Lacrosse clubs ease into season

Team Trotterham

The men’s lacrosse team enjoyed plenty of success last weekend, and the women’s team helped to do the same this week.

After a slow start, the men’s team defeated Northern Illinois University 20-6 on Saturday.

"We started out slow, but we finished really strong," forward Bobby Howard said. "It’s good to get it going, our offense kind of fell into gear and we were able to put a game together and show promise in others."

The team had just a 2-0 lead after the first quarter before pulling away as the game went on.

Junior Steve McCarr, who scored the first goal of the game, agreed. "The better we’ve been playing," McCarr said, "the more impressive the games have been.

"It's a situation where we're used to scoring enough goals to win a game and we've been able to finish games off." The team played well overall and the players were able to take some positives away from the game.

Despite the slow start, the Trotterhammen will take the win.

"Our defense did real well when Northern-Illinois came down," Hallinan said, "but we got the ball back against the defense and the offense.

"We had a good transition game and cleared the ball well."

Junior pitcher Tony Jenkins, who gave up two runs in four innings, said the team is prepared to do the same this week.

"As long as we play as a team and communicate, we should be able to succeed," Jenkins said.

"We've been concentrating on throwing in the strike zone this week and the past couple times out."

Jenkins said the team will need to continue throwing strikes in order to have success on the mound, and it is one of the team's previous targets.

The team recorded victories over the University of Illinois-Chicago in their first two conference matches but lost to Emporia State (Emporia, Kan.) and Western State College (St. Joseph) on Saturday.

"Some of us felt we played well, but it's somewhat disappointing to be swept in our last weekend's four-game homestand."

"We had two wins," Day said. "We were happy to beat the team twice, but it's not going to make up for the two losses."

"We were disappointed with the loss," Souders said. "We're trying to build back the necesy and pull out the win."

"Our guys are competitors, and they're not going to back off," Kendall said. "And the first few games this season got us to see what we were capable of. The team faces a three-game homestand this weekend and we're looking forward to playing against Emporia State before other conferences."

Junior pitcher Stratton, who is coming off an off-year, threw a five-inning game in the second match, but the Bears' offense generated enough offense.

Although Stratton lost a hard-fought game to a small Emporia program, Scally said he is looking for similar offensive and defense consistency from the starting pitchers.

"Sometimes they've given us an 8-2 lead and sometimes, they've lost us 8-2," Scally said.

"Senior pitcher Tony Jenkins, who pitched five-one-hit-thirds in the first game, said the pitching is coming around.

"We’ve been concentrating on throwing five-one-hit-thirds and getting ahead in the 1st and 2nd innings with a couple of runs to start the first game and doing a really good job," Day said.

"That's why we're getting some wins under our belt, I think we've got some winning discipline at the plate," Scally said. "We try to do too much with our on-deck. We should just go with the pitch and try not to pull the ball too much."

"The Dogs are a team full of underclassmen, and that's part of the fun."

"There’s a lot of little good leaders on this team," Prea said. "And all of the upperclassmen know what’s been the fun match."

"After yesterday's game against Emporia State, the Dogs return home for another weekend homestand and will play another pair of double-headers."

"The two matches will be against Oklahoma Baptist (Bulldogs) and we're excited to be back on the field and working towards another path to the national tournament."

"We may win, they may lose. But they're going to go out and give it a shot."