

Orange hosts Dominican team

Orange Transcript

The Orange Recreation Monte Irvin Youth Baseball Program hosted a 12- and- under team from the Dominican Republic on July 13 at Metcalf Park in Orange.

The Dominican Republic team was invited to play the Orange team and several area teams in exhibition games over a seven-day period. The game provided the Orange team an opportunity to compete against international competition, teaching the players lessons not only about baseball, but also about other cultures and life in general. "It was a great opportunity for our players to meet kids of different nationalities," said Orange head coach Jason Rodriguez.

The games, which had been in the works for several months, began to take shape about three weeks ago when the coaches began telling the kids that the game might become a reality. "They were actually excited," Rodriguez said. "At first, they were like, 'Will they be able to understand us?' We tried to keep it as quiet as we could until we knew it was a go."

As for the game itself, the Dominican team outscored Orange, 5-3, over the final two innings to win the game by the score of 8-4. "This is considered international competition," assistant coach John Auguste told the team. "You will take this with you for the rest of your life."