing motivates me like a love for what you do.

What's the best thing about baseball? The atmosphere and extra base hits.

Local Connection: I recently moved to Washington, D.C. and love it!

Non-baseball interests: After making the switch from full time player to full time coach, I am attempting to fill that competitive void with giving cycling/road racing a go. I am also a big history buff, so I enjoy museums and being outdoors.





Brian Brewer, GM College Team

Year you started with Koa? I've been with Koa since 2007, when Koa was named "Next Level Baseball".

Previous Baseball Experience: Brian was a 2x All State, 3x Baltimore Sun All Met, 2x Washington Post All Met player at Hammond HS in Columbia MD. As a high school Junior, Brian set the Maryland Public High School record for home runs in a season with 14. In 2016, he was inducted into Hammond HS Hall of Fame. In College, I attended Nationally ranked UNC-Wilmington, where I was part of the #3, ranked pitching staff in the country playing in the LSU Regional in 2003. A serious back injury forced Brian to transfer closer to home, where he finished his playing career at Towson University. While at Towson Brian participated in the CAA Championship game.



Coaching Career: Hammond HS - 2008 - 2012 - 2 state championship appearances
CCBC Catonsville - 2013 - Present - Won 2 MD Division 2 JUCO Championships and won the Region XX Championship in 2016. Summer - Coached 14U,15U,16U and the MCBL College Team. Currently serving as General Manager for Koa Sports Collegiate Team and the Silver Spring Thunderbolts in the Cal Ripken Collegiate League.

What motivates you? Every time you step on the field never knowing who is watching you! Never take a play off, or mental break. Always keep your head and stay in the game!

Local Connection: Born and raised in Howard County. Went to Hammond HS in Columbia MD. Currently, serves as the Resource Teacher for Physical Education, Health, Art, Theater and Technology at Sligo Middle School in Silver Spring MD.

Fun Fact: My first college conference start was against Justin Verlander (7 time MLB All-Star & Cy Young Winner) when he pitched at Old Dominion.