

JUNIOR COLLEGE BASEBALL



DAN COYRO/SENTINEL PHOTOS

Cabrillo College pitcher Cedar Morgan sports his game face as he throws against a Canada batter in the teams' conference finale Thursday.

# Seahawks headed to postseason

Cabrillo ties for second in conference with win

By JIM SEIMAS

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APTOS — You could say the Cabrillo College baseball team came through in a pinch.

Pinch runner Jake Bergman and pinch hitter Jason Shepardson teamed up to produce the game-winning run in the bottom of the ninth, as the Seahawks rallied twice from deficits before beating defending conference champion Canada 8-7 in the teams' regular-season finale.

Shepardson hit a sacrifice fly with

the bases loaded and one out, driving home the speedy Bergman from third base.



**CABRILLO 8,  
CANADA 7**

**UP NEXT:**  
NorCal playoffs  
seeding Sunday

The Seahawks flowed from the dugout to create two mini dogpiles — one at home plate and another near the pitcher's mound. They had plenty to celebrate after the see-saw victory. Foremost among them: their first postseason appearance since 2001.

"That was a rush," Bergman said. "I'm just glad I got to contribute."

Cabrillo will find out its NorCal playoffs fate Sunday.

SEE SEAHAWKS ON C10



Canada College's Allen Stiles is tagged out by Cabrillo College catcher Jakob Ohmann on Thursday as Stiles tried to score from second base on a base hit.



DAN COYRO/SENTINEL

Cabrillo College's Justin Schlie smacks a single against Canada on Thursday.

## SEAHAWKS

Continued from C1

Postseason play begins next weekend.

It took everyone on Cabrillo's bench to make the victory a reality.

Cabrillo entered play Thursday needing a win — combined with an Ohlone loss to Skyline — to create a three-way tie for the Coast Conference Pacific Division title with Ohlone and Canada. The Seahawks [23-13 overall, 15-9] did everything within their control, but the Trojans were unable to upset defending state champion Ohlone, falling 10-3.

Champion Ohlone [21-15] enters NorCals with a 16-8 mark in conference after being swept in three games by Cabrillo.

Canada [21-13, 15-9] and Cabrillo tied for second place.

"Second place is better than third place," Seahawks third baseman Justin Schlie said. "Yeah, first place was on the line, but we're not too worried about it. We swept Ohlone. We know we're the best team in conference."

After the players celebrated, fans came onto the field to take a team photo of the Seahawks. Most of the players had their index fingers extended before a few hesitated, unsure of their final placing.

"We're No. 1?" asked a player.

"No, we're No. 2," others clarified.

"Yeah, we're No. 2," several players blurted, as the whole group held up two fingers, flashing ear-to-ear grins.

Because Ohlone secured the title,

it was one of those games where heart and effort meant more than the final score. Heading home with a postseason berth in their pockets, Canada players held their heads high after the contest.

"We played our hearts out the whole time," Colts outfielder Allen Stiles said. "We're a little [mad] we brought ourselves to this point. We had the conference lead pretty much all season. But it was a good game. It was a playoff atmosphere. Our hearts were pounding and this is the loudest we've been all year."

Cabrillo starter Cedar Morgan threw five innings, allowing Canada to take a 2-0 lead in the fourth.

Cabrillo's offense produced a three-run outburst in the fourth and added a monster two-out rally in the seventh, when it scored four times. The Seahawks led 7-6 entering

the eighth, getting struggling middle reliever Josh Rodriguez off the hook for the loss.

But Rodriguez allowed a solo home run to Christopher Pile — just the second home run this season at Cabrillo's spacious park — in the eighth to tie the score.

The wind-aided ball cleared the 385-foot mark in left centerfield.

"[The wind is] like this twice a year," Seahawks coach Bob Kittle said, noting Rodriguez is one of the top pitchers on the team. "He just left the ball up a little today. But he's the reason we're in this spot. Without him, we wouldn't be going to the playoffs. He's been great every time we've gone to him the year. And we're going to him again in the playoffs."

Cabrillo closer Pat Hennessey wound up getting the win.