



Press Release - May 10, 2010

## **14U Redbirds Win 1, Lose 2 at Calgary Tourney**

The 14U Redbirds went 1-2 at the Calgary Cubs Inaugural Bantam Tournament over the weekend. The tournament was plagued with cold weather and poor field conditions, and shortened to 3 games in the round robin. The Friday game against the Okotoks Dawgs Black team was cancelled.

The Saturday morning game against Edmonton was moved from Inland Athletic Park to the Crowfoot diamonds. The Redbirds dropped a 5-4 decision to Edmonton.

Coach Cooper commented after the game. "Obviously, coming into the first tournament of the season our goal was to start with a win but it did not play out that way. There were a number of distractions with less than desirable weather, scheduling issues and relocation of games due to field conditions that any other day our players would not have to deal with. Our pitching was great, our defence was steady but our bats did not show up until their starting pitcher was removed, which was the difference in the end."

The tournament then moved to the Chinook Winds diamonds in Airdrie for game two against the Calgary Cubs. Although cold and windy, there was no snow or rain so the teams took to the field. The Redbirds scored 2 runs in the bottom of the 1<sup>st</sup> inning on 2 RBI single to centre, but that was as good as it got. The Cubs scored in bunches, winning the game in convincing fashion 24 – 2.

The Redbirds were on the move again for their third game of the round robin, playing the Okotoks Dawgs Red squad at Riverside in Okotoks early Sunday morning. After two losses, the team was anxious to get in the win column and showed confidence at the plate, scoring runs in each of the first four innings. Steady defense and strong pitching performances from two of the team's leaders kept the Dawgs off of the scoresheet until the 4<sup>th</sup> inning, when they scored their only two runs. The Redbirds got the win they were looking for, scoring 4 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and cruising to a 9 – 2 final.

Head Coach Brent Cooper had these comments following his teams bounce back win over the Dawgs.

"After the opening loss in game #1 by 1 run and the issues with throwing strikes/walking batters and defensive struggles in game #2 the players main focus on Sunday for game #3 was to be better prepared to play a complete baseball game."

The Redbird's coaching staff was very happy with the effort and results in the game against Okotoks Red team. "Our pitchers threw a lot of strikes, our defense kept the mistakes to a minimum and our hitters hit the ball and even laid down bunts and hit and run which was very nice to see. We are going to continue to work hard through this week at practice in preparation for our games in Kimberley, BC this weekend".