



Photo by Jordan Fong

## Mission Accomplished: Acalanes Captures NCS Baseball Title

By Kevin D. Shallat

The Acalanes Dons' baseball team made it all the way to the championship game of the North Coast Section (NCS) playoffs, facing off against the Albany Cougars on Saturday, June 2, at James Logan High School in Union City. After losing only one game the entire season, it all came down to this one game for the NCS title. The No. 1 seed Dons completed their mission by beating the Cougars handedly, 16-3.

Although Albany had just scored eight runs against St. Mary's, and 16 runs against Piedmont in the previous NCS rounds, the Dons' starting pitcher Mike Guglielmo pitched a terrific game Saturday, holding the Cougars to zero runs scored through five innings. Guglielmo's catcher, Mike Stone, said they tried to establish the breaking balls first.

While Guglielmo established his curveball and had excellent command of his fastball as well, the standout player in this title game was catcher Mike Stone. Stone did more than just call a great game behind the plate. While helping Guglielmo post five shutout innings, Stone managed to record eight RBIs – four of which came off his mammoth grand slam in the top of the second inning, which went over the fence in left field and caromed off the light pole and back onto the field.

"It was definitely an adrenaline rush," said Stone, who was looking for, and expected a fastball all the way. When the fastball came, he did not

miss it.

Other players that stood out for Acalanes in this 17 hit, 16 run gauntlet included shortstop Ben Englehart, who reached base all five times he came to the plate and went one for three, with three runs and one RBI, and right fielder James Mathew, who went two for three, with a walk, three runs, and two RBIs.

Second baseman Joe Wallace went two for five, was hit by a pitch, and scored four runs. Wallace also accomplished something not many people ever do: He won an NCS title in basketball as well as baseball. "It was awesome to be a part of both championships," Wallace said. He was also quick to show his appreciation for his coaches. "It feels good to get it done for our coaches, because they put in a lot of work for us all year."

The happiest man on the field after the game was undoubtedly Acalanes coach Andy Tarpley. That is until Scott Emery and the rest of the team poured a bucket of ice water on him in celebration.

Tarpley said that he was "ecstatic" for the players and for the whole program. "I'm just proud of the fact that these players can look back on this, not just as an experience, but as a positive experience," Tarpley said. "They set out to achieve their goals, and they did. They achieved their destiny."

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