

## Sun, Fun and Five Wins

The 2010 season got under way in sunny Phoenix, Arizona this past weekend. The team played great, came home with five victories and a whole lot of confidence.



The first victory of the year came against Chandler Gilbert Community College on Friday. The game was tied 1-1 in the sixth inning when Emma Winckler put the Knights ahead for good with a two out, two-run home run to left field.

Saturday morning started off with a bang and a 4-1 victory over Scottsdale. Freshman pitcher Sydnee Jerome went the distance in the circle, surrendering only one unearned run. Chelsea Allsbrook came through in the sixth inning with a two-run single scoring Chynna Sandhop and Amanda TeVelde, breaking up a 1-1 game. The second game of the day was a barn burner that wasn't decided until the last play in the bottom of the seventh inning. Mesa jumped out to a 1-0 lead in the top on the first but that was the only run they would put on the board against starting pitcher Kim Harter. In the fifth inning, Kelise DeBroeck got things going with a leadoff single. Kaylee Larson sacrificed her to third base and Baylee Jollife followed with her second hit of the day to put runners at first and third. With two outs the big bat of Amanda TeVelde came to the plate and she didn't disappoint, driving a ball into right field and a 2-1 lead for the Knights. Mesa mounted a rally in the seventh against reliever Emma Winckler on a couple of soft singles. With runners at 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> bases and two outs, Mesa's cleanup hitter came to the plate and hit a hard ground ball to left field. Chynna Sandhop pounced on the ball and threw a bullet to the plate. Cassie Ellis did a great job of blocking the plate, sealing the second win of the day. Things stayed exciting against Glendale Community College in the third game of the day. Another well-played ball game and another one run win, this time by a score of 4-3. The big blow in this game came from Katrina Peterson, a two-run home run that was never in doubt. The defense played error free and Sydnee Jerome earned her second win of the season.

The 4-1 record in pool play was the best record of any team outside the state of Arizona and earned us a number one seed heading into play on Sunday. Luna Community College of New Mexico was the first team we battled. The bats came out blazing, scoring five runs in the bottom of the first, including a grand slam by Kelsie DeBroeck. The defense again played error free and the pitching was solid, leading to a 5-2 victory. Our toughest opponent of the tournament would be perennial national power Central Arizona. Their speed on the bases and in the field would be too much for the team to overcome despite a great effort in the circle from Sydnee Jerome, solid defense in the field and an aggressive approach at the plate.

Our time in Arizona was a great start to what should be an exciting season.