CABRILLO COLLEGE BASEBALL

BACK-TO-BACK

Connor Havstad slides safely into home plate to put Cabrillo up 3-1 in the sixth inning against Ohlone College on Saturday afternoon.

Cabrillo wins at least share of conference title, goes for outright today

By JUAN REYES

FREMONT — Nat Hamby was near perfect for the Cabrillo College baseball team on Saturday afternoon after pitching a complete game 4-1 win over Ohlone College.

Hamby improved his record to 8-2 this season after only giving up one run — none earned — and struck out 10 batters, giving him 61 strikeouts for the Seahawks this season.

“I just go up and I know I have seven guys behind me that are going to field the ball,” Hamby said. “I know I have a catcher who’s going to help me out with my pitches. I know that everything is going to go the way it should. I’ve been doing this all year. It’s confidence, that’s all it is.”

Cabrillo hit 0-for-4 but contributed two RBIs on two sacrifice fly-outs and Nazereth Thibeudeau hit his first home run of the year, which gave the Seahawks an insurance run in the seventh inning for the conference clinching victory.

“Nat’s been the best pitcher in Northern California this year,” said Head Coach Bob Kittle. “We’ve been doing well as our guys have been ex-

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CABRILLOomboffensively. We did that today and that’s what won the game.”

With the win, Cabrillo clinched at least a share of the Coast Conference title and won back-to-back conference titles for the third time in school history.

It also got them into the first round of the California Community College Baseball Playoffs for the 4th consecutive year, a first in school history.

Hamby and Renegades starting pitcher Brady Roeder kept batters in check for the most part until a two-run fourth inning by Cabrillo put the game’s first runs of the on scoreboard.

Connor Havstad started the fourth with a walk and then scored from third base to make it 1-0 when Filiham popped up for the sacrifice fly. Tyler Silva scored on the very next at-bat when Matthew Valdez got an RBI double to extend the lead by two runs.

Cabrillo added another run in the sixth and again it was Havstad who crossed home plate when Filiham hit his second sacrifice fly of the game. It was also Filiham’s second RBI of the afternoon, which put the Seahawks up 3-0.

Hamby has a no-hitter with seven strikeouts in the first five innings, but was rattled a bit in the sixth, which was started by Jacob D’Thomas when he reached first base on an error by the infield. Jordan Meier and Josh Ro-

man then each got a base hit to load the bases. Shortly after D’Thomas scored when Justin Chase hit a blooper to right center-field to cut the deficit to 3-1, Hamby was able to finish out the inning and added two

more of his 10 strikeouts.

“The (bad) thing is we made an error that really added pitches on to his in-

ning,” Kittle said. “A couple of bloopers, we were playing a safe defense not to give up a big inning. It was fine, we felt good.”

That would also be as close as the Renegades would get to the Seahawks. Thibeudeau sealed the deal in the seventh inning with his towering home run to left field that made it 4-1.

“I just had a two-out count, I knew he was going to give me something to hit,” said Thibeudeau about his home run. “I was just trying to look for a base hit so we can answer back, but it just happen to keep flying.”

Hamby retired six of the last seven batters this time with the help of the defense forcing five ground and two fly outs, including one more strikeout in the ninth to cap-

ture his third complete game of the season.

“It feels great, it’s a big weight off our shoulders,” said Hamby about clinching a playoff spot and confer-

ence title. “It’s what we’ve been working for but we got a higher goal and we’re go-

ing to keep working towards that.”

The Hawks return to ac-

tion on today at Gardies for an afternoon session at 2:30 PM.