



Dues reaches 300 mark

Vandalia Butler coach has a 314-114 record and 11 straight conference championships.

VANDALIA — Mia, Damon and Koby Dues weren't around when their dad was a flashy infielder for Coldwater High School and later Bowling Green State University.

But they'll all be on the scene when dad continues a colossal career at Vandalia Butler and collects career victories at a consistent pace.

Dad is, of course, veteran coach Trent Dues, who is to Vandalia Butler baseball what legendary Ray Zawadzki was to Aviator basketball ... and then some.

Dues was originally mentored by another legend, Coldwater's Lou Brunswick, who compiled a whopping 750 victories before hanging up his uniform and fungo bat. Dues, now starting his 15th season at the helm, has tucked away 314 triumphs in his diamond resume.

Brunswick spent 30 years and had the distinct advantage of playing a lengthier schedule under less restrictive OHSAA rules, before reaching that 750 plateau, but you don't have to be a rocket scientist or even a baseball stat fanatic to consider Dues' outside chances of coming close to the man he loved and admired.

His current club, that started out 13-6 and 9-1 in the GWOC, flogged Fairmont's Firebirds, 8-6, for the memorable 300th win and if the Aviators avoid any serious injuries, the Dues crew is headed for another winning campaign.

On a career breakdown, Dues owns a 314-114 log that includes 11 straight championships from 1996-2006, most of which came in the old Greater Miami Valley Conference and the remainder as divisional titles in the GWOC.

He has won six district titles and in '02 his club went to state Division II tournament. When it comes to inspirational figures, Dues naturally looks back on his glory days with Brunswick's Cavaliers.

"I learned so much from him," Dues said. "How the game should be played and I can look back on a state championship year in my senior season. He had a great baseball mind ... and Coldwater has always been a terrific baseball town."

Vandalia Butler baseball coach Trent Dues owns a 314-114 record that includes 11 straight conference championships from 1996-2006. Staff photo by Ron Alvey

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