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## **Berkshire Dukes Set for Play This Season**

### *Dan Duquette Awarded Franchise in the New England College Baseball League*

Hinsdale, MA – January 15, 2004 – The newest member of the highly regarded New England College Baseball League will operate out of the Dan Duquette Sports Academy. The Berkshire Dukes join the Major League Baseball and NCAA sanctioned league this spring. The Dukes join twelve other teams based in all six New England states.

The team will play a 42 game schedule, starting in early June. The season will conclude with a NECBL Championship event in early August. The Berkshire Dukes will open their season, June 13, against the North Adams Steeplecats. Players will be drawn from a nationwide pool of NCAA sanctioned College and Jr. College teams. Players commonly live with sponsor families within the community. Duke players will also be available for instruction for attendees of the Dan Duquette Sports Academy.

“The NECBL is one of the most competitive and talented leagues in the country,” Duquette said. “Last year 68 players from the league were drafted by Major League Baseball which gives you an idea of the talent level. This league is only ten years old and already is competing with the storied Cape Cod League. I’m excited to offer players the opportunity play ball at this level and bring exciting baseball to local fans.”

For additional information and an application for the Academy please call, 800-745-1012 or go to [www.duquettesportsacademy.com](http://www.duquettesportsacademy.com). For additional information on the Berkshire Duke go to [www.berkshiredukes.com](http://www.berkshiredukes.com)

### **About Dan Duquette**

A seasoned baseball executive having held positions with the Milwaukee Brewers, Montreal Expos, and most recently as General Manager for the Boston Red Sox, Dan is recognized internationally for his ability to assemble and lead successful Major League organizations. Born and raised in nearby Dalton, MA., Dan and his wife Sharon are the parents of three children. Currently residing in Acton, MA. Dan is enjoying his time away from Major League baseball by coaching his son’s youth baseball, basketball and football teams.

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