

All-Stars head home

Welcome-home event for team planned Saturday

By ANNE BECKER
SENTINEL CORRESPONDENT

APTOS — After a shining showing in the Little League World Series that capped a whirlwind season and weeks on the road, the Aptos All-Stars are beat. But they're not too tired for some

good old hometown celebrating and are eagerly awaiting their welcome home.

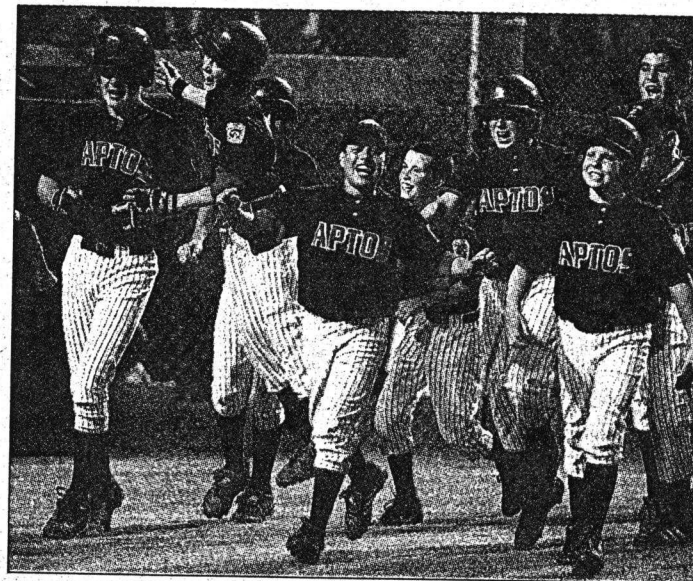
At the request of the players' parents, the Aptos Chamber of Commerce will host a "Welcome Home Run" for the team Saturday at 10 a.m., instead of holding a parade they tentatively had scheduled for Sept. 14, according to Karen Hibble in the Chamber.

"The parents said 'Let's just celebrate now when we're going strong,'" Hibble said. "These kids are just exhausted. They want to be welcomed

by the town and then go home, wash their clothes, get back to school and start being normal kids again."

Local fans are invited to bring signs and banners to the hometown heroes' welcome as the All-Stars take a celebratory flatbed truck ride down Soquel Avenue, escorted by the California Highway Patrol, the Sheriff's Office and the Aptos-La Selva Fire Protection District.

Earlier in the stellar season, the team triumphed in a district tournament. Please see **ALL-STARs** on **BACK PAGE**



The community of Aptos will host a celebration in honor of the Aptos Little League team on Saturday.

Bill Lovejoy/
Sentinel

All-Stars

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in Petaluma and the Western Region final in San Bernardino, before nearly reaching the World Series semi-finals. They were eliminated Tuesday by Mid-Atlantic champion Harlem in a hard-fought 5-2 game.

The team ended their exciting stay in Williamsport, Pa. — home of the Little League World Series — Thursday. After flying in to San Francisco at 8:30 p.m., they reunited with family members at the Village Host Pizza & Grill in Aptos. Many team parents had taken off work for weeks to travel with the All-Stars, and the players already have missed the first week of school.

The "Aptos Little League Welcome Home Run" starts Saturday at 10 a.m. at Aptos Creek Run and will proceed down Soquel Drive to Rio del Mar Boulevard. The team also will be honored at the Chamber of Commerce's annual dinner Oct. 26.

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