12 Games in 3 Weeks for Bears Baseball Team

Wednesday, 29 April 2009

{audio}/images/stories/mp3/090429.kodiak_baseball.mp3.mp3{/audio}

Erik Wander/KMXT

Late spring snowfall and poor field conditions at Baranof Park have already wiped out an opening weekend series for the Kodiak High School varsity baseball team, and resulted in the team being forced to condense its entire 2009 12-game season into just 21 days.

The revised schedule features just one home series, instead of the two originally planned. Kodiak head baseball coach Rick Langfit said the weather has had a significant impact on the season, both in terms of practice and scheduling. He also said the condensed season takes a toll on the players, particularly the pitching staff.

-- (Langfit 1 50 sec. "We started practice in ... unless you prove otherwise.")

Members of Kodiak's Southcentral Conference, which also includes Homer, Soldotna, Wasilla, Colony and Palmer, play one conference game against each other team, in addition to non-conference games throughout the season. The top two teams in conference standings at the end of the regular season represent the conference at the state tournament. Langfit said he expects last year's conference champions Colony to be the team to beat again this year, but that any one of the other teams has a chance to finish in the top two.

-- (Langfit 2 32 sec. "Since I've been coaching in 2004 ... in the top two, I believe.")

This year's Bears team will showcase a relatively young and inexperienced lineup, with only four starters returning from the 2008 squad, which posted a 10-2 record and finished third in the conference. Langfit expects the team to improve as the season progresses and said getting a couple of early wins under its belt will build confidence.

-- (Langfit 3 15 sec. "Of course, not being able to ... as the season goes on.")

Langfit said Kodiak's chances of reaching the state tournament depends largely on getting off to a good start, given the challenge of a 5-game conference schedule.

-- (Langfit 4 25 sec. "We've got a young team ... season's going to be like.")

The Bears open the season with a non-conference game in Soldotna May 8th, followed by their conference opener in Homer the next day. The following weekend, May 15th and 16th, they host Soldotna for one conference and one non-conference game, the only time they will be at home for the season. Kodiak concludes its season May 28th at Colony. The State Baseball Tournament takes place in Palmer June 4th through 6th.

I'm Erik Wander.

###