

Patrick and Bubba

Bubba wanted Patrick on the team. Patrick's passion for sports brought him there. And true inclusion- belonging and doing things with friends- came from the friendship and respect that happened between Coach Bubba, Patrick and his teammates. Bubba credits Patrick for something unique: "the Patrick factor."

"Because of Patrick the team knows what is important. Kids like Patrick teach all of us what is important."



(Contributed Photo)

Bubba Ritchie and Patrick Bushey bonded over sports. Bubba is the coach of a Colchester Little League and the Colchester All Star baseball team and brought Patrick onto the teams. Patrick played with his team during the regular baseball season. Serving as an honorary team captain of the All Stars, Patrick was an active part of games and practices, keeping an eagle eye on team actions on the baseball diamond. Bubba and his family- particularly his son Nick- are close friends. From baseball, Patrick moved on to hockey, watching every game with his teammates and joining the post game celebration of wins and sadness over losses.



In 2010 the All Star Baseball team lost the last game of the season. As the game ended, the announcer called one final player out to the field. "We have one more player. "Team Captain Patrick Bushey up to bat." Players and families cheered as Patrick walked up to the plate with a big grin on his face. As one watcher- Patrick's mom- puts it, "As he swung at 3, 4, and 5 balls our team was yelling louder than ever and the crowds on both sides began to join in. Finally he performed the now famous 'Bushey Bunt' and ran to first base. Our team came out and jumped around Patrick cheering loudly for him. Smiles everywhere. Game done. Loss forgotten."