

Jeremy Dillingham sports the pink Cabrillo College baseball cap supporting breast cancer awareness and a pre-game smile Saturday.

BILL LOVEJOY/SENTINEL



# Cabrillo baseball feeling in the pink

Seahawks shred Redwoods in their home opener to improve to 6-0

By JIM SEIMAS

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### COLLEGE BASEBALL

APTOS — Sunbathing fans showed up in droves to see a piece of perfection Saturday at Cabrillo College's baseball diamond.

The Seahawks, one of 13 unbeaten teams in the state entering play Saturday, cruised to a 7-2 nonconference win over Redwoods of Eureka to match last season's win total just six games into the season.

Unranked Cabrillo, which has six wins and no losses just eight days into the season, went

6-30 in 2010, coach Bob Kittle's first season.

The Seahawks entered play this season with a revamped roster that boasted a deeper pitching rotation, improved defense and an offense predicated upon making contact and team speed.

Though the Seahawks have faced just one ranked opponent — Santa Barbara, No. 10 in SoCal — they believe they've done enough to open future opponents' eyes.

"They better be scared, because we're com-

ing out to play ball," said Mike Gerlach, Cabrillo's center fielder. "We play hard. We just have to be sure to capitalize on all opportunities possible."

Cabrillo did that in the first inning, when it jumped to a 2-0 lead, and again in the third, when Gerlach smacked a two-run double to score Joe Davis and Jake Ohmann.

Anthony Austin added an RBI single in the Seahawks' four-run third. He finished with two RBIs.

SEE CABRILLO ON C2

## CABRILLO

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Cabrillo added a run in the fifth to build a seven-run lead.

Taylor Toccalino, a Scotts Valley High alum who was named co-MVP of the Santa Cruz Coast Athletic League with teammate Shane Carle,



### TUESDAY'S GAME:

Modesto Community College at Cabrillo  
TIME: 2 p.m.

threw four scoreless innings for the win. He struck out four batters and allowed one hit — to Stephen Nessler in the fourth.

Cabrillo worked four pitchers in the game — Toccalino, Josh Rodriguez, Chris Levy and Leo Fuentes.

It was the second loss of the day for the Corsairs [2-3], who suffered a 14-3 drubbing by host Monterey Peninsula earlier in the day.

"It's been a long weekend," said DJ Hancock, second baseman for the Corsairs.

Redwoods also lost 16-0 to Monterey Peninsula [3-0] on Friday.

"We've got a bunch of young guys," said Hancock, noting the team lost six players to grades and has just three sophomores. "This was



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Cabrillo's Tony Austin has the safe call after the College of the Redwoods second baseman muffed the throw on Austin's steal attempt. Cabrillo won 7-2 to move to 6-0 on the season.

**'I'll be upset if we don't get to the playoffs and compete for the state title.'**

BOB KITTLE, Cabrillo's head coach

our first long road trip. We just weren't ready to play. We got down early in all three of our games this weekend."

Cabrillo stayed aggressive on the base paths after jumping ahead. It stole three bases — making the team 28 of 31 on attempts thus far — and had several successful hit-and-run plays.

Kittle said he isn't surprised his scrappy bunch of players has gotten off to a hot start.

"I'll be upset if we don't get to the playoffs and compete for a state title," he said. "I can care less about last year. We should be doing this because we've got good players."

Cabrillo players wore pink and black hats in the team's Breast Cancer Awareness game. After the game, the hats were sold in a silent auction. The team raised \$1,087, which will be donated to Soquel's WomenCARE, which provides free cancer advocacy, resources, education and support to women.