

SPORTS

MEN'S BASEBALL

Voyageurs win 4 straight, even MCAC North record

Rainy River 4-4 in league play

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The Rainy River Community College baseball team is now at the .500 mark in the Minnesota College Athletic Conference Northern Division standings after winning four straight games in two consecutive days.

“Three things that we have been looking for are starting to show up on a consistent basis,” said RRCC head coach Josh Koenig, who noted that included pitcher consistency and specifically not giving opposing batters free bases; finding ways to score runners in key situations; and improving the team’s defensive focus with two outs. “When we do these things on a consistent basis we are an exciting group to watch play and we will have the opportunity to win a lot of ball games.”

On Tuesday, the Voyageurs played at Bemidji State University to face Northland, which entered the doubleheader undefeated in the MCAC North in first place.

In game one, Talon Kunkel pitched all seven innings to lead RRCC to a 3-0 win over the Pioneers. Kunkel scattered four hits while striking out two to record the shutout victory.

At the plate, the Voyageurs’ Colten Boudreau, Gino Strebing and Robert Parrish III all went 2-3.

RRCC 7, NORTHLAND 6
Game two went 11 innings when the Voyageurs pulled out a 7-6 win.

Parrish started the game for RRCC and pitched the first five innings, allowing six hits and striking out five as the Voyageurs led 5-2.

Stephen Rivera and Joey Hudson pitched the next 3 1/3 innings in relief when Northland rallied back and



The Voyageurs’ Stephen Rivera (14) delivers a pitch in the first game of Wednesday’s home doubleheader against Hibbing. Rivera recorded the victory working the first six innings.

scored a run in the seventh and three more in the eighth to tie the game at 6-6.

Kunkel pitched the final 2 2/3 innings to record his second win of the day.

The Voyageurs scored the winning run in the bottom of the 11th when Kunkel reached base after being hit by a pitch and Makana Canda hit a ball that got past the shortstop, giving RRCC runners on first and second with one out. Sean Deviney then hit a walk-off single up the middle for the Voyageurs’ victory.

RRCC 11, HIBBING 2
The Voyageurs hosted their first home doubleheader of the season Wednesday at Scheela Field against Hibbing and won both games. RRCC defeated Hibbing in game one, 11-2.

Rivera picked up the pitching victory working the first six innings, allowing two earned runs on five hits with three walks and two hit batters while striking out 10. Jake Schulte pitched the final scoreless

inning in relief.

RRCC tallied 10 hits. Drew Birss had three singles with three runs scored. Deviney doubled and tripled with 3 RBI. Boudreau singled and doubled with two runs scored. Strebing doubled with 2 RBI and two runs scored.

RRCC 15, HIBBING 4
Game two lasted only five innings when the Voyageurs trounced Hibbing, 15-4.

Kris Barber recorded the pitching victory working the first 4 1/3 innings, allowing all four runs, two earned, on two hits with six walks while striking out nine. Schulte tallied a strikeout closing out the final two-thirds of an inning.

RRCC pounded out 18 hits over five innings. Kunkel homered as one of his three hits with 2 RBI and two runs scored. Tanner Helms had two doubles in three hits with 2 RBI and two runs scored. Birss had a double as one of his three hits with 2 RBI. Victor Rodriguez had three singles with two runs



STAFF PHOTOS BY KEVIN BONESKE

At left, the Voyageurs’ Colten Boudreau reaches home plate to score in the first game of Wednesday’s home doubleheader against Hibbing.

scored and two stolen bases. Boudreau and Parish added two singles apiece.

The Voyageurs’ record now stands at 4-4 in the MCAC North and 12-18 overall going into their final two regular-season league doubleheaders this weekend. RRCC hosts Mesabi Range at 1 p.m. Saturday at Scheela Field for Sophomore/Parent Appreciation Day and then plays at 1 p.m. Sunday in Cloquet against Fond du Lac.

The MCAC North playoffs are scheduled for May 10-11.

The top-three teams in the league host a best-of-three playoff.

Tuesday’s game 1
RRCC 3, NCTC 0
NCTC 0-0-0 0-0-0 0-0-1
RRCC 1-0-0 0-2-0 X-3 7 1
WP-Talon Kunkel

Tuesday’s game 2
RRCC 7, NCTC 6
(11 innings)

NCTC 0-0-02-0-0 1-3-00-0-6136
RRCC 1-3-0 1-0-0 1-0-00-1-7101
WP-Talon Kunkel

Wednesday’s game 1
RRCC 11, Hibbing 2
Hibbing 2-0-0 0-0-0-0 - 2 5 3
RRCC 4-2-0 0-4-1 X-11 10 1
WP-Stephen Rivera

Wednesday’s game 2
RRCC 15, Hibbing 4
Hibbing 2-0-2 0-0-0 - 4 2 3
RRCC 1-3-8 3-X-15 18 3
WP-Kris Barber

JUNIOR HOCKEY

FF Lakers go 1-2 in Dudley-Hewitt Cup round-robin play

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Needing a win to qualify for Friday’s semifinal action, the Fort Frances Lakers did just that Thursday afternoon.

After losing their first two games in round-robin play, the Lakers defeated the Kirkland Lake Gold Miners, 6-3, at the 2014 Dudley-Hewitt Cup Central Canada Junior A championship at Essroc Arena in Wellington, Ontario.

Lyndon Lipinski was all over the ice for Fort Frances when he tallied



Mason Meyer



Lucas DeBenedet

two goals and one assist in the win.

Lipinski’s goals came on the power play at 7:48 into the second period to give Fort Frances a 3-2 lead and 14:33 into the third to put

the Lakers in front, 5-3.

Fort Frances forced Kirkland Lake goalie Jeremy Pominville to work between the pipes, taking 39 shots on goals.

The Lakers also got points from International Falls native Mason Meyer, who had one goal and one assist, and Bryce Lipinski, who also racked up a goal and an assist.

Also scoring goals for Fort Frances were Brent Aiken and Miles Nolan, who each put in one. In addition, the Lakers got assists from Falls native

Lucas DeBenedet, who had three, and Riley Daly, Kevin Kurm and Cam Jackson, who contributed one each.

Kirkland Lake kept Fort Frances’ goalie busy throughout the game, as Jordan Cartney made 30 saves on 33 shots.

Everett Thompson tallied one goal for the Gold Miners. Thompson scored 6:45 into the first period to tie the game at 1-1 with Dylan Rosen picking up the assist.

Others who scored for Kirkland Lake included Tanner Lafrance and

Ethan Strong, who scored one goal each. Other players who recorded assists for the Gold Miners were Jonathan Langford, who had two, and Jeremy Picard-Fiset and Ryan Scherer, who each chipped in one.

With the win, Fort Frances eliminated the Gold Miners, who ended up 0-3 in the four-team event.

The Lakers opened

round-robin play Tuesday with a 4-1 loss to the Toronto Lakeshore Patriots. Aiken accounted for the lone Fort Frances goal. Cartney stopped 35 of 39 shots in the loss.

Fort Frances was unable to score in Wednesday’s game when the Lakers lost to the Wellington Dukes, 3-0. Cartney faced 33 shots on goal in the loss.

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