

USA Baseball Plays at Beaver Field

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Appalachian State University received a group of unexpected visitors on Tuesday afternoon as the USA Baseball Collegiate National team made a stop at Beaver Field at Jim and Bettie Smith Stadium. Team USA, which is in the process of wrapping up an exhibition tour across the Carolinas, was originally scheduled to play the Carolina-Virginia Collegiate League All-Stars in an exhibition game at Lenoir-Rhyne University on Tuesday afternoon, but heavy rains in the area on Monday night made field conditions at LRU Baseball Field unplayable.

"I've had a relationship with Eric Campbell (General Manager - USA National Teams) for a long time and he called me late last night and again this morning about playing here and I was more than happy to help him out," said Appalachian State head coach Billy Jones. "It's a great opportunity to have Team USA come to Boone and play on our field."

Luckily for both teams, Appalachian State's state-of-the-art FieldTurf playing surface was perfectly suitable for a contest on Tuesday.

"We've been traveling all across the Carolinas, playing mostly against the Coastal Plains League teams and it's been awesome," said Team USA manager and TCU head coach Jim Schlossnagle.

"We played in Hickory last night and were scheduled to play at Lenoir-Rhyne today, but the rain prevented that from happening. Luckily Billy was gracious enough to bring us up here to a facility that's just as good, if not better, than most everywhere else we've been."

The United States will head to Japan tomorrow as it prepares to take on the Japanese Collegiate National Team in the USA vs. Japan Collegiate All-Star Series - a five-game, six-day tour in four different Japanese cities.

"We leave tomorrow to fly out for Japan and we really needed to play this game today," said Schlossnagle. "We couldn't afford to take an entire day off, it's a tremendous honor to be here and a huge help as we get ready to head overseas. We'll be playing on the old AstroTurf over in Japan, so it will definitely help to play on another artificial surface before we play over there."

2013 marks the 39th edition of the US/Japan series - a series which the United States has not won on Japanese soil since 1973. The USA Baseball Collegiate National Team is comprised of the top freshman and sophomore college baseball players from across the nation, including a six 2013 Baseball America College all-Americans.

The Carolina-Virginia Collegiate League is comprised of eight teams located throughout North Carolina and Virginia with players from a variety of collegiate levels participating in the summer league.