

RCA IN THE NEWS

RCA BASEBALL ADDS 3rd MTAC CHAMPIONSHIP TO SCHOOL'S 2013-2014 COUNT

Riverside Christian Academy's varsity baseball team won the Middle Tennessee Athletic Conference Championship last Thursday. The Knights' varsity baseball team joins the varsity football and girls cross-country teams as 2013-2014 conference champions.

"I'm proud of our team because all of our players were team players. They were willing to play any position I asked them to, and they did their best at it," said Danny Boggs, RCA's varsity baseball coach.

The Knights defeated Community Christian 10-2 in the first game of the MTAC tournament last Tuesday. Josh Hill was the Knights' winning pitcher with 13 strikeouts while only walking six batters and giving up two hits. At the plate Josh Brooks and Avery Winsett each had a double, Mason Forchetti had a double and a single, Josh Mills and Ryan Campbell each had two singles, and Eli Wright had one single.

The Knights went on to play the number one seed Middle Tennessee Heat in the second game of the tournament only hours after playing Community Christian. The Knights brought home a 6-4 win against the Heat with Josh Mills at the plate.

"The boys played excellent defense in the first game against the Heat. Our standouts were Caleb Durham in left field and Josh Brooks at short stop. Caleb and Mason Forchetti each made diving catches to contribute to our cause. Josh Hill threw four runners out from the catcher position, which is really impressive considering the fact that he had pitched for seven innings in the first game that day," said Boggs.

At the bottom of the seventh inning, the Knights were on defense and the Heat had one out with runners on first and second bases when Josh Brooks turned a double play to win the game.

The teams took a break from the tournament last Wednesday and resumed play on Thursday. The Knights played the Middle Tennessee Heat again and lost the first game 9-5 with six errors. Eli Wright pitched the first three and a half innings of the game, and Josh Brooks finished it out. Coach Boggs said the errors hurt the team a lot in the loss, and that they left a lot of runners on base. At the plate Jacob Anderson had a double and a single; Eli Wright had two singles; and Josh Brooks, Mason Forchetti, and Josh Hill each had a single.

The Knights and the Heat took a 20 minute break before beginning the second game for the MTAC championship.

"We regrouped during the break, and the boys' motto was 'no errors, no errors, no errors,' We only had nine players, but every one of them played the hardest that I have ever seen them play, and we ended up winning the game 8-1," said Coach Boggs.

Eli Wright pitched six innings of the second game after pitching three and half on the same day. Coach Boggs said his curve ball was working against the Heat and his pitch selection was great. Eli struck out nine batters while only walking two and giving up two hits.

Josh Brooks finished the game out by pitching the seventh inning. He struck out one batter and the Knights defense caught two fly balls for a quick three outs.

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“Jacob Anderson had a great game at third base. He took five bullets, caught them, and threw every one of the batters out,” said Coach Boggs.

Eight out of RCA’s nine players hit the ball in the championship game. Mason Forchetti had two doubles; Josh Brooks and Josh Mills each had a double; Eli Wright, Jacob Anderson, and Caleb Durham each had two singles; and Josh Hill and Avery Winsett each hit a single.

Caleb Durham made the 2014 MTAC All Tournament team and Eli Wright was named the 2014 MTAC Tournament Most Valuable Player.

“Coach Kevin Whitworth was a huge asset to our team. He has so much knowledge about the game, and was a great example for our players and help to me. We couldn’t have made it this far this season without him,” said Coach Boggs.

Three of RCA’s standout players throughout the season were Josh Hill, Josh Brooks, and Mason Forchetti. Josh Hill led the team in batting average with a .430, Mason came in a close second with a .385, and Josh Brooks led the team in stolen bases and raised his batting average by .200.

“We had an up and down season this year, but when we didn’t make mistakes we were solid. The bright spot is we played five eighth-graders on our varsity team throughout the season this year, and our middle school team went 9-1 so the future of the program looks really good,” said Coach Boggs. “I’m really going to miss my two seniors, Josh Brooks and Mason Forchetti. They were my two work horses. They were always at practice early and they were always the last to leave. I’m so happy for them to be able to go out on a winning note!”