KELOWNA BASEBALL

Coyotes return from west coast tour

The road-hardened Okanagan Coyotes baseball team put more than 8,300 kilometres on their bus during a recent 13-day swing of the west coast.

With 14 games under their belts the Coyotes felt like progress was made. “Any time you play that amount of games in eight days it is going to be tough,” said Coyotes coach Geoff White. “I was really happy with the level we competed at, we still have areas to improve in, but generally speaking it was a solid trip.”

The Coyotes started their trip in the Los Angeles area against some four-year universities where they went 2-5 in the first half of the road trip. Marcus Drewry picked up his first win of the season against St Katherine’s College, while Brandon Becking picked up his first win.

Coyotes’ ace Marcus Drewry posted a 1-1 record during OC’s 13-day tour of the western U.S.

The L.A. portion of the trip was new for us and faced some four-year programs and managed to scrap out some wins. Despite opponents swinging metal bats we were competitive in all of the games,” said White.

The Coyotes then made a quick stop in Coolidge, Arizona (south of Phoenix) for a doubleheader with national power Central Arizona College. The Vaqueros proved to be too much for the Coyotes and swept the two game series in convincing fashion.

The Coyotes would finish up the schedule in Las Vegas, where the College of Southern Nevada hosts its annual Presidents Day Weekend tournament that has some of the best programs in the country descend on the bright lights. The Coyotes started the weekend on the right foot with an extra inning win over Northwestern Colorado College. Game 2 saw the Coyotes face College of Southern Nevada considered one of the top teams in 2015. CSN starter was a 1st round MLB pick in 2013 and considered to be a top pick in 2015 who limited the Coyotes to just six hits. Game 3 against Salt Lake CC saw Drewry return to the mound only to fall with a 5-0 loss and move to 1-1 on the season.

Game 4 to wrap up the trip was with the same CSN team that saw Joel Lamont take a no-hit bid into the fifth before eventually surrendering a hit. The final game finished 8-0 in favour of CSN.

Next up for the Coyotes is their home openers against Eastern Washington University March 7 and 8 at Elks Stadium.

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