

# Little League 9-10 Year-old team wins District 36

The El Segundo Little League Baseball 9-10 year-old team won the District 36 Championship. After finishing in second place the last two years, the 9-10 year olds were able to sweep through the playoffs to bring home the title in this 10-team tournament. El Segundo combined strong pitching and fielding with timely hitting that culminated in a 6-3 victory over the Manhattan Beach Legends in the championship game.

El Segundo began the tournament by defeating Manhattan Beach Caribbean 6-2. After being tied 2-2 after the first three innings, El Segundo gave a preview of what to expect from the rest of the tournament by finishing strong and scoring the last four runs of the game. Spencer Palmer pitched a strong 4 1/3 innings for the victory and Noah Ruedas got the save by getting the last five outs of the game. El Segundo finished with 13 hits that included 3 hits each from Jake Palmer and Kobe Estrada and two hits each by Alec Zeman, Jackson Stone, and Spencer Palmer.

El Segundo won their second game by the same score 6-2 over Rolling Hills to advance to the Winner's bracket final game. Just like the first game, strong pitching from Jake Palmer who pitched all six innings for the victory highlighted this game. El Segundo again demonstrated a versatile defense and timely hitting to secure their second win of the tournament. Offensively, the big inning for El Segundo came in the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning when they scored 4 runs on three hits. Then, after giving up two runs in the fourth, El Segundo finished the scoring with two runs in the fifth. Offensively, El Segundo had 8 hits, including two each from Jake Palmer and Kobe Estrada, with one hit each from Jackson Stone, Stevie Brandlin, Spencer Palmer, and Josh Palmer.

In the third game, El Segundo demonstrated their ability to pull out a victory from the jaws of defeat by scoring a run in each of their last two at-bats to come from behind to defeat the Manhattan Beach Legends 7-6. After taking a 5-2 lead into the bottom of the third, El Segundo gave up four runs to fall behind 6-5. Alec Zeman started the game and pitched well into the third, but when the first four batters of the bottom of the fourth got on base for the Legends, Spencer Palmer came in and finished out the inning and the game in strong fashion to keep the game within reach. Spencer faced the minimum nine batters in the last three innings. El Segundo's comeback started in the top of the 5<sup>th</sup> when Jackson Stone hit a triple down the right field line and scored on the errant relay throw to tie the game. Then, with one out in the top of the sixth, Josh Palmer singled, advanced to second on a passed ball and with two outs went to third. With a 2 and 2 count and David Freiburger up to bat, Manhattan Beach decided to change pitchers. On the first pitch, the new pitcher threw a wild pitch, scoring Josh to take a 7-6 lead. Spencer Palmer stuck out two of the last three

batters to secure the victory. Offensively, El Segundo finished with ten hits that included 2 hits each from Jake Palmer, Josh Palmer and Jackson Stone. In addition, four players got their first hit of the tournament – Noah Ruedas, David Freiburger, Cameron Judge, and Spencer Long.

In the championship game, El Segundo scored early and led 5-0 at the end of two on their way to a 6-3 victory. Jake Palmer started and pitched 3 2/3 innings allowing only one run. Jackson Stone pitched until one out in the sixth when Kobe Estrada came in with bases loaded to get the final two outs and the save. Alec Zeman's three hits and five RBI's that included El Segundo's first home run of the tournament highlighted the game. Jake Palmer had two hits while Josh Palmer, Jackson Stone, Spencer Palmer, and Billy Brasher (his first hit of the tournament) each got a hit. This game featured El Segundo's versatility and depth in pitching, fielding, and hitting that has been instrumental in El Segundo's ability to take the title.

As District 36 Champions El Segundo advances to Sectionals located at Ladera Little League. El Segundo will be facing teams from District 37, District 27 and District 25. El Segundo's first game was Saturday, July 18 versus Del Rey with hopes of advancing in this four-team double elimination tournament. •

## El Camino

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donors will be able to provide input on which students to target, according to Gleason. "At levels of 10 to 13 thousand, they can have their own name scholarship," she said. "So for example, they could identify a student in science or arts and this would become part of that scholarship program."

California's ongoing financial woes have taken a major toll on education, and things could get worse before they get better. "As state campuses continue to have problems, more students are being left out in the cold," said Lundquist, who herself took advantage of the community college system after she graduated from high school. "So many of us have used this system—it affords us to get our first two years of good education in at a much lower price. I went there because I couldn't afford a four-year college before going to grad school. I got a really good education. Classes were small, it was personalized, and the professors couldn't have been more helpful."

California community colleges continue to be a saving grace for the more than 2.7 million students they serve each year, providing affordable and accessible educational opportunities while also supplying the majority of the state's workforce training. Yet despite paying lower tuitions, community college students still must contend with rising costs for items such as textbooks, supplies, housing, transportation, childcare, and health care.

It is hoped the endowments will ease that burden. "This initiative is an extraordinary opportunity for California, particularly where we're at," said Lundquist. "Although Richard and I have no children of our own, we feel every young person in the world is our responsibility. It's everyone's responsibility to provide children with these opportunities so they can reach their potential. This is the land of opportunity, but the only way to meet that opportunity is through education."

Lundquist added that she is determined to see El Camino College reach its goal in spite of today's recessionary climate. "I told them we're not going to use that 'e' word (economy) because there are great opportunities even in difficult times," she said. "We have to find a silver lining and do the most we can."

Whatever someone can give, even if it's just \$10, they should feel so good about what they've done because it's a collective effort and it's not easy. I believe we have a responsibility to make sure that each generation after us is equal to or greater in stature than we are. And we haven't been doing that. We've broken so many things—education, the environment, health care. This is a chance to redeem ourselves."

For information about how you can support this challenge, contact Katie Gleason at the El Camino College Foundation at 310- 660-6040 or kgleason@elcamino.edu



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