

July 27 College Baseball

Hamilton grad Osnato looking to show his wares in the NBCA World Series

By Rich Fisher

Fish4scores.com

July 27: The 80th Annual National Baseball Congress World Series is underway in Wichita, Kan., this week, and Hamilton West graduate Dave Osnato hopes to be right in the thick of things.

By virtue of his outstanding freshman season for Mercer County Community College, Osnato is playing for the NJCAA National team consisting of some of the best junior college players in that nation. The team has a bye and does not play its first game until July 31.

Osnato has been playing with the Trenton Generals of the Atlantic Collegiate Baseball League after suffering a hand injury and missing the entire Region 19 and Division II World Series for Mercer.

“Health-wise I feel good,” Osnato said. “I’ve been throwing, hitting and lifting very heavily to get back to 100 percent. Right now I have no pain and have been feeling good and ready to play some baseball.”

Osnato gives Generals coach Jim Maher much of the credit for his improving health and attitude.

“I’m very prepared for this trip, and Jim Maher was great over the summer with letting me slowly get back into things,” said Osnato, who is hitting .279 with 10 RBI in 22 games with Trenton. “He really just got me to stop babying it right off the bat, and had me getting back to the way I played.”

Osnato left Hamilton earlier in the week and is currently practicing with the team in Council Bluffs, Iowa – a place not necessarily teaming with vacation tourists in the summer.

“I was bored when I got off the plane,” he said on Saturday. “There’s no TVs or no pool at the hotel.”

That being said, Osnato knows this isn’t a pleasure trip. It’s a tremendous chance for him to show his wares to Division I and Major League scouts.

“I’m hoping to go on this trip and go and play with some really good players,” he said. “Some of these guys have been drafted, and some other people that will be getting drafted this upcoming year.

“I’m really expecting to play some great players from around the world, and from the United States. I’m very psyched for this trip. A lot of the kids are from Florida, Texas. The closest kid to us is a kid from South Carolina. I’m very excited to get going.”

Things got going on a good way Sunday, as NJCAA defeated a team of Iowa players in a scrimmage, 7-2. Osnato drew two walks in the game, and also threw a runner out trying to steal.

The former Hornet is unsure of what his role will be on the team, saying only “they haven’t said anything yet, but it’s the 26 best players from junior college in the United States, so I’m pretty sure everyone will get equal time.”

And the Colonial Valley Conference’s all-time hits leader plans on using that time to show what he’s got.

Check Fish4scores for daily updates on Osnato’s performance in the World Series

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