

Eagles

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Schaffhauser limited the Conquistadors to three hits and one earned run.

In the second round, the Eagles had to make a 135-mile trek to Palm Desert High School to play the fifth-ranked Aztecs (22-5) in 95-degree sunshine. The Eagles scored six runs on a variety of hits in the first inning and then held on for a 6-4 win over a highly touted team that featured former Los Angeles Dodger great Steve Garvey's son at first base. In the third round, the Eagles took on fourth-ranked San Dimas (22-5)--a team built on a tough pitching staff and a lineup that boasted a team batting average of .385. The Eagles held four different leads in the game, including a 7-6 cushion in the seventh inning. But the Saints (there's an oxymoron for you) came up with five runs in the top of the seventh inning and held off the Eagles to win 11-8. Four of the five San Dimas hitters who were hit by pitches in the game scored. Four other runs were unearned.

Though the Eagles' season was cut short, there were a number of players who were rewarded with All-League, All-South Bay and All-CIF selections. Junior catcher Justin McCullough led the way and was named the Pioneer League's most outstanding player, first team All-South Bay and All-CIF. Sophomore

shortstop Grant Palmer and Joey Schaffhauser made the all-league first team and were also selected to the All-South Bay team. Ben Doucette made the Pioneer League's first team while Logan Erickson and sophomore pitcher Nigel Nootbaar were selected to the second team.

The Eagles appear to be re-loading and keeping the tradition going with successful years for both the JV and frosh/soph teams. Raymond Johnson and Cas Cousins, both freshmen, led the JVs to an overall 11-13 record and a second place finish in the Pioneer League. The soph/frosh team went 18-7, 10-0 and won the Pioneer League behind the play of Derek Abramson, Taylor Dahm and Leo Fahmie.

Eagles News and Notes

Billy Traber continues to lower his stats for Triple-A Pawtucket, and in 19 games he has a 3.12 ERA and a 3-3 record. Former Eagles' standout Heath Jones (1988) has been umpiring at the collegiate level for nine years and he was rewarded for his outstanding season by umpiring in the Collegiate Super Regional at Tallahassee, Florida. Jones was one slot away from calling games in the College World Series and could get that assignment in the next couple of years.

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credit--they seem to have adjusted to Arredondo and were laying off some of the wicked pitches that they swung at last season. Which resulted in a control problem for Arredondo. Which has resulted in Jose being jettisoned to the minors to work out his problems on his own time.

Lefty Darren Oliver has been his mostly reliable self, but is used mainly as a situational lefty and doesn't usually pitch as often as the other bullpen guys.

That leaves us with Jason Bulger and mop-up guy Justin Speier, who can't be counted on to be effective at all. And Fuentes, the left-handed closer who seems to be putting up some decent stats, still makes us Halo honks hanker for the return of one Frankie Rodriguez, who we said "adios" to last winter. Sorry, my bad!

Look at that. Nearly done with the column and haven't even mentioned the bad and the good. Well, how about second baseman Howie Kendrick, who may have spent too much time making TV commercials and not enough time in the batting cage. As I opined last week, wouldn't current Dodger second sacker Orlando Hudson look sharp in Angel red next spring?

Kendrick, like Arredondo, was recently sent down to Salt Lake City to hopefully figure out what the hell he is doing impersonating a major league ballplayer so far this season.

On the good side, how bout Torii Hunter, who catapulted three home runs over the outfield wall against the minor league Padres last Saturday night? And was hitting .319 and leading the team with 51 RBIs after a three-game weekend sweep over those same minor league Padres.

More on the Halos down the road. It's still early, right?

satisfaction to Dodger fans hanging out with obviously nothing better to do.


But the facts are the facts, and so far this year, the Mike Scioscia-led folks from Anaheim by way of L.A. have been a big disappointment. They currently trail the Texas Rangers by a handful of games.

Sure, conventional wisdom is that Texas will fold during the course of the hot, miserable Dallas summer. And well they might. But if we are going to have to bank on another team collapsing, that's pretty weak, don't ya think?

So on to some of the ugly, the bad, and the good. The bullpen guys can't seem to hold a lead, and Scioscia and his coaching lieutenants leaning silently on the dugout rail gotta think that it is Groundhog's Day. After a recent gag job in Detroit, a probably agitated Coach Mike said: "If you look at the arms down there, the potential is there to do what we need. We're just not getting enough guys throwing the ball well in order to establish roles in front of Brian (Fuentes)."

Yup, Scot Shields and his astronomical ERA may finally have burned out his arm and his legs, as he has opted to undergo season-ending knee surgery. Righty Jose Arredondo, who had a great '08, hadn't been nearly as effective as he was last year, which was to be expected. After all, give the hitters some

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