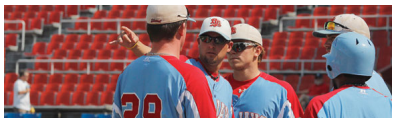

By JEREMIAH WILSON

• Leader & Times

Tuesday night in Wichita, the Liberal Bee Jays steam-rolled Kansas Alumni in a 7-2 win.

Liberal put the game out of reach early, scoring six runs in the first two innings.

Left fielder Jason Dahl opened up the first with a base hit for the Bee Jays. Dahl then swiped second with third baseman John Mestas at the plate.

Mestas and first baseman Brady Capshaw both followed Dahl's base hit with back-to-back singles to load the bases.

Seth Stevens delivered with a hit that couldn't be fielded by the Alumni that scored two runs and allowed Stevens to reach second. Dahl and Mestas both scored to give Liberal a 2-0 lead.

Catcher Sam Pack singled to center to score both Capshaw and Stevens.

Shortstop Tanner Kirk singled in the second for his first hit of the tournament. Kirk finished the night 1-for-5.

After advancing to second, Kirk scored on a Mestas double. Capshaw brought Mestas around to score with an RBI single, and Liberal was up 6-0.

Meanwhile, Chad Reiser kept the Alumni hitters from gaining momentum, striking out seven over seven innings in an impressive first outing for the Bee Jays.

The only run allowed by Reiser came in the sixth on a two-out single.

“He had great stuff on the mound last night,” Liberal manager Brandon Kitch said. “We need him to go deep, and he helps us out in that aspect. He commands the zone, and did a great job for us.”

Reliever Jose Rosales-Rodarte took over in the eighth and gave up a lead-off triple. The runner scored on an error by Sam Pack after Rosales-Rodarte walked the next Alumni hitter.

Liberal ended the inning giving up only the one run and led 6-2 through seven-and-a-half innings of play.

The Bee Jays tacked on another run in the home half of the eighth when Mestas walked with the bases loaded. Zach Reding scored on the play for the final score of 7-2.

Mestas made his first start of the tournament for Liberal. He came up big, going 2-for-3 with two RBIs, two runs and two walks. He had not started in the previous three games after being hit in the hand by a pitch in the last game of the regular season.

“Mestas is back, and he’s 100 percent healthy,” Kitch said. “He’s been doing a good job for us this summer. He’s a tough out, and he has a good contact swing. He helps us out, and gets some big two-out hits. He adds another good bat to the line-up.”

Dahl continued to swing a hot bat. He went 2-for-2 with a walk and a run scored. Dahl is hitting .538 for the tournament.

Pack has also had a strong start to the tournament and chipped in with two hits in three at-bats as well as having two RBIs. He has a .429 average in two games played at the NBC World Series.

The Bee Jays will take the field at 1 p.m. today when they play the Cape Girardeau Capahas. Austin King will make the start in the game for Liberal.

If the Bee Jays can manage to get by the Capahas this afternoon, they will play another game at 10 p.m. tonight. They would face the winner of the game between the Ozark Generals and the San Diego Waves which will be played at 4 p.m. this evening.