Dodgers from page 8

right with the Blue? Well, how about second baseman Orlando Hudson, who is hitting 315, with 33 RBIs and 39 runs scored? Hudson is working on a one-year deal with the Dodgers, and is making a very nice push to sign a lucrative multi-year contract with someone this offseason. And how about if that someone is my Angels, who may be ready to jettison Howie Kendrick unless the guy picks up his play in the next 100 or so games.

See, as a professional writer, I can always spin it back to the Angels. Didja notice?

Anyway, not only is Hudson providing a spark near the top of the lineup, he can also actually can make a few difficult plays defensively at second base, which couldn't be said of last year's second bagger, Jeff Kent. Adios, Mr. Kent, who some misguided folks think is a future Hall-of-Famer. More on that in a later column. Or not. It's up to me, right?

Mentioned mighty mite Juan Pierre in a column last week, so no reason to gush again about the slap-hitting leftfielder. But he has more than made up for the absence of the steroid-cheater Ramirez.

And now that the area known as Mannywood has been retired, at least for the moment, how about Pierre's Plaza? Maybe you couldn't rip off the Dodger faithful for \$99 bucks per seat, Mr. McCourt, but I'll

bet you could pry \$29 bucks out of a few delirious fans' wallets.

Need any more marketing tips, Frank? Shoot me an e-mail at franklyplank@gmail. com, and I'll be glad to share some ideas with the owner of my favorite team.

Okay, enough brown-nosing. Continuing to give the credit to the guys on the field, don't see a whole lotta Dodgers having career years. Sure, Matt Kemp is hitting .304 with a handful of homers, and 30-plus RBI, but most in the know figure he can ratchet those numbers upward.

And catcher Russell Martin, fave of *Karaoke Jen*, has been struggling most of the season, hitting a paltry .251 with nada homers. Heard that Martini used to enjoy a tad bit of the nightlife, but had dialed back his nocturnal adventures. Good for him. And apparently, bad for his on-the-field performance. Whadya think, Jen?

Did you see the recent game where Dodger pitchers, forced to chuck the horsehide to Mr. Martin, were assessed five wild pitches? Bet my bro Chris, who used to catch for Cal State Dominguez Hills during the coach Andy Lopez years, would have blocked at least three of those balls. And he also enjoys a tad bit of the nightlife.

Wow, the column is over, and I barely got started raving about my Dodgers. To be continued, whenever I see the need...•



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CIF from page 7



Missy Schaefer throws the runner out at first.

and called Heyman out for leaving early. The Eagles now had two outs with nobody on base and Noland still at the plate with a 3-2 count. She grounded out to end the inning. "That was a really strange call," stated Cameron. "When that is called, the umpire usually will raise his arms immediately and call a dead ball. He did not do that until long after the pitch had been made. That took us right out of the inning."

The call seemed to take something out of the Eagles. They committed another error in the top of the second inning, and North capitalized. They scored two more runs and led 4-0 after two innings.

The score was 5-0 as the Eagles came to bat in the bottom of the 7th inning. Gabby Valerio led off the inning with a home run to right field. That seemed to fire up the Eagles. "I talked to them before the inning and told them I believed in them and that we could still come back, even down 5-0," exclaimed Cameron. "I think after Gabby hit it out they started to believe that too. They realized the game was not over! We still had our at bats and we still had three outs remaining."

Missy Schaefer then singled and the Eagles were now in comeback mode. Taylor Gonzalez singled with two outs to keep the rally going for El Segundo. Sammy LaPlante came in to pinch hit and drew a walk to load the bases for Jenna Rich. "That was all we could ask for at that point," explained Cameron. "Jenna coming to the plate representing the tying run. I figured they would pitch around her, but I was hoping she would get a mistake pitch and knock it over the fence!" Rich walked to bring home a run and make the score 5-2. The stands were



Sam Heyman turns the double play.

electric at this point, as the Eagles mounted their comeback charge.

Sam Heyman was next up. She drilled a shot at the first baseman. It went off her chest and throat. Heyman was safe at first. The run scored and it was now 5-3 with the bases still loaded. Anissa Noland stepped in for El Segundo. With the crowd going nuts, the count went to 2-0 before Noland popped up to end the game. North had won by a score of 5-3. "I know Anissa feels terrible, but she should not feel that way," explained Cameron. "This game did not come down to that one at bat. We lost the game in the first two innings. We dug ourselves a hole and just ran out of time before we could come back. If I was given the chance again, I would want Anissa at the plate in that situation. She has been a clutch hitter all season long. We gave it our best shot in the seventh and that is all one can ask for."

The Eagles finished the season with a record of 28-4. The 28 wins are a school record. "We won three tournaments, won the league title, were ranked in the top 10 in the state, broke the school record for wins in a season, and made it to the CIF Finals," said Cameron. "This has been a tremendous year. This team had great character all year long. They battled, and would never give up. That was evident in today's game. I am really proud of this team. We accomplished all our goals but one this season. But along the way we had a great journey. The players should remember this experience for the rest of their lives."

El Segundo was competing in their second CIF championship game in the last three seasons. The Eagles have also made the CIF semi- finals three years in a row.•









