



Safe at first after pick off attempt by Wirth Photo Gavin Schlissel

Cougars Head to Third Round Following Victory Over Mats

By Steven Johns

On Saturday, May 24 the Campolindo Cougars hosted the Miramonte Matadors in the second round of the NCS Championships.

After splitting the regular season series with the Matadors 1-1, the Cougars were able to beat Miramonte 6-2 in their most important meeting.

Unable to throw their ace, the Matadors sent out John Vacarro to face the Campolindo offense. The Cougars got to Vacarro quickly with a run in the bottom of the first inning. Lead-off hitter Anthony Fadelli singled to center and moved to second after an error on a pick-off attempt. With one out in the inning Chris Killeen drove in Fadelli with a ground out to the shortstop.

The Cougars added to their lead in the second inning after junior Will Coleman started the rally off with a single. After a line-out senior David Wirth came to the plate. He lifted the ball into the gap in right-center field to put runners on first and second. Senior Sam Gregory followed with another single to make the game 2-0 in favor of the Cougars.

The story of the game was shaky pitching and poor defense.

The Matadors took advantage of these follies in the fourth inning when they built a rally of Wirth. The Matadors began their rally with a single between the third baseman and shortstop. Wirth however then proceeded to walk two batters to load the bases. After retiring the second out of the inning, Wirth seemed to be on his way to strand three runners and escape without allowing a run. Unfortunately for Wirth, third-baseman Tommy Stephens could not handle a ground ball to his left and two runs scored to tie the game at 2-2.

The Cougars got their turn to face bad defense and poor pitching in the bottom of the fourth inning. The big rally for the Cougars came with the help of a walk and two bunt singles.

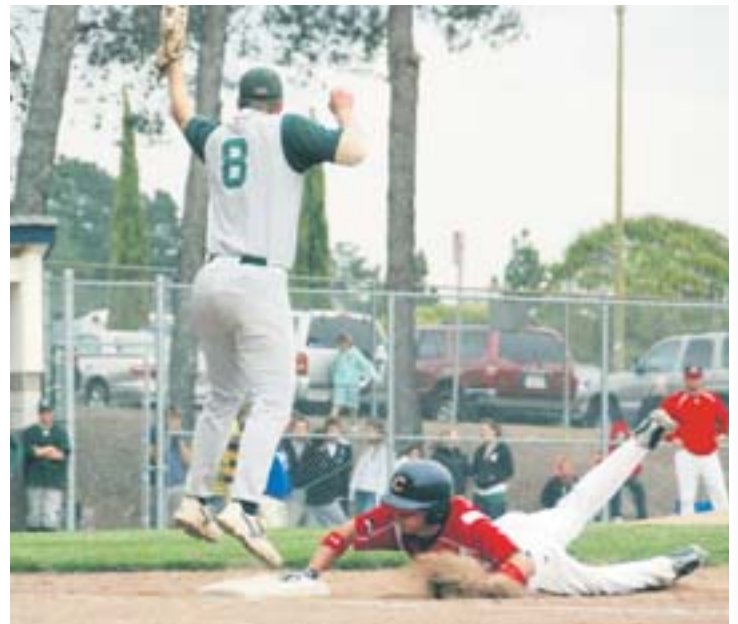
Coleman was forced into a full count but was able to draw the walk to reach first base. Stephens then laid down a bunt, but the third baseman inexplicably let the ball stop, allowing Stephens to reach safely. Wirth then tried to sacrifice the runners over but the third baseman could not throw to first in time and Wirth reached.

Gregory came up with another key hit in the game with the bases loaded. With one strike on him, Gregory drove a deep fly ball into the right-center gap

over the heads of the Miramonte outfielders. Gregory raced around the bases for a stand-up triple. Gregory was then driven in on a single by Fadelli.

The Matadors tried to make a comeback in the seventh, but the Cougars were able to hold on. After giving up a single and two walks, junior Jeff Gold gave up a short fly ball to right field. Sophomore Corbin Chase sprinted in and made a terrific diving catch to save the game.

This victory has sent the Cougars into the third round to face the Cinderella of the playoffs: the Piedmont Highlanders.



Anthony Fadelli safe

Photo Gavin Schlissel