Baseball club to host Western Washington for Mom’s Weekend

PULLMAN, WASH. – In a series that will likely have playoff implications, the WSU club baseball team will square off against Western Washington, April 9–10. The games against WWU will be the first-ever played in Pullman by the club, which is in its first season this spring.

Founder and President Dylan Haugh championed the efforts of the club to get off the ground in the fall of 2015. It was no small task starting the club and there was plenty of work along the way for Haugh, like creating a club constitution and finding interested students.

It was a challenge for Haugh to manage timelines and deadlines in order for the team to be eligible to play this spring. “The first semester was hectic,” Haugh said.

Haugh was given the idea for a club by friends at Northern Arizona University, who play on a National Club Baseball Association team. The NCBA is the governing body of college club baseball, and was more than willing to offer WSU a helping hand.

“The NCBA guys were awesome; they’re all about getting new schools up,” Haugh said. “They bent some deadlines for me and we snuck into this season.”

While founding a club can be a strenuous process, Haugh never doubted that his project would be completed. The hard work is paying off too. The Cougs have started 8–6 and started the season off with a win against reigning division champs Eastern Washington.

“I can’t tell you how great this makes me feel,” Haugh said. “You don’t get to play baseball very long in your life and this is kind of the last hurrah.”

Chemistry has played a big role on the team’s success according to Haugh. The players like playing with each other and that has led to a winning first season.

The team will play its games against WWU at Pullman High School, making this the first time they play on the Palouse. This local debut will take place over Mom’s Weekend, providing students with an outdoor activity to do with their mothers.

The two clubs will play three games over a two-day span. There will be two, seven inning games, back-to-back, on Saturday, and then one nine-inning game on Sunday. George Marinan, Tony Davila and Jake Chinery will start on the mound for the Cougs.

George Marinan has been one of the best with the bat and on the mound for the Cougs this year. Marinan has the highest batting average at .531 and leads the team in innings pitched while commanding a 3.91 era. Chinery has started the season strong with 14 scoreless innings.

The upcoming series will be one of the last chances the Cougs have at beating their top competitors in the Northern Pacific – North division. After the Cougs host WWU, the rest of their games are against teams who are a combined 0–15.
“We’re gonna give (Marinan, Davlia and Chinery) the chance to go out and clinch the north division for us,” Haugh said.

The team’s stats can be found at http://www.clubbaseball.org/Teams.aspx?showstats=850&year= and more information about the club is on its Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/wsubaseballclub

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