Cabrillo on outside looking in after loss

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AFTERS — A giant pile of yellow jerseys and pant legs crumbled to the ground just behind the pitcher’s mound Thursday afternoon. One by one, Canada College players emerged from the dugout wearing either an ear lobe相似 sheer or screaming in joy.

Cabrillo — in a role reversal from last season

GAME 1: CABRILLO 6, CANADA 2
GAME 2: CANADA 5, CABRILLO 4

— was left to watch this time in dismay.

The Seahawks blew scoring opportunities throughout the day in an emotional, see-saw affair. They stranded eight runners on base.

SEE CABRILLO ON B3

Cabrillo pitcher Shane Carle throws a pitch against Canada in the second game of a doubleheader at home Thursday.

CABRILLO

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leaving the bases loaded in the eighth inning, and after going 1-2-3 in the ninth, suffered a 5-4 loss to the Colts that may keep them out of postseason play.

It was the regular-season finale for both teams.

They’re a good team, we’re a good team,” Seahawks first baseman Eric Vegas said. “We knew it would come down to the last pitch.”

Canada finishes 22-11 overall, 14-4 in the Coast Conference Pacific Division. The Redwood City school takes second place behind champion Oiseone — 28-10, 20-4 — and earns an automatic berth to the Northern California playoffs, which begin next week.

Cabrillo is hoping for one of four at-large berths available. If it gets one, it will likely host a playoff game Tuesday. The Seahawks will learn their fate Sunday from coach Bob Kittle.

Playoff seedings will also be announced Sunday on ccba.com.

Kittle wasn’t so upset about the later innings as he was the middle innings.

“In the third and fourth, we had chances to expand our lead and didn’t,” he said. “They played better than us. We had a lot of opportunities to win on defense, opportunities to win on offense and pitching. We gave ourselves plenty of opportunities.”

Earlier Thursday, Cabrillo reliever Mike Nelson threw three solid innings to secure the Seahawks’ 8-2 win over Canada to complete a post-season game. With that win, the teams were temporarily tied for second place in conference play with the winner of this doubleheader remaining.

Cabrillo wasted little time establishing momentum in the first game. It scored three runs with two outs in the first inning. After Jorge Sanchez and Kevin Hatch reached on singles, Vegas hit a RBI double and Kevin Rojofollowed with a two-run double.

The Seahawks added another run in the second to make it 4-0, but the Colts chipped away at Cabrillo’s lead by scoring two runs in the fourth and a run in the sixth against ace Shane Carle.

Canada took the lead for good in the eighth, when Eren Alaralval hit a leadoff double down the right-field line off reliever Nick Rosetta and scored on Nick McHugh’s infield single with two outs.

“It feels great,” Alaralval said. “It’s been an up-and-down year this season. This week we knew it would come down to this. It always comes down to this game. Last year it was the same situation. Unfortunately, we lost that game. But we got it this time.”

Cabrillo catcher Sergio Sanchez shows the umpire the ball after tagging out a Canada baserunner at home in the second game of a doubleheader at home Wednesday.

The Seahawks are 29-10 overall, 21-5 in the conference, and will find out their playoff fate Sunday.

Sanchez popped out to the shortstop to end the game — and perhaps the season.

He was throwing a lot of off-speed pitches,” Sanchez said of the quick ninth. “They were strikes. It’s not like we were swinging at bad pitches.”

Labbie said he took into account that Cabrillo is an excellent fastball-hitting team, and a good-hitting team in general. Plus, he felt drained in with his off-speed stuff.

Yeah, I was nervous, but we’ve been doing it all year,” Labbie said, crediting a slider that he estimated threw him 14 times in his 20 pitches. “These guys keep fighting. They did all year. We were down 5-0 today and came back. So I wanted to do it for them. We’re like family. My slider was really working. It was on today.”

Cabrillo finished with 10 hits. Vegas and Rojo each had a pair of doubles and Miguel Corral also had two hits.

Corral also had an outfield assist on defense, gunning down Peter Woodall at home plate after he tried to score from second on McHugh’s single in the fourth.

“It’s a hard loss,” Corral said. “I feel like we could’ve done something more.”