

DELTA BUMPS CABRILLO FROM PLAYOFFS

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JUNIOR COLLEGE REGIONALS

Delta ousts Cabrillo from playoffs

By MARK GODI

Stockton Record correspondent

STOCKTON — An unlikely home run changed the momentum of Saturday's playoff game.

The No. 13 seed Cabrillo College baseball team was in control of Game 2 of the California Community College Athletics Association Northern Regional championships until Ricky Acosta came to bat in the sixth inning.

Acosta got just the second hit for No. 4 seed Delta College for a solo home run that sparked the Mustangs to a 5-2 victory at Nick Cecchetti Field.

The shot was the sophomore shortstop's first career homer and cut the Seahawks' lead to 2-1. Delta broke the game open an inning later.

Delta advances to the four-team Super Regional championships Friday through Sunday at Cecchetti Field.

"I was sitting on a fastball," Acosta said. "I decided that if it was inside I was going to turn on and that's exactly what happened."

Acosta, at 5-foot-9, 155-pounds, swung at the first pitch of the inning and put it just over the right field fence.

Cabrillo starter Taylor Toccalino exited one batter later after a single by Josh Grijalva, with Acosta finishing 1 for 4.

Josh Rodriguez spelled Toccalino and stranded Delta [28-10] with the bases loaded, before being stuck with the loss in the seventh inning. Grijalva went 2-for-5 and put the Mustangs up 3-2 by driving in two runs on a

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BOB KITTLE, Cabrillo coach

double to the left field corner.

Andy Scott and Tyler Shepherd also drove in runs during the inning, as Shepherd finished with a double and two walks. Rodriguez went 1½ innings and allowed four runs on five hits.

"I felt like our guys really gave us some chances to win today," Cabrillo coach Bob Kittle said. "We had that one inning where we left some balls up in the zone and they hit it."

The Seahawks [23-15] — making their first postseason appearance since 2001 — scored their runs in the third inning when Mike Gerlach doubled in Matt Horton, who also had a double. Gerlach later scored on a wild pitch and was 1-for-4.

Delta starter Kyle Hassna pitched out of jams in all but one of his six inning and got the win by allowing two runs on six hits.

"We showed a lot of heart and battled today," Peters said. "We just kept giving ourselves opportunities and finally cashed in."