Cabrillo wins play-in game
Seahawks advance to play San Mateo on Saturday

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APTOS — The Cabrillo College baseball team will march on into the weekend.

The Seahawks never trailed as they defeated Los Medanos 5-1 in one of the two CCCAA Northern California play-in games on Tuesday afternoon.

With the win, Cabrillo will face the College of San Mateo on Saturday in Game 1 of a three-game series.

“We had a good scouting report on them, and our guys did a good job sticking to the approach,” Cabrillo coach Bob Kittle said of Los Medanos.

Josh Rodriguez pitched into the eighth inning and allowed just a run on seven hits while striking out three.

He was given run support right away.

Kevin Hatch hit a two-out triple after an eight-pitch at-bat, and Sergio Sanchez singled him home to give Cabrillo a 1-0 lead.

Rodriguez made it stick, as he allowed two base runners in the next four innings. He left one pitch up in the fourth inning, and Luna hit a two-out double to the fence. Rodriguez came back with a strikeout to end the inning.

Cabrillo extended its lead in the fifth inning. With one out, Matt Horton laced a liner to third that was ruled an error. After a grounder, Hatch smoked a triple to centerfield, his second of the day, to bring home Horton and give Cabrillo a 2-0 advantage.

Two pitches later, Sanchez singled home Horton for Cabrillo’s third run.

Online
Pictures from Tuesday’s game can be found at register-pajaronian.com.

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Eric Vegas then took a 1-2 pitch to the left-field corner, and Sanchez raced home for a 4-0 Cabrillo lead.

Rodriguez was in a groove, and Los Medanos’ hitters were unable to catch up for most of the afternoon. In a two-inning stretch, he threw just 12 pitches, as the Mustangs tried their best to attack early.

“It’s happened a lot where I get in a groove and they jump in early,” Rodriguez said. “It’ll take quick outs. They’re a pitcher’s best friend.”

Los Medanos finally got to Rodriguez in the eighth. Logan McMahon walked to start the inning. Anthony Nicolosi then hit a double-play ball that wasn’t a double play because, although McMahon was out on the force play at second, the Cabrillo infielders committed two errors, allowing Nicolosi to get to third base.

Cody Stephens reached on a fielder’s choice, and Kelly Starnes hit an RBI single to get Los Medanos on the board at 5-1.

Julian Garcia came in and relieved Rodriguez. Three pitches later, Cabrillo got an inning-ending double play; the Cabrillo faithful roared in approval.

Mike Murano allowed a single and a walk but that was it in the ninth.

Four of Cabrillo’s runs scored with two outs in an inning.

“Our whole season we’ve been good with two outs,” Kittle said. “I wish we’d do it with less than two outs, but it’s alright.”

Rodriguez said the team should be able to carry the momentum into Saturday’s contest in San Mateo.

He said it was cool to pitch a day after being named an all-Coast Conference player, but there’s more to be done.

“The ultimate goal is the state title,” he said.