

SPORTS

SPORTS ROUNDUP | C3

BONDS' JURY KEEPS DELIBERATION QUIET

INSIDE C
THIS SECTION

Local Roundup	C2
Local/TV schedule	C2
Sports Roundup	C3
Scoreboard	C3
Warriors	C6

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COLLEGE BASEBALL: WEST VALLEY 4, CABRILLO 3

Cabrillo drops crucial game

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APTOS — For much of the final three innings, Cabrillo College shortstop Matt Horton took an ugly, green sequin-covered hat and rubbed it against teammates before they stepped to home plate.

The Seahawks' good luck charm didn't pay dividends. Cabrillo stranded runners in scoring position in four of the final five innings and suffered a 4-3 loss to visiting West Valley in a crucial Coast Conference cross-division game Tuesday.

SEE CABRILLO ON C6



SHMUEL THALER/SENTINEL

Cabrillo College catcher Jake Ohmann tags out West Valley's Kevin Fontana in a play at the plate on Tuesday.

CABRILLO

Continued from C1

Cabrillo [18-11, 10-7] entered the game clinging to second place in the Pacific Division, which will likely garner a postseason berth at the conclusion of the regular season. The postseason fate of the third-place finisher will likely be at the mercy of the seeding committee.

Coincidentally, Horton suffered a stroke of bad luck in the seventh inning. Teammate Scott Masik hit a one-out single and advanced to third on a two-base throwing error that allowed Kevin Hatch to score. With the infield play in, Horton lined out to diving second baseman Scott Flury in a highlight-reel play.

The next batter, Michael Gerlach, struck out to end the threat.

"We need every game right now," said the Seahawks' Jakob Ohmann, who finished 2-for-3 with a double and two RBIs. "This is a tough loss. We gave the game away. We left too many stranded, I guess. We're going to have to bounce back in practice today."

The Seahawks have seven games remaining, including a home game Thursday against defending state champion Ohlone [14-12, 9-6] at 2:30 p.m. and an away game Saturday against Monterey Peninsula College [15-12, 6-9] at 1 p.m.

"They're all equally important," Seahawks coach Bob Kittle said of the remaining games and the possibility of making the playoffs. "We need to keep our eyes on the next

'Josh [Rodriguez] came in and pretty much shut them down. We just didn't do it offensively.'

JAKOB OHMANN, on closing pitcher's effort against West Valley

game."

Cabrillo sophomore Cedar Morgan will take the mound Thursday and freshman Taylor Toccalino will throw Saturday.

Seahawks starting pitcher Shane Carle had a subpar outing against West Valley and was pulled in the fourth inning with his team trailing 3-0. Two of the runs were unearned.

"He was just off," Kittle said. "He hasn't looked that way all year. He couldn't command his stuff. There are some pretty good players on that team. Good players punish 2-0

[pitches] at this level. And he was 2-0 a lot."

Vikings leadoff hitter Brett Hall scored two of those runs and finished 2-for-4 with a walk and two stolen bases.

"We found a way to get runs when we needed them," Hall said. "We played a lot better than we have in recent games. We just haven't been able to put it all together. Today we did. It was a great team win."

Josh Rodriguez came on in relief for the Seahawks and allowed one run in 5½ innings.

"Josh came in and pretty much

shut them down," Ohmann said. "We just didn't do it offensively."

Gerlach went 2-for-4 with a double and scored twice. Justin Schlie also had two hits for the Seahawks.

Cabrillo stranded eight runners total, including six from the fifth to eighth inning.

West Valley starter Houston Hibberd went six innings for the win. Ryan Williams went two innings for his sixth save.

The 6-foot-4 Williams pitched a 1-2-3 ninth. In that frame, he made a put-out, jumping to field a high chopper up the middle and narrowly throwing out the speedy Masik, who dove into first base.

"Houston was lights out and we got some big plays from our closer," Hall said. "If he wasn't 6-4, I think Masik would've been safe."