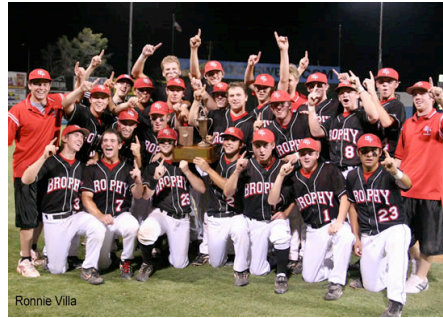




A Team

Watching



*Brophy College Prep High School
Phoenix, Arizona*

How many states are able to play baseball in the month of February? Not many, but in Arizona by the end of the month some high schools have already participated in and won a tournament.

The Brophy Prep Broncos are already 8-0 and dominating the Desert Valley region. In six games the Broncos have 15 home runs. They just seem to be cruising, doing what they do best, winning. They have won the Desert Valley Region the last three years and Coach Tom Succow reports, “The kids have a goal to achieve. It’s gonna take hard work and its not gonna be easy.”

The Broncos are led by seniors Matt Newman, Josh Garcia and Tony Strazzara. Newman is a four-year starter, with a record of 7-0 last year, plus he has a part-time role in the outfield and hit .290 in 2006. Already he has stepped up as “the man” and is 2-0 from the bump.

Newman is not the only starter returning. Senior RJ Preach 11-0 in 2006, and junior Harlyn Griffiths, 4-1, who has already posted a record of 1-0 this year. The Broncos have most of their pitching back. In fact starters one to four have returned to help Brophy continue their winning ways.

Not only is Brophy returning strong pitching, the positions are loaded with starters from last year with Garcia at first base, junior Riccio Torrez, second base, and Strazzara at short. The defense has experience and ability.

Succow is quoted as saying, “The guys are playing pretty good not great, but we have good pitching and decent defense. The kids play good, but we have to get better. This past tournament was good. The kids got tired and had to learn how to play through.”

As a team in 2006, the Broncos had a record of 25-8. They hit .365 as a team with 45 home runs and 93 doubles. They are already on the same track for this year as shown in their performance during the past tournament.

Succow was most excited about the win against Pinnacle, as it was retribution from last year’s 2-1 loss. Brophy dominated this game with great pitching, dealing 12 strikeouts and allowing only 2 hits. While the Broncos notched 9 hits and won 4-1.

He also noted that his team beat Amphitheater 9-5 giving them their only loss in the tournament. As well as avenging a loss the Broncos were dealt two years ago.

Brophy is known for its talent and ability to win. Watch out for this team if you play in Arizona, as they are already ranked #7 by Collegiate Baseball and #4 in the country by Baseball America.

Good luck Broncos!

By David A. Himmelstein