

El Segundo All Stars Capture District Title

Photos by Bob Schaffhauer



Evan Weinger singles in the first inning driving in two runs.

Manhattan Beach Pac, Manhattan Beach Big West, South Redondo, Central Redondo, North Redondo and El Segundo.

El Segundo started their quest for a District Title by whitewashing the boys from Silver Spur with a four-inning 16-0 victory. The team was lead by an outstanding pitching performance by ace Dean Abramson who had 10 strikeouts and gave up only one single. All the offense Abramson needed was provided by a three-run homerun from Noah Stone

in the first inning. Stone hit two homeruns on the day and had six runs batted in. Connor Underwood also hit a homerun and had three runs batted in.

Game Two proved to be the most exciting game in the tournament as El Segundo had to play their second round game versus their rival and last year's eventual champion Palos Verdes. At the start it seemed to have

the makings of a repeat from last year as Palos Verdes sprinted out to an early lead by scoring five runs in the first two innings. Coach Chad Stevens commented "In the past that might have been the end of the road for us but not this year and not this team". El Segundo got on the scoreboard by picking up a run in the bottom of the third when Nick Karsseboom led off the inning with a triple and later scoring when Jackson Walz doubled. El Segundo then got back in the game in the fourth when Noah Bergren hit a two out two-strike fastball over the right field fence. El Segundo scored another single run in the bottom of the 5th but would still trail 5-4 after five innings. In the bottom of the 6th inning Dean Abramson lead off with a clutch triple and then was brought home by a Noah Bergren sacrifice fly. Extra innings versus Palos Verdes was no surprise, as both teams seemed to be once again the strongest teams in the tourney. But this season the outcome would be different. After a one two three top of the seventh, which was the 5th inning in a row where relief star pitcher Hunter Lewis shut down the bats from PV, the offense went to work for El Segundo. With singles from Lars Nootbaar, Jackson Walz and Noah Stone Hunter Lewis then delivered the winning base hit to complete a remarkable comeback.

Game three for El Segundo would match up the only other undefeated team in the tournament Rolling Hills. With game one



Shortstop Lars Nootbaar takes a throw from right field



Winning pitcher Hunter Lewis delivering a pitch in the 3rd inning. Lewis pitched a complete game.

For the first time in three years an El Segundo Little League Baseball All-Star team has won the District 36 Championship. The 11 and 12-year-old team captured the title after a two-week 11 team double elimination tournament in Manhattan Beach.

District 36 is made up from Little League's best players from Palos Verdes, Lunada Bay, Silver Spur, Rolling Hills, Hermosa Beach,

winner on the mound Dean Abramson he would throw three plus innings and give up five runs before giving way to Tanner Stevens. Stevens came into a crucial part of the game with bases loaded and shut the door on Rolling Hills. It was a big moment in the game where Rolling Hills threatened to regain the lead. El Segundo led practically the entire game but Rolling Hills made things interesting by again rallying in the top of the 5th to make it a 9-8 game. However, with five runs in the bottom of the inning El Segundo pulled away for a 14-9 victory. Lars Nootbaar pitched the final two innings and the offense was led by Dean Abramson's four hits including a home run, Noah Bergren and Jackson Walz who each had three hits and Connor Underwood who hit a pair of home runs.

As game four rolled around El Segundo would have to wait for the winning team from the lower bracket to see who would challenge them for the title. With all eyes watching their competition manager Jim Stone commented that "It would be great to see PV and beat them so we can return the favor of knocking us out last season" Well it seems as Stone got his wish as Palos Verdes knocked out four straight victories to earn them the shot at the title in which they would need to beat El Segundo twice. The game was thought to be a tight pitching duel but El Segundo jumped all over PV pitching in the first inning sending 11 batters to the plate and scoring eight times lead by a clutch double from Joey Garza in their half of the first. Palos Verdes answered with one run in the bottom half of the inning and trailed 8-1 to El Segundo. But after scoring three more runs in the second inning with hits by Jack Dinsmore and Alex Rios the game was 11-1 and PV never mounted a serious challenge. Evan Weinger picked up two key hits to lead the hitting attack and Hunter Lewis went all the way for the victory. The final score was El Segundo 14 and Palos Verdes 3.

Third base coach Duane Plank conveyed that his high-powered offense scored 50 runs in the tourney and had seven home runs. A hitting barrage along with good pitching contributed highly to the team's success.

District 36 champs El Segundo will travel next Saturday to Lomita to face the District 27 winners and to compete for Sectionals. Game one is at 10:20 am at Lomita Little League 26800 S. Western Ave in Lomita. El Segundo hopes to conquer Sectionals where it is believed that El Segundo has had at least a 25-year drought since their last Sectional Championship.



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in the park




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