

Bulldogs Host Twin Bill Tuesday

AC's Jim Pfohl Isn't Discouraged

By DAVID LAMM

Daily Times Sports Editor

Jim Pfohl isn't backing down from his preseason praise of his Atlantic Christian College baseball team despite the Bulldogs' opening two losses to Wilmington last week.

For one thing, Pfohl says, Wilmington is as good or better than any team his outfit will face all season. Secondly, the unbeaten Seahawks had already played three games when they met AC in its season opener.

Pfohl and his Bulldogs get another chance to show they're a winning outfit Tuesday afternoon when they open their home season with a doubleheader against St. Andrews College at Fleming Stadium. Game time is 1:30 p.m.

"We didn't play badly against Wilmington," insists Pfohl. "Our pitching was good in the first game and in the second loss Wade Johnson was sharp in relief. And our hitting wasn't as bad as you might think. Rarely did we strike out and most of the time we hit the ball hard . . . but right at everybody."

AC's defense did collapse in Friday's 9-1 loss, but Pfohl checked it off "as just one of those days."

The Johnson boys, Ronnie and Wade, will draw the starting assignment against St. Andrews, another nonconference opponent.

Ronnie, a smoke-throwing

right-hander, worked nine innings in AC's opener before retiring and allowing only four hits and one unearned run. The Bulldogs lost that one 2-1 in 10 innings.

Wade, who broke his finger in preseason drills and still wears a cast on it, is another right-hander. Pfohl wasn't expecting him to recover from

his injury so soon, but after Friday's performance Wade is getting his first starting nod.

"I'm highly satisfied with our pitching," said Pfohl. "I know it's capable of winning a lot of games for us. Our hitters aren't powerful, but they'll get us enough singles, doubles and triples."

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