



2016 LATE-SEASON UPDATE

Following a slow start where the Challengers battled through some keys injuries and a difficult southern schedule which ended with an 8-8 record, they have rebounded winning 26 of their last 28 games. Currently sitting at an overall record of 33-10 and 8-0 in conference play, the Challengers were ranked 11th in the most recent Marucci NJCAA Division II national poll. To date, 4 different players have been recognized by the Ohio Community College Athletic Conferences as players for the week; hitters sophomore OF Jesus Roldan (Cleveland/Lakewood) and freshman OF Matt Starcovic (North Olmsted/North Olmsted) and two freshman RHP's Doug Smith (Galloway/Central Crossing) and Max Lavisky (Lakewood/Lakewood) have garnered awards.

After struggling to find consistency offensively early in the season, in recent games the offense has come to live scoring 10 or more runs in 12 of 27 games since coming north. Leading the way offensively is freshman INF Manny Rodriguez (Cleveland/Lincoln West) who currently leads the team with a .444 batting average and is third on the team in RBI's with 24. Outfielder Matt Starcovic leads the team in hits and runs scored, and is second in stolen bases. Sophomore C Gabriel Vargas (Caracas, Venezuela) has been hot of late and currently leads the team in both RBI's and extra base hits and is hitting .378. Other steady contributors offensively have been sophomore OF/INF Windermi Mora (Guacara, Venezuela) who is 2nd on the team in extra-base hits and freshman 3B Collin Minor (Medina/Medina) who is tied for 3rd in RBI's.

Starting pitching has been steady throughout the spring and set the tone for success the team has seen. RHP Max Lavisky leads the team in wins with 7, including a no-hitter on April 15th versus Clark State CC. Lavisky currently boast a 1.72 ERA good for 3rd on the staff. Sophomore RHP Kyle Warner (Elyria/Midview) is currently 4-1, has allowed only 2 runs in his last 3 starts and has an ERA of 1.50. RHP Doug Smith has been steady in his starts and has a 5-2 record along with a 2.63 ERA. Several arms have provided key contributions out of the bullpen, but freshman LHP Juan Perez (Cleveland/James F. Rhodes) has led the bullpen to this point. Perez has a team high 13 appearances, a team best 0.61 ERA and has a record of 3-1 to go along with 4 saves. Jesus Roldan also has saved 3 games in 7 appearances, and while not on the mound has been a hot at the plate and is currently hitting .414.

The next two weekends will be key to the in determining the Ohio Community College Athletic Conference champion. Beginning this weekend April 29th & 30th the Challengers host nationally-ranked Sinclair CC in a key 4-game series. The following weekend May 6th & 7th will see the team hit the road to conclude conference play with is likely to be a pivotal 4-game series at Owens CC. In addition to these two key conference match-ups, Tri-C will also host two non-conference opponents from Michigan; Delta College on May 1st and Lansing CC on May 8th. Be sure to continue to follow the progress of the Cuyahoga Community College baseball team all season long with updates on Twitter @TriCBaseball or the Tri-C Men's Baseball page on Facebook. Updated stats can be found at <http://stats.njcaa.org/sports/bsb/2015-16/div2/teams/cuyahogacommunitycollege>