



Press Release – June 15, 2010

14U Redbirds Win 2 and Lose 1 in Regina – Pitchers Continue to Shine

The 14U Redbirds traveled to Regina for a weekend Bantam AAA tournament, going 2-1 during their weather shortened stay in the queen city. Due to earlier rain, the Friday games were moved and all games were changed to 5 inning affairs. Despite going 2-1, the tie-break rules went against the Redbirds, preventing them from advancing to the playoff round of four teams.

The Redbirds faced a strong Regina squad early Saturday morning. After a strong start last week in Sherword Park, lefty Reid Paulhus was given the starting assignment. Paulhus continued his dominance on the mound, cruising through the first 3 innings, allowing only 1 run. Despite loading the bases in both the 1st and 2nd innings, the Redbirds were unable to score. Matt Harris got the team on the scoreboard with a home run shot over the center field fence in the 3rd inning. In the fourth, Paulhus and reliever Brodie Stairs were touched up for 2 walks and 2 hits which, combined with a couple of Redbirds fielding miscues, allowed Regina to stretch their lead. Due to time constraints, the game was declared over after the 4th inning. Make the final Regina 5 - Redbirds 1.

Game 2 on Saturday feature a tilt against Weyburn. Matt Zanutto pitched a 2 hit, 6 strikeout complete game and helped his own cause, adding a 2-out RBI double in the 1st inning, scoring Justin Tsuji who had singled to reach base. The fourth inning proved to be the Redbirds difference in the victory, with Austin LaPrairie and Stairs getting singles, Harris walking, and Alex Bishop coming through with the key 2RBI single up the middle. A passed ball allowed Harris to score, giving the Redbirds a 4-1 lead. Weyburn picked up a second run in the top of the 5th, but a comebacker to Zanutto resulted in a 1-6-3 game-ending double play featuring a quick turn by SS Josh Grams at second base. Redbirds win 4-2.

Early Sunday morning, the Redbirds faced Saskatoon in a must win situation. Trey Grant got the starting assignment and continued the Redbirds pitching dominance with a complete-game 2-hit, 1-walk, 8-strikeout performance over his 5 innings of work. The Redbirds picked up a run in the 3rd on a wild pitch, scoring Grant from third base after walking to start the inning. Paulhus also added a single in the inning to move Grant along the base path. In the 3rd, Tsuji walked and stole 2nd base and Nat Seltsam and Grams also reached base, loading the bases. Once again, Bishop came through with the big RBI single to take a 2-0 lead. Jacob Cuch followed with an RBI single to right scoring Seltsam from 3rd base. Junil Bae stroked a long double in the top of the 5th only to get stranded at 3rd base. Saskatoon added a single run in the bottom of the 5th inning – Redbirds win 3-1.

Coach Z had these comments following the weekend in Regina:

“Our team moved ahead this weekend displaying improvements in almost all areas. With one or two more timely hits and some better defensive play in game 1, we could have easily finished 3-0 in the tournament and had been in a strong position for the playoff round. Our pitching continues to be strong. We just need to continue working on improved defensive support along with finding a bit more offense early in games.”

The Redbirds next road trip is to Kalispell, Montana - June 25-27.