

# Nootbaar Nearly Perfect as Eagles Roll



Richard Seigel turns on a fast ball and sends it 390 feet for his first homerun of the year. Photo by Bob Schaffhauser

By Gregg McMullin

The El Segundo baseball program has a long a storied history especially dating back to when head coach John Stevenson arrived on the scene 50 years ago. In that time the Eagles have won 1052 games and over the course of the past six decades there have been a number of no-hitters thrown by Eagle pitchers. When sophomore Nigel Nootbaar took the mound for the Eagles against Lawndale he wasn't thinking about throwing a no-hitter but rather hitting his location. The Eagles wound up defeating the Cardinals 11-0 and Nootbaar came within a foot or so of throwing not only a no-no but a perfect game.

Having faced the minimum 20 batters through the first 6-2/3 innings Nootbaar had one final obstacle in his way. History, Eagle immortality and a distinction that has never happened for an Eagle pitcher was just a couple of pitches away. Nootbaar had struck out 12 batters with a blazing fastball and a curveball that thoroughly confused the Cardinal hitters before facing his last challenge. On a one-and-one count Nootbaar threw Lawndale's best hitter, Frank Hutchinson, a curveball that was up over the plate and Hutchinson drilled just by third baseman Jake Booterbaugh. "It was a clean hit and a pitch I'd like to have back," said Nootbaar.

Throughout the game the players new about the no-hit bid but didn't realize there was a perfect game in the offering until the last inning. Nootbaar had plenty of help from his defense to take his perfect game into to the seventh inning. In the second inning shortstop Grant Palmer made an incredible backhand play in the hole and threw out the hitter by a step. In the fourth inning Booterbaugh smothered a groundball to his left, gathered himself and threw out the hitter by two steps.

If Nootbaar's teammates knew about

the no-hit bid they weren't talking and the right-hander was surprised to know about his would be history making performance after Hutchinson rounded first base. "I heard the dugout say something and it took me by surprise," he said. Nootbaar needed just four pitches to strikeout the last hitter and improve to (6-1) on the year.

If you consider the pitchers who have thrown no-hitters in the past 50 years like Kemer Brett, Scott McGregor etc. Nootbaar was that close to making it into the history books all by himself. Coach Stevenson said afterwards that it was the first time he had had a pitcher come that close to a perfect game. "We've had pitchers throw no-hitters but never a perfect game."

The Eagles put two runs on the scoreboard early and essentially gave Nootbaar all the runs he needed in the first inning. Ben Doucette scored on an RBI single by Grant Palmer and Jimmy Quiñones had the first of his two RBI walks of the game in the first inning. Nootbaar helped his own cause in the fourth inning with an RBI single in the third inning to make it 5-0 en-route to their 11-0 win.

Justin McCullough had another monster day at the plate going 3-for-5 with two doubles, a triple and two runs scored. Palmer continued his torrid hitting pace going 2-for-4, scoring twice and had two RBIs as the Eagles improved to (15-7, 3-2).

The Eagles came out swinging at home in their second game with Lawndale by scoring eight first inning runs and going on to win 15-1. The first inning was highlighted by back to back homeruns by Logan Erickson and Richard Seigel and RBI single by Matt Rowland. The Eagles collected 17 hits off three Lawndale pitchers including ace Frank

See Eagles, page 8

# ESHS Boys Knock Off South Torrance; Girls Fit to Be Tied

By George Harris, Jr.  
PIONEER LEAGUE FINALS FRIDAY NIGHT

The 2009 boys' varsity swimming team won nine out of 11 events as it pounded South Torrance High School 108-57 in Pioneer League action last Thursday at the Urho Saari Swimming Stadium. The girls' team wasn't as successful. Despite sweeping the final event, the 400 Free Relay, the "Mermaids of Main" had to settle for an unsettling tie 84-84.

Both Eagle squads won the same amount of events, but the boys displayed superior depth as they finished 5-2 on the dual meet season. The Lady Eagles wound up 4-2-1 as both programs finished in third place behind Santa Monica and Torrance. Tomorrow's championship finals at Beverly Hills High School starting at 5:00 p.m. will count twice as much as the dual meet season and determine the official Pioneer League Champions.

The "Men of Main" opened the meet with a victory in the opening event (200 Medley Relay) and was never threatened after that. The all-sophomore team of Chris Cordobes, Bradley Rava, Jeffrey Allison and Ryan Makuta breezed to the win and the onslaught was on from there. Rava (200 Free, 100 Breast), Allison (100 Fly, 100 Back) and Makuta (200 IM, 50 Free) were all double individual winners. Makuta remained unbeaten in individual dual meet events for the second straight season. Tenth grader Tucker Hopkins was a key runner-up in the 100 Breast.

The "Blue and Gold" led the Spartans 54-18 after five events and doubled its total as Cordobes (three relay wins), Allison, Rava

and Makuta all pitched in with two relay wins apiece. Junior Robert Cordobes topped the field in the 100 Free and was a member the 200 and 400 Free Relay winning teams. Speedy classmate Max Reynolds anchored the 200 Free Relay and nailed a second in the 50 Free.

The Lady Eagles opened the meet earning a gold in the Medley Relay thanks to the efforts of juniors Julianne Allison, Kelsey Cummings, Courtney Rava, and sophomore Colette Gulick. Gulick (200 IM and 50 Free) and Allison (100 Back, 100 Breast) were double individual winners for the Mermaids. Senior Haley Cox came up with a clutch win in the 100 Fly but going into the final event, ESHS was still down by 10 points. Taking a gamble, coaches Davlatis and Makuta split their 400 Free Relay entrants as the quartet of Cummings, Rava, junior Melissa Zepeda and senior Amanda Bojorquez took the silver. Thanks to a come-from-behind gold medal finish by Allison, the home team Lady Eagles garnered a tie. Gulick led off the final event and seniors Kylie Langlois and Cathy Broderick kept pace with the Spartans. Allison's heroics may have provided the "Blue and Gold" the motivation the girls will need to capture the league title.

Both the boys' and girls' frosh/soph teams reigned supreme as they slew the Spartans 89-65 and 79-74 respectively. Sophomores Jackson Hogoboom (200 Free, 100 Back) and Christian Saravia (100 Fly, 100 Free) helped propel the male hatchlings to a third place dual meet finish (4-1-1). Freshman Oscar Chen scored another first in his 100

See ESHS, page 19



## EL SEGUNDO WELCOMES IDEAS FOR CITY PROJECTS

Now is your chance to help the City of El Segundo improve your City. The City of El Segundo's Capital Improvement Program Advisory Committee (CIPAC) convenes each spring to determine which projects should be constructed in the following year. CIPAC needs input from local residents and businesses to be sure that the City is pursuing the projects that truly meet the City's needs. Projects to improve the following types of City facilities are currently being considered:

- ☛ Parks
- ☛ Streets
- ☛ Water Mains
- ☛ Sports facilities
- ☛ Sewers and storm drains
- ☛ Library
- ☛ Traffic signals and street lighting
- ☛ Sidewalks and curb ramps
- ☛ Safety improvements
- ☛ Improvements to City buildings



Please attend CIPAC's Public Workshop and let us know your project ideas

TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2009 AT 6:30 PM

City of El Segundo Council Chambers  
350 Main Street

Please call the Public Works Department at 310-524-2357



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