

Junior Dawgs 2009

The Okotoks JDawgs were established in 2007 to provide high-level players with the opportunity to realize their dreams of playing baseball at the collegiate or professional level. The JDawgs program was born out of the same vision as was used in creating the Calgary Dawgs youth program back in 1995-2001. **Since 1995 over 32 players have been drafted or signed by Major League organizations**, many are still playing in the minor leagues today. **Over 120 Dawgs have played at the collegiate level**, with many now embarked in further studies or successful careers. The JDawgs program is extremely proud of the players that have come through the program and excited to provide new players, every year, with the opportunity to go on and become college or professional athletes.

The JDawgs Advantage

- **Experienced & Dedicated Coaching Staff**
 - Years of coaching experience at the professional and college levels (see bios).
 - Commitment to sending each and every JDawg on to the next level, whether it is at the college or professional level.
 - JDawgs' coaches have contacts with professional scouts and college recruiters/coaches in both Canada and the United States.
- **Professional Grade Facilities**
 - In June 2007, the Okotoks Dawgs introduced a 2,500 seat Seaman Stadium to the Town of Okotoks.
 - Recognized as one of the top baseball facilities in the country
 - Completion of "state-of-the-art" indoor field house planned for March 2009, so that players have access to full year round training.
- **Unmatched Competitive Schedule**
 - The JDawgs knowledge of top tier youth baseball in both Canada and the USA allows the JDawgs to play one of the top schedules in North America.
 - Regular participation in highly scouted Canadian and American tournaments including the "Arizona Fall Showcase" and BC's prestigious "Parksville Baseball Tournament".
 - Regular competition versus western Canada's top college programs.

- **Year-Round Training to Maximize Abilities**

- Fall Ball – Competitive Schedule versus top Canadian College Programs culminates in the highly scouted “Arizona Fall Showcase”.
- Winter Strength & Speed Training – Players have access to a baseball specific strength and speed program based on professional baseball strength programs.
- Winter Skill Development – Players have access to hitting, fielding and throwing camps which run all winter to prepare players for the upcoming season. Unique opportunity to train with professional players getting ready for MLB spring training.
- Spring/Summer Schedule – Highly competitive schedule beginning with Spring Training in mid-March and ending in early September. Up to 12 high level tournaments planned every year.

- **Off-Field Mentorship**

- Commensurate with the JDawgs’ mission of preparing players for the next level, the JDawgs’ program emphasizes and promotes excellence in the classroom.
- JDawg coaches have the knowledge and experience to advise and prepare players for college and/or professional baseball.
- Players have access to some of the top college players south of the border every summer and can receive advice from players who have “been there” and are currently playing at the next level.
- The current JDawg players have access to a family network of Dawg players that have gone on to play college or professional baseball. Beyond simple mentorship, these contacts help when place players at colleges.

Junior Dawgs Coaching Staff



David Robb – Program Head

Coach Robb played at Cal State Fullerton and has coached for over 30 years at all levels. He coached professionally with the Visalia Oaks, the A level affiliate of the Oakland A's as well as in the Italian Professional League. He has coached at the collegiate level with Mesa CC and earned a trip to a JUCO World Series. Coach Robb also coached the Summer Collegiate Dawgs to a WMBL Championship in 2004, winning Coach of the Year Honors. Coach Robb has also coached the Kelowna Falcons of the West Coast Collegiate League as well as Team Alberta at the Canada Cup, and internationally with both the Sr. and Jr. Canadian National Teams.



Frank Ingram – Head Coach (JDawgs Black)

Frank has been an Assistant coach at Thompson Rivers University the past two seasons. He was elected ace of the staff by his peers in 2005 for Coach Ray Chadwick's Thompson Rivers University Wolfpack and was also a member of the Regina Red Sox in the Western Major baseball league. Frank has also been a stand-out youth coach for the premier Penticton Youth Baseball Club and has coached at the Okanagan Baseball Camp. Frank is a graduate of the Dawgs youth program.



Vincent Ircandia – Head Coach (JDawgs Red, Strength and Conditioning)

Vince earned Freshman All America Honors playing NCAA Div 1 at Niagara University, was named Top 3 Professional Prospect in the MAAC Conference in his Junior year. He was a 3 year All Conference Player for NU and was selected to Team Canada for the World University Games in Taiwan. Vince also played with the Bellingham Bells of the WCCL and is a graduate of the Dawgs youth program.



Matt Ircandia – Assistant Coach (Pitching and Outfield)

Matt played college baseball at Niagara University and Washington State University. He was drafted as a LHP by the San Francisco Giants in the 2002 MLB draft. In addition, Matt played with the Kelowna Falcons and Bellingham Bells of the WCCL. Matt is a graduate of the Dawgs youth program.



Tanner Brotzel – Assistant Coach (Infielding and Hitting)

Tanner is currently an assistant coach at Thompson Rivers University. Tanner's playing career includes an outstanding collegiate career at TRU as a 4-year starting 3rd baseman. Tanner was named TRU's Male Scholar/Athlete of the Year in 2007. Tanner was also a 3-year member of the WMBL's Regina Red Sox.



Andrew MacNevin – Assistant Coach (Hitting, Catching, Infield)

Andrew is a two time all-conference player at Niagara University. He began his coaching as an assistant coach at NJCAA Niagara County Community College and he also served as a hitting and infield coach with the Niagara rebels program in the Premier Baseball League of Ontario.



Jim Henderson – Assistant Coach, Fall Ball

After a stellar college career, Jim was chosen in the 26th round of the MLB draft by the Montreal Expos in 2003. Jim has played with Expos and Nationals and is currently with the Chicago Cubs' AAA affiliate Iowa Cubs. Jim posted a 1.86 ERA while with the Cubs AA affiliate Tennessee Smokies last season. Jim volunteers with the Dawgs youth program during the off-season.

Dawgs Notable Alumni

- **Jim Henderson**, drafted by the Montreal Expos out of Tennessee Wesleyan University, currently with Chicago Cubs AAA affiliate Iowa Cubs. Posted a 1.86 ERA at AA Tennessee Smokies. Has been with the Expos, Nationals and Cubs organizations. Team Canada member.
- **James Avery**, drafted by Minnesota Twins out of the Dawgs program, went on to play at Niagara University. Drafted in the 5th round by the Cincinnati Reds in 2005. Currently with AA affiliate Chattanooga Lookouts. Team Canada member.
- **Emerson Frostad**, drafted by the Texas Rangers out of Lewis & Clark State College. Currently with AA affiliate Frisco Roughriders. Team Canada Member.
- **Reed Eastley**, drafted by the Seattle Mariners out of Niagara University. Currently with the A affiliate Wisconsin Timber Rattlers.
- **Grant Richardson**, drafted by the Milwaukee Brewers after a standout career at Washington State University. Currently with Sioux Falls of the American Association of Independent Professional Baseball.
- **Kyler Newby**, drafted by the Arizona Diamondbacks out of Mesa College. Currently with the D-Backs A affiliate Visalia Oaks.
- **Tanner Osberg**, drafted by the New York Mets out of the Dawgs program. Posted a 4.40 ERA in 5 seasons with the Mets organization. Currently helping as a part time coach with the JDawgs youth program.
- **John Hurd**, drafted by the Chicago White Sox after a standout career at the College of Southern Idaho.
- **Luis Roberts**, drafted by the New York Mets out of Louisiana State at Shreveport University.
- **Adam Burton**, drafted by the St. Louis Cardinals after a standout career at the University of Arkansas at Monticello.
- **Matt Ircandia**, drafted by the San Francisco Giants out of the Dawgs program. Went on to a successful college career at both Washington State and Niagara University.
- **Jeff MacDonald**, drafted by the Colorado Rockies out of the Dawgs organization.
- **Chris Cerchie**, standout pitcher at Niagara University. Went on to play with the Fortitudo Bologna Italeri Baseball Club of the Italian professional league.