



The El Segundo Little League started with a parade in February and ended with a championship Saturday.

Championship Saturday Crowns Little Teams

By Gregg McMullin

Another El Segundo Little League season has just been completed that culminated with the championship games in the Major, AAA and AA divisions. In what started in January with tryouts and won't ultimately end until the All-Star teams complete their run in July or August, this was another great year for the ESLL.

Playing at Brett Field for the AA teams is always a treat after playing on a dilapidated Walton Field during the course of the regular season. So playing the championship game at picturesque Brett Field in front of a large crowd seems to bring out the best in these seven, eight and nine year olds. That's what happened in the championship game between the Diamondbacks and the Dodgers. Both teams fared well during the regular season and while the Diamondbacks were 7-6-2 on the year, they had defeated the Angels (6-7-2) twice. Both teams got to the championship game by going through the double-elimination brackets, as was the case for the AAA and Majors divisions.

The Angels came into the championship game boasting one of the top defenses and a hitting lineup full of future stars like Dylan Marquez-Wasson, Luke Smith, Trey Sexton and Conner Snow. The Diamondbacks countered with Jess Caravello, Carter Judge, Casey Lund and the speedy Mathew Ramos, along with a strong pitching staff. With the score tied 5-5 going into the last inning, the Diamondbacks came up with three runs and then held on to win 8-5, giving head coach

Chuck Judge his first AA championship.

The AAA Championship game between the A's and the Mets was as well played a game as any during the year at any level. The Mets are a big, physical team that was consistent all year long with pitching and defense that allowed a league-low 134 runs. The A's on the other hand were streaky, but came on late in the year with future stars Spencer Long, Bryan Johnson, Jake Hayes, Christian Martin and Joe Doucette leading the way.

The A's struck first by loading the bases and punching over a run, but Mets' pitcher Liam O'Brien struck out two to get out of the jam. The Mets countered with four runs in the bottom of the first, highlighted by RBI singles by Joe Kelly and Joey Grant to take a 4-1 lead. Trailing 6-1 in the third inning, the A's Joe Doucette had an RBI single to close the gap to 6-2.

The A's took advantage of an error that led to three runs in the fifth inning to close the deficit to 6-5. The A's still had bases loaded with one out, but Mets' pitcher Tyler Vilalobos induced a ground ball force out and a strikeout to end the threat. In the bottom half of the fifth inning the Mets had their opportunity to add some insurance runs, but an inning ending double play thwarted any further scoring.

In the top of the sixth inning Jake Hays and Spencer Long hit back-to-back doubles to tie the game at 6-6. Long took third on a wild pitch and scored the go-ahead run

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Season finished with a record 28-4

By Andrew Thomas

Photos by Marcy Dugan, www.marcyduganphoto.com

El Segundo returned home for a CIF semi final game last Tuesday after a week on the road in the middle rounds of the Division IV playoffs. The Eagles wasted no time scoring as they put a run on the board in the first inning.

Jenna Rich led off with a line drive single. After a sacrifice and a walk, Missy Schaefer hit a ball up the middle that eluded the Paloma Valley shortstop and went into short left-centerfield. Pinch runner Sammy LaPlante scored from second to give the Eagles the early 1-0 lead.

That first inning run would prove to be all the Eagles would need. Rich threw a two hit shut out with seven strikeouts and just one walk as the Eagles won the game 1-0 and returned to the CIF finals for the



Sam Heyman is called safe at second.

Jenna pitched a phenomenal game, and we played great defense. Good pitching and good defense will win games for a team in the playoffs, and we proved that today. I am really proud of the team."

The win set up a CIF finals showdown with Pioneer League rival North Torrance, who knocked the Eagles out in the semi finals last season on their way to the Division 5 CIF title. "They moved our league up to Division 4 this year due to the success the league has had over the past few seasons," explained Cameron. "So to have both finalists come out of our league shows how outstanding the softball is in the Pioneer League."

The Eagles made some uncharacteristic errors over the first few innings in the finals and trailed 5-0 after three innings. "We had a few things go against us early on that took away any momentum we seemed to build," explained Cameron. "Plus, we just didn't play well. I think the girls wanted to win so badly they came out tight. We talked about it before the game, but it happened."

One momentum swing occurred in the bottom of the first inning. Sam Heyman singled with one out. Anissa Noland then walked on a 3-2 pitch and the Eagles had a rally going with two on and one out. As Noland ran down to first and Heyman, who was running on the pitch, was sliding into second, the first base umpire raised his arms

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Coach Keith Cameron hugs Jenna Rich after a called third strike to end the game.

second time in three seasons.

"This is unbelievable," stated Head Coach Keith Cameron. "I didn't think one run was necessarily going to be enough. But

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 The Gold Line heads East.
Metro Briefs
SOUTH BAY

Metro Rail Returning to East LA
 Some 46 years after the last trolley crossed the First Street Bridge, rail is returning to East LA with the opening of a new branch of the Metro Gold Line. The soon-to-open extension will span six miles from Union Station in downtown LA via the Little Tokyo/Arts District and Boyle Heights to Atlantic/Pomona Boulevard.

Metro Bus Team Nation's Best
 Teams from more than 50 public transit agencies recently competed to see who was best and Metro came out on top. Mechanics Frank Runkle, Rommel Vargas and Andrew Warren Jr. along with operator Juan Navarro formed the Metro team which won the overall championship at the 2009 International Bus Bondeo.

Metro Service Changes Set for June 28
 The expansion of Metro Rail to East LA is prompting several bus route changes beginning June 28. In addition, service in the El Segundo area is being restricted on that date. For complete details and timetables, visit metro.net.

Hit the Beach Without the Hassles
 Make the most of your day at the beach without fighting the summer traffic, searching for parking or paying high prices at the gas pump. Metro has convenient bus and rail connections that can get you to all the Southland beaches. Visit the Trip Planner at metro.net for a wide selection of schedules and connections.

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