

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Coyotes split weekend series with Nanaimo

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The Okanagan College Coyotes baseball team travelled to Nanaimo last weekend to play a four-game set against their rivals, the Vancouver Island Baseball Institute Mariners.

When the dust had settled, the teams split the games and the Coyotes remained one game ahead in the standings.

Saturday's opener saw the Coyotes cruise to a 7-2 victory behind a complete game by starting pitcher Cole Parussini. Parussini allowed just three hits over nine innings and struck out 10 Mariners. Offensively the Coyotes were led by Liam Wyatt, who went 2-for-5, and Trevor Lofstrom, who hit a three-run home run.

VIBI bounced back in the second game,

posting a 5-3 win. OC starting pitcher Mitchell St. Laurent gave up four runs through six innings, but was hurt by a throwing error that cost the Coyotes two runs.

The OC offence exploded in the first game on Sunday with 13 runs on 17 hits. Braeden Heyland, Liam Wyatt, Eric Junnola and Jared Dulaba led the way, each recording three hits. Heyland added three RBI in the game, while Dulaba would add two of his own. Starting pitcher Brandon Becking threw seven strong innings, giving up just three hits while striking out seven.

The last game of the weekend was a pitching duel, won 2-1 by the Mariners. OC pitcher Zac Yandea allowed two runs — both unearned — over seven innings.

Offensively, the Coyotes managed just one run in the ninth inning to spoil the shutout.

"Our pitching was very dominant this weekend," said OC pitching coach Jared Johnson. "All four of our starters threw well and deep into games."

"Down the stretch come championship time, pitching and defence win championships and we believe we have both. When you bring in how well our hitters can be, we hope it all comes together at the right time."

The OC Coyotes are on the road again this weekend when they travel to Kamloops to face the Thompson Rivers University Wolfpack and VIBI once again.

For more information, go to www.okanagancollegebaseball.com.