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WEDNESDAY APRIL 20, 2011

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JUNIOR COLLEGE BASEBALL

Seahawks cook up win over Skyline

Watsonville alum Vargas hits homer for Trojans, but Cabrillo retakes 2nd place in division

By **JIM SEIMAS**

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APTOS — Keeping in theme with Easter this weekend, Cabrillo College baseball coach Bob Kittle made a wisecrack to cut the tension in his dugout during the seventh inning of a scoreless game against visiting Skyline on Tuesday.

"Wow, that's a lot of zeroes!" Kittle said after looking at the scoreboard. "No more Easter eggs. I want my eggs scrambled."

The Seahawks gave him a victory — sunny side up. They rallied with four runs in the seventh with two outs and held on for a crucial 4-1 win in Coast Conference play.

With the win, the Seahawks [20-12 overall, 12-8 Coast Conference-Pacific Division] leapfrogged Skyline [16-16, 12-9] to land back in second place in the division with four games remaining in the regular season. Canada [18-11, 12-7] is in first.

Cabrillo plays Mission in Santa Clara on Thursday and at Hartnell in Salinas on Friday. Both games start at 2:30 p.m.

"It was a huge game," said middle reliev-



**CABRILLO 4,
SKYLINE 1**

**THURSDAY'S
GAME:** Cabrillo
at Mission

TIME: 2:30 p.m.

er Josh Rodriguez, who threw two innings after he replaced starter Shane Carle in the seventh. "I knew we had a chance to stay in the game and that our team would come around. We just had to make adjustments. It just took a little longer than usual."

Cabrillo had a tough time solving Trojans starter Bob Hurst, who allowed just two hits through six innings. Hurst, who finished with nine strikeouts, recorded the first two outs of the seventh.

Then, Cabrillo cracked him.

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SEAHAWKS

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Anthony Garcia drew a walk, leadoff hitter Scott Masik beat out an infield single and Matt Horton followed with a two-run triple down the right-field line with two strikes against him.

"When I was running down the line, I was saying, 'Please drop, drop, drop.' It finally did, so I kept going," Horton said.

Michael Gerlach and Jakob Ohmann added RBI singles as the Seahawks sent nine batters to the plate.

Cabrillo closer Pat Hennessey came in the ninth and, despite allowing a lead-off home run to Nico Vargas, closed the game out.

It was the first home run

this season in Cabrillo's spacious park — which is 390 feet to center and 335 down the lines. Vargas' shot cleared the right-field fence.

"I was not expecting him to throw it there again," said Vargas, a Watsonville High alum who homered in his last game against Cabrillo in San Bruno.

Vargas, the Santa Cruz Coast Athletic League's 2006 Most Valuable Player, sprinted to first base before realizing the ball had left the yard. He said he did so because he knows how difficult it is to homer in Aptos, especially with the new BBCOR limited-flight bats.

After the game, Skyline's players kept their heads up — just not as high as Cabrillo's players.

"We still have three big games coming up," said Var-

gas, a first baseman. "We gotta get some wins. The top four teams are kinda beating up on each other right now."

Kittle praised his team's pitching and clutch hitting in the post-game huddle.

"Two-out RBIs are what win games," said Kittle, who previously coached at Santa Cruz High. "But you can't count on them. Today, we needed them. Our guys did a great job staying with it. That's the great thing about college baseball — it's nine innings. If this was high school, we'd be done after seven."

Cabrillo's players didn't stress out, Horton said.

"Once we start like that, we tend to tighten up," he said. "But Kittle does a great job trying to get us to have fun playing the game. And that's when we're at our best."