

Acalanes Baseball On A Mission

By Kevin D. Shallat

The Acalanes Dons baseball team had an important first round game in the North Coast Section playoffs Friday, May 26. With a home field advantage, the No. 1-seed Dons beat the Encinal Jets in a combined shutout, 7-0.

The Encinal baseball team tried their best to find the right attack against the Dons on Friday. Starting with small ball play, by hitting soft grounders to the right side to try and advance the runners into scoring position, the Jets soon shifted tactic, going for big home runs as the score widened in the Dons' favor. Fortunately for the Dons, the Jets never found a happy middle ground, and struggled to find a rhythm throughout the rest of the game.

The star of the game was undoubtedly Acalanes starting pitcher Mike Guglielmo. "Mike's been our gritty competitor all year long. He's fearless," Acalanes Head Coach Andy Tarpley said. Guglielmo pitched six strong innings of shutout ball, giving up only three hits in the process. "The thing about Mike is that he wants the ball in big games. He throws strikes with his fastball and curveball at any time in the count," Tarpley said.

Zach Boyd was the starting pitcher for the Jets. He struggled with his command early in the game. In the second inning he hit the first two batters, paving the way for the Dons' big inning.

After Boyd hit the first two batters, center fielder Dustin Montero hit a grounder to third. The Encinal third baseman was unable to get the force out. This loaded the bases for Acalanes. Shortstop Ben Englehart then lined a single to center to drive in the first two runs of the game. He finished the game going two for three, with a run and two RBI's. Second baseman Joe Wallace then lined a shot into left field, driving in two runs of his own on a double. Third baseman

Jake Floethe, and catcher Mike Stone would also follow with doubles.

With the game well in hand, Acalanes left fielder TC Lee added a long home run to left field in the bottom of the fifth. "It was nice to see TC hit a big bomb," Coach Tarpley said.

In the top of the seventh, Acalanes sent in pitcher Donny Miller to close out the game. Miller did a great job by getting three quick outs to end the contest.

As the North Coast Section playoffs continue, the competition gets tougher. Coach Tarpley explained how his team will use this past game to gather momentum for their next opponent. The Dons will face local rival, No. 5-seeded Campolindo Cougars, at James Logan High School on Saturday, June 2. The exact time is yet to be determined.



Mike Guglielmo throws a shutout, 7-0.

Photo by Tod Fierner



Hitting the long ball

Photo by Tod Fierner

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