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Special Olympics Bay Area Games Come Back to Acalanes

By Marissa Harnett



Photos Ohlen Alexander

It was a beautiful day – literally and figuratively. The sun was shining and so were more than 300 students from 22 schools who turned out to compete at the Second Annual Special Olympics Bay Area Games on April 30.

Hosted by Acalanes High School and supported by Chevron, more than 100 Acalanes students volunteered to assist at the games. Local law enforcement was on-hand to light the torch and award medals. Community and corporate leaders were present and sports announcer Dick Callahan rounded out the event as master-of-ceremonies.

The primary goal of this event is to provide an opportunity

for kids with disabilities to train, compete, and succeed. “The mission of the Schools Partnership Program is to instill in all students the confidence to succeed in life,” explained Cathy Domanski-DeVries, vice president of Special Olympics schools programs. “What isn’t obvious out on the field or track is the carry over to the classroom. Students that feel successful perform better in many different aspects of life.”

After the Opening Ceremonies which was complete with the Pledge of Allegiance, the National Anthem by the Acalanes Chambers Singers, the parade of classes, two cheers by the Acalanes Cheer Squad, and the Flame of Hope, the students were released to the field to commence competition. The events included the 50 and 100 meter dashes; softball, tennis ball, or turbo javelin throw; and the standing long jump.

Acalanes sophomore Megan Brazil, one of the student volunteers, enjoyed the games. “It makes a lot more people aware of how to get involved to help and make it a community atmosphere,” she said. “It’s great and a lot of fun.”

There is no understating the magnitude of peer support. Springhill Elementary School special education teacher Erin Caldwell said, “The biggest smiles came when 110 of their general education peers arrived with banners and stomping feet to cheer them on. They were loud and proud. It was a wonderful day for everyone.”

One of Caldwell’s students, Danny Tinley, said it best: “Wow, I can’t believe all our friends came to watch us.”

It isn’t just the participants who gain something from the event, campus life is improved as well.

“The benefit to the general education students is best interpreted by them but I do know that friendships and understanding sky-rocket and bullying is decreased at



schools where our program exists.” Domanski-DeVries said.

The Games have been so successful that Caldwell’s class is already looking to the future. “We will definitely be there again next year. With the amount of general education support our school shared, I think it just might become a school tradition,” she said.

Lafayette Little League Box Scores

Submitted by Todd Bequette

Majors Division

April 27

Cardinals 8 Orioles 7

The red-hot Daniel Dinerman powered the Redbirds past the Orioles in a tight one at Buckeye Field. Dinerman was a perfect three-for-three at the plate, including a towering two-run homer. Colin Kirbach chipped in with a double to the gap, and Keziah Smith drove in two runs for the winners.

Cardinals 5 Yankees 3

Ryan Dougherty blasted a two-run homer for the Cards that capped a come-from-behind win. The winners rallied from a three-run deficit on the strength of clutch hits by Scott Brydon and Jake Wixom before Dougherty put the Cards ahead to stay. Chris Rogers and Brydon starred on the mound for the Cardinals.

April 23

Cardinals 4 Tigers 4

The Redbirds and Tigers settled nothing in a tight extra-inning contest at Buckeye. Cardinal pitchers Eddie Burns, Nikki Wixsom and Scott Brydon combined to allow no earned runs over seven innings. Ryan Dougherty snatched the tie from the jaws of defeat with a steal of home in the bottom of the seventh.

April 19

Tigers 9 Cubs 1

Cole Berzins sparked a seven-run second inning with a long homerun and the Tigers never looked back. Tiger hurlers Berzins, Ross Ney and Mikey O'Donnell combined to limit the Cubs to a single run. Owen Hansen led the Cub offense with two singles and a walk, while Charlie Baker scored the Cubbies' run. Colby Burns was solid for the Cubs on the mound, allowing only a single run in two innings of work.

April 15

Giants 4 Tigers 3

Aidan Alagappan capped off an extra-inning thriller at Buckeye Field with a walk-off two-run single in the bottom of the eighth. Sam Saracevic started the scoring in the first frame for the Giants, only to have the Tigers tie it in the bottom half on a steal of home by Ross Ney while Jack Franz occupied the Giant defense in a rundown between first and second base. Pitching ruled until the late innings as Cole Berzins, Ney and Garrett Dunn dominated on the mound. The Tigers inched ahead, 2-1 in the fifth on a Berzins triple and an RBI by Ryan Everly, only to see the Giants tie it in the sixth. Back came the Tigers in the top of the eighth on Berzins' daring steal of home, setting the stage for Alagappan's game winner for the G-men.

April 13

Cubs 7 Nationals 6

The Cubs pushed across two runs in the bottom of the sixth when Willem Elings delivered the walk-off hit. Reider Martinsen clubbed a three-run homer for the winners, and Lucas Eppinger plated two on a ringing double down the right field line. Closer Colby Burns shut down the Nationals over the final two innings to collect the win. The Nats were led by Jack Wickline's two-hit day, and stellar defense by Noah Elze, whose defensive gem thwarted an early Cub rally.

April 10

Nationals 10 Tigers 4

The Nationals sprinted to a three run lead in the first inning and held off the hard charging Tigers. Andrew Torres led the way for the Nats with three hits, and D.J. Panfil clouted a home run. Justin Bocks added two hits and Reed Sabey chipped in with an RBI single. Ian Archer notched two solid innings on the mound for the winners. For Tigers, Cole Berzins and Ross Ney collected three and two hits, respectively, while reliever Mikey O'Donnell cooled the National bats with a scoreless inning n the mound.

AAA Division

April 22

Indians 7 Brewers 1

Sam Higgins and Will Stryker pitched and hit the Tribe to victory. Higgins pitched two scoreless innings while striking out three, knocked in a run and scored another. Stryker struck out four in his two scoreless innings on the hill, and clubbed a double to left center. Jack Wood went two-for-three for the winners, knocking in a run with a booming double. For the Brew Crew, Chris Salem was a perfect two-for-two at the plate, including a ground-rule double that bounced over the fence in deep centerfield. Brewer Nathan Enrici turned in the play of the game at third, snaring a sure double down the line and getting his man at first with a perfect throw.

April 20

Pirates 7 Brewers 0

The Pirates rode the strong arm of Luke Vandenberg and hot hitting of Kyle White to victory. Vandenberg struck out four in two innings on the mound, while White was a perfect two for two at the plate and also pitched two shutout innings. Jimmy Harrington chipped in for the winners with a ringing triple and solid defense. For the Brewers, crafty lefty Ryan Lim struck out 4 in two innings on the mound, and Kade Finegold pitched a perfect sixth and drove a double to the fence.

Moraga Baseball Association Box Scores

Submitted by Jin Meng

Mustang Division

May 4

Red Sox 13, Yankees 2

Red Sox Highlights: Daniel Weaver (2-for-3, BB, 1 run, RBI), Graham Becker (2-for-4, 2 Runs, RBI), Brady Manz (4-for-4, 3 2B, 3 runs, 3BI), and Wiley Winkler (1-for-4). Brady Manz (3IP, 9K).

Yankees Highlights: Tyler Kivelson (2BB), Alex Clare (1 run, BB), Casey Linden (1-for-2, 2B), Ben Oxendine (1-for-2, 1 run), and Aiden Schooley (1-for-2, RBI).

May 1

Giants 6, Cubs 7

Cubs Highlights: Cole Jeter 3 IP, 0 ER, 2 Ks; Tanner Robeson 1 IP, 0 ER, 2 Ks; 2-for-2, 2B, 3 RS; Drew Isola 2-for-2, 3B, 2 RBI.

Giants Highlights: Nico Mossotti 1 IP, 0 ER, 1 K, 1-for-2, 3B; Xander Goldman 1 IP, 0ER, 1 K, 1-for-2, 2B; Brody Crouch 3-for-3, 2B, 2RBI, 2RS

April 24

Cardinals 6, Cubs 5

Cardinals Highlights: Ben Powers (1-for-3, HR, Run, 2 RBIs, 2 IP – 1 Run – 6K), Mason Fara (Run, BB), Jack Nunn (1-for-2, run), Jack Erickson-King (1-for-1, run, RBI, BB)

Cubs Highlights: Tarek Antonios-McCrea (1-for-2, Run, RBI, BB), Jake Leuteneker (1-for-2, run, RBI), Tanner Robeson (1-for-2, run, BB), Joe Schmidt (1-for-3, run)

April 23

Yankees 11, A's 2

A's Highlights: Max Rittmann (1-for-2, Run) and William Thomas (1-for-1, BB).

Yankees Highlights: Alex Clare (1-for-2, 2 Runs, BB), JT Clarke (3-for-3, 3 Runs, 2B, RBI), Casey Linden (3-for-3, 2 Runs, 3RBI), Jack Beaty (1-for-1, 2 Runs, BB), and Aiden Schooley (1-for-2, RBI).

April 20

Cubs 6, Yankees 5

Cubs Highlights: Jackson Rusoni 2 - 2 with 2 runs scored and 3 stolen bases; Tareq Antonios Mcrea 1 run scored, BB, 2 stolen bases; Joe Schmidt 2IP (0 runs scored), 1 RBI.

Yankees Highlights: Casey Linden 1 - 2 (2B), 2 RBI, 1 run scored, 3IP (3 runs scored); Jamie Murray 1 - 2 (1B), 1 RBI, 1 run scored, 3 IP (3 runs scored).

April 16

Cardinals 9, A's 7

A's Highlights: Jack Daugherty 2-for-2, BB, RS, 2RBI; Jack Williams 2-for-3, RBI; Kimo Okamura 2-for-3, RS, RBI.

Cardinals Highlights: Ben Powers 2-for-3, 3B, 3RBI, RS; Donovan Castilla-Liu 2-for-2, BB, RS; Sam McGonigle 1-for-2, BB, RS.

Pinto Division

April 17

Yankees 14, A's 15

Yankees Highlights: Evan Olson (4-for-5, 4 runs, 1 RBI), Hudson Pergamit (2-for-4, 1 run, 2 RBIs), and Brendan O'Donnell (3-for-3, 2 runs and a triple in the 7th).

A's Highlights: Walker Johnson (4-for-4, 1 run, 2 RBI) hit the walk off run to end in extra innings, Zack Decker (2-for-2, 2 runs, 1 RBI), and Jack Harper (3-for-4, 2 runs).

April 13

Giants 8, Pinto A's 6

Giants' Highlights: Grant Roesch (3-for-3, 3 Doubles, 2 RBIs, 1 run), Scotty Linden (2-for-3, 2 runs, 2 RBIs), Luje Olsen (2-for-3, 2 runs, 1 RBI) and Will McCurdy (2-for-3, 2 runs).

A's Highlights: Alcalgy (3-for-3, 1 Run), Jack Harper (3-for-3, 2 runs), Conner Naughtner (1-for-2, 1 run).

April 9

Angels 8, A's 6

Angels Highlights: Ainsley Johnson (3-for-3, 2 runs), Charlie Hill (3-for-4, 2 runs, 1 RBI), and Dashiell Weaver (3-for-4, 2 runs).

A's Highlights: Jack Harper (3-for-3, 3 runs, 1 RBI), Jack Alcalay (2-for-3, 2 runs), and Cooper Lenahan (2-for-3, 1 run, 3 RBIs).

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