

NEWPORT GULLS BASEBALL

Post Office Box 777 Newport, Rhode Island 02840 (T) 401-849-4982 (F) 401-849-4987

"RAISING THE BAR IN SUMMER COLLEGIATE BASEBALL"

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Contact Info: Chuck Paiva
401-849-4982

Immediate Release

Gulls Coaching Staff Set for 2009

Newport, RI – The Newport Gulls, a member of the New England Collegiate Baseball League, is pleased to announce the return of their Head Coach Mike Coombs and Assistant Coach Scott Virgulak for the 2009 season.

Coach Coombs returns for his fifth season at the helm of the Newport Gulls since taking over the team as the field manager in 2005. Coach Coombs guided the 2005 club to the New England Collegiate Baseball League Championship by winning the Fay Vincent Sr. Cup. In 2006 the Newport Gulls broke the league record for wins in the regular season with 32. Coombs was awarded the NECBL 2006 Coach of the Year Award for his outstanding season as the field manager and was named the manager of the Southern Division in the 2006 All-Star Game played in Keene, NH. Coach Coombs returned for his third campaign in 2007 and guided his club to the NECBL league championship series but lost to the Vermont Mountaineers. In 2008 Coombs was named the Manager for the Southern Division All Stars and won the Southern Division Championship advancing to the NECBL Championship Series for the 6th time in 8 seasons, losing to the Sanford Mainers. In four seasons with the Gulls, Coombs has an incredible combined win-loss record of 124-67 and has made it to the NECBL Championship series three out of four years.

Coach Virgulak returns for his 4th season as Coombs top assistant. He will continue his role as the Pitching Coach and Third Base Coach. Coach Virgulak's 2006 pitching staff almost won the Triple Crown of pitching leading the NECBL in wins, ERA and finished second in strikeouts. Virgulak's 2007 staff also won the NECBL Pitching ERA title and missed out on another Triple Crown effort by one win and second in strikeouts. In 2008 the pitching staff had a respectable 3.68 ERA and led the NECBL in strikeouts establishing a single season record with 405 k's with only 139 walks. Virgulak, a native of Rhode Island also served as the field manager for the North Adams Steeple Cats in 2005. He is currently an Assistant Coach at Rhode Island College.

The new addition to the coaching staff is former Gull (2003) Jason Armstrong. Jason was an NECBL All Star in 2003 and was drafted by the Toronto Blue Jays in the 25 Rd. of the 2004 MLB draft. He signed with the Blue Jays and played four seasons before getting injured. Jason is now an Assistant Coach at his Alma Mater, Trinity University in Texas. He will work with the Gulls as hitting coach, with position players and will be the first base coach.

The Gulls begin the season on June 5, 2009. For more information, please go to www.newportgulls.com.

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