

# Mullocks a twinning combination for Moorestown Friends

By Nick Italiano, staff writer | Posted: Wednesday, March 30, 2016 8:00 pm

Some teammates often become as close as brothers.

Matt and Mitchell Mullock have grown closer because they're teammates. Such is the dynamic between the fraternal twins, both of whom are four-year soccer and baseball players at Moorestown Friends School.

Their athletic bond was solidified, of all places, on a football field.

"I think we were in the fourth grade. Mitchell was my center and I played quarterback," Matt recalled. "We both made it to the all-star game, so we have a bunch of pictures of him snapping me the ball. It was a good moment."

The duo began participating in sports at age 3, about the same time they became "originals" — students who attend Moorestown Friends from preschool through 12th grade.

"We spent our whole lives at Friends," Mitchell said.

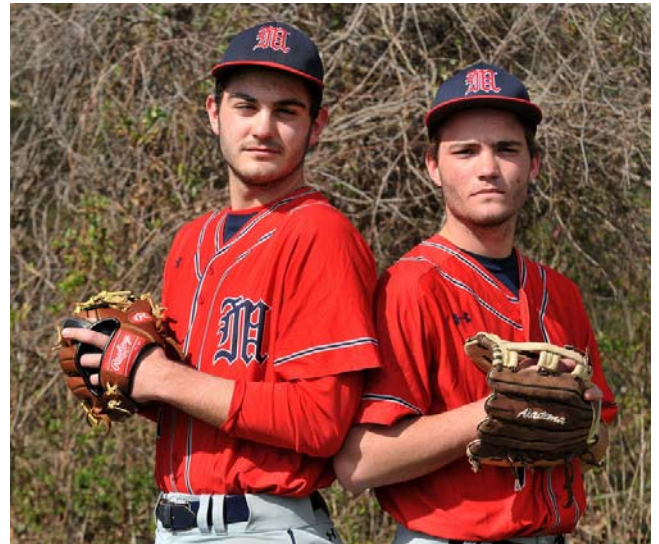
"Kids we went to preschool with are still students here, and it's such an excellent environment."

It made matters difficult when the duo reached an athletic crossroad as high school approached, not only in terms of sport specialization. Changing schools was also considered.

"We're a very sports-oriented family and were thinking about where to find the best high school for sports," said Matt, who would focus on soccer while Mitchell pursued baseball. "But it was a good decision to stay here for high school, and we got plenty of attention."

Enough attention to land Matt in Philadelphia next fall to study business at Saint Joseph's University, while Mitchell heads to Poughkeepsie, New York, and Vassar College for psychology. Of course, each will play his sport of choice.

So Mitchell has been the baseball player who plays a little soccer and Matt the soccer player who plays some baseball. Over four years, MFS baseball coach Ron Obermeier has observed the brothers



Mitchell and Matt Mullock, are twin brothers who play on Moorestown Friends School varsity baseball team. Mitchell plays first base and pitches, while Matt is in center field. Both played in a scrimmage, Wednesday, March 23, 2016, against Pemberton.

first-hand.

“One helps the other and they just balance each other. Matt plays every sport on the edge and is highly competitive, while Mitchell is more even keel,” said Obermeier, who explained how each brother's personality benefits the baseball team.

“Mitchell has shown presence on the mound since his freshman year. His mental attitude and composure reminds me of Greg Maddux — moves the ball all over, on the corners or the black all day. And you won't figure him out until it's too late,” Obermeier said of his staff ace and four-hole hitter.

Regarding his center fielder and leadoff man, the coach said, “Matt is our catalyst who gets on, steals bases and scores runs. I tell my other outfielders to hug the lines and have Matt catch everything else.”

Both understand how much each relies on the other.

“When I get aggravated, Mitchell knows me the best, so he knows how to cheer me up and get me going,” said Matt.

For Mitchell, “There's always a familiar face in anything you're doing — someone to talk to.”

They're alike and they're different. Such is the appeal of being fraternal twins.

Both are outstanding students who value honesty, loyalty and family.

As for differences, Mitchell is more superstitious, patient and the better listener. Free-styling comes easily to Matt; he's more athletic and will work to improve his dancing skills. And when Mom does the laundry, Mitchell prefers boxers and Matt opts for briefs.

With college life on the horizon, the brothers reflected on the impact of their separation.

“It's definitely going to be different. He never has a bad day and is the friendliest guy I know — always smiling. We'll Face Time in college, but it's going to be really weird not seeing Mitchell every single minute of every day,” Matt said.

“Matt's driving force is good, and he keeps me going hard at everything I do,” Mitchell said. “It's going to be tough to lose my confidant.”

The Mullocks celebrated a South Jersey Non-Public B soccer championship last fall. But there's one last order of baseball business before graduation.

The Foxes were Friends Schools League runners-up last spring after winning the title in 2014. Regaining the crown this season would be a fitting way to complete their run as teammates.