



# St. Louis Metro Collegiate 2021 All Star Game



Monday, July 12, 2021 • 7:00 PM BMAC





## 2021 NATIONAL TEAM

No.	Player's Name	Team	Position	Hgt/Wgt	Bats/Throws	School/University	Grade
2	Jason Pesold	Bandits	IF	5'9/165	Right/Right	McKendree University	Sophomore
3	Mitchell Bonczkowski	Bandits	IF	6'0/180	Right/Right	St. Louis CC	Freshman
4	Jake Vitale	Bandits	OF	5'10/185	Right/Left	Parkland College	Freshman
7	Tanner Whitworth	Browns	IF	6'0/185	Right/Right	Millikin University	Junior
7	Caden Allen	Bandits	OF	5'9/145	Right/Right	Southwestern IL College	Freshman
8	Blair Speas	Browns	IF	5'11/140	Right/Left	Iowa Lakes CC	Freshman
8	Christian Harvey	Bandits	P	6'0/165	Right/Right	St. Louis CC	Sophomore
9	Luke Smith	Bandits	IF	6'0/180	Right/Right	Lindenwood University	Freshman
10	Nathan Shepard	Browns	P	5'9/180	Left/Left	Westminster College	Sophomore
10	David Howard	Bandits	P	5'8/180	Right/Right	Fontbonne University	Sophomore
12	Dylan Leffeler	Bandits	P	6'0/160	Left/Right	St. Louis CC	Freshman
13	Luke Scalf	Bandits	IF	5'11/170	Right/Right	Rockhurst University	Sophomore
13	Sean McRaven	Browns	OF	5'10/170	Right/Right	MO Baptist University	Sophomore
14	Max Meusey	Browns	P	6'2/220	Left/Left	Truman State University	Junior
14	Shane Kearbey	Bandits	P	6'1/165	Left/Left	East Central College	Freshman
15	Aaron Klar	Browns	OF	5'9/165	Right/Left	Greenville University	Senior
16	Dawson Engelbrecht	Bandits	P	6'3/170	Left/Right	Fontbonne University	Freshman
18	Matthew Manint	Browns	C	5'11/195	Right/Right	Fontbonne University	Senior
21	Drew Saunders	Bandits	P	6'2/220	Right/Right	Missouri S&T	Junior
22	TJ Williams	Bandits	OF	6'0/207	Right/Right	Uncommitted	Junior
23	Tyson Wilson	Browns	P	6'2/180	Right/Right	Fontbonne University	Junior
24	Carson Shultz	Browns	P	6'2/225	Right/Right	Missouri State	Junior
26	Dain Wilson	Bandits	C	5'10/180	Right/Left	Rockhurst University	Sophomore
29	Paul Wilson	Browns	IF	5'7/220	Right/Right	Fontbonne University	Senior
30	Tanner Lukitsch	Bandits	IF	6'1/220	Right/Right	St. Louis CC	Sophomore

**Coaches:** Rick Fiala, Elliott Sterett **Assistant Coaches:** Brian Speas, Clayton Evans



## 2021 AMERICAN TEAM

No.	Player's Name	Team	Position	Hgt/Wgt	Bats/Throws	School/University	Grade
3	Ben Axelrod	Knights	P	5'10/165	Right/Right	DePauw University	Sophomore
4	Ty Sucher	Knights	IF	5'10/165	Right/Right	DePauw University	Sophomore
4	Drew Sutton	Indians	P	5'10/175	Right/Right	Millikin University	Sophomore
5	Ben Swift	Knights	OF	6'1/190	Right/Right	North Central MO College	Sophomore
7	Griffin Baur	Indians	IF	6'5/215	Right/Left	Cornell University	Sophomore
9	Christopher Connolly	Indians	OF	6'1/170	Right/Right	Rockford University	Senior
9	Joe Ahearn	Knights	P	6'3/205	Right/Right	Southwestern IL College	Freshman
10	Hunter Smith	Indians	IF	5'9/170	Right/Right	Milliken University	Junior
11	AJ Pabst	Knights	IF	5'9/165	Right/Right	Davidson College	Junior
11	Pierce Hartmann	Indians	P	6'3/180	Right/Left	Mineral Area College	Sophomore
12	Niko Porcelli	Indians	OF	5'10/195	Right/Left	Undecided	Junior
14	Patrick Deemer	Knights	P	6'4/220	Left/Left	DePauw University	Sophomore
14	Isaac Powers	Indians	P	6'4/190	Right/Right	UMSL	Sophomore
15	Brandon Odehnal	Knights	P	6'4/230	Right/Right	Maryville University	Senior
16	Ethan Lindemann	Knights	C	6'3/205	Right/Right	East Central College	Freshman
18	Jacob Ambuel	Knights	OF	6'2/225	Right/Right	Aurora University	Junior
19	Alex Esker	Knights	P	6'4/200	Left/Left	Southeast MO State U	Freshman
22	Brennan Roach	Knights	IF	6'2/205	Right/Right	DePauw University	Sophomore
24	Brennan Montgomery	Knights	IF	6'1/208	Right/Left	St. Louis CC	Sophomore
25	Tony Lindwedel	Indians	C	5'11/190	Right/Right	University of Notre Dame	Sophomore
25	Connor Gilles	Knights	P	6'2/250	Right/Left	McKendree University	Senior

**Coaches:** Lonnie Maclin, James Morisano **Assistant Coaches:** Dustin Wilson, John Denmon



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## THOUGHTS ON THE PASSING OF A GREAT ONE

On Wednesday, March 31st, the Metro League tragically lost one of its own. MLB and St. Louis Cardinal veteran Ken Reitz passed away at his home in St. Charles, leaving behind his son Brett, his daughter Corrie, six grandchildren and an ocean of red-clad baseball fans to mourn his passing.

Reitz's legacy in baseball is a storied one. Drafted by the Cardinals in 1969, he quickly established himself in the 1970s as a sure-handed fielder at the hot corner. Twice, he set major league records for fewest errors at that position, earning a Gold Glove award

in 1975 and ending his playing days with a .970 career fielding percentage. Forty years after his retirement, it still stands as the all-time highest career fielding percentage in the National League among third basemen and just one point behind the all-time American League career record held by Brooks Robinson. Reitz was nicknamed "The Zamboni Machine" by Cardinal broadcaster Mike Shannon and to this day, Redbird fans still refer to him as such. He wore that moniker with pride and would inscribe it below his signature whenever he autographed a baseball.

Closer to home, Kenny had been a coach for the St. Louis Metro Collegiate Baseball League since 2006. It's often difficult for an old-school baseball man to relate to young players, but it wasn't for Kenny. He took to it like a duck to water. Always supportive of his players, he would shout encouragement, never criticism, regardless of the situation. He liked to say that baseball is a failure game. He understood how difficult that game can be and was careful not to breed discouragement. Like any good mentor, he would offer guidance, but stood back and allowed his young charges to discover the game...and make it their own.

Contrary to what you might expect, this former Major League All Star didn't take the field with something to prove. He was there to share his knowledge and love for baseball. He didn't try to control the flow of the game as so many coaches do these days. He didn't call pitches and he wouldn't throw a lot of signs from his position in the third base coach's box. Why? He wanted his team to process the game for themselves and think through the game situations.

One play he really liked though, maybe to a fault, was the hit-and-run. Kenny used it a lot. He ran it to keep his hitters aggressive and to open dynamic opportunities. That was Kenny—make something happen. Don't sit around and wait for the game to come to you, take it to your opponent. His players loved it, and they loved him. After hearing of Kenny's passing, the son of a former Major Leaguer stated that his fondest memories in baseball were with Ken Reitz in the Metro League. No higher honor can be given to a coach or a teacher than the knowledge that he has had positive impact in the life of a young man.

That's Kenny the player and Kenny the coach. Kenny the man was open and respectful to everyone he met. Everyone was Ken Reitz's friend, because he made them feel that way. He would take a knee to talk to a little leaguer, or sit under the BMAC pavilion with a gaggle of coaches and dads, telling countless stories and sharing his philosophy of the game. I will miss those moments on warm June evenings under the lights. But most of all, I'll miss my friend. We'll all miss our friend. But let's remember him the way he was: a Cardinal for life, an ambassador of the game and still just a big kid in his heart.

So long, Kenny.

For the St. Louis Metro Collegiate Baseball League,  
— Bob Totterer