

Managers Report Wed 17 June

The Golden Homes Black Sox are now in the second leg of their build up tour, having moved from Calgary to Kelowna, British Columbia. After a long nine hour road trip in the vans, the team has settled in nicely to what can only be described as one of the nicest spots in Canada. Kelowna is a resort town of 130,000 people and is quite similar to Taupo with a big lake the central focal point of the city.

The local softball league has done a great job in promoting the Black Sox and the Wednesday night double header. The team has felt quite special and very welcome by the local community with television crews present at trainings and the Captain Nathan Nukunuku having an hour long interview in studio with a local radio station.

The locals turned out in force to support their local All Star team and see how they would fare against the power of the Black Sox hitters, strong pitching and defence. The Black Sox definitely did not let the enthusiastic crowd down running out winners 14-1 in the first game of the evening. On his 25th birthday Jovaan Hanley led the way with two towering automatic home runs which included three RBI's. Joel Evans had another strong outing after returning from injury hitting .500 with two RBI'S and another automatic home run to add to his tally. Others to impress offensively were Thomas Enoka with three safe hits from four turns at bat, with two RBI's and Brad Rona continued his good form with the bat, with two safe hits from three turns at bat and three RBI's.

Kurt Schollum had a solid outing on the mound, containing the local hitters taking seven strikeouts from the 21 batters faced and giving up four hits.

In game two the Black Sox jumped out to an early 2-0 lead in the top of the first inning and the game ended early with the mercy rule being evoked in the fifth inning with the Black Sox winning the game 13-0.

Captain Nathan Nukunuku came into the game and hit one many locals are describing as the biggest home run they have seen at the park, with a towering hit over the trees at centre field. The Black Sox hitting line up dominated former Canadian international Colin Mackenzie from the outset accumulating 15 safe hits. Joel Evans once again impressed, hitting .1000 with three safe hits from three turns at bat.

Heinie Shannon had his besting out to date on tour, dominating the Kelowna hitting line up from the outset beating them with great location and variety. Shannon only gave up one safe hit, taking 10 strike outs from the 16 batters he faced.

The Black Sox will spend tomorrow reviewing the tour to date and preparing for the Bob Law Memorial Challenge Tournament in Vancouver, commencing on Friday evening 19 June.

Grant McCarroll