

Westwood stays disciplined in dominant 13-0 rivalry win over Mesa

On top of the win, Westwood overwhelmed Mesa with its relentless energy from the first pitch to the final out in a 13-0 rivalry victory.

Despite jumping to an early 11-0 lead by the bottom of the third inning, Westwood's mindset remained on keeping its performance consistent, ignoring outside noise from the other team. Players and coaches echoed the same message throughout the game.

"I think if we take care of our business, we can be a good baseball team," head coach JR Langston said. "If we worry about things that are out of our control, we're probably not going to be very good. We need our team to stay locked in, to believe in themselves, and to fight... our word for the week was fight."

That mindset was evident long before the first pitch. Players gathered together for a pregame prayer, followed by a moment of silence led by assistant coach Ray Mota to center the team's focus before player introductions.

"I'm fired up and I'm not even playing," Mota said before the game.

Once the game began, that energy very clearly translated into complete control on the field. Westwood's offense exploded early, while the defense and pitching staff shut Mesa down entirely.

Victor Trujillo led the offense with four RBIs and nearly threw a perfect game on the mound, losing it on a close pitch in the fifth inning before closing out the shortened game with a no-hitter under the mercy rule.

"We just want to beat them every year," Trujillo said. "For the two games we play every year, it's just in our mindset. Just beat them."

Westwood's intensity never faded, even with a commanding lead. Kayden Workman kept the dugout fired up, repeatedly urging his teammates to stay loud and engaged deep into the game.

Mota reminded the team why maintaining focus against Mesa was crucial.

"That team just came back from 11 runs down and beat a team, because the other team let down," Mota said, referring to Mesa's 14-11 comeback win against San Luis in their previous matchup. "You never take a team lightly, so they got to stay hungry, step on the neck, and make them squeal."

Mota emphasized that maintaining focus is non-negotiable, regardless of the score.

"You've got to play to the last out," Mota said. "There's too many competitive teams... you never take a team lightly. So we don't let up till it's over."

That mentality showed in both the team's performance and its unity. After every run, players swarmed teammates at the dugout entrance, celebrating together in a tradition that highlighted the team's chemistry.

Fabio Irissont, one of three players to score three runs, credited the team-first approach for the offensive success.

"I just try to get on base and let my team do the job," Irissont said. "This is a good win to get us back on track."

Notably, in a rivalry matchup that often brings intensity and emotion, there was little to no trash talk between the teams. Instead, Westwood remained focused entirely on its own performance.

"It's a team culture," Langston said. "We talk about respecting the game, respect your opponent, respect the umpires, respect each other."

That composure, combined with the team's consistent effort turned what could've been a competitive rivalry game into a statement power point win.