



NEWS

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For Immediate Release

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Reser's All-Star Series coaches have long ties to Oregon high school baseball

Corvallis, Oregon, Tuesday, June 7 – The coaches for the Reser's Oregon All-Star Series have been selected and they all have a strong connection to Oregon baseball and a deep respect for their players and the game they've loved since their youth.

They played high school baseball in-state, had successful college – and in one case, professional – careers, and enjoy passing on their baseball knowledge and life skills to the next generation of Oregonians.

“We would love to have every player become a great player, but our main goal is to help each of these guys become great people,” Wilsonville High School coach Matt Kosderka said. “While we all want to win every time we take the field, winning in the game of life is much more important.”

Kosderka and Jon Strohmaier of Sherwood will coach the South team while Steve Antich of Westview and Kevin Cave of Central Catholic will handle the North club at the three-game series, scheduled for June 18-19 at Goss Stadium on the campus of Oregon State University.

A single game is set for 6 p.m. June 18, followed by a 2 p.m. doubleheader on June 19.

Strohmaier, whose Bowmen defeated Wilsonville 6-3 for the 5A championship, will be the South's head coach. Antich will be the North's head coach, as Westview topped Central Catholic 9-6 for the 6A crown.

The series will revive memories on two levels for Cave, a former all-state shortstop and Mt. Hood Conference Player of the Year at Central Catholic after hitting .510 as a senior in 1998 for former coach Shawn Alderman.

Cave played in the old State-Metro Series, the forerunner of the Reser's Oregon All-Star Series, in The Dalles that June before enrolling at Gonzaga, where he lettered from 1999-2002.

And he played at Goss Stadium with the Bulldogs in 2001 and in 2002 under former coach Steve Hertz. Cave taught and coached at Madras High in 2006 and 2007 before returning to Central Catholic for the 2007-08 school year. He also teaches there.

Antich just completed his fifth season at Westview and his 13th in Oregon since returning from the Bay Area. A Grants Pass High graduate, he pitched and played first base at Taft Jr. College and at UC Davis before starting his coaching career at Newark Memorial High in Newark, California.

Antich returned to Oregon in 1999 and was a sub-varsity coach at South Medford for two years before being promoted to head coach for the 2002 season.

Strohmaier is a health and physical education teacher at Sherwood who has coached the Bowmen for 19 seasons. He is a five-time league coach of the year, was the 2006 Oregon 3A Coach of the Year, and directed the Bowmen to the 2011 5A state championship.

Kosderka has taught and coached at Wilsonville for the past eight seasons and has guided the Wildcats to the playoffs six times. His 2005 team played for the 3A title, before the Wildcats moved up to 5A when the OSAA changed to the current six-class system.

A pitcher at Willamette University, he set seven individual season and career records and was the first Bearcat to earn first-team NAIA All-American honors. He then played four seasons in the Texas Rangers' minor-league organization before retiring in 2001.

ABOUT THE OREGON ALL-STAR SERIES

The Oregon High School Baseball All-Star Series showcases elite senior players from the state's 5A and 6A classifications over a set of games held each third weekend in June. The All-Star Series thrived in The Dalles for decades (1971-2007) as the State-Metro Series and celebrated its 50th anniversary in its last year at Quinton Street Ball Park in The Dalles. Bend hosted the 5A Series in 2008 and 2009 while the 6A Series was held in McMinnville those same years before the two classifications combined to play a 5A/6A All-Star Series last year in McMinnville. The Oregon High School Baseball Coaches Association is moving the All-Star Series to Corvallis for the first time in 2011.

ABOUT GOSS STADIUM

Goss Stadium at Coleman Field is home to the two-time national champion Oregon State Beavers and Corvallis Knights of the West Coast League. The Stadium was built in 1998 and expanded in 2008. Summer capacity is 2,930. Goss Stadium features a video scoreboard, the Omaha Club Room and FieldTurf in the infield. The Stadium has hosted three NCAA Super Regionals and three West Coast League Championship Series. For more info on Goss Stadium, visit: www.osubeavers.com/facilities/goss-stadium.html.

ABOUT THE CORVALLIS KNIGHTS

The Corvallis Knights are a member of the nine-team wood-bat West Coast League. The club is dedicated to accelerating prospect development, bettering its community and delivering affordable family entertainment. Based in Corvallis, the team plays June through August at Goss Stadium on the campus of Oregon State University. Established in 1990, the club relocated to Corvallis in 2007. The host team of the 2011 WCL All-Star Game features top collegiate players and a full slate of entertaining promotions including fireworks. For more info on the Knights, visit: www.corvallisknights.com.

ABOUT THE WEST COAST LEAGUE

The West Coast League, established in 2005, is the west's premier summer collegiate wood-bat league. Member teams include the Bellingham Bells, Bend Elks, Corvallis Knights, Cowlitz Black Bears, Kelowna Falcons, Kitsap BlueJackets, Klamath Falls Gems, Walla Walla Sweets and Wenatchee AppleSox. Teams feature top players from schools from major conferences like the Pac-10, Big West and Big 12. The league's 54-game 2011 regular season opens June 3 and concludes August 12. Its All-Star Game is scheduled for July 26 at Corvallis. For more info on the West Coast League, visit: www.wccbl.com.

ABOUT CORVALLIS

Corvallis, Oregon, population 51,110, is in the heart of the Willamette Valley. Home to Oregon State University, it is the quintessential college town. Wide streets, sheltered by ancient trees, red brick or white masonry buildings and its location along the Willamette River make Corvallis a handsome city. Corvallis is close to the Coast Range and wildlife areas. The city is within 90 minutes of the beach, the Siuslaw National Forest and Portland. For more info on Corvallis, visit: www.visitcorvallis.com.