



Press Release – June 8, 2010

## **14U Redbirds Paulhus Pitches 2 hitter – Team Ties 2 in Sherwood Park**

The Redbirds picked up ties in the first 2 games of the Bantam AAA Doc Plotsky Memorial Tournament in Sherwood Park over the weekend, but failed to produce in game 3, dropping a decision to the powerful St. Albert Cardinals.

The first game Friday night against Saskatoon was a low scoring affair. Trey Grant started on the mound and shared a 3 hitter with Matt Zanutto and Brodie Stairs. Unfortunately the Redbird bats were mostly silent as well with only Zanutto and Jacob Cuch picking up 2 hits each. A lack of production at the plate combined with some key base running mistakes, kept the score low. Zanutto's 2<sup>nd</sup> hit in the top of the 7<sup>th</sup> inning scored Cuch from 2<sup>nd</sup> base on a close play at the plate to tie the game at 2. Stairs finished off the Saskatoon bats in the bottom of the 7<sup>th</sup>, striking out 2 and closing out the game forcing a ground out to 2<sup>nd</sup> base.

The story of game 2 was Reid Paulhus. The big lefty pitched a gem against Sherwood Park, allowing only 2 hits, striking out 4 over 6 innings of work. Once again the bats were mostly silent, with the team only collecting 2 hits and working 6 walks into the mix, stranding base runners in almost every inning. Josh Grams started the 4<sup>th</sup> inning with a walk and later came around to score on a wild throw over to 1<sup>st</sup> base, producing the first run for the Redbirds. With the score tied at 1 going into the bottom of the 5<sup>th</sup> inning, Sherwood Park took the lead on a couple of infield errors. Justin Tsuji started the comeback in the top of the 6<sup>th</sup> with a solid base hit to right field and later coming around to score on a wild throw by the catcher at 3<sup>rd</sup> base. With the score knotted at 2 going into the last inning, Sherwood Park started the inning with a walk, but the runner was caught stealing on a strong throw down to 2<sup>nd</sup> base by catcher Zanutto. Final score 2 – 2.

Game 3 Sunday morning against St. Albert started out slowly with neither team able to produce a base runner in the 1<sup>st</sup> inning. St. Albert took control in the 2<sup>nd</sup> with 4 runs on 1 hit and 2 walks combined with a couple of errors by Redbirds. The Redbirds loaded the bases in the bottom of the 2<sup>nd</sup> on 1 walk and 2 players hit by pitches, but the St. Albert pitcher struck out the final 2 batters to snuff out the rally. St. Albert went back to work in the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning, taking full control of the game scoring 5 runs on 1 hit, 3 walks, and 3 errors. They added 3 more runs in the top of the 6<sup>th</sup>, cruising to the shutout victory.

The coaching staff had these comments following the weekend in Sherwood Park. *“For the most part, our pitching was very strong. It was disappointing that we couldn't score more runs in the first two games which would have turned those ties into wins. We faced some tough opposing pitching in the third game, and hopefully that experience will make it easier for our team to adjust to similar pitching in future”*

Next up for the Redbirds is the Regina tournament June 11 – 13<sup>th</sup>. They have a tune-up game scheduled for Wednesday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at Viper Stadium (weather permitting) and hope to get the bats going and tighten up on play in the field prior to the long bus trip to Regina. Their 1<sup>st</sup> game is Friday night against Saskatoon.