



SLABA Roundup: Stars, Blazers try to find their stride

By David Kvidahl | STLclubSPORTS.com | Posted: Saturday, June 26, 2010 3:11 am

The South-West Stars have slogged through a brutal start to the summer season yet Brad Beckwith couldn't be happier with his team.

Beckwith is impressed with how the players kept grinding their way through an 0-13 start that includes five losses by one run.

"They've come to play every single day," Beckwith said.

The Stars brought their A-game Friday as they picked up a pair of 8-3 wins at Harris Stowe University.

The victories pushed the Stars to 5-15 and extended their winning streak to four games after they took a pair from Johnny Mac earlier in the week.

Beckwith said his team has the pieces to make winning streaks a more regular occurrence. It just hasn't been able to put all the puzzle pieces together at the same time for much of the summer.

"Pitching, good defense and timely hitting, it seems like we'd leave one of them at home," Beckwith said.

They brought all three facets with them Friday as they posted an 8-3 win over the Meramec Valley Falcons and an 8-3 win over Missouri Baseball Club from Springfield.

In the first game Stephen Aldred picked up the victory. Lucas Miller, who had six hits on the day, got the win in the second.

Shortstop Tyler Seubert, who's leading the team with a .367 batting average, went nine straight plate-appearances with a hit. It was a streak that stretched over three games and came to an end in the second half of the double-header.

Beckwith is confident this is a team that can start putting things together as the summer gets even hotter.

If the Stars can get some breaks maybe those one run losses turn into wins.

"These are kids that are used to being successful," Beckwith said. "They've kept playing."

Blazers learning as they go

Dustin Bain knows this summer could be rough. After being flush with 13 seniors last season, the Jefferson County Blazers skipper has just four this time around.

"We're very young," he said.

Young teams typically don't fare well and the Blazers are no exception. Sitting at 6-14, Bain's boys have taken their share of beats this season.

Youth is green, youth is inexperienced but youth can be talented. Bain believes this team has talent, it's just a matter of fusing that talent with experience.

He's seen progress this weekend at the Battle of Omaha. The Blazers escaped a couple of hair raising situations that, in the past, would have spelled doom.

Then again, there was an error with two outs and the bases loaded on Thursday that bit them.

"We've gotten better," Bain said. "You want to see them start improving, we've battled."

The Blazers have two more games in pool play on Saturday and, if things go their way, they could advance to the big bracket and take their shot at the title. But, Bain is realistic. Even when the Blazers were at their powerful peak the Battle of Omaha was tough sledding.

Bain is focused on making sure the Blazers get better every day. There is plenty of time left this summer for that youth to be toughened.

“At this point with this team it's about getting better,” Bain said.