



Press Release - May 17, 2010

## **14U Redbirds Battle BC High School Teams at Kimberley Storm Classic**

In the first game against David Thompson Secondary School, lefty Nat Seltsam started on the hill for the Redbirds, allowing 3 hits and striking out 1 over 3.0 innings of work. Veteran lefty Trey Grant relieved Seltsam in the 3<sup>rd</sup>, going the rest of the way, limiting the home team to 3 hits and 1 walk over 5 innings.

The Redbirds shook off the bus legs in the 2<sup>nd</sup> as the bats went to work scoring 3 runs on singles by Kataro Hayashi, Seltsam, Alex Bishop, Austin LaPrairie, and Matt Harris. The inning could have been more productive if not for a couple of base running errors. Kataro added a sac fly RBI in the 3<sup>rd</sup>, scoring Brodie Stairs who was hit by a pitch to start the inning. After giving the Redbirds a 4-1 lead, the home team answered back with 3 in the bottom of the 3<sup>rd</sup>, tying the game at 4. Jake Derwent started the 5<sup>th</sup> inning with a single to right, Josh Grams moved him over to 2<sup>nd</sup> with a fielder choice and Harris drove Derwent in with a solid RBI double, tying the game at 5. That was it for scoring the rest of the way making the final a 5-5 tie.

Game two versus Grand Forks featured a strong performance from another Redbird lefty, Reid Paulhus. Paulhus faced the minimum 9 batters over the first 3 innings, striking out 3 using only 34 pitches. Mark Matyas helped the cause with 3 assists and Junil Bae made a solid catch in deep left field to end the 2<sup>nd</sup> inning. Austin LaPrairie finished the game in relief of Paulhus.

The Redbirds picked up their first run of the game in the 4<sup>th</sup> when Seltsam singled to left, followed by a single to right by Matthew Zanutto. A sac bunt by Trey Grant moved the runners up. A base running error robbed Brodie Stairs of an RBI when he hit a solid line drive to centre that was caught. A passed ball allowed Seltsam to score the Redbird's first run of the game.

Grand forks went to work in their half of the 4<sup>th</sup>, scoring 5 runs on 3 hits, 2 errors, and a hit batsman. They added 2 more in the 5<sup>th</sup>, winning the game 7-2. The game was shortened to 6 innings due to the time limit rule.

The Saturday afternoon game against Selkirk once again featured strong pitching performances from Stairs and Zanutto, who was brought in to finish the game. Stairs struck out 6, including 3 in the 1<sup>st</sup>, and allowed just 4 hits over 4 innings of work. Although only allowing 1 hit in the 1<sup>st</sup>, a couple of errors lead to a 3-0 lead for the host team. Zanutto struck out 5 and did not allow a hit over the last 3 innings.

The Redbirds scored single runs in the 1<sup>st</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> innings on RBI's from LaPrairie, Bae, and Bishop. The 5<sup>th</sup> inning featured a two-out squeeze attempt by Jacob Cuch. He got the bunt down, but the Selkirk defense was up to the challenge, getting the final out of the inning at home plate. The Bishop RBI in the 6<sup>th</sup> inning was a key 2 out single to right that scored the tying run. Selkirk manufactured a run in the top of the 7<sup>th</sup> and won the game 4-3.

Coach Cooper commented on the Redbird's weekend after the game. "The results on paper from the weekend in Kimberley do not reflect how well we played as a team. I feel that we could have won at least 2 of the games if we played a full 7 innings of baseball. I personally feel that we could have been more competitive in all 3 games as a whole. The coaching staff has identified some areas we will be focusing on this week in practice in preparation for our upcoming tournament in St. Albert - hopefully we will learn from our mistakes."