



New Mexico Activities Association Student-Athlete Spotlight

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No-Hitters are Nice but Wins Mean more to Rogers

By Tyler Dunkel, NMAA Sports Information Director

Imagine standing at the plate, looking towards the mound and staring at a 6-6, left-handed pitcher, knowing that the next pitch you will see is a 90-mile an hour fast ball. That's exactly what hitters see when Trevor Rogers of the Carlsbad Cavemen is on the rubber.

Since the first time he picked up a bat and ball, Rogers loved to play baseball. He recalled the times he played in his grandmother's backyard. "When I was younger, I always played in the backyard at my grandmother's house. My parents would throw me the ball and I would swing away."

Baseball has been a major part of the Rogers' family as well, as he explained, "My mom's side of the family has a lot of baseball talent and history with the game. I have a couple uncles that played collegiately and a cousin, Cody Ross, who plays professionally for the Oakland Athletics. They signed me up for tee ball and it just took off from there."

Growing up, Rogers also participated in basketball and football but his heart was always on the diamond. "I played basketball and football as well when I was a kid but baseball has always been my favorite sport. I played year around on as many USSSA teams as I could, playing in every game that I could to get the reps and experience. I've always been a pitcher since little league. I also played first base and in the outfield as well."

Rogers played on several USSSA traveling teams during his young career and credits his parents, Mike and Colleen Rogers, for his success, saying that without their support he would not be the player he is today. "It is unbelievable how much time and money my parents have put into helping me live out my dream of playing baseball. I just can't thank them enough for the opportunities. Every time I step out on the field, I remember the sacrifices they made for me over the years, so I owe it to them to do my best, be a good teammate and a good student. My parents have always told me that grades come first. I strive to make good grades. To receive a C or a D is unacceptable. We only accept A's and B's."

Carlsbad head baseball coach Cody May also agreed that the support and opportunities Rogers' parents have provided their son have made him a better player and person. "I've gotten to know Mike and Colleen over the last few years and they are good people. They have the best intentions for their son, just like any parent would and have given him every opportunity to succeed. You get some parents who are all over their kids when they are on the field but Trevor's parents are just there to support him in any way they can and I think that has a lot to do with his success both on and off the field."

On March 14 of this year, Rogers accomplished one of baseball's hardest feats, throwing a no-hitter in a 4-0 victory over Cleveland, saying that it was an amazing feeling. "Going to the fourth or fifth inning I had an idea that I was throwing a no-hitter, but I didn't want to look at the scoreboard and put that type of pressure on myself so I went out to the mound and forgot about it and tried to throw good pitches to give our team a chance to win. When it happened it was crazy that I threw my first no-hitter in high school. It felt amazing. I couldn't believe that it really happened."



He continued by saying, "My teammates and coaches told me they were proud of me and started patting me on the head. It was great. I had thrown a few no-hitters in little league but this was my first at the high school level."

In his next outing, Rogers threw a one-hitter against Eldorado, solidifying himself as one of the better pitchers in the state. "When I threw the one-hitter against Eldorado I felt like I was still in the groove from my last outing. I was just trying to help my team win the game and it just so happened that I threw pretty good that day."

Coach May said that despite throwing a no-hitter against Cleveland he thought Rogers had his best game against Eldorado. "I've told several people this but when he threw his no-hitter he really didn't throw his best game. Trevor had about 125 pitches and really had to battle against a lot of batters because he was deep in the count. He actually had a better outing against Eldorado a week later, where he threw a one-hitter. He only threw 91 pitches that day. It was a great accomplishment to throw a no-hitter but I've seen him throw a lot better, it just worked out for him against Cleveland."

Rogers also said that throwing a no-hitter was a great accomplishment but that he understands his role on the team and would take wins and a state championship over a no-hitter. "Whenever my team needs me I'm ready. I want to do my best for the team and hopefully bring the state championship back to Carlsbad. No-hitters are nice, but I would trade it for a win any day. I just try to go out and compete each time I'm called upon to pitch and do what I can to get a win."

"As a team, we have goals we set for the team in the beginning of the year and Trevor told me that if he threw three more no-hitters he would give them all up for one state championship. For him to say that didn't surprise me a bit. It's the type of kid he is," Coach May said.

At 6-6 Rogers' presence on mound is an intimidating sight for most batters, but Coach May says that his ability to keep his composure is his biggest strength. "He is very competitive when he is on the mound but he never gets rattled. That's what is amazing to me. You can't really teach that to a kid. Either a kid has it or he doesn't. He'll give up a couple hits or strike out the side and because he is such a level headed kid you can't tell the difference in his demeanor."

Most pitchers adjust their pitching strategy based on their opponent but Rogers said his pitching strategy is the same every time he goes to mound. "I try and get the ball over the plate and hit my spots. If they hit the ball, they hit the ball but I have confidence in my teammates behind me to make a play. My go to pitch is my fastball, which I have a lot of velocity on. I can also throw some off-speed pitches like a change-up, but I go to my fastball more than anything."

Coach May said that throwing a fastball is not only Rogers' strategy but a team strategy as well. "For our team we feel the best pitch in baseball is the fastball and Trevor has a great ability to spot up his fastball and really bought into our philosophy in regards to that. As a left-handed pitcher he has been effective with his fastball and it is by far his best pitch. I think he has the talent and drive to be one of the best pitchers to ever play for the Cavemen. If he can stay healthy and continue to get his velocity up I believe he can be one of the better ones to come out of Carlsbad."

Like most kids, Rogers' dream is to play baseball in the Major Leagues one day, following in his cousin's footsteps. "My dream is to play in the Major Leagues just like my cousin, Cody."

Coach May says he believes if Rogers continues to improve he can make that dream a reality. "Trevor will probably have the opportunity to be drafted out of high school. I know he really likes Texas Tech if he decides to play in college. I think he will have some choices to make between college and minor league baseball."

He continued by saying, "Trevor is a great kid. Since I've been at Carlsbad I've had some really talented players but they were shady in character. Trevor is very blessed with the entire package. He is a great student with a 3.7 GPA, he is very respectful as a yes sir-no sir kid and he is one of our hardest workers, first to practice and last to leave. He's been a fun kid to be around the last three years."