

Mustangs Swept Up in Bay League Title Games



Kyle Demarco will lead the Mustangs into the playoffs with a team leading .427 batting average.

By Gregg McMullin

The Mira Costa High School baseball team failed to reach the CIF Southern Section Division II playoffs last year. But this year's team has been steadfast all year long and they gave Palos Verdes, the fourth-ranked team, all they could handle during their two-game series to define the Bay League's champion. With a pair of one run losses to PV, the Mustangs ended their Bay League schedule 7-3, and tied with Peninsula for second place--but they will return to the playoffs.

Mira Costa lost just two games at home all year long and both of them against Bay League opponents Peninsula and Palos Verdes. Against PV, it looked like the Mustangs' only home loss would be to the Sea Kings' neighbor. The Mustangs trailed 3-2 through five innings before taking a 4-3 in the bot-

tom of the sixth when Zach Carney had a sacrifice fly that scored the go-ahead run.

Mustang starter James Glawe went six strong innings and scattered six hits, walked two and gave up two earned runs before giving way to Drew Van Orden. The move was expected since Glawe was tiring and Van Orden had been used as the closer this year. Van Orden and the Mustangs got the first two Sea Kings batters when the wheels fell off for Mira Costa.

Van Orden got two strikes on Matt Blankenship, and on a 1-2 count Blankenship hit a high bouncer down the third base line that went for a hit. Blankenship then scored on a long double to tie the game at 4-4. PV took the lead shortly thereafter when J.R. Aguirre singled to left field, scoring a runner

Lacrosse Team Gives Back



The Mira Costa Girls Lacrosse Team wanted to give back to the community and made quilts for the kids at Jonathan Jaques Children's Cancer Center. Jonathan Jaques Children's Cancer Center is located at Miller Children's Hospital in Long Beach. Seated from left to right are Caroline Bennet, Olivia Archer, Paula Spence (Vice-Principal) and Alex Lersch.

from second base. The play at the plate was close when Mustang catcher Ian Neal took Jackson Morrow's throw on the first base line and dove at the runner scoring. "It was close and it could have gone either way," said Mustang coach Mike Neily.

Trailing 5-4 in the bottom of the seventh, the Mustangs had consecutive hits by Jake Jelmini and Jackson Morrow but failed to capitalize as they lost a heartbreaker. Even though the Mustangs outthit P.V. and were led by Morrow's perfect 4-for-4 day, they couldn't push over runs when they had the opportunity, and the nine strikeouts also hampered them. "We were a strike away from winning the game, but that's baseball," Neily said.

The second game of the two-game series

ended up in a pitchers' duel, but the Sea Kings' staff prevailed by limiting the Mustangs to just five hits and one earned run in winning the game 2-1. Still you have to think that Mustang starter Brent Weber's efforts were good enough to win in any other game. He scattered five hits in giving up two runs (one earned) with no walks, although he did hit three batters. The Sea Kings limited the Mustangs to just five hits too, but PV starter A.J. Hellow and Sea King closer Nick Turner combined to strike out 13 Mustangs.

Mira Costa scored their only run in the third inning when Kyle Demarco's single brought home Dean Shigemura to tie the game at 1-1. PV scored the winning run in the bottom of the sixth inning on a heads-up

See Mustangs, page 18



metro.net

The fastest distance between two points.

Go Metro on the Harbor Transitway between the South Bay and Downtown LA.

Connect to Metro's Express lines on the Harbor Transitway. You'll breeze past the traffic and arrive relaxed and ready to go. Buses depart every few minutes all day long. There's free parking at five stations; you can also make an easy transfer from the Green Line.



To plan the trip that's best for you, visit metro.net. Go Metro.

09-04-09 © 2009 M. CTA

