

BASEBALL

Okanagan College climbs to first place

By Daily Courier Staff

Three victories in four games on the weekend lifted Okanagan College to first place in the Larry Walker Division of the Canadian College Baseball Conference.

OC improved to 5-3 in its inaugural season by splitting a twinbill with the visiting Kwantlen Eagles on Saturday, then sweeping a second doubleheader on Sunday at Elks Stadium.

OC 8, Kwantlen 4

Rob Alksne pitched a six-hit, complete game in the opener on Saturday to lead OC to its third win in five games. The lefthanded transfer from Vancouver Island University struck out four on the way to the victory.

Kelowna's Cory Smith and Leighton Marshall of Victoria led a 12-hit attack with a pair of hits each. Smith had a three-run double in the second inning, while Marshall added a

single and a triple and drove in three runs. Leadoff batter Brett Sanguin also collected a pair of hits, stole a base and scored twice for the winners.

Kwantlen 4, OC 2

Kwantlen's righty Mike Coleman kept OC hitters off balance for most of the game with his fastball and sweeping curve.

OC managed just five hits. Sanguin and Cody Valgardson of Kelowna drove in the only two host runs with doubles.

Blake Young went six innings on the mound in a losing cause, allowing six hits and three earned runs. Kelowna's Jesse Foster held Kwantlen at bay in his one inning on the mound.



Sanguin



Valgardson

OC 11, Kwantlen 7
Five different OC batters collected two hits apiece as the hosts built on a five-run first inning for the win in the first game on Sunday.

Valgardson was 2-for-4 and scored three runs, while driving in one. Sanguin once again set the table well, pounding out a pair of singles, drawing a walk, stealing three bases and scoring two runs.

Bryce Wilkie of Kelowna drove in a run with one of his two hits and Mitch Kemmer added two hits, two runs and a pair of runs-batted-in to go along with Alksne's two hits and one RBI.

OC's Nick Peruzzo withstood 11 Kwantlen hits to go the distance on the mound.

He registered seven strikeouts.

OC 4, Kwantlen 3

Wilkie drilled a pitch into the left-field gap to drive in Sanguin with the winning run in the bottom of the final inning.

Sanguin was hit by a pitch to start the inning. He reached second on a Kwantlen error on a hard-hit ball by Cory Smith and stole third to set the stage for Wilkie's heroics.

Lou Blanchette of Victoria came on in relief of starter Marshall (1 2/3 innings) and went the rest of the way to earn the win.

After opening the season with a pair of doubleheaders at Elks, OC will hit the road this weekend when they travel to Langley for another four games against Kwantlen (3-5). The following week, the team will be in Nanaimo to take on Vancouver Island Mariners (2-6), who dropped all four games to Prairie Baseball Academy during the past weekend.