

## Defenders have their eyes on the playoffs

Warrior Run has talented pitching staff, experience

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By Chris Nagy

TURBOTVILLE—After two rough seasons, there is optimism on the baseball diamond at Warrior Run.

The Defenders under first-year head coach Howie Raup have the talent to return back to the playoffs—somewhere they haven't been since 2011.

"This team has the potential to make the playoffs and make some noise not only getting there but in the postseason," said Raup, who was an assistant coach last season. "We have a lot of leaders on this team and they will make sure we keep striving towards that goal."

Leaders aren't the only thing the Defenders have this season, they also have pitching.

Warrior Run sports a talented and experienced staff this season led by Hunter Raup. While Hunter will be the ace, the Defenders also have the luxury of going to Jared Bender, Derek Keiser and Brent Michael.

"We have some depth on the mound," said Howie Raup. "We have a lot of guys that I can give the ball to and get quality innings from."

Catching the staff will be Connor Pelletier, who is starting his second season behind the dish for Warrior Run.

The infield will also be strong for the Defenders with Keiser at first and Bender at short. Jon LeBarron will be at second with Lloyd Minium at third.

Sean Morehart will be at short when Bender is pitching and when that is not the situation, he will be in center.

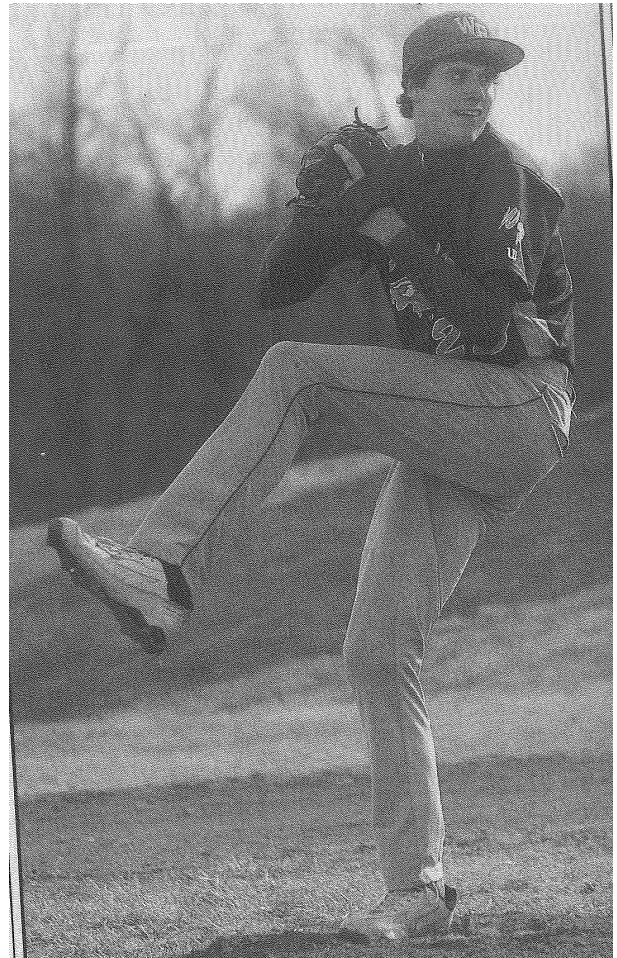
"If we stay together all season we have the chance to do a lot of good things," said Raup. "We just have to be a team and battle from the first out to the last out."

### Warrior Run

Coach: Howie Raup, first year

Conference: HAC-II

Roster: Jared Bender Connor Pelletier, Derek Keiser, Andrew Gummo, Tyler Meehan, Hunter Raup, Hunter Stroup, John LeBarron, Lloyd Minium, Shane Morehart, Brent Michael, Teddy Bender, Collin Rothfus, Kyle Welshans, Noah Showers.



Hunter Raup