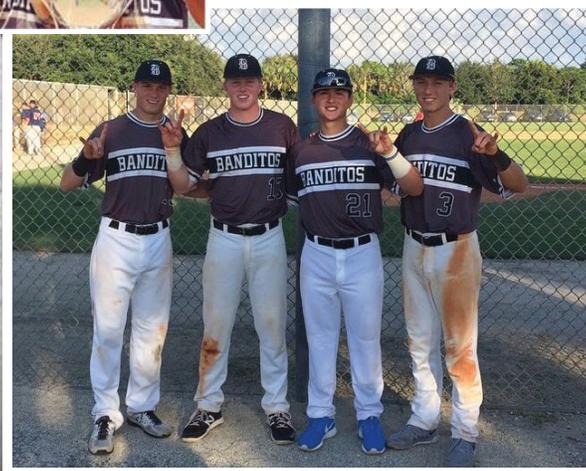


SPECIAL ADVERTISEMENT



# HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

**D**oes the opposite sex limit your potential goals? There are many pros and cons to having relationships for the serious baseball player.

Let's just be honest people, how many hours do you spend with your girlfriend that takes away from your faith, family, studies and baseball?

Quite frankly, those four items should be much more important than telling your girlfriend that you love her in high school. Girlfriends are a major distraction when it comes to reaching your potential as a student-athlete.

If your girlfriend has a full understanding of the pecking order in which she comes in, then you will have a healthy relationship. She has to be able to comprehend there are lifting weights in the morning, class all day, early work before practice, four hours of baseball practice, after practice conditioning, study hall, and then maybe an hour or two with her before getting a good night's rest.

If she is cool with that type of a lifestyle, then she is a definite keeper. For the serious baseball player, the high school you're with is made up of your brothers and compadres.

Those are the people that you want to build chemistry and spend time with. If the team has a function with your coaches and fellow teammates, are

you the guy that is cuddling with your girlfriend on the couch? If the answer is yes, then your priorities are out of whack.

You owe it to your coach and brothers that you go to battle with to be fully invested and committed to them. Here is a checklist of what you are looking for. If you check yes to the next few comments, don't ever admit it!!

When you're in the on-deck circle getting ready to hit, if you're thinking about your girlfriend being with the star quarterback, this could be a big problem!

Next, when you're on defense between innings and you can't wait for the game to be over so you can go watch Titanic or The Notebook with her, that is another big problem! Last, but certainly not least, thinking about taking a selfie on Women Crush Wednesday #WCW immediately after the game for social media purposes, the problems will continue!

Seriously, give me a break! Are any of these guys you? Don't be misled, there is nothing wrong with having a girlfriend as long as she understands baseball comes first. You can't have it both ways!

This article is also meant for girl softball players and guys being a distraction, or for any type of athlete that has goals. It is not too late to get to work and the window of opportunity does not stay

open very long.

Here are my three latest predictions regarding this spring, which is wide open this year. The team with the deepest pitching staff will win it all. I keep thinking about Cy-Fair baseball -- they're loaded. They have 4-5 arms that could beat you on any given day.

Atascocita could run the table this year coming off a great run in 2014. Lastly, my dark-horse sleeper is Oak Ridge. If they can find someone to step up to help Luken Baker in the rotation, they have a legit chance.

Also, look for Bandito tryouts coming in May, our schedules are completed and will be online at [www.banditosbaseball.com](http://www.banditosbaseball.com). Always remember that "if you hit, you don't sit." I wish the best of luck to everybody this spring!



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