



Aviators Aim High In 2009

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VANDALIA – With success comes high expectations and for the Butler Aviators Baseball team there is plenty to look forward to in 2009. Last season's District Title has everyone in Aviator Country hungry for more in 2009. "I am very excited about the upcoming season", said head coach Trent Dues. "We have seven quality seniors and several returning underclassmen. The players have worked very hard since last season to better themselves."

The Butler Baseball team is coming off of back to back second place finishes in the GWOC North. For many teams, such a finish would be marked as an achievement, in what is a very competitive division. But don't tell that to the Aviators, who have been division champs 11 out of the past 14 seasons. Most impressive is the fact that those 11 championship seasons came in succession, creating the longest such streak in the entire Miami Valley.

Last year the Aviators were able to turn a modest 15-12 regular season, into a District Championship and narrowly missed a shot at a Regional Title, finishing the season 18-13. Over the summer the Aviators ACME teams both enjoyed success. The varsity team qualified for the state tournament, while the junior varsity team brought home the ACME State Title. While the past spring and summer look to play a role in the upcoming season, it is the work put in since, that head coach Trent Dues hopes to get the most from. "We started a new off-season workout program that I hope will pay dividends this season...time will tell", said Dues.

Looking ahead to 2009, the GWOC landscape has changed a bit. In the past, only the games played against division foes were counted as "league games" and reflected in league standings. In addition to the games played versus GWOC North opponents, games played versus the GWOC South will also count towards the league standings. (Lebanon, Miamisburg, Springboro, Fairborn, and Xenia) Crossover games against the GWOC Central will not count from a league standpoint, including the matchup against former GWOC North nemesis Northmont.

The upcoming schedule is an exciting and challenging one, and should offer great preparation for the tournament. "We play a very competitive schedule that will put us to the test a great deal", Dues said. "We have to replace League Player of the Year Zach Dumler, who led us as our top pitcher and hitter last year. We have many players with the ability and experience to step up."

On the schedule again is the annual night game played at the home of the Dayton Dragons. "Our game at Fifth Third Field on Friday, May 1 at 7:15, will be a big league game against Troy and will also be Senior Night", said Dues. "This, as well as many other games on the schedule looks to highlight an exciting spring."

Supplying the excitement will be the job of the seven returning seniors and slew of experienced underclassmen. The varsity roster looks to be a nice fusion of veteran players and seasoned youth.

Key Returnees

Alan Bane (12) - Was an **All-GWOC First Team** Catcher last year – Hit .342 overall with 22 RBI- Will also see time at 3rd Base this year. This will be Bane's third year as a starter.

Kyle Coby (12) - Hit .284 as an outfielder last year and will also be used on the mound this season. This will be Coby's third year as a starter.

Tony Cono (12) - **All-GWOC Honorable Mention** Infielder - Hit .361 last year - Will be used as an infielder and key pitcher for the Aviators - Was number two last year behind Dumler on the mound and will need to log some key innings for the Aviators in 2009. This will be Cono's third year as a starter.

Darren Himsworth (12) - Hit .286 last year as the starting 2nd Baseman. Described by Coach Dues as a "very solid infielder", Himsworth will also help Butler on the mound this year. This will be Himsworth's third year as a starter.

Jordan Martin (12) - **All GWOC- First Team First** Baseman - Hit .337 in the middle of the order last year with 19 RBI. This will be Martin's third year as a starter.

Mike Radominski (12) - Hit .385 as a junior center fielder last year. Radominski was the Aviators' hottest hitter throughout the tournament. Mike is described as "a very good outfielder with a lot of pop in his bat". This will be Radominski's third year as a starter.

Kevin Ralston (12) - Threw 21 innings last year on the mound for the Aviators. This will be Ralston's third year as a starter.

Trey Clements (11) – **All GWOC- Second Team** Outfielder - Hit .330 last season for the Aviators, and tied the school record for steals with 19.

Dillon Bell (11) - Came up half way through the season last year to become the Aviators' starting Shortstop. Bell had 17 assists with no errors in 2008.

Kyle Blakely (11) – Called up from the JV team in 2008, Blakely came on to pitch what Coach Dues described as, "19 big, quality innings".

Josh Coy (11) – Had five hits in 13 official at bats last season, after being called up at the end of the

year. Coy filled in during some big games as an outfielder/first baseman.

Matt Radominski (11) - Played 137 innings last year for the Aviators as an infielder/outfielder. Will be called upon to do the same in 2009.

Chris Mayhill (10) - Pitched 23 innings for Butler last season as a freshman, notching 14 strikeouts.

Chase Goulette (10) - Was the 2008 MVP for the JV team and was an integral part of the JR. ACME State Championship team. Goulette played 137 innings last year as an infielder/outfielder, and will fill the same role at the varsity level.

Key Newcomers

Key newcomers to the varsity team in 2009 are pitchers Nick Hansman (11), Taylore Cherry (9) and catcher Lance Straley (9). All three players had a solid summer with the ACME team, and look to make an impact this spring.

In addition to the players named above, there are a host of players at the JV level hoping to get the call up to varsity. "We have several players on the JV team that are knocking on the door for varsity action", said Dues. "This creates a very competitive situation that we like."

The Aviators open up the 2009 regular season at home versus Carroll on Monday, March 30th at 5:00 PM.