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[rhazel@pcaschools.org](mailto:rhazel@pcaschools.org) | 334.372.7032

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## **Jalen Benjamin Returning to LCA as Head Baseball Coach**

Rock Hill, SC - Legion Collegiate Academy looked to its own history to fill the position as head baseball coach for the Lancers. When LCA first started its baseball program in 2019, Jalen Benjamin was part of the first coaching staff.

After just one year away, Benjamin returns to lead the program he helped establish.

"We are happy to welcome Jalen Benjamin back home to Legion Collegiate Academy as our head baseball coach," Lancers' Director of Athletics Rich Posipanko said. "He is very familiar with many of our student-athletes, the baseball program and LCA, having helped start the program and serving as an assistant to Coach Devon Lowery for three years. We all have a tremendous amount of respect for Coach Lowery, and he has recommended and endorsed Jalen to the highest degree."

A Charlotte, N.C. native, Benjamin was a standout prep performer at Olympic Renaissance High where he played third base and was also a catcher. He moved on to play two years at Southeastern Community College in Whiteville before completing his collegiate playing career at West Virginia State, just outside Charleston, WV, where he saw action in 49 games over two seasons.

While at West Virginia State, Benjamin earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration.

Following graduation, he became a coach and trainer at HQ4 Baseball and Softball in Charlotte, working with players from tee-ball and little league all the way up to middle and high school aged players. He joined the Legion Collegiate Academy coaching staff in 2019, serving as the co-hitting coach, outfield coach and head Junior Varsity coach.

His efforts made an immediate impact on the Lancers even though his first season with the program was cut short by the Covid pandemic. Once athletics returned in 2021, Benjamin's offensive attack led all of South Carolina high school baseball with 32 home runs and with a .557 slugging percentage. The Lancers also ranked sixth in the state in team batting average (.327) and posted a .443 on-base percentage enroute to a class AA state title.

The Lancers continued to produce offensively in 2022, posting a team batting average of .295 with 23 homers, good for a .508 slugging percentage and a .402 on-base percentage.

"Jalen brings experience and a thorough knowledge of baseball, a good understanding of the concept and importance of the student-athlete and a work ethic and passion for the game," Posipanko said. "We wanted to make sure we maintain the outstanding player-coach relationships along with the baseball culture that has been established here. In Jalen Benjamin, we are confident we have found the characteristics we need in the leader of our baseball program and to be a member of the LCA faculty and staff."

"Sometimes you must leave to return home. Jalen, welcome back to the Castle."

While coaching at Legion, Benjamin also coached for a national travel program, 5-Star Top Prospect, where he recruited players and saw all 20 of his players receive scholarships to play at the collegiate level. He also attended graduate school at West Virginia University, where he received a Masters of Sport Coaching in December of 2022.

He left the Legion Collegiate Academy program following that 2022 season to become an assistant coach at Norfolk State University. He worked with the Spartan's outfielders on defensive skills and assisted the head coach with the hitters. He also served as the first-base coach, bullpen coach and bench coach during the recently completed season.

"Devon Lowery's vision for Legion Baseball was just the beginning of a legacy that will continue to grow and thrive," LCA Principal, Dr. Julie Marshall, said. "While Devon was actively growing players and the program, he had a quiet partner walking beside him, learning from him and, like the players, growing his own skills. Never did either know at that time, the partner would leave briefly only to return and take over the program he had helped grow.

"Your time has come, Coach Benjamin. It's now your turn 'at bat'. I have no doubt you will hit a home run. I am super excited to see you bring your own flavor, gifts and talent to Legion Baseball. Our program and our boys are in great hands. Welcome home, Jalen."

**About Legion Collegiate Academy:** Legion Collegiate Academy (LCA), located in Rock Hill, S.C., serves high school students in a safe, small and family-centered setting. Our students seek the opportunity and challenge of rigorous curriculum, high academic standards and elite athletics while also earning up to two years of college credit. LCA serves students in grades 9-12 using an honors curriculum in 9th and 10th grades with a dual enrollment curriculum in 11th and 12th grades.

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Learn more about LCA by visiting our website at [LegionCollegiateAcademy.org](http://LegionCollegiateAcademy.org) and by following us on social media on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#). For video content, visit our [YouTube](#) channel.