

# Piedmont Eliminates Campolindo from NCS

By Steven Johns

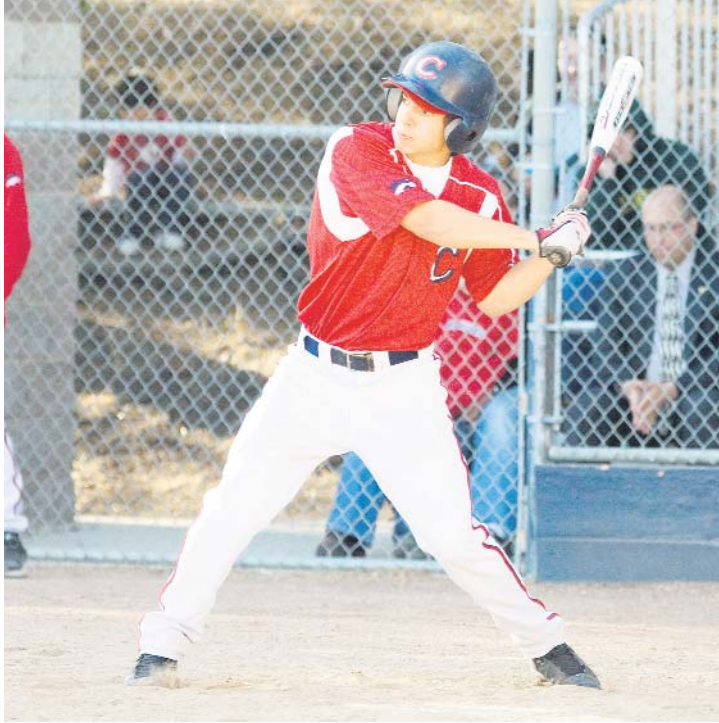


Photo Doug Kohen

After taking a beat down in the NCS soccer final, the Piedmont Highlanders returned the favor to the Campolindo Cougars in the NCS semifinal baseball game.

Dominant pitching and a powerful offense led the 7th seeded Highlanders to a 13-7 thrashing of the Cougars.

The Cougars looked on their way to a win after a good first inning. In the top of the first starter David Wirth quickly retired the Highlanders in order. In the bottom half of the inning the Cougars were able to rally with two outs and take the first lead of the game. Sophomore Corbin Chase started off the rally with a walk and was followed by a single from senior Chris Hilk. Chase was then driven in on a Chris Killeen single to right-center field.

Unfortunately for the Cougars, however, the game went downhill from there.

In the top of the second inning Piedmont took over the game. Alexander Menke started off the inning with a walk and was followed by a fly-out to right field. Then the hit parade started. Lawrence Davis doubled deep into the gap in left-center field, driving in Menke. Trevor McCalmont then drove in Davis to make the game 2-1 in favor of Piedmont. After Steven Deutsch was hit by a pitch, Jeremy George singled to load up the bases. A run quickly scored when Wirth balked. After striking out Alex Steady Wirth faced the number two hitter, Jordan Remer. Remer singled and drove in two runs to make the game 5-1. The big hit came when pitcher Bryce Chu launched a home run well over the left-center field fence.

“We became flat, but we came back” commented Guy Stevens about the home run.

Unfortunately for the Cougars the morale of the team was not going to affect the outcome of the game. Junior Jeff Gold came into the game and gave up six more runs to make the game 13-2.

Campolindo did try to rally in the bottom of the seventh. After a single from senior Tom Wraith, Junior Anthony Fadelli reached on a fielder’s choice. Three singles from Jimmy Hilk, Chase, and Chris Hilk drove in a couple of runs for the Cougars. Two more hits from Sam Gregory and Stevens made the game 13-7. The rally, and season, ended when Tommy Stephens grounded out to second base.

“They hit better than we expected” said Stevens. Wirth also had praise for the Highlanders: “Their pitching was on... hadn’t seen a pitcher throw that well since pre-season.” The outstanding pitching and timely hitting handed the Cougars a loss and an end to the season.

Campolindo finished the season with a 16-9 overall record and an appearance in the NCS semifinals. “I’m proud of the way the team played” stated Wirth, “I’m proud of our season.”

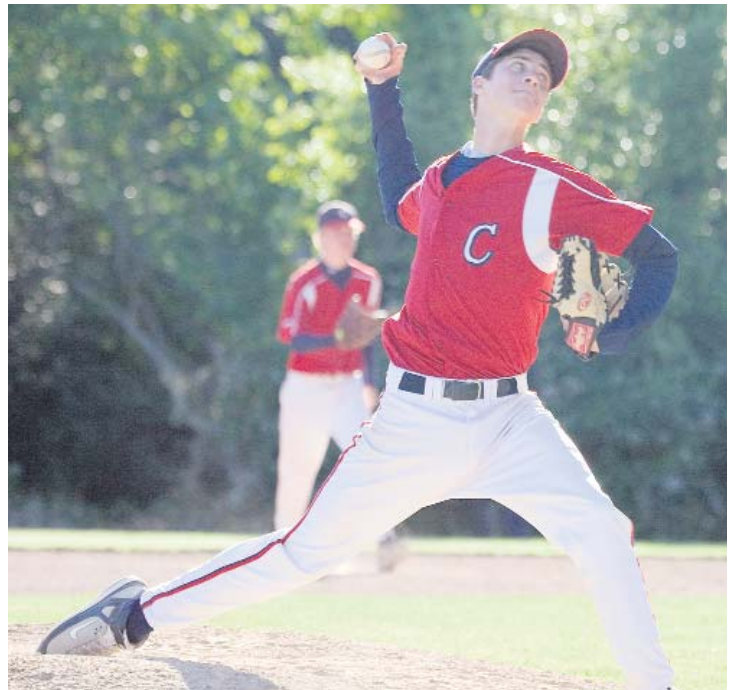


Photo Doug Kohen