



Game #06
Friday, June 10, 2011
6:35 p.m. - Story Field - Longview, WA
vs. Cowlitz Black Bears

Tonight's Pitching Matchup:
WW- **Sean Santschi**: 0-0, 0.00 ERA
COW- **TBD**

Next Three:

Sat. June 11 at Cowlitz 6:35

Probables

WW- Tim Culligan: 1-0, 0.00 ERA

COW- TBD

Sun. June 12 at Cowlitz 5:05

Probables

WW- Simon Anderson: 0-0, 0.00 ERA

COW- TBD

Tues. June 14 vs. Klamath Falls

WW- TBD

KLA- TBD

Tonight at Story Field

- The Sweets get back into league-play as they start a three-game weekend series against the Cowlitz Black Bears.
- It will be the Sweets first three road games of the season.

Last Time Out

- Zach Wentz homered and drove in four runs to lead the Sweets to a 7-1 victory over the Portland Toros on Wednesday.
- Wentz broke a 1-1 tie with a two-run double in the third and extended the lead to four with a two-run home run in the fifth.
- Tyler Billen earned the win, allowing four hits over six innings.

Sweets on the Road

- The three-game road series at Cowlitz will be the first road games of the year for the Sweets.
- Walla Walla was 8-15 on the road last summer.
- They got better as the season wore on, going 5-7 in their last 13 games away from Borleske Stadium.

Sweets and Black Bears

- Cowlitz won the season-series 4-2 last year.
- The Black Bears swept a doubleheader at Borleske and then took two-of-three from

the Sweets in Longview at the beginning of August.

Scouting the Black Bears

- Cowlitz has dropped its first two league contests of the season.
- The Black Bears opened with a three-game series and dropped the first two games.
- Game three is being played tonight in Kitsap and the Black Bears will return for their home opener on Friday.

Four RBI have Wentz in elite company

- Wentz's four-RBI day on Wednesday made him just the third Sweet to have as many as four in game.
- Last season, Matt Comer drove in four against Kelowna on July 15 and Elliot Stewart topped that with five against Kitsap later that month.

Santschi gets the ball in game one

- After tossing 1.2 innings of scoreless relief on Sunday, Sean Santschi will make his first start of the summer on Friday.
- In his career, the right-hander has mainly been a reliever, making five appearances out of the bullpen last summer for Wenatchee.
- Last spring, Santschi picked up 11 saves for Tacoma Community College.

Strong homestand to start season

- Walla Walla finished their season-opening five-game homestand 4-1 after Wednesday's 7-1 victory.
- The five-game stretch is just one win shy of tying the best six-game home stretch in franchise history set last season.
- The victory was also the third straight for the Sweets.

Tuesday at Borleske

- The Sweets rallied from a 4-2 deficit with three runs in the eighth inning and defeated the Toros 6-4.
- Kalani Brackenridge broke a 4-4 tie with an RBI single to center in the eighth, his second straight game-winning hit.
- Geoff Soja was superb in relief, tossing 4.2 scoreless innings. He did not walk a batter, struck out two and earned the win.

Bullpen Pitching In

- Soja's 4.2 scoreless innings on Tuesday were just the latest in an early season trend from Sweets relievers; don't give up runs.
- Walla Walla's bullpen has yet to allow a run in 18.1 innings and has racked up 15 strikeouts and only six walks.

Kopacz finding a groove

- Rightfielder Chance Kopacz can't use adjusting to wooden bats as an excuse. He uses wood bats all spring at Walla Walla CC.
- That's why it's no surprise he's off to a 6-18 start this summer with the Sweets.
- He had two hits on Opening Night and picked up two more Tuesday night against Portland.
- His RBI single in the bottom of the first on Wednesday erased a 1-0 Portland lead and got the Sweets going.
- He also picked up three stolen bases in two games against the Toros.

Late-Game Excitement

- Three of the first four games of the season have been decided in the eighth inning or later.
- Friday's 8-0 win is the only game that has not come down to the wire.
- The Sweets left the bases loaded in the ninth on Saturday, won the game in the ninth on Sunday and won it in the eighth on Tuesday.

Brackenridge clutch early on

- Clearly not shunning the tough situations, Brackenridge has fully accepted them.
- He calmly stroked a 1-0 fastball to right with the bases loaded on Sunday and after injuring his shin two innings prior, delivered a single to center that ended up being the game-winning hit.

Sunday against Corvallis

- Kalani Brackenridge ripped a bases loaded walk-off single down the right field line to give the Sweets a 1-0 victory on Sunday.
- Walla Walla took two-of-three games from the Knights with both wins being shutouts.
- Trent Allianic, Sean Santschi and Tim Culligan combined for the seven-hit shut-out.

Staff Dominance

- After posting a league-worst 4.48 team ERA last year, the Sweets have gotten off on a better foot this season.
- Over 27 innings this weekend, eight pitchers combined to allow just one earned run on 18 hits. They struck out 19 and walked five.
- Only three of the 18 hits went for extra bases.

RISP Woes

- Brackenridge's walk-off single helped mask the fact that the Sweets finished Sunday 1-8 with runners in scoring position.

- They struck out looking twice in a row to leave the bases loaded in the sixth and failed to score Zach Wentz from third with less than two outs in the fifth.
- On Saturday, they were 2-6, including failing twice in the ninth inning to score a run with the bases loaded and one out.

Santschi and Culligan bring “Game”

- Entering in the sixth with two on and one out, Sean Santschi didn’t let the pressure get to him, getting a strikeout and a ground out to end the threat.
- He didn’t let it get to him in the seventh either when he put runners on the corners with no outs and eventually worked out of it.
- Culligan was equally as impressive in his two innings and gave the Sweets a chance to win the game in the ninth with a punch-out that left two Knights on base in the top of the inning.

Sweets set a new Franchise Record

- It’s not much, but the 1-0 shutout on Sunday gave the Sweets two on the season and surpassed their mark of one they set last season.

UC-Irvine Advance to Super Regionals

- The Anteaters are going to the Super Regionals and Scott Gottschling brought them there.
- The reserve outfielder pinch-ran in the bottom of the ninth and scored the winning run on a single to give Irvine a 4-3 win over UCLA.
- UC-Irvine will face top-ranked Virginia in the Super Regionals, needing to win two-of-three to advance to the College World Series in Omaha, NE.

Saturday at Borleske

- Knight starter Max Beatty went eight strong and the Knights built a 3-0 lead and held off a Sweets rally to win 3-2.
- Beatty took a perfect game into the 7th and lost it on a two-out single. He gave up three hits and one run while striking out seven.
- Corvallis scored two runs in the third and one in the seventh and were helped by three Sweet

errors.

- Walla Walla loaded the bases in the ninth with one out but could not score the tying run.
- Alex Stanford homered and Austin Heaps had two hits.

Rally Falls Short

- Trailing 3-1 in the ninth, Alex Bonczyk and Kalani Brackenridge drew back-to-back walks to start the inning.
- Austin Heaps’ single loaded the bases with one out and Goose Kallunki made it 3-2 with an RBI single to right.
- A pop out to second was out #2 and the final out was made by Corey Moore at second as he knocked down a hard grounder and his strong throw just beat a diving Stanford at first.

Watson strong in first start

- Making his first start, Brett Watson pitched well enough to win but Beatty was just a bit better.
- Watson went six-plus and gave up three runs on four hits and struck out four.
- After giving up the 2-0 lead in the third, he allowed just two hits the rest of the way.

Peterson Makes Pitch

- Derek Peterson threw his first three innings of baseball on Saturday and they were all scoreless.
- Peterson redshirted this spring as a freshman at Gonzaga and had not thrown in live game action since last summer.
- He entered with a runner on and no outs in the seventh and despite the runner eventually scoring, he kept the Sweets close over the closing innings.

Friday

- The Sweets scored six runs in the third inning and went on to an 8-0 victory.
- Ryan Richardson, Daniel Jewett and Drew Fittry combined on a five-hit shutout.
- Richardson started and tossed five scoreless to earn the win.
- Alex Bonczyk had three hits and two RBI

and Austin Heaps and Goose Kallunki each drove in two.

Opening Night Shutout

- The Sweets 8-0 shutout matches their total from last year and comes one game earlier than last year.
- Walla Walla shutout Wenatchee 2-0 in game two of 2010.
- The Sweets, however, were shutout seven times last season.

Bonczyk Thrives on Opening Night

- Graced with blazing speed, Bonczyk used it to his advantage Friday, beating out two infield hits and chasing down a gaper and making a sliding catch.
- Signed to a 10-day contract earlier in the week, Bonczyk had three hits in total and provided the Sweets with a presence at the top of the lineup.

Richardson Turns the Tables

- After giving up seven runs in 11 innigs against the Knights last season, Richardson twirled a gem on Opening Night.
- He scattered four hits over his five inning outing, throwing 61 pitches (40 strikes).

Hoverson's Title Dreams Fall Short

- Aaron Hoverson and Winona St.'s season did not end the way they had hoped.
- Playing in the National Championship for the first time in school history, the Warriors fell to West Florida 12-2 yesterday.

Eight is Great

- The Sweets eight-run outburst on Opening Night is a great start for the Sweets.
- In 2010, the Sweets managed to score eight or more runs on just four occassions.
- W2 erupted for a season-high 11 runs in an 11-8 victory over Kitsap on July 29.

Last Season at Borleske

- The Sweets were 10-15 in the shadow of Borleske Blue last summer.

- During a stretch in late July, W2 won 5 of 6 at home as they began their playoff push.
- Attendance-wise, the Sweets led the WCL with an average of 1,451.

Returning Sweets

- Seven players return from last years inaugural season (Stewart, Chavez, Williams, Gottschling, Overbay, Richardson, Watson)
- Stewart was a 2nd team All-WCL and Richardson was third in innings pitched.

College Success

- Utah Valley teammates Goose Kallunki and Austin Heaps both had outstanding seasons for the Wolverines.
- Kallunki drove in a team-high 60 runs and Heaps hit .339 with a team-high 25 doubles.
- Chance Kopacz (WWCC) led the NWAACC with 21 doubles and 54 RBI. He finished fifth with 8 home runs.
- Sweets returnee and Campbellsville University right-hander Ryan Richardson was 4-0 with a 3.95 ERA.
- He threw a no-hitter against Kentucky State on March 23.

Wentz Academic All-District

- Zach Wentz (North Dakota St.) was named to the COSIDA Capitol One Academic All-District 7 University Division First Team.
- Wentz carries a 3.92 GPA in physical education and health education.
- He was a 2nd team selection in 2010

Sweets in NCAA Tournament

- Five Sweets players are currently involved in the NCAA tournament.
- Aaron Hoverson (Winona St.) is playing in the D2 National Championships.
- Jimmy Litchfield (UC-Irvine), Scott Gottschling (UC-Irvine), Brenton Allen (UCLA) and Kevin Williams (UCLA) are all competing in the Los Angeles Regional of the NCAA D1 tournament.

- UCLA is the #1 seed and UC-Irvine the #3 seed in the four-team regional that begins Friday.
- Winona St. lost in the National Championship to West Florida.

Litchfield making an appearance

- Left-handed reliever Jimmy Litchfield is now in sole possession of third all-time at UC-Irvine in single-season appearances with 33.
- He surpassed Eric Pettis with two hitless innings of relief in the Anteaters first round win over Fresno St. in the NCAA Regional.
- Litchfield has worked 39.1 innings and is 2-1 with three saves and a 2.97 ERA.
- He needs two appearances to tie the record of 35 set by Gary Wheelock in 1972.

Richardson Returns

- Second-year Sweet Ryan Richardson gets the ball on opening night.
- Last summer, Richardson was 1-3 with one save and a 3.39 ERA.
- He threw 63.2 innings, good enough for third in the West Coast League.

Heaps doesn't miss a beat

- Austin Heaps was a freshman at Utah Valley in 2007 and a sophomore in 2010. In between he served an LDS mission in Honduras.
- He hit .348 with 16 doubles, seven home runs and 54 RBI as a freshman before taking two years off.
- Shaking off the rust last spring, he hit .338 with 35 RBI.
- This spring he was even better, hitting .339 with 25 doubles, 35 RBI and 50 runs scored.
- In two games this summer, he's collected three hits and two RBI.

Home Sweet Home

- The Sweets will have a chance to get comfortable at Borleske Stadium early on, playing 13 of their first 16 games at home.
- The season starts with a five-game homestand before the Sweets travel to Cowlitz for three games.
- The Sweets then return home on the 14th to start an eight-game homestand.

What's Next

- Tonight ends a five-game homestand for Walla Walla and they will hit the road for the first time this season on Friday when they travel to Cowlitz.
- The Sweets will play a three-game weekend series in Longview and get a day off on Monday before beginning an eight-game homestand on Tuesday.