

Spring training starts this weekend for OC baseball team

It might still be early in the year but for players on Okanagan College's baseball team, it's spring training time.

The Okanagan College Coyotes open their spring exhibition season this weekend, playing in the Yakima Valley Community College Tournament, in Yakima, Wash.

Baseball fields are still closed in Kelowna so the team has not had any live outdoor practices. But OC has been practising indoors at the CNC indoor facilities and the batting cages at

Elks Stadium.

After the fall baseball season the players spent four months hitting the weights at Global Fitness and taking batting practice and throwing every second day.

"They are chomping at the bit for some live action to see how much they have progressed," said team manager Bill Bayne.

OC's regular season in the Canadian College Baseball Conference (CCBC) gets underway March 27 and 28 in Langley against Kwantlen Poly-

technic University.

The CCBC Larry Walker Division defending champions will have quite a different look in 2010 as gone are 2009 mainstays Corey Smith, Brett Sanguin and Cody Valgardson. Last year saw OC win the division with a 14 player roster however the bench will be a lot longer this year with 28 players on the roster.

Coaches Geoff White and Jared Johnson feel that pitching will be the team's strength this year as 2009 starters Nick Peruzzo, Rob Alksne

and Blake Young have returned and will be bolstered by solid newcomers Corey Wood and Kiefer Rodway, both of whom stand 6-foot-5. Also returning are solid relievers Bryce Wilkie and Peter Tollenaar.

Kelowna's Brendon Peron is back in Kelowna after playing with Douglas College last year.

Infielder Spencer Kilpatrick of Kelowna will also add depth.

"The roster also has a lot of talented young freshmen who will get lots of playing time this spring as a good

portion of the starting roster is still up for grabs," said Bayne.

"The boys will be in tough the next three weeks against some pretty decent American Junior Colleges, who have been outside on their fields for a couple of weeks now, and even played exhibition games last weekend, but the competition will get them ready for the 2010 CCBC season," Bayne said.

Check out the OC baseball web site at www.okanagancollegebaseball.com.