

# ***Why become a Coyote?***

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While there are many reasons to enrol at Okanagan College to further your baseball career and become part of the Coyote family, here are a few key points to consider when making your decision.

- **Quality of instruction** – The coaching staff at Okanagan College has the playing and coaching experience to prepare you for the next level. Starting from the top, Head Coach Geoff White has years of professional and collegiate experience. After a successful college career as a pitcher in which he was named All Conference five times, All Region and All American at Jamestown College, in 2004 he led Jamestown to the NAIA College World Series. Coach White went on to play for the Edmonton Cracker Cats of the Northern League. After playing professional baseball for two years Coach White began a successful coaching career. Throughout his career, Coach White has been a part of many different organizations and programs such as numerous B.C. provincial select teams, the Kelowna Falcons of the West Coast Baseball League, and has been a staple in running camps throughout the Interior for Baseball B.C. He has twice been a coach at the Toronto Blue Jays Tournament 12.
- **Alongside Coach White, Jared Johnson.** Coach Johnson has been a staple in the OC baseball program since its inception back in 2008. Coach Johnson played his High School career in the Premier Baseball League for the Langley Blaze. During his time with the Blaze, Coach Johnson was selected by the Florida Marlins in the MLB Draft, and continued his success at Central Arizona Community College. After his freshman campaign, Coach Johnson was again selected in the 46<sup>th</sup> round. After two strong years, Coach Johnson finished his college career at NAIA school Benedictine College in Kansas. Along with being on the coaching staff at Okanagan College, Coach Johnson has also been coaching the Kelowna Jays Junior program of the Pacific International league and playing for the program on the senior team. After a successful campaign in the summer of 2011, Coach Johnson was named to Team Canada and played in the World Baseball Challenge in Prince George, British Columbia. To end the summer Coach Johnson was also selected by the Burnaby Bulldogs for the 2011 Senior Men's National Championships in New Brunswick.
- **The Coyotes program also includes a staff of two assistant coaches in Logan Wedgewood and Mitch St Laurent.** Both are recent graduates of the program, Coach Wedgewood was an All Conference catcher and is among the leaders in the Coyotes

record book for average. Coach St Laurent assists Coach Johnson with the pitching staff and was a Coyotes closer in 2015 and then a start in 2016 after transferring to OC from Allan Hancock JC in California.

- **Level of competition played by Okanagan College** – While the Coyotes play their strong conference schedule against teams in the Canadian College Baseball Conference, their out of conference schedule sees teams that are nationally ranked in America. Some of Okanagan College's opponents in recent years include schools such as College of Southern Nevada, College of Southern Idaho and Central Arizona Community College, Arizona Christian, UBC. These teams are always at the top of the national rankings and in years to come we plan to play other nationally ranked schools as we continue to add additional trips down to the United States.
- **Exposure to scouts in the Pacific Northwest** – One of the biggest benefits to becoming a part of the Coyotes baseball program is being exposed to scouts in the Pacific Northwest. It is often thought that by going down to the United States players will be seen by more scouts or college recruiters. However, in most situations this is not the case. The Pacific Northwest is considered by many to be a hotbed for baseball and because of this there is a high concentration of Professional and Collegiate scouts. In the opinion of many, your opportunity to be recognized as a player is even greater playing in a league such as the CCBC or even in Canada because you are able to stand out amongst other players. This gives you an even greater chance to get to the level of baseball that you want to achieve.
- **Training facilities** – Okanagan College is lucky to have access to some of the top training facilities in British Columbia and even Canada. The Coyotes make their home in historic Elks Stadium which plays host to some of the best college baseball each and every summer. Once the Coyotes finish their season the field becomes home to the Kelowna Falcons of the West Coast Baseball League and the Kelowna Jays of the Pacific International League. These teams have players from all over Canada and America from some of the top Universities or Collegiate programs in America. Each year renovations are made to Elks Stadium to keep it among the top Stadiums in Canada.



Elks Stadium from behind home plate.



Elks Stadium from Center Field



Netex Center for Hitting- 18'X'70'X14'

Apart from having world class facilities to call home, the Coyotes also train at state of the art facilities within the community. When in their offseason training programs, the Coyotes work out at the Capital News Center. The CNC is a multipurpose, multisport facility that has indoor turf fields, weight room, and 400 meter indoor track. The Coyotes also use the brand new KU Bubble, which is a multi sport surface that provides a full infield and ability to throw 200+ feet.(Below-KU Bubble)





One of the two turfed soccer fields at the Capital News Center.

- **Enjoying the lifestyle of living in Kelowna** – With a population of 130,000 Kelowna is one the biggest destinations for vacationers in both the summer and winter months. Because of its unique location, the residents of Kelowna are able to enjoy year round benefits. During the summer and early fall months, students are able to enjoy the warm weather by spending time on Okanagan Lake. Just minutes from campus, students can walk to the lakeside and enjoy the lifestyle of being in the Okanagan. During the winter months students have access to one of the best mountain resorts in the world. Big White is a world class mountain that is only thirty minutes away from Kelowna. The City of Kelowna also has many events that take place every weekend. Home to the Kelowna Rockets, of the WHL, students are able to take in a hockey game and cheer on their home town teams. Along with many different sporting events, students are able to take in different concerts and festivals that go on all year round. One of the most important factors to consider when determining a College or University is the lifestyle you will be able to enjoy. Many Colleges in the United States are located in small towns with limited options for extracurricular activities. It is important to be able to enjoy where you live, and the City of Kelowna provides you with those benefits.
- **Cost of becoming a Coyote** – Currently, the average baseball player at Okanagan College can expect to pay \$12,500-\$15,000 a year. This cost is a projected estimate that includes the baseball program, tuition and fees, and room and board. Compared to the average cost of an American University, on average Okanagan College is \$12,000 less for a full year of school and living. The baseball program costs \$4500 a year. This player fee goes to cover the expenses of an entire year of baseball and includes: Uniforms, player issued attire, equipment (balls, bats, training tools, field equipment, update of facilities) facility rentals (CNC, Elks Stadium), gym memberships, umpire costs, and travel (bus, accommodations).

As a coaching staff we understand how expensive being a college student can be and as a result we offer players the opportunity to earn money towards their player fees. Player fees are divided into two payments, one in the fall(Sept 1) and one in the spring(Jan1). The fall player fee is required immediately when practice begins.

Other scholarship opportunities are available through the school website. Okanagan College awards thousands of dollars in scholarships every year to students that fit certain criteria. Players are encouraged to visit this website to see if they qualify for any financial scholarship or grant.

[http://www.okanagan.bc.ca/administration/students/financialaid/Okanagan\\_College\\_Awards\\_\\_\\_Applications/Awards\\_Search.html](http://www.okanagan.bc.ca/administration/students/financialaid/Okanagan_College_Awards___Applications/Awards_Search.html)

After a player completes their freshman year, they are also able to receive \$500 per semester tuition bursary from the college. The eligibility requirements to receive this money are maintaining a C average throughout their freshman year going forward and they will continue to receive the \$500 per semester.

- **Quality Education** – Okanagan College provides you with an education that you can be proud of. The programs offered at Okanagan College will prepare you for your future career and develop lifelong skills. These fully certified programs allow you to begin earning credits toward your degree. One of our largest programs is Business. This program is renowned as one of the top Business programs nationwide. One of the benefits is the size of our classrooms and the instructor to student ratio. With smaller class rooms sizes you are able to build a relationship with each instructor and gain the additional help that you might need. Tutors are also available to each student free of charge. Education comes first at Okanagan College and students are given every opportunity they need to succeed.