



## **2016 MID-SEASON UPDATE**

Following a slow start that saw the Challengers take on some very strong southern programs, while dealing with some key injuries, they have rebounded to win their last 11 games at sit at 18-8 overall, 4-0 conference (tied 1<sup>st</sup>). Since returning home from their spring break trip which concluded with a win versus a very talented Patrick Henry (VA) CC, the Challengers have run off 10 consecutive home wins versus Genesee (NY) CC, Mercyhurst College – North East (PA) and Edison CC. The recent 4-game series sweep of Edison CC, kicked off Ohio Community College Athletic Conference play. The Challengers are scheduled to return to action mid-week versus Walsh University JV and travel to Owens CC for their second conference series this upcoming weekend.

The squad has been led thus far by strong and consistent starting pitching. The rotation has been led by freshman RHP Doug Smith (Galloway/Central Crossing) who has had 5 strong starts. Smith is currently 3-2 with a 2.25 ERA, and has a team high 28 innings pitched. The remainder of the weekend starting duties have been shared by four arms. Freshman RHP Max Lavisky (Lakewood/Lakewood) has started 5 games, while freshman RHP Mitch Cromley (Bowling Green/Bowling Green), freshman Anthony Savarino (Olmsted Falls/Olmsted Falls) and sophomore RHP Kyle Warner (Elyria/Midview) all have 4 starts on the mound. Lavisky leads this group with a 4-1 record, while Warner leads the starters with a 1.42 ERA. Key pieces out of the bullpen thus far have been freshman LHP Juan Perez (Cleveland/James F. Rhoads) and sophomore RHP Gaby Bordones (Valencia, Venezuela). Perez has team highs in appearances with 9, saves with 4; and team best 0.87 era for qualifying pitchers. Bordones has come on strong and has seen time out of the bullpen and as a midweek starter and is currently 3-0.

Offensively, the Challengers struggled early for consistency, but during the 11-game winning streak the bats have come alive. After dealing with an injury early, freshman INF Manny Rodriguez (Cleveland/Lincoln West) has got hot recently and leads the team with a .452 batting average while seeing time at SS and 2B. Freshman Matt Starcovic (North Olmsted/North Olmsted) has anchored the CF position and is batting .407 while settling into the leadoff spot. Freshman 3B Collin Minor (Medina/Medina) has been a steady defender at 3B and also productive on offense batting .361 and driving 15 runs. Redshirt freshman OF/1B Jim Parker (Middleburg Heights/Midpark) and sophomore C Gabriel Vargas (Caracas, Venezuela) have exploded of late to be key bats in the middle of the lineup. Parker has team high 21 RBI's, and is batting .340 while Vargas has team best 11 XBH's while batting .327. Sophomore INF/OF Windermi Mora (Guacara, Venezuela) has been steady offensively batting .333, has team best 7 stolen bases, and shown great versatility playing 2B and all three OF positions.

Over the next four weekends the Challengers will continue with Ohio Community College Athletic Conference series, concluding with a 4-game home series versus Sinclair CC on April 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to follow the progress of the Cuyahoga Community College baseball team all season long with updates on Twitter @TriCBaseball or the Men's Baseball @ Tri-c group page on Facebook. Updated stats can be found at <http://stats.njcaa.org/sports/bsb/2015-16/div2/teams/cuyahogacommunitycollege>