

## Hometown ties haven't ended for New Hanover grad Sam Foy

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*Published: Wednesday, April 9, 2014 at 4:21 p.m.*

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For Sam Foy, baseball has always been a family affair. For the sophomore Davidson infielder and New Hanover alumnus, the passion for the game began with his father, Richard.

Richard, now a coach at New Hanover, played for UNCW – also as an infielder – in the early 1980s. Once his playing days were behind him, Foy concentrated on teaching his son the same game that he so loved.

"Yeah, it all started with my dad," Sam Foy said. "He really gave me that love for the game. That was definitely the biggest thing we shared."

Like his father, Sam not only had a passion for the game, but also had knack for it. While at New Hanover, he was a four-year letter winner and first team all-Mideastern Conference from 2010-2012. Then, as a freshman at Davidson, Foy started 47 games for the Wildcats and was voted to the Southern Conference All-Freshman team.

The season wasn't without its challenges, however, as the heightened competition took some getting used to.

"Everyone is just better in college," Foy said. "It takes longer to adjust, but I feel like I adjusted well. The two biggest things for me were getting used to the increased pitching velocity and the speed on the base paths when I'm playing defense. Everyone's getting down the line faster. My defense came around first, but I feel like I've adjusted well."

For Foy, the realization that he was now playing Division I baseball came in an early-season game against perennial national power South Carolina.

"To look up and see that we were playing at a field with 5,000 fans was pretty cool," he said. "I had a few nerves as first, but those went away as the game started."

Through the first 28 games of his sophomore campaign, Foy is producing numbers that look more like his high school stats (.394 batting average) than his freshman year numbers (.236).

Foy is hitting .342 with 40 hits, 7 doubles, and 16 RBI. After spending the majority of last season hitting ninth, Foy is hitting the three-hole this season, a spot typically reserved for the team's most talented and consistent hitter.

The numbers don't mean as much to Foy as winning does, and the Wildcats have gotten off to a 20-8 start this season after finishing last year 18-31. The turnaround doesn't surprise Foy at all.

"We expected to be successful," Foy said. "For us, the entire goal of this year was to win the conference title. After that, we wanted to make a NCAA Regional."

And while his father isn't his actual coach anymore, Foy still relies on him for advice.

"Sometimes he'll give me some hitting advice," he said. "But he mostly leaves that up to my coaches now. He gives me a lot of good mental advice – about keeping my cool regardless of the situation. He might have played at UNCW, but he's definitely a Davidson fan now."

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New Hanover High graduate Sam Foy is back to his regular hitting ways as a sophomore for the Davidson baseball team.