Second Half Ahead for Post 17 Bears

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Erik Wander/KMXT

The Post 17 Kodiak Bears, the first American Legion baseball team from Kodiak in about 20 years, finished the first half of their schedule with a winning record. Next week, the Bears look to build upon their success, when they enter the second half of the season having learned some valuable lessons and improved in key areas. KMXT's Erik Wander has more.

The 17-and-under Kodiak team, who compete in the American Legion's A-division, finished the first half of the season with a record of six and four. Kodiak High School and Legion baseball Coach Rick Langfitt called it a successful start. He said he saw consistent improvement in his team, and that the players learned a lot, particularly at a four-day college coaches' camp in which they participated in Anchorage.

-- (Langfitt 1 23 sec. "There were a dozen college ... really got a lot out of it.")

Langfitt said he looks forward to continued improvement in the second half of the season, particularly in the areas of pitching and defense, as well as the basic fundamentals of the game.

-- (Langfitt 2 18 sec. "With any sport, it all ... makes you a better team.")

The second half of the season features nine games, including two matchups against Wasilla, the only team in the division they've yet to face, and two against Dimond, the team that sports the division's best first-half record at 11 and two. Langfitt said a highlight of the season's second half is a wood bat tournament in Chugiak. Kodiak qualified for the tournament by being one of the top eight

teams in the standings. Langfitt views the tournament as another opportunity to get better.

-- (Langfitt
3 38 sec. "That'll be really neat ... which is pitching and defense.")

Given Kodiak's busy road schedule throughout the season, having capable pitching at the ready is a key to the team's success. Langfitt said he's already called upon players who don't normally take the mound to do so, and he said that trend will continue into the season's second half.

-- (Langfitt
4 45 sec. "With the cost of travel ... a lot of kids that can throw well.")

After playing 10 games in a nine-day span to start the season, Kodiak is currently in the midst of a much needed two-week break. They resume play on July 11th with a game against a Bartlett team they blanked 11-nothing to close out the first half of the season. Kodiak has nine more games on its schedule, in addition to the wood bat tournament in Chugiak, which takes place July 17th through 19th.

I'm Erik Wander.

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