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** TOUR GAME # 9**

**DATE: 21 September**

**VENUE: Albany, Oregon**

**AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLBOYS vs. LINN-BENTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Inn / Team** | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** | **6** | **7** | **8** | **9** |  | **R** | **H** | **E** |
| **V** | Australia | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 |  | 6 | 10 | 2 |
| **H** | Linn-Benton | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  | 5 | 9 | 1 |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Bat** | Australia | **Pos** | **At Plate** | **Hits** | **RBIs** | **Walks** | **HPB** | **Sacs** | **Stolen**  **Bases** | **Runs**  **Scored** |
| **1** | E. Stacy | 2B | 5 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| **2** | L. Gonzalez | CF | 5 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| **3** | J. Meyer | 3B | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **4** | L. Evans | 1B | 4 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **5** | N. Hosie | C | 4 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **6** | L. MacDonald | SS | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **7** | W. Tucker | LF | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| **8** | B. Fierenzi  R. Dewick | DH  PH | 3  1 | 0  1 | 0  0 | 1  0 | 0  0 | 0  0 | 0  0 | 1  1 |
| **9** | B. Bidois | DH | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **10** | J. Lee  C. Rodwell | RF | 2  2 | 1  1 | 0  2 | 0  0 | 0  0 | 0  0 | 0  0 | 1  0 |

**Pitchers**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Australia** | **Innings Pitched** | **Ks** | **Hits** | **Walks** | **HPB** | **Runs** | **Earned Runs** |
| M. Watson | 4.33 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 4 |
| R. Pelkonen | 2.67 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| J. Lee | 2.00 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Today’s game was against Linn-Benton College, the closest we’ll get to having a home game as it’s only about 15 minutes away from Corvallis. They had an artificial turf infield which was only put down last year, and their field was presented in immaculate order.

They are the benchmark for junior colleges in Oregon. Their record last season was an outstanding 44 and 4, and that included losing their last two games in the junior world college series play-offs. At one stage they had a winning streak of thirty one games in a row.

We failed to score in the 1st and Watson was our starter today. A walk and a hit by pitch followed by a base hit saw a run score, but a great double play from Stacy and MacDonald helped shut down the inning. No scores in the 2nd and Watson appeared to have found his rhythm.

Then in the 3rd, Lee hit a single and three walks ended up scoring our first run. Hosie then singled to centre field to bring in another two and we’d hit the lead at 3 - 1. They hit back straight away with a walk and a couple of hits to score two, and tie the game up at 3 - 3.

They added another in the 4th when their lead off hitter tripled and a sacrifice fly scored him. Two ground balls which were hard hit, but outs should’ve been made, contributed to one more run against us in the 5th and a pitching change of Pelkonen for Watson was made with one out. He then shut down the inning and also kept them out in the 6th.

In the 7th, Fierenzi walked, Bidois was hit by a pitched ball, and Stacy singled to load the bases with one out. Gonzalez then hit a deep sacrifice fly ball to centre field to score Fierenzi and it was now a one run ball game at 5 - 4. Their lead off got a double but Pelkonen responded in great style to stop him from scoring.

Neither team scored in the 8th with Lee coming in to relieve Pelkonen, and so it was till 5 - 4 going into the 9th.

Tucker led off and the third baseman’s throw dragged first base off to give us a runner on first, Dewick singled to right field, and Bidois laid down a perfect bunt to load the bases. Then Rodwell, in a great piece of clutch hitting, drove in two runs so heading into the bottom of the 9th we’d taken the lead

6 - 5. Lee walked the first hitter but he fought back magnificently with two strikeouts to finish off the game in great style.

This had been an outstanding win against a very high quality team. Yesterday, I said in my report that it would be a test of our character how our guys responded to that terrible loss yesterday, and their response today was magnificent. We asked Linn-Benton’s coach to address us after the game (something we do just about every day) and he couldn’t believe that we were just a team of high school kids.

They really were a credit to themselves and their country today.

No game tomorrow as we’re all off to see Oregon State play Arizona State in college football. Going to a tailgate party before the game and then our kids will be fortunate enough to be down on the field in front of a crowd of 40,000 to form the tunnel that players run through as they come out onto the field. Should be a great experience.

Then on Sunday morning we’ve got a two hour training session on Goss Stadium which is the home field of Oregon State, who are the current College World Series champions. It’s right in the middle of OSU campus and a very, very cool place. Our kids are really living the dream at the moment.