

End of an Era



Coach Sochan and Catcher Steve Grimmer (#32) flank Pitcher Dave Flack, whose injuries and illness proved typical of Raider misfortune in '85.



John F. Kennedy was the American President when Jim Sochan first coached the Raider Varsity Baseball Team. A product of Pennsylvania's coal country and the Korean War, he was something of a culture shock to our middle-class, suburban community: irascible and compassionate, enthusiastic and combative. And yet, in spite of, or because of, this cacophony of personality, his teams won — 338 times, including 5 Conference, 3 County, and 5 State-level titles — with a consistency unequalled in Raider athletic history. In over two decades, his players, honing their skills in off-season leagues he helped to create, finance, and coach in our community, earned over \$3 million in scholarships and grants. With a .621 winning percentage over 23 years, recognition came often to Coach Sochan and his players: 255 players were chosen County/Area/State all-stars by the media, 7 of whom were later drafted by teams in Major League baseball. Coach Sochan was designated 5 times as County/State "Coach of the Year" by the media. While a new Varsity Coach will lead the Raiders in 1986, Jim Sochan's dedication to baseball in his school and community will not be so easily replaced.

Right: Sophomore Chris McAlindin, who, in 1985, was a leader at the plate, flawless in the field, and the team MVP. Raider fans hope he can repeat as a leader in '86.

