

SPORTS LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

Little League Teams Battle for Championship

Submitted by Todd Bequette



The Angels celebrate their victory

Photo Andi Kohen

Majors Division, Championship Angels 3 Dodgers 1

The Angels pitchers continued their post season dominance as they gave up only 2 hits and struck out 13 to earn the right to represent Lafayette Little League in the District 4 Tournament of Champions. The Angels jumped out to a 2-0 lead on a single by Tommy Nimura, a double by Max Flower and a two-out double to the fence by Brian Stone. The Dodgers battled back in the fourth, as Jared Finney led off the inning with a single, and Jack Eisner drove him in with a double to right. The Halos got the run back in the bottom of the inning, as Flower singled and then stole 2 bases while Doug Nimura battled through a 12-pitch at bat. Bryan Stone then hit a shallow foul pop fly to left. Greg Genovese raced in and made a sparkling sliding catch, but the speedy Flower scampered home with the final run of the game. Fireballing lefty Grant Young closed out the Dodgers with two innings of hitless relief.

and another RBI single by O'Donnell, but fell just short. The Sox were led on the mound by Matt Clark, Gareth Kwok, Nathan

Tarkoff, and Robby Rowell, while Brian Merken, Will Rembac, Nick Price and Ryan Regan starred on the hill for the Angels.



Photo Andi Kohen

AAA Division, Championship Redsox 4 Angels 3

The AAA Championship series saw the Angels, who had battled through the loser's bracket, take game one, but finally succumb to the Redsox in a nail biter at Buckeye. The Angels opened the scoring in the first on a single by Jules O'Donnell, but the Redsox answered in the second, plating three on doubles by Jerry Liu and Nathan Tarkoff, then adding another in the 5th on an RBI double by Robby Rowell. The Angels battled back with runs in the fifth and sixth on hits by Michael Green, Chase Wheeler



Photo Andi Kohen

Lafayette Little League Angels Win 1st Round at Tournament of Champions


Submitted by Todd Bequette

District 4 Tournament of Champions, Majors Division Lafayette Angels 12 North Oakland Tigers 4

The Angels represented Lafayette Little League well in their first round of the Tournament of Champions. Playing on their home field, the Halos gave the Tigers, champions of North Oakland Little League, a taste of what their Lafayette opponents had

been dealing with all year. The Angels jumped out to a 1-0 lead in the first on singles by Tommy Nimura and Grant Young, only to see the Tigers tie it in the bottom of the inning. The Angels added another in the fourth on a double and eventual steal of home by Max Flower, then extended their lead in the 5th with two unearned runs by the hustling Sean Heiskell and Josh Goodell. The

momentum turned briefly in the fifth, as North Oakland tied it with three in the bottom of the inning, but the Angels broke it open in the sixth. Five straight walks, followed by hits by Andrew McKendell, Grant Young, Flower and Doug Nimura keyed the big inning. Angel hurlers Doug Nimura, Jack Stryker, Max Flower and Cole Gallagher allowed only six hits while walking two.




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Moraga in the Majors

Campolindo graduate playing for Chicago White Sox

By Mikaela Cowles



Aaron Poreda was all smiles at spring training

Photo provided

Moraga's own Aaron Poreda made his Major League Baseball (MLB) debut for the Chicago White Sox on June 12. The 2004 Campolindo High graduate and Diablo Foothill Athletic League's Most Valuable Player was star struck as he emerged from the dugout about three hours before the Sox's faced off against the Tigers. "I can't believe it. I'm living the dream," Poreda said with a smile.

With each advancement of an athlete's career, the pyramid narrows around them and the reality of falling off the steep slope becomes greater. Signing with the University of San Francisco, Poreda began

to face better talent, yet he still posted an impressive sub 3.00 ERA in all three seasons he spent with the Dons.

In 2007, at the end of the Poreda's junior season, he entered the MLB draft. The Chicago White Sox's drafted him in the first round as the 25th pick, and he became the second player in Campolindo High School history to play professional baseball.

In making the jump to the minor leagues at 20 years old, many athletes experience a decline in their performance. Poreda was up to the challenge. He earned a 4-0 record with a 1.17 ERA in his rookie sea-

son while walking only 10.

Moving between high A-ball and AA Birmingham, he posted a 2.69 ERA in 201 innings for the duration of the minor league season.

Poreda continually pitched a fastball in the 90 mph range during 2009 Spring Training, making the lefty one of the White Sox's top prospects. However, still in need of work on his slider and change-up, he began the season in the minors. Poreda's hard work improved his off speed pitches. With this addition to his arsenal, he became a powerful threat.

When Bartolo Colon was put on injured reserve, Poreda had his chance. White Sox manager Ozzie Guillen made it clear this wasn't just a development trip. "You're going to be treated the same way as everyone else," Guillen told Poreda, "If you don't do the job, we have Southwest Airlines waiting for you to go to Charlotte."

Poreda was a successful starter in the Minors, but was happy to fill a bullpen role for the White Sox. "We're just trying to win games," Poreda said, "so I'm doing whatever the White Sox want me to do." Poreda did just that against the Minnesota Twins, as he came on in the seventh inning, striking out the first batter he faced with four fastballs. Poreda threw two and one-third innings, striking out three and giving up one hit before he was pulled.

With his strong debut, Lamorinda can expect Poreda's success to continue as we follow him through the rest of the season.



Aaron with his parents Barbara Anderman and John Poreda at his graduation from Campo in 2004

Photo Nelson Wilkerson

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