Clark does it all for Cabrillo softball

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To say that San Lorenzo Valley High alum Sierra Clark had a good season would be an understatement.

The sophomore wrapped up the regular season on top of every stat possible for Cabrillo College and helped lead the softball team to its first Coast Conference South Division title in more than 30 years.

"Sierra is an impact player, there is no doubt about it," Cabrillo coach Kristy Ballinger said. "Not only does she hit, but she can play anywhere. She has a lot of speed as well, which I think surprises a lot of people. She has led this team to many victories, not only because she is an excellent player but because she refuses to lose and has built that thought process into her teammates.

"She is a vocal leader and is not scared to tell her teammates to pick it up when they are down. She is able to take criticism from her coaches when we tell her she needs to pick it up."

Clark is ranked first on Cabrillo with a batting average of .540, a slugging percentage of .919, with 67 hits, five triples, nine home runs and 61 RBIs. She also appeared in 26 games on the mound this season for the Seahawks and finished with a 17–4 record and

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a 1.87 ERA with 95 strikeouts and 17 complete games — three of them shutouts.

"She has had consistent numbers both at the plate and on the mound all season," Ballinger said. "Sierra experienced a small rough patch in the middle of the season when her bat went cold. But with her incredible desire to succeed, she pulled herself right out of it in a matter of only three games."

Before the season started, Ballinger and pitching coach Janelle Rosa worked with Clark to improve on some mechanics in her game and it's paid off.

"For as much power that Sierra has, there is no way she should have only had two home runs last year," Ballinger said. "We worked hard to improve in that area and this year she has nine home runs. We have been able to improve her game on the inside pitch."

"Rosa has worked extremely hard with her in getting the correct rotation on the ball and hitting her spots because when she can do this she makes it very hard for our opponents."

Here is how other former Santa Cruz County high school athletes fared last week at the collegiate level:

BASEBALL
- Zach Settles, Cabrillo sophomore pitcher (SLV): is now 6–2 on the mound in a 7–5 win over Canada last week. He went seven innings and gave up five runs on six hits, including two strikeouts.
- Michael Gerlach, San Jose State senior infielder (Cabrillo): went 2-for-5 with an RBI and two runs scored in a 7–1 win over Seattle on Saturday.