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A Real Citi Slicker

Vincent Fedorczyk '11 Interviews Nationals Pitcher John Lannan '02 at Citi Field

by Alex Vasile '12

Vincent Fedorczyk '11 was seated in Citi Field, interviewing John Lannan, a pitcher for the Washington Nationals as well as a Chaminade graduate of the Class of 2002. This wasn't simply good luck, though. The reason for this interview was to learn how being a Chaminade graduate had affected Lannan's professional baseball career.

Vin's good luck started on an average day. He was sitting in the cafeteria when CHS president Fr. James Williams approached him with an offer he couldn't refuse.

"He asked me if I wanted to interview John Lannan, and of course, I couldn't refuse such an opportunity. I was psyched," Vin said.

Such a tall order required considerable preparation, however, and Vin appropriately spent several nights delving into Lannan's college and professional baseball career, seeking the perfect questions for the interview.

A week later, on May 8, Vin was asking those very same questions to John Lannan.

Entering the stadium, Vin took a lengthy tour of Citi Field with camera crews from MSG Varsity, who televised the interview. They recorded footage outside the stadium and in the locker room before finally making their way out to the field. After great anticipation, the time arrived for Vin to meet Lannan.

"Initially, I was a bit apprehensive," Vin said, "but after being at Citi Field and familiarizing myself with the stadium, I built my confidence, and everything fell into place."

Although he had prepared a total of six questions, the timetable allowed for only three questions. Vin's first question concerned the values of the "Chaminade Man" and their impact on Lannan.

"Through college and professional baseball, so many doors open, but the Chaminade Man mentality never leaves you," Lannan responded.

In addition, Vin asked how John felt about former baseball teammate Mr. Andrew Corcoran '01 and classmates Mr. Gregory Saporita and Mr. Michael Yatco returning to teach at the school. Lannan enthusiastically replied how he thought all graduates should give back to the school in some way.

"It's good to see some of my classmates coming back. I remember them all. I know they're all great guys, and the school does so much so that everyone who attends can have a chance for greatness."

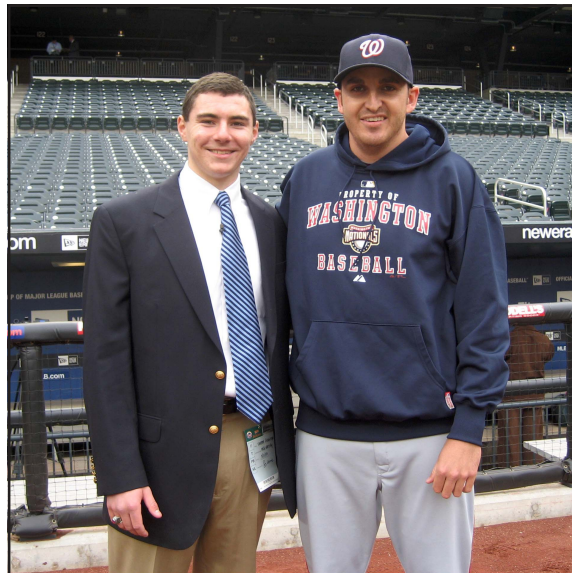
Ten minutes later, the interview concluded. Vin, Lannan, and the MSG Varsity crew were all quite happy with the results.

"Originally, I didn't know what to expect about Lannan's personality, but it turns out he was a really cool guy," Fedorczyk said. "He's really down to earth."

Lannan, it seems, was almost equally as impressed.

"I wasn't expecting such in-depth questions," Lannan said of the interview. "I was expecting questions about statistics and opponents. I really had to think to answer these."

Ultimately, however, it appears that the impact of the interview on Vin would be the greatest. "I've said it many times since the interview, and I can't stop saying it. This was the opportunity of a lifetime and an experience I will never forget." ➤



Vincent Fedorczyk '11 spoke one-on-one with former Flyer and current Washington Nationals pitcher John Lannan '02 at Citi Field before the start of a game between the Mets and the Nationals on May 8.