

Baseball splits week's action

by Mark A. Borrelli
Editor-in-Chief

The Clackamas baseball team hit the road for a pair of double headers last week, and came home batting .500, sweeping a pair at Clark, and dropping two at league leading Linn-Benton.

The Cougars outlasted the rain in the first of two at Clark on Tuesday 4-18. The rain didn't cool off the Clackamas bats at all, as they stung Clark pitching for 13 hits, in route to a 8-5 victory. Blues Buckles started the game, and he combined with Tim Arendell to 7 hit the Penguins.

Game two of the twin bill saw the Cougars play even better. Brady Miller started on the mound, and pitched masterful. Miller blanked Clark, leading 7-0, before the Penguins could muster any kind of offense, Clackamas had to settle for a 7-3 win, and a sweep of the double header.

Clackamas offensively showed a new look, as they hit and ran their way to the win. Clackamas stole six bases, including three double steals, and executed the hit and runs perfectly four times.

In the twin bill, Clackamas had a trio of hot hitters. Jeff Graham tallied 4-7, Jason Hawkins 4-9, and Jim Squires went 2-5, with three big RBI's.

"We really played well in the Clark double header, I was really pleased with our execution," said Robinson.

The Cougars got back on the road Saturday 4-21, and headed to Albany for a pair of games with league power Linn-Benton. Clackamas didn't fare as well as the Clark series, dropping both games.

Clackamas entered the games with their best two pitchers suffering some soreness in their pitching arms, and the Road runners took advantage of it. Don Nelson pitched the first game.

Clackamas dropped the first game 13-3, and in a closer second game lost 10-6. Offensive stars for Clackamas were Squires, 2-3; Tim Ensley, 4-8; Rob Van-Tassel 3-6, and Gage Campbell 2-3. Defensively, Tim Ensley played brilliantly, making four outstanding catches in the outfield.

The two losses dropped the Cougars to 5-15 and 2-7 in league. Despite the losses, Robinson remains optimistic.

"We're getting better," said Robinson. "The thing that is hurting us is the errors. We're not getting timely hitting, but we're getting better. The team has a really good attitude," said Robinson.

The Cougars, weather permitting, will host Lewis & Clark in a make up game tomorrow, and will be at Mt. Hood for a double header Saturday.

Pitching plays big part in Arendell's life

by Jennifer Soper
Production Manager

Despite recent injuries, second year Cougar Pitcher Tim Arendell is still considered a leader among this year's baseball team.

"He's throwing really well," said Head Baseball Coach Robin Robinson. "He's still considered one of the best pitchers in the league."

Pitching coach Tom Dyer explained Arendell is a very motivated player.

"Tim puts a lot of pressure upon himself. He's really intense. He's really serious about baseball. It's a different side to him almost," said Dyer.

To Arendell, baseball is just a fact of life.

"I've been a pitcher ever since T-ball. I stood on the mound then. I've come a long way," Arendell said.

"I can't see myself not playing baseball. I can't see myself anywhere else," he continued. "I hope to make the major leagues. That's my biggest goal."

Pitching in the major leagues is a realistic goal for Arendell according to Dyer and Robinson.

"He has professional possibilities," said Robinson. "He's just got to stay healthy. Physically, he's got to get a little bit stronger."

"Army (Arendell) is a true professional prospect," Dyer said. "We've had a lot of teams taking a look at him."

It's Arendell's hard work and dedication to the game, according to Robinson, that have given him the possibility of signing a contract for Single A Baseball at the end the season.

"His problems this year have been little injuries and aches and pains," Robinson said.

"Even though he's only won one game, in all of his starts he's only had one bad outing," explained Dyer.

Arendell hopes his teammates consider him a role model.

"If I'm not playing, I'm keeping everybody off the bench and making them talk," he said. "When I come out to the field, I work: on or off the bench. I play to win."

At least one person would agree with that assessment.

"He wants the team to win as much as anyone," said Robinson. "He's working really hard for that."

At Oregon City High School Arendell boasted a .999 earned

run average and had an 8-1 win/loss record. He was voted First Team All-League and Oregon City's Most Valuable Player his senior year. He also pitched in the State-Metro All-Star Game.

Arendell credits his success in baseball to one good coach, reading about technique and watching the game.

"Until I met Robinson, I learned everything by myself by reading books and watching TV," said Arendell. "Robby pointed out that screwing off doesn't get you anywhere. He helped me realize my potential in how good of a baseball player I can be."





Tim Arendell one of the baseball teams best pitchers hopes to keep competing in baseball on the professional level.

Photo by Lane Scheideman

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