



SPORTS

LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

The Greatest of All Sports Rivalries Comes to Life in Moraga

Submitted by Vince Caro



Sitting in front row from Left to Right: Simon Vesely, Grant Bartis, Nicky Erickson, and Scott Zurnacian. Standing in back row from Left to Right: Mark Erickson,(Coach), Matt Zurnacian, Tommy Flynn, Dylan Caro, Jack Hattabaugh, Patrick Ratchford, Parker Duncan, Grady Eglin, and Steve Zurnacian,(Manager)
Photo submitted

Say what you want, Celtics-Lakers, Maple Leafs-Canadiens, Palmer-Nicklaus, none compare to Red Sox-Yankees. When the Moraga Baseball Association's Mustang Division held its championship game on Monday evening, June 9, that storied rivalry came to life as the Yankees met the Red Sox in a thrilling duel.

After the opening festivities that included the introduction of players, and the playing of the National Anthem, "The Mighty Sluggers of Yawkee Way" took no time in putting a run on the board. The Yankees quickly squelched the Red Sox rally, and in the bottom of the first the Yankees channeled "The Bronx Bombers" and batted around the order, gaining

what turned out to be an insurmountable lead.

The Red Sox did not go quietly, and mounted several comeback attempts, but always the outstanding Yankee pitching and defense turned them away before any real damage was done. In the end, Bay Area native Joe DiMaggio smiled down upon his "Pin-Stripe" brethren and Yankees prevailed with a final score of 11-5.

Medallions and trophies were presented, and both teams displayed good sportsmanship as they applauded their competitors. The evening air was delightful, and if you listened very closely, somewhere on the cool breeze was the faint echo of Frank Sinatra crooning "New York, New York".

Orinda Pinto League A's Take Crown

By Frank Tse

Going into Sunday's championship game, the Orinda Pinto League Bombers had momentum on its side. In the span of just five days, the red-hot Bombers knocked out three play-off teams and then beat the undefeated A's 13-12 on Saturday to force a winner-take-all match against the A's.

Yet on Sunday, it was the A's who grabbed momentum by the throat by shifting their defense to a higher gear. "Holding a hot-hitting Bombers team to just one run in the first three innings was a tremendous defensive effort from the A's fielders," said A's manager Steve Cassriel.

In Saturday's loss, the A's allowed 12 runs in the first three innings. The A's cruised to a 14-8 victory to take the Pinto League crown.

"With the pressure of an undefeated season gone, our team played much more focused and relaxed," explained A's coach Scott Mollahan.

A couple of defensive moves also paid dividends for the A's. Will Cassriel moved from his customary

pitcher's assistant position to shortstop, and had a game-high of five assists and two line-drive catches. In the fourth inning, as the Bombers threatened to rally, Stephen Tse made two athletic running catches in the outfield to rob Nikhil Shastri and Max Levy of extra-base hits. Henry Connor handled first base flawlessly as he filled-in for all-star teammate Chase Callister.

In a game highlighted by defense, the A's offensive quietly built a 10-run lead with a balanced attack. Ten A's players scored at least a run, with Ben Mollahan, Derrick Garcia, Zach Weiner and Connor scoring two runs each.

For the Bombers, third baseman Teddy Hoxie scored three runs and made several sensational stops, while leadoff hitter Andrew Schwarz scored two runs.

In Saturday's prelude, A's Asim Khan, Paul Bakshi, Tommy Brovelli and Paul Legellet combined to tie the game at 12-12 in the sixth inning. But on the bottoof of the 6th, Bomber Michael Swinton knocked in Henry Marken for the game winner.



A's celebrate championship win

Photo submitted

Conclusion of Lafayette Little League

By Jack Fernbacher



Ladrech hitting a home run

Photo Doug Kohen



For three months, Lafayette little leaguers perfected their game with one goal in mind: to win the championship in June. In a grueling double-elimination playoff system played at the Buckeye Fields in Lafayette, four different divisions of age groups battled for the number one spot.

In the youngest division, the AAA No. 2 seeded Mets (9-2-1 regular season) faced off against the No. 3 seed Reds (9-4). The Mets got off to a nice start with a lead off home run from slugger Devin Shields.

Daniel Kim aided in the effort on offense driving in two RBIs and the Mets rolled over the Reds 5-2. On the mound in the game were Jason Cornell who struck out six and Paul Griessel who struck out four batters.

In the AAA division, the road to the championship was a difficult task. The Giants (5-4) cruised through the playoffs unscathed with three straight wins. The Giants faced the Pirates (6-3), who were 3-1 in the playoffs coming into the championship game.

"The championship game was between two very evenly matched teams throughout the season," said the Giants skipper Tim Martinho. "The championship game was very well-played on both sides."

In the championship, both teams connected with the ball really well combining for a total of 23 hits in the game. Matthew Barr and Tyler Ewing led the Pirates by both going 2-3 in the game and driving in a run.

The Pirates', managed by Russ Stryker, offense wasn't enough against the relentless Giants who scored 13 runs in the game. The Giants slugger Gavin Thatcher went 2-

3 in the game and had four RBIs.

The Giants closer Trevor Martinho pitched the last two innings in the game and struck out two batters. Martinho held the Pirates to one inning and grabbed the championship for the Giants, winning the game 13-6.

In the Majors division, the game was very close all the way down to the wire. The fourth-seeded Padres (4-4) edged out the No. 2 seeded Pirates (7-1) 4-3 to

win the title.

In the oldest division of the Juniors, the Lafayette A's defeated the Lafayette Rangers.

Overall, the kids had fun and gave it their all in the spring season wrap-up. At the closing ceremonies of the Lafayette Little League, the A's mascot Stomper made an appearance.

The ceremony included a presentation of \$2,950 raised by the Lafayette Little League for ALS.

Moraga Baseball Association

Submitted by Vince Caro

MBA Box Scores for June 7, 9, 10, 2008

Moraga Baseball Association Mustang Division June 7, 2008

Yankees 7, A's 5 - Semi-Final Play-Off Game

Yankees Highlights: Parker Duncan 2-for-3, 2-1B, 3 RBI's; Dylan Caro 1-for-3, 2B, 1 RS; Simon Veseley 1-for-2, 1B, 1 RBI; Nicky Erickson 1-for-2, 1B and 1 RS.

A's Highlights: Griffin Whiting 3-for-3, 2-2B, 3B, 2 RBI's, 2 IP, 6K's; Ricky Lomas 1-for-3, 1B, 2 RBI's.

Moraga Baseball Association Mustang Division June 9, 2008

Yankees 11, Red Sox 5 - Championship Game

Yankees Highlights: Patrick Ratchford 3-for-3, 1B, 2B, HR, 3 IP, 6K's; Matt Zurnacian 2-for-3, 1B, 3B, 2 RBI's, 2 IP, 3 K's; Nicky Erickson 2-for-3 2-2B; Grant Bartis 1-for-3, 2B, 1 RBI; Simon Vesely 1-for-2, 2B, 2 RBI's; Offensive Contributions from: Parker Duncan, Dylan Caro, Grady Eglin, Tommy Flynn all with Base Hits and RBI's.

Red Sox Highlights:

Graham Taylor 2-for-3, 2-1B, 2 RS; Jacob Westphal 1-for-3, 2B, 3 RBI's; Sam Larson 1-for-3, HR, Brendan Gordon 2-for-2, 2-1B, 1 RS; Brett Smith 1-for-2, 1B.

Moraga Baseball Association Pinto Division June 9, 2008

Padres 13, Giants 12

Padres Highlights: Max Grossbard 3-for-3, 3 RS; Harry Curtiss 3-for-3, 3 RS, 2-2B; Donovan Robles 2-for-3, 1 RS, HR.

Giants Highlights: Will Grubbs 4-for-4, 3 RS, 2B, HR; Travis Hartman 4-for-4, 2 RS, 2B; Chad Sonnenschein 4-for-4, 2 RS, 2B.

Moraga Baseball Association Pinto Division June 10, 2008

Cubs 15, Marlins 13 (Play-Off Game)
Cubs Highlights: Michael Crews 3-for-3, 2 RBI; Nick Kronenberg 3-for-3, 2-2B, 3 RS, 2 RBI; Tommy Raftis 3-for-3, 2 RS.
Marlins Highlights: Evan Gabrielson 2-for-3, 2B, 1 RS, 2 RBI's; Matt Ruiter 2-for-3, RBI, 1RS; Carter Whiting 3-for-3, 3B, 1 RS, 3 RBI's.