Bouncing Back from a Major Loss

Can Kennedy baseball have another successful season?

by Henry Curi

Sports teams are preparing in every way possible as the school year is in full effect, to compete at the highest level and pursue playoff positions in hopes of a championship. However, the varsity baseball team is doing just that, but they suffered a major setback by losing eighteen seniors that played major roles in the team’s success, as well as dealing with the departure of the head coaching staff. They now have to find a way to get back to their post-season bound stature and shape the future of Kennedy baseball.

With only six players returning from last year’s twenty-five man roster, experience at that type of playing level will be lacking, and that experience will have to be something the second-year athletes have to acquire quickly to have a productive season according to senior pitcher Moises Carrillo. “We took this six man roster, and with eight seniors leaving, that doesn’t mean we can’t compete for a city championship and still surprise other teams with what we’re capable of,” stated Carrillo.

With the departure of elite pitchers such as Felix Rubi, Obed Rodriguez, and Noah Valenzuela, as one of the captains according to the 6-3 senior. Junior shortstop Jose Olivera exclaimed that they’re going to have a young, inexperienced group, and that he and his fellow returning teammates are able to contribute to the process of one of the best teams in the Valley Mission League going into a deeper meaning too, not just statistics and records. Passionate about the team means, senior third baseman, Anthony Pineda completely agreed, “I think our goal cannot be there to make friends, but they have to work together. A lot of the coaches that have departed were considered “walk-ons,” which means the person that was coaching for a team liked the sport and was interested in coaching for the sport but didn’t have a teaching degree.

Due to the fact that these coaches didn’t have a teaching degree, they were hired through a contract that is valid throughout the season of their sport. Coaches are able to remain as a walk-on coach and renew their contracts with the school for the next school year. The factors that contribute to finding a coach is that they have to become a coach at Kennedy High School include experience in coaching at different levels of sports, the manner that the person coaches will have to get the new faction into the groove of playing varsity baseball as they will face some tough opponents this year and in out of their league. This type of focus and determination to keep the reputation of the best teams in the Valley Mission League going, so no matter what, “It’s obvious that baseball is more than a game to these win-hungry players, and their mindssets are fixed on what their ultimate goal is.”

But this goal can’t be achieved without the effort of everyone and the teachings of the experience to the inexperienced.

Junior varsity Coach Tirado explained, and the teachings of the experience that they have a movement to have the new not only important experience to have the new with a new head coach, the Kennedy baseball is all about.

Taking on new paths, the coaches of the Kennedy baseball, boy’s volleyball, and swim teams have parted ways with the school following the end of last year. Many left to pursue work, school, or a different career pathway.

Principal Richard Chavez clarifies that the school was never dissatisfied with any of the coaches that recently departed. All of the coaches that have departed were considered “walk-ons,” which means the person that was coaching for a team liked the sport and was interested in coaching for the sport but didn’t have a teaching degree.

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Searching for New Coaches

Explaining the loss of coaches in spring sports

by Isabel Evangelista

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