



Local Matters.

courier gold rush > sports

Panthers find building blocks in losses

[Print Page](#)

By **Ryan Boldrey**

Published: 06.11.09

Despite losing three straight ball games this past week, Woodland Park's American Legion baseball team found some definite positives to work with going forward, thus prompting head coach Chris Winstead to keep a positive approach as he looks to next year.

In the first two contests the Panthers fell to Holy Family 6-4 and 9-6, respectively, losing both ends of a June 7 doubleheader. The team was actually up 6-2 in the second game, but couldn't hold on.

"They are probably one of the better teams in the league," Winstead said of Holy Family, adding that his Panthers were missing a few key players.

"We've been experimenting with some different things here, and I think we are going to put together a run over the next four to six games."

The coach, albeit disappointed in the outcomes, was happy with what he saw of his starting pitching, as Taylor Watters threw five good innings in the second game, before running out of gas and leaving the contest with a 6-2 lead.

The biggest news on the mound, however, was that of the return of Lee Stunkard, who had missed the entire spring season for Woodland Park High School after dislocating his elbow towards the end of wrestling.

"It's good to see," Winstead said of Stunkard's return. "He threw two solid innings in the first game which was good because he is going to help us a lot as he comes back."

The return of Stunkard also bodes well for the football team this fall as the rising senior will likely be quarterbacking the Panthers once again on Friday nights.

Woodland Park, which fell to Manitou Springs 7-6 a day later, will return to the diamond as it hosts Thomas Jefferson June 16 in a doubleheader that begins at 4 p.m.

The Panthers will then have a busy week ahead of them as they play doubleheaders at Littleton and Boulder, June 22 and 26, respectively, and host Elizabeth for two on June 24.



Louie Neil has been one of a handful of Panthers looking good on the mound so far this summer. Photo courtesy of Terri Huggins

Copyright © 2009 - Colorado Community Newspapers Online

[\[x\] Close Window](#)