BASEBALL 03/11/2020 R. HOVERMAN

ANCHOR:

The men’s baseball team at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls is working on regaining its status as an official school sport for the first time since it was suspended nearly two decades ago. Reagan Hoverman has the story.

MP3 RUNS: 22 O/C: STD

REAGAN HOVERMAN: WHEN THE BASEBALL PROGRAM WAS SUSPENDED IN APRIL 2002 THE TEAM WAS IN COMPLETE SHOCK. WHILE PREPARING FOR A SERIES, CAPTAIN JOSH EIDEM AND HIS TEAM WERE GIVEN THE NEWS. FALCON NEWS SERVICE REPORTER REAGAN HOVERMAN HAS THE STORY.

JOSH EIDEM: “IT WAS DEVASTATING. RICK BOWEN WHO WAS THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR AT THE TIME CAME DOWN AND TOLD US THAT THE DECISION OF THE COMPETITION COMMITTEE HAD BEEN TO ELIMINATE THE BASEBALL PROGRAM.”

REAGAN HOVERMAN: THE COMPETITION COMMITTEE WAS ASSESSING IF EACH SPORT WAS COMPETING AT A HIGH ENOUGH LEVEL. BOB BURROWS, WHO HAS BEEN COVERING SPORTS IN THE AREA SINCE 19-96, SAID NOT HAVING A STABLE COACHING STAFF WAS ONE REASON FOR NOT BEING COMPETITIVE.

BOB BURROWS “THEY WENT THROUGH ABOUT THREE DIFFERENT HEAD COACHES; THEY HAD A HARD TIME RETAINING COACHES. PART OF THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN LOOKING AT IT AS A PART-TIME POSITION.”

REAGAN HOVERMAN IN 20-16 THE BASEBALL ORGANIZATION WAS REVIVED. THE CURRENT CLUB PRESIDENT RYAN NEWPOWER SAYS THE LEVEL OF TALENT ON THE TEAM HAS GROWN SINCE THEN.

RYAN NEWPOWER “THIS IS THE FIRST YEAR WHERE IT’S REALLY BEEN SERIOUS, YOU’VE GOT TO BE GOOD ENOUGH TO COME.”

REAGAN HOVERMAN ATHLETIC DIRECTOR CRYSTAL LANNING SAYS THE UNIVERSITY HAS NOT STARTED A FORMAL PROCESS FOR REINSTATING THE TEAM. FOR FALCON NEWS SERVICE, I’M REAGAN HOVERMAN.

ANCHOR TAG:

Reagan tells us that the baseball team at the UW-River Falls says it will continue working for athletic reinstatement.

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