

CABRILLO BASEBALL PREVIEW | SPORTS, C1

PROOF POSITIVE

COACH SAYS TEAM NEEDS TO PROVE ITSELF



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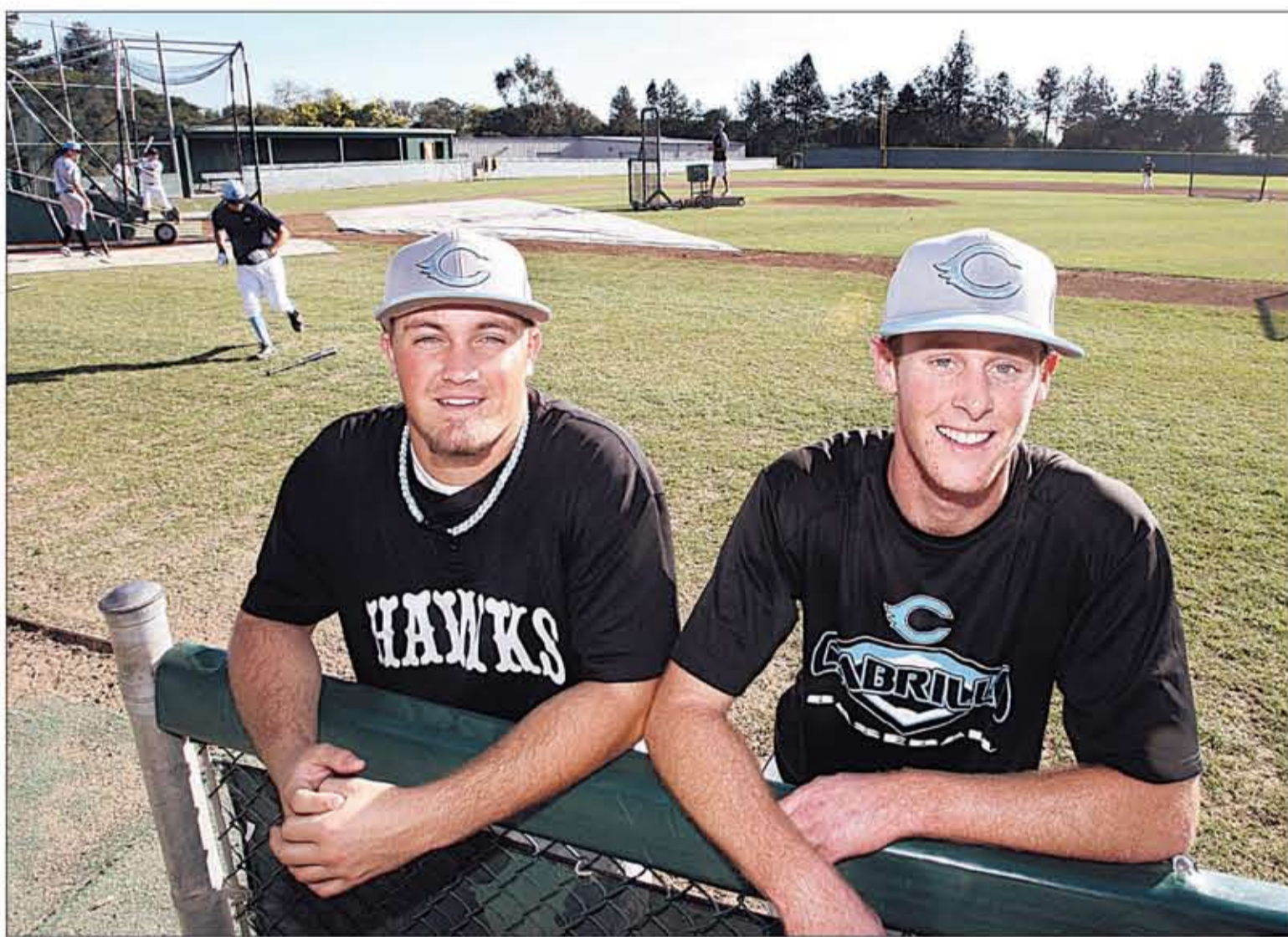
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CABRILLO COLLEGE BASEBALL PREVIEW



'I remember thinking, ... 'That's a 'W.' I hope people think that this year, so we can just clobber them.'



SCOTT MASIK, Cabrillo College outfielder who played against the struggling Seahawks last season while at San Jose City

DAN COYRO/SENTINEL PHOTOS
Shane Carle, a **Scotts Valley** standout and **SCCAL** co-Player of the Year last year, will be on the mound for the **Seahawks**. TOP: **Cedar Morgan** and **Scott Masik** came to **Cabrillo** after **San Jose City College** scrapped its baseball program.

UNDER THE RADAR

Seahawks not expected to soar, but don't tell them that

By **JIM SEIMAS**
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APTOS — Cabrillo College baseball coach Bob Kittle said he could care less about the rankings. Neither, he says, does he care that his Seahawks aren't listed anywhere among the best teams in the state, nor NorCal for that matter. "And we won't be [ranked] until we

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prove ourselves on the field," the second-year Seahawks coach said. "But this team has the ability to go to the playoffs and do well."

Like Kittle, many Seahawks are predicting a successful season though they barely registered a blip in preseason polls.

Kittle, a longtime successful coach at Santa Cruz High, struggled with the team he inherited in his junior college debut in 2010. The Seahawks went 6-30, 3-22 in a tough division that includes eventual state champion Ohlone, conference champion Canada and playoff qualifier Skyline. Along the way, the Seahawks rattled off a forgettable 21-game losing streak.

Former San Jose City College outfielder Scott Masik — one of two pre-

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CABRILLO

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season All-Americans who transferred to Cabrillo after the Jaguars eliminated their baseball program at the end of the 2010 season — recalls taking on the Seahawks last season.

"I remember thinking, 'Wow, how are these guys on the same field as us?' We'll go in there and that's a 'W,'" he said. "I hope people think that this year, so we can just clobber them."

Kittle said this year's squad — which counts just two starters among its five returning players — is five to 10 times better than last season's.

Cabrillo will find out for sure this weekend, when they open the season with a three-game series against host Santa Barbara. The Seahawks play their home opener Feb. 12 against College of the Redwoods.

Kittle and his assistants hit the recruiting trail hard in the offseason. Among the gems they landed were Santa Cruz Coast Athletic League co-Players of the Year Shane Carle and Taylor Toccalino, both standout pitchers for SCCAL champion Scotts Valley High.

SCCAL first-teamers Joe Davis [Aptos] and Zach Settles [San Lorenzo Valley] also committed.

And some players, like Masik, a Santa Cruz native who prepped at Archbishop Mitty, and preseason All-American pitcher Cedar Morgan, a Soquel High standout who also played at SJCC last season, fell into Kittle's lap.

The Seahawks — which narrowed their 75-player fall roster to 42 currently — are better in every category, Kittle said.

The pitching staff includes Morgan, Carle, Toccalino and newcomers Josh Rodriguez [Lincoln High, Stockton] and transfer Pat Hennessey [San Jose State]. Leo Fuentes [Reno High/American River College] will serve as the team's closer.

Hennessey, a right-handed pitcher, was a second-team all-West Catholic Athletic League pick in 2009. Masik was a WCAL honorable mention pick that year and blossomed into one of the top JC players in the state.

"He's a proven JC player," Kittle said. "He's a top-of-the-order hitter who can flat-out play. Right field is one of the toughest positions to play in this park, and he'll be one of the best outfielders around. He's legit. He's got a good pedigree and knows the game real well."

Restrictive flight bats have been mandated by the National Junior College Athletic Association, but Kittle sees that as an advantage. The Seahawks play in one of the bigger parks in the conference, are speedy and have threats for hitters Nos. 1-9, he said.

2011 LOCALS IN COLLEGE BASEBALL

List on athletes from Santa Cruz County playing collegiate ball:

AT FOUR-YEAR SCHOOLS			
NAME [HIGH SCHOOL/COLLEGE]	COLLEGE	POS.	YR.
Tommy Erlin [SV/De Anza]	Cal Poly-SLO	LHP	Sr.
Chase Glaum [MVC/Cabrillo]	So. Nazarene	OF	Sr.
Aaron Glaum [Aptos/Cabrillo]	Embry-Riddle	Inf.	Sr.
Francis Murphy [Cabrillo]	William Penn	P	Sr.
Dayne Quist [Santa Cruz]	UC Davis	LHP	Jr.
Dylan Gavin [Santa Cruz]	Oregon	SS	Jr.
Bobby Crocker [Aptos]	Cal Poly-SLO	OF	Jr.
Kyle Anderson [Aptos]	Cal Poly-SLO	LHP	Jr.
Andrew Biancardi [Aptos]	Santa Clara	OF/DH	Jr.
James Smith [Cabrillo]	Santa Clara	RHP	Jr.
Beau Fraser [Aptos]	Portland	C	Jr.
Justin Burns [MVC/CSM]	UC San Diego	RHP	Jr.
Alex Taku [Santa Cruz/WVC]	Lee University	LHP	Jr.
Zack Schmidt [St. Andrews]	Swarthmore	Inf.	Jr.
Max Garza [Cabrillo]	Dakota St.	C/1B	Jr.
Adrian DeMar [SLV/Bethany]	Simpson	P	Jr.
Marshall Garcia [Cabrillo]	La Salle	Inf.	Jr.
Max Myers [Cabrillo]	Northern St. University	1B/C	Jr.
Zach Mexicano [Scotts Valley]	Academy of Art	LHP	Jr.
Paul Brock [Aptos/Cabrillo]	CSU-Monterey Bay	RHP	Jr.
Kaohu Gaspar [St. Francis]	Fresno State	Inf.	So.
Dustin Torchio [Santa Cruz]	Pacific	SS	So.
Eli Kass [Santa Cruz]	Willamette	Util.	So.
Matt Lozano [Cabrillo]	Clarke University	LHP	So.
Will King [Cabrillo]	Lewis & Clark	LHP	So.
Curtis Gomez [St. Francis]	Pacific	Inf.	Fr.
Peter Miller [Santa Cruz]	Pacific	Inf./RHP	Fr.
Paul Webster [Santa Cruz]	Puget Sound	OF	Fr.
Scott Dreier [Scotts Valley]	Menlo	C/1B	Fr.
Mile Norton [Aptos]	Southwestern	RHP	Fr.
Michael Reyes [Scotts Valley]	Academy of Art	OF	Fr.
AT TWO-YEAR SCHOOLS			
NAME [HIGH SCHOOL/COLLEGE]	JC	POS.	YR.
Jordan Scott [Scotts Valley]	Cabrillo	2B/OF	So.
Cedar Morgan [Soquel/SJCC]	Cabrillo	RHP	So.
Scott Masik [Mitty/SJCC]	Cabrillo	OF	So.
Michael Johnston [Santa Cruz]	Cabrillo	RHP	So.
Ryan Navaroli [Santa Cruz/SJCC]	Gavlian	N/A	So.
Brandon Brautovich [MVC]	MPC	P	So.
Charlie McClung [MVC]	MPC	C	So.
Ryan Moyano [MVC]	MPC	Inf.	So.
Nico Vargas [Watsonville]	Skyline	Inf.	So.
Dylan Evans [Aptos]	Cabrillo	RHP	Fr.
Kevin Hatch [SLV]	Cabrillo	1B	Fr.
Jake Bergman [Scotts Valley]	Cabrillo	OF/C	Fr.
Shane Carle [Scotts Valley]	Cabrillo	RHP	Fr.
Joe Davis [Aptos]	Cabrillo	OF/1B	Fr.
Ryan Genovese [Scotts Valley]	Cabrillo	RHP	Fr.
TJ Howton [Soquel]	Cabrillo	OF	Fr.
Chris Levy [SV/Ohlone]	Cabrillo	RHP	Fr.
Willy Potter [St. Francis]	Cabrillo	LHP	Fr.
Zach Settles [SLV]	Cabrillo	LHP/1B	Fr.
Jordan Toccalino [Scotts Valley]	Cabrillo	1B/DH	Fr.
Taylor Toccalino [Scotts Valley]	Cabrillo	RHP	Fr.
Chris Freeman [Santa Cruz]	De Anza	C	Fr.

"With the field cut short and the big gaps, that plays to our team speed," Kittle said. "We need to maximize our chances. I think we're going to score runs."

Davis provides some pop to a lineup that features seven players who ran a timed 60-yard dash in less than 7 seconds, including fast man Jason Shepardson, an outfielder and pitcher.

"That's smoking," Kittle said.

Masik and Michael Gerlach [Carmel], a Cal-Hi Sports' Small School All-State first-team pick in '09, highlight the outfield and shortstop Matt Horton [Los Gatos] and third baseman Justin Schlie [San Benito] are infield standouts.

According to Carle, "We have the guys to get into the playoffs."