

# Rivertowns Sports

FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 2017

## In a gridiron town, Archer stands out on the diamond

By Eugene Rapay

There's no doubt Dobbs Ferry is a football town, one that fuels a certain craze over its historic program.

### Baseball Player of the Year

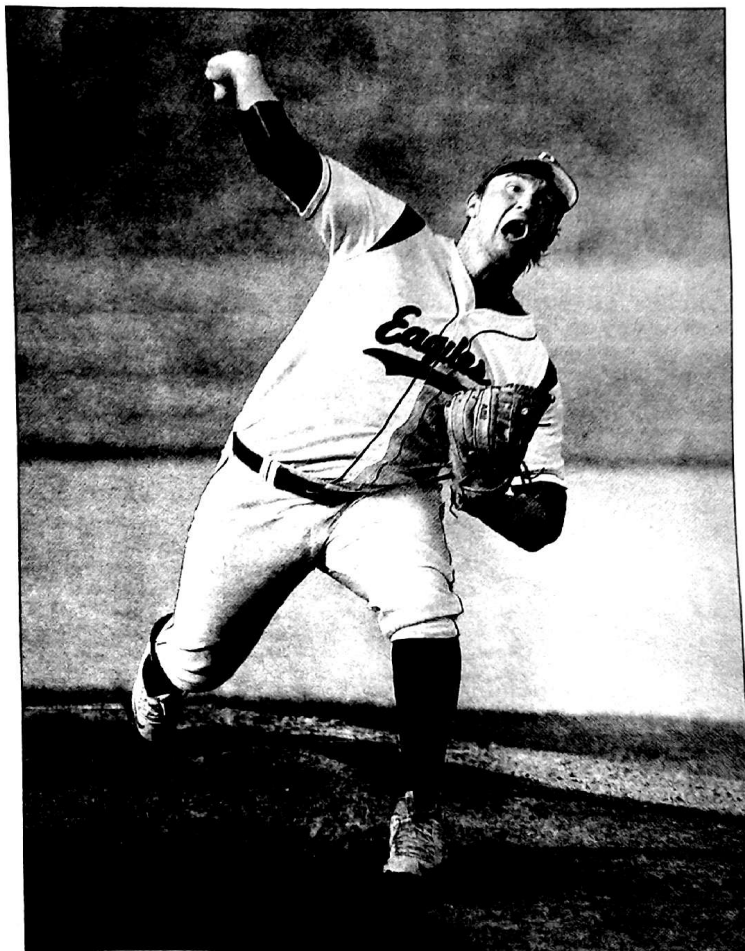
So, when 6-foot-5, 280-pound John Archer heads to Gould Park for practice or a game, something feels amiss as the towering junior carries a bat and glove.

"People ask me all the time — 'play football, play football,'" Archer said. "Everybody would always ask me to play or work out in the summer, but it was never really an option for me because I always wanted to play baseball in the summer. It was always my favorite thing to do."

His passion for baseball flows through his veins. It may also be encoded in his DNA. His older brother, Michael, graduated from Dobbs Ferry High School in 2016 and was Archer's teammate for his first two years on the varsity baseball team.

He played basketball before focusing on baseball full-time. There was something unnatural about the hardwood, as his heart belonged on the diamond.

After all, he has a solid collection of just under 20 Major League Baseball jerseys, ranging from past greats like Tony Gwynn, Cal Ripken Jr., and Gary Carter, to current all-stars Kris Bryant, Manny Machado, and José Bautista. He also has a number of jerseys representing players from his favorite team, the New York Mets: Jacob deGrom, Matt Harvey, Yoenis Cespedes, and his favorite player, Noah Syndergaard. However, nothing tops his prized Mike Piazza black throwback uniform.



John Archer

JIM MACLEAN/RIVERTOWNS ENTERPRISE

Complementing his jersey collection is his impressive knowledge of the sport, including his ability to rattle off the scores of every playoff and World Series game from the 2016 postseason.

"I met him when he was in eighth grade, and you immediately just get the idea that he's a baseball kid," Dobbs Ferry head coach Frank Adamo said. "He's grown into a smart, hard-working, talented player. When you see him, you're impressed with his overall ability, his skills. He's a kid that you watch off the field. You see all the talent that's there. You watch him hit in the batting cage, it actually takes a step up when you see him on the field."

Archer had a breakout season this spring. He averaged .426 at the plate, leading the team with five home runs, seven doubles, and 20 RBIs. He also delivered on the mound as the Eagles' ace and part-time closer. As a pitcher, he finished with a 2-2 record, had a 3.91 ERA, and struck out a team-high 32 batters.

This season, he earned the title of the league's Most Valuable Player and All-Section accolades. He can now add another accomplishment: Enterprise Player of the Year.

"It's a big thing for me, because there's some really talented players in the area, and it really just shows how great our coaching staff is and how great my teammates are," Archer said. "I'm just thankful that I was able to stay healthy this season and have a productive year."

It was a comeback season for Archer, whose sophomore year was derailed by an injury. He sustained a fractured pelvis running from first to third in one of the first few games of 2016.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

# Archer

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

---

"It was heartbreaking," Archer said. "I was really looking forward to the season. It was the last season with a group of 10 seniors, and we were expected to do a lot. When I heard the news, I couldn't believe it because I had all these expectations for the team and for myself, and I realized some of this is going to take the back door to my injury."

He recovered and was able to finish his first season since his freshman year in 2015, while showing significant growth along way.

Archer hopes to continue his evolution as a baseball player for his senior year and potentially, at the next level. So far, he doesn't have any offers, but he's working with Dobbs Ferry assistant coach Brian Sepinski on recruitment. Both state that Division I and II schools have shown interest.

In the meantime, he's looking forward to playing summer baseball and improving as a player before his final season for Dobbs Ferry. He hopes to help the Eagles build on what they accomplished this year.

With growing attention coming his way, he maintains a business-like demeanor. Humility has helped him grow, and he doesn't plan on changing that approach.

"I try to be humble at all times," Archer remarked, "because it's a game that can humble you quick."