

Diamond Rebs trading runs for points with new system

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Ole Miss' blues beat the reds 104-78.

That's not a type-o. The blue squad out-scored the red squad by 26 points.

Yes, points.

During Ole Miss' intrasquad scrimmage on Monday at Oxford-University Stadium the coaching staff implemented a new scoring system in the hopes of adding energy, aggression and better execution to practices.

"The fall is about getting better and we're going to get better each and every day if we play like that a lot quicker than the scrimmage on Friday night," first-year hitting coach Cliff Godwin said. "It just wasn't as good, there wasn't much energy in it."

According to the new

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scoring system, points can be earned via a laundry list of ways, like making good contact and laying down a successful bunt.

Or cheering on teammates and communicating on the field.

Even getting off the field — from your position to the dugout — in under 12 seconds from the outfield and six seconds from the infield is worth two points.

"It's just about having a systematic way to present to the guys. It's about the process," Godwin said. "Baseball is a game of failure and it's about the process. It's about having a quality at-bat. It's about... you're hitting line drives and you're hitting them right to (the defender). That's all you can do. You can't get pissed off if you lined out to the third baseman because we

did everything we could do. The third baseman just happened to be playing where the ball was hit.

"We're going to win more games if we focus on the process instead of the outcome so to speak. It's about living each day. Like the saying in (the locker room) is "200 feet at a time," we talk about Omaha, but how are we going to get to Omaha. We're going to get to Omaha by having the best practice each and every day and that's how we're going to get there, one step at a time. Two hundred feet at a time."

One energy guy that has stood out to Godwin is freshman center fielder Will Jamison.

"Will Jamison has brought a ton of energy to the team in center field. He gets after it, runs hard and plays hard," he said. "Those are the things we need. A lot of young guys

are going to be able to make an immediate impact on our program."

Getting better

Casey Mulholland is still getting the knack of things this fall.

After being a prep standout at IMG Academy in Florida and missing last season due to Tommy John surgery, the right hander said he's still getting used to pitching as a Rebel.

"I felt alright. The first intrasquad was kind of tough," he said. "Just getting a feel for things out here, getting used to the transition. It's definitely a building process. I felt like I finally found my stuff and things are finally getting better.

"I'm throwing a lot right now, being a two-way guy, so my arm is kind of here and

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there some days. But everything feels great, body feels great, arm feels great. Asked how his secondary pitches were coming along, Mulholland said they're getting there.

"I'm feeling pretty good. I have a lot of work to do," he said. "Getting up here, I've been challenged a little bit and I just have a lot I need to work on and where that leads the next couple months who knows, but by spring it should all be worked out."

Mulholland said one of the most

important things he can do is come to the ballpark in the right state of mind.

"Preparation is key for me," he said.

"Great preparation leads to success and obviously you have to prepare right."

On Monday, Mulholland allowed three hits in three scoreless innings on the mound.

He also registered one strikeout.

The starting nine

The red squad's starters Monday were: Austin Hartzog (pitcher), Austin Knight (catcher), Matt Snyder (first base), Austin Anderson (second base),

Andrew Mistone (third base), Jake Overbey (shortstop), Chase Reeves (left field), Tanner Mathis (center field) and Auston Boushield (right field).

Blue's starters were: Scott Weathersby (pitcher), Kody Sepulveda (catcher), Will Allen (first base), Alex Yarbrough (second base), John Gatlin (third base), Blake Newatu (shortstop), Zach Kirksey (left field), Jamison (center field) and Preston Overbey (right field).

The Rebels will return to the diamond this weekend for a Friday-Saturday-Sunday set of intrasquads.

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