



BLIZZARD

IN THE NEWS - VOL.9

CURRENT NEWS

DATES TO SAVE

DESPITE RAIN BOYS MAKE THE BEST OF VERO BEACH AND WE SAY GOODBYE TO 2024 CLASS!

This past weekend we got to say farewell to the graduating class in Vero Beach, Florida during the annual Treasure Coast Presidents' Day Challenge at the Jackie Robinson training complex. Although the weather did not cooperate over the course of the tournament the players, parents and coaches made the best of the situation, and the players finished their Blizzard careers with a 10-0 victory on Monday morning before catching flights back home. We will get to see the seniors one more time at the annual awards banquet, but they always know they have a home at the academy and are welcome back with open arms anytime.



18U Royal after 4-4 tie in game 2 during Treasure Coast Presidents Day Challenge at Jackie Robinson Complex

18U Royal Tournament Recap

The 18U Royal team kicked off action against the SF Hawks in the opening game on Saturday morning. Junior, Nick Johnson was on the bump and delivered a gem over the course of 6 innings. Nick managed to strike out 7 batters while giving up 2 hits and a walk. His command was top notch as he threw 56/80 pitches for strikes (70% clip). In the end the Hawks rallied for 2 runs in

the top of the 7th inning to steal the game via a 2-1 score. Landon Zeuli was 2-4 with a double to lead the offense while Leo Lauscher added a double of his own. Chase McQuade and Bradyn Bezanson added singles.

In game 2, Junior Jack Scanlon got squeezed a bit that led to the West Chester Dragons scoring 3 runs. In the following innings we saw Jack take command as he had done all fall by striking out 9 and leaving the game with a 4-3 lead. Unfortunately, West Chester was able to manufacture a run in the bottom of the 5th leading to a 4-4 tie. Lauscher and Tyler Guerin (2-2) each tripled in the game. Lauscher got to round all the bases during his triple as the relay into third sailed to the opposing dugout allowing Leo to score. Zeuli, Cayden Mueller and Isaac Beseman also singled in the contest.



Hunter Carlson (left) and Jack Scanlon (right) celebrate

After a rain filled Sunday that saw the bulk of the games cancelled the team was given a 3rd game on Monday morning. The bats broke out and the boys left no doubt as they put 10 runs on the board in 3 innings of work for the mercy rule. Senior Tyler Guerin got the start on the mound going 2 innings with 5 strikeouts and his senior teammate Bradyn Bezanson closed the door with a perfect frame in the 3rd inning with a pair of strikeouts. Lauscher picked up his 3rd extra base hit of the weekend by hitting another triple, Guerin was 3-3 with a double and Hunter Carlson added a couple hits by going 2-2. Cayden Muller (2B), McQuade, Jonathan Snively and Bezanson also added hits in the game.

Hitting Leaders: Tyler Guerin 5-7 double, triple, Landon Zeuli 3-7 (4 runs, 3 walks), Leo Lauscher 3 hits (2 triples, double) and 4 RBI, Hunter Carlson (3 walks), Bradyn Bezanson, Chase McQuade and Cayden Mueller all had 2 hits each while Isaac Beseman (4 runs) and Jonathan Snively added a single each.

17U Carolina Tournament Recap

The scores do not reflect the grit, tenacity and pride this group played with over the weekend. After a rough opening game, the boys battled to 6-5 and 8-4 defeats and although the results of the weekend were not what they had hoped for there are always bright spots to recognize. In the second game Ryley Wuebkers tossed 2 1/3 scoreless innings in relief while striking out 4. Hodson, Fike, Adie, Wuebkers and Allshouse all singled in the contest. Ethan Clarke showed his speed by swiping a couple bags on the base paths (team stole 8 bases in the game).



Riley Wuebkers warms-up during game 2 while his teammates look on!

In the final game of the weekend after spotting the opposition with 4 runs in the top of the first the team played “even-stein” baseball over the next 3 ½ innings (games were shortened to 5 innings 1.5 hours on Monday). Brayden Haberman threw a scoreless frame in relief while Tyler Allshouse paced with offense with a couple base hits. Ethan Clarke also doubled in the contest and Kummer, Hodson and Adie all added singles. Look for this group to rebound next year as they head back to Vero for the final time in 2025.

16U Royal Tournament Recap

On the plane rides home, I can only imagine what this talented class was thinking, “what-if”. This group had positioned themselves for a run at the title as they had gone 3-0 over the course of its games, which included a 6-4 over the previous year’s champions in the opener. The team was slightly different from the fall and one thing is for sure, this top team does not lose much as they finished 31-2 this past fall and that carried right over into the Vero tournament.

In game 1 it was obvious they were going to battle with a tough opponent, so Coach Barta left nothing to spare by running Cason Borchardt out to the mound. Cason would work his magic over 5 innings giving up a couple runs on 2 hits while striking out 10. After a hairy 6th inning that saw the Pennsylvania team grab 3 runs and load the bases with two outs the team marched out Mason Schmidt and he didn’t disappoint with a huge strike out to preserve the opening victory. Offensively it was spread out with Ahrens, Barta, Borchardt (2B), Glancey, Walker and Flansburg all grabbing a hit in the win.

Game 2 was not as stressful as the bats were alive and the boys put numbers on the board in 4 of the 5 innings on the way to a 10-0 victory. Sam Abrahamson and Carson Hart powered the top two spots in the lineup with a couple hits each and Borchardt hitting in the 13 hole added a couple hits (Cason might be the best 13 hitter to ever play the game). Jeffers (2B), Glancey (3B), Tellier, Nelson added hits. On the mound you could say that Ethan Jeffers was locked in. The lone blemish in the box score was a 30-foot single he gave up down the first base line, a swinging bunt is also the correct terminology. Jeffers would dominate the Muckdogs by striking out 13 in 5 innings of work with one walk. Jeffers worked fast, got ahead in the count and flat out pounded the zone.

On Sunday afternoon I was shocked to see the team played that morning

before the rain started. As the only games to be played on Sunday were both by the Blizzard 16U teams. One thing is for sure when you play this group it is not wise to play from behind and that is exactly what happened to the Keystone State Bombers. Easton Ahrens led off the game with a single that rocketed off the pitcher's shin and into left field. After a passed ball and a steal of 3rd base, Spencer Barta delivered the perfect swinging bunt towards third base to score Ahrens and put the boys on top 1-0. They never let up and finished with another victory at the hands of a 7-0 score. After picking up a save in game 1, Mason Schmidt delivered 3 solid innings of 2 hit baseball with 6 strikeouts for the victory. Keith Milam pitched a scoreless 4th to wrap up the contest. At the plate Barta would add another hit to finish 2-2 on the day, while Abrahamson, Hart, Walker and Flansburg added singles. I 100% believe this group was poised to win the tournament, we will see what they do next year in Vero!



Keegan Flansburg (left) and Spencer Barta (right) are locked in during game 2

Hitting Leaders: Borchardt, Barta, Abrahamson and Hart all had 3 hits each. Ahrens, Glancey, Flansburg and Walker added 2 hits each while Tellier, Schmidt, Jeffers and Nelson had a hit.

16U Carolina Tournament Recap

I was able to catch most of the Carolina teams first game in which they jumped on the board fast via a 3 run first inning with the big hit coming off the bat of Charlie aka Chaz Brookins after he delivered a double to left. Chaz would add another double later in the game to lead the offense with 3 RBIs. The team managed to tack on runs in the 4th and 5th innings before settling with a 5-2 victory. Kasey MacCallum was electric on the mound from the left side as he painted the corners. In 3 2/3 innings he only surrendered 1 hit while striking out 8. Evan Grove would toss 2 1/3 innings in relief for the save striking out 5 and allowing a couple unearned runs. Rourick Gulbrandson, Kyle Maronick, Silas Nelson and Jackson Hahn added singles to pace the offense.

After the opening victory the bats went cold in the following contests with Max Perkins and Gunner Ganske collecting singles in the two contests. Henry Saunders tossed 3 shutout innings in game 2 in relief with 5 strikeouts while giving up 1 hit, Rourick Gulbrandson threw 2 shutout innings in relief in game 3 allowing a couple walks, striking out 4 and not giving up a hit. Silas pitched a perfect 6th in game 3 with a couple strikeouts.

15U Tournament Recap

The opening game saw the 15U crew squaring off with West Chester Dragons 16U team. Kason Nuehring was up for the challenge delivering 4 innings of 1 hit baseball with 9 strikeouts and 1 walk. The short backstop behind the plate didn't deter the Blizzard team from trying to take home if a ball skipped away. Jude Heyer was caught in the first but that didn't stop Oscar Waisanen from putting the team on the board with a



Gavin Iverson (left) and RJ Madison (right) celebrate after RJ delivers the walk-off hit for a 3-2 victory in game 1.

run in the bottom of the 2nd. A successful 1st and 3rd play with Henry Braun drawing the throw to second, allowed Parker Reckin the opportunity to take home after drawing a walk earlier in the 3rd. With the team clinging to a 2-0 lead the Dragons got on the board in the 5th with a couple runs to tie the game. Blizzard was fortunate to gun down the go ahead run at the plate. Mark Susa relieved Aiden Connelly in the 7th inning and after the 8 and 9 hitters reached base Mark was able to strike out the side and keep the game tied. In the bottom of the 7th Henry Braun was beamed on a 2-2 count to put the winning run on base. After a fly out Gavin Iverson laced a pitch to left field for a single to put the winning run on second. RJ Madison would come up with 2 outs and on the second pitch drilled a single up the middle to score Braun for the game 1 victory. Madison also delivered a deep double to gap for the first hit of the game. Kason Nuehring helped himself with a single to round out the offense. Susa would pick up the win in relief.

Game 2 was not as kind as the first one as the small strike zone meant the pitchers had to throw the ball over the plate and the team out of Virginia made the pitchers pay jumping to a 4-0 lead. Blizzard would answer with 3 in the bottom of the first but that was the closest the game would get as the Green Mountain Catamounts would coast to victory. Aiden Connelly hit a double to the right center gap to lead the offense. Cade Hamilton, Oscar and Susa also singled.

In the final game the boys would manage to grab a 5-2 win before heading home. The team fell behind 2-0 before Iverson would draw a bases loaded walk to put the team ahead 3-2 in the bottom of the 2nd. Susa would also draw a walk for the 4-2 lead. Oscar got the start on the mound to pick up the win tossing a 2 innings while giving up a couple unearned runs and striking out 2 while not giving up a hit or walk. Susa would throw a scoreless 3rd with 2 strikeouts and Jude Heyer was impressive pitching shutout innings in the 4th and 5th innings with 3 strikeouts and giving up 1 hit. Anthony Brown would lead the offense going 2-2 with

with a double. Aiden Connelly and Kason Nuehring would add a single each.

ON DECK..

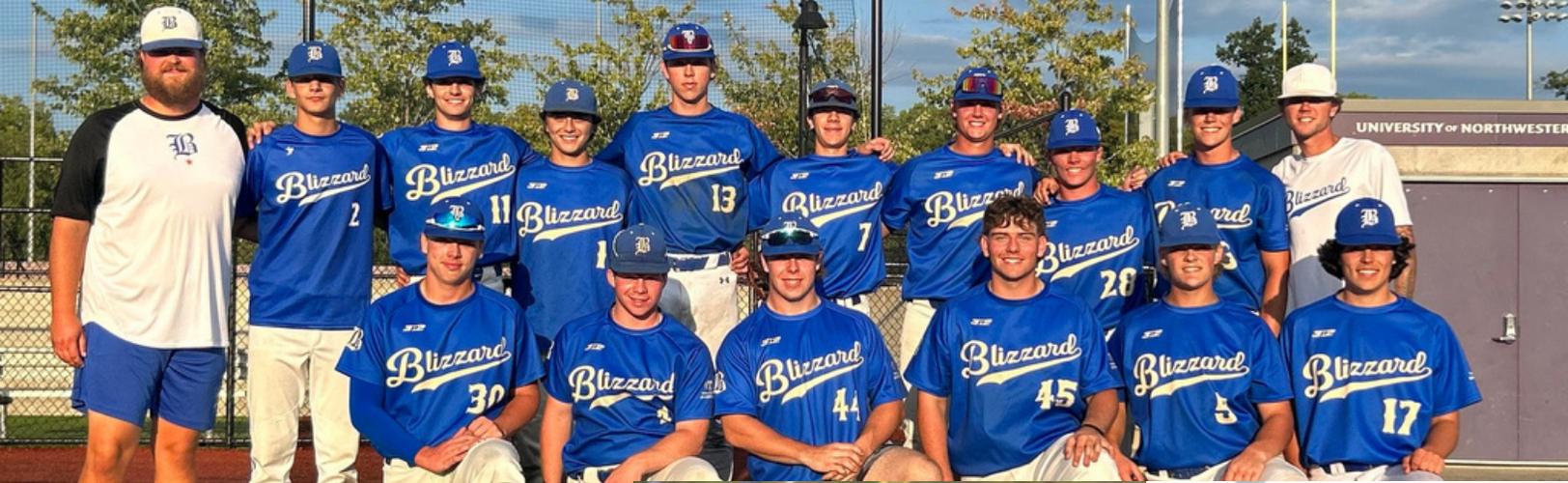
Vero marks the final tournament of the fall Elite season and now we switch gears in preparation of the youth spring season. In March our 12-14 year old teams head out to Arizona for a tournament and then the youth program (9-14) battles in Iowa and Kansas City in April! Throw in the end of year banquet and there is plenty to be excited about and to keep us busy over the next couple months. Stay tuned as tourney previews and recaps will be coming at the conclusion of events!

[#BLUELOVE](#)



The boys enjoying some time on the beach prior to pool play starting! (pictured above from left to right) Aiden Connelly, Cayden Mueller, RJ Madison, Chase McQuade, Henry Braun, Tyler Guerin, Anthony Brown, Jackson Kolb, Bradyn Bezanson, Gavin Iverson, Keegan Flansburg, Mason Schmidt, Isaiah Walker







THANK YOU SENIORS!!!

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