

Teams forced to face the elements every spring

Contributed by Phil Ervin - Sports Editor & Megan Johnson - Staff Writer
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BC baseball coach Doc Beeman apologized to a reporter last week for making him wait while the Ravens conducted a few extra drills in the February sun before wrapping up practice.

“When you’ve got weather like this, you’ve got to make the most of it,” Beeman said. “We have been fortunate this spring to get outside for our preparation.

“Even an hour outside will be better than last year.”

In the weeks leading up to the 2008 baseball and softball seasons, ice and snow coated both team’s fields, forcing both teams into the Haverty Center gymnasium for the majority of their practices and cancelling and rescheduling a number of contests.

The softball team hadn’t practiced outside once before its Mar. 1 season opener last year. The elements didn’t favor the baseball team much more, as they worked out on the diamond just twice before playing on Mar. 5.

An expanded HAAC schedule for both teams this season complicates the situation further. The baseball team will play 40 conference games in 2009; ten more than last year. The HAAC has its softball teams playing 24 conference contests this year, rather than the 20 played in previous years.

The heads of each program have taken steps to limit the fallout that comes with trying to start a season during winter in the Midwest.

“We scheduled a couple extra games this year to make sure we get 55 in,” Beeman said. “We were forced into 40 conference games and we need to make sure we get all of those played.”

Both coaches allot open dates in their schedules each year to allow time to make up postponed games. All of the Ravens’ home conference contests are played as doubleheaders as well.

Undoubtedly, albeit it frustrating for coaches and players, the conditions for game action are largely out of their control.

“We are hoping that the weather continues to work in our favor,” said head softball coach Tim Crowley. “However, we are still planning on rescheduling games.”