

A's Remain Undefeated in Orinda Pinto League Play

Submitted by Frank M. Tse

It was hard to chose what was more dramatic, the 14-run rally mounted by the Orinda Pinto Dodgers to take a one-run lead into the sixth inning, or the game-winning triple by Will Cassriel in the seventh inning that knocked in Chase Callister for the victory.

Or perhaps it was the nail-biting bottom of the sixth, when consecutive singles by Derrick Garcia and Zacary Weiner set up Tommy Brovelli's clutch game-tying RBI for the A's. But with the winning score on third, a leaping catch by Dodger third baseman Jason Fernbacher robbed A's Ben Mollahan of a game-winning RBI.

The A's prevailed in extra-innings 24-23 to remain undefeated in the Orinda Pinto League play, with a 7-0 record. The Dodgers fell to 2-5. But based on this game, the second half of the season remains wide open.

"Our players showed incredible composure against the league's top team," said Dodger manager Brent Bates. "It was exciting to see the Dodgers keep their focus when they were behind most of the game," added Dodger coach John Knox.

Like other games this season,



A's Chase Callister runs in for the game-winning score as Dodger Jason Fernbacher watches on
Photo submitted

the A's initially poured on the offense with Cassriel leading the way with a two-run homer and grand slam. Lead-off hitter Ben Mollahan, Callister and Garcia each scored three runs apiece. Clean-up hitter Stephen Tse added four hits and two runs.

But the game turned in the fifth inning, with the Dodgers trailing 20-9. Full of confidence and chanting their teammates on, the Dodgers strung together seven consecutive hits in the fifth, and eight consecutive hits in the sixth inning

to take a one-run lead.

After tying the score to put the game into extra innings, the A's defense tightened up and retired the Dodgers 1-2-3 in the top of the seventh. That set up Cassriel for one last blast, which brought the game to a thrilling end.

"The Dodgers and A's played outstanding baseball today," said A's manager Steve Cassriel. "A see-saw game like this is a terrific growing opportunity for both teams," he added, referring to numerous clutch hits and defensive stops.