



Cody Suder, left, shortstop for the Laramie, Wyo., Little League team misfields a ball as Aptos' Kevin Eichhorn safely gets on base in their Western Region Tournament game Sunday in San Bernardino. Aptos won, 2-0.

Al Cuzion/Special to the Sentinel

Taking one for the team

S-Baseball

8-502

Hit batters help
Aptos pass 1st test
in regional tourney

By **JOHN MURPHY**
SENTINEL CORRESPONDENT

SAN BERNARDINO — The Aptos Little League All-Stars unveiled their secret weapon Sunday in a 2-0 victory against Laramie (Wyo.) in both teams' Western Region Tournament opener.

That weapon was the hit batsman, which Aptos used to score its only runs before the

2,000 fans at Al Houghton Stadium. Aptos will next play Nevada on Tuesday at 8 p.m. on the same field.

With the bases loaded and two out in the first inning, Wyoming pitcher Terrance Dent plunked burly Aptos first baseman Kevin Farmer on the arm, forcing in the first run.

"It didn't hurt much," Farmer said. "I was just hoping to hit the ball, but I didn't get the chance."

Aptos manager Dave Anderson and a trainer ran out to Farmer on first base after Farmer got plunked, but the Aptos strong-boy waved them off.

"He didn't feel bad at all," Dave Anderson said. "Kev's a tough kid. We went out there

to try to give him a little aid, and he was like 'Get outta here.' He was embarrassed."

Kyle Anderson, son of the manager, pitched a neat four-hitter for Aptos, striking out 10 and walking one. But Kyle got into difficulty in the second when he hit Wyoming leadoff batter Mike Garner, then walked Dent.

Wyoming manager VerDon Hoopes then called for a fake steal. The ploy backfired as Garner ventured too far off second base and was picked off. Aptos catcher Drew McCauley threw to third baseman Jarred Bachan, who threw to Eichhorn at second to nail Garner.

"It was a little miscommunication," Hoopes said. "I had him on a bluff steal, and he came

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Aptos ace Kyle Anderson pitched a four-hit shutout against Laramie, Wyo., on Sunday to help his NorCal team win, 2-0.

LITTLE LEAGUE

11-12s West Regional Tournament

At Al Houghton Stadium,
San Bernardino

Standings

Team	W	L	Runs allowed
Aptos	1	0	0
Arrowhead, Ariz.	1	0	1
Peccole, Nev.	1	0	2
West Anaheim	0	1	2
Laramie, Wyo.	0	1	2
Taylorville, Utah	0	1	4

NOTE: Ties are broken based on records in head-to-head competition among tied teams. In the event of a three-way tie, the initial tie is broken based on fewest runs allowed per defensive inning played. The tie between the remaining two teams is then broken based on head-to-head record.

Saturday — Game 1: Peccole, Nev. 4, Taylorville, Utah 2 **Game 2:** Arrowhead, AZ 2, West Anaheim 1

Sunday — Game 3: Aptos 2, Laramie, Wyo. 0

Today — Game 4: Peccole vs. Laramie, 12:15 p.m.; **Game 5:** Taylorville vs. Arrowhead, 5 p.m.

Tuesday — Game 6: West Anaheim vs. Taylorville, 9:30 a.m. **Game 7:** Aptos vs. Peccole, 8 p.m.

Wednesday — Game 8: Aptos vs. Arrowhead, 12:15 p.m. **Game 9:** West Anaheim vs. Peccole, 8 p.m.

Thursday — Game 10: Laramie vs. Taylorville, 5 p.m.

Friday — Game 11: Arrowhead vs. Laramie, 10 a.m. **Game 12:** West Anaheim vs. Aptos, 8 p.m.

Sunday, August 11 (Semifinals) — Game 11: No. 2 seed vs. No. 3 seed, 5 p.m.; **Game 12:** No. 1 seed vs. No. 4 seed, 8 p.m.

Tuesday, August 13 — *Championship: Semifinal winners, 7 p.m. ESPN2

**Winner advances to the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pa.*

Aptos

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all the way down. He just got too far off. I probably shouldn't have even messed with it."

The baserunning error probably cost Wyoming a run as right fielder Skyler Joy singled later in the inning.

Aptos, held to three hits by Dent, used the hit batsman to its advantage to again in the fourth to score its other run. Tall center fielder Tyler Raymond was hit by Dent to lead off the inning. He advanced to third on wild pitches, then scored on a Farmer groundout to shortstop Cody Suder.

It was excellent base running by Raymond and good coaching by ex-major leaguer Mark Eichhorn (coaching third base) that enabled Raymond to score. When Farmer bounded to Suder, Suder bobbled the ball momentarily, then threw to first. As soon as Suder released the ball, Raymond broke for the plate and slid across safely.

All that was left then was for Kyle

Anderson to finish shutting down the team from Laramie.

"It was just trying to throw strikes and hit the corners," Kyle said. "Mark Eichhorn has helped me a lot with my mechanics, and he calms me down. It's just perfect."

Aptos is enjoying being the first District 39 team since Watsonville American in 1986 to compete in the Western Regional.

"It's really cool to go this far and play on this nice field and play against different states," Kyle Anderson said.

■ The Aptos players and coaches have green shamrocks affixed underneath the bills of their ballcaps.

"It was my wife Kit's idea," Dave Anderson said. "She designed the caps."

■ Some Aptos players had an interesting journey from Petaluma (scene of the NorCal finals) to San Bernardino Thursday and Friday. An hour after Thursday's victory against San Carlos, several members of the team left for Southern California. They planned to stay overnight in Paso Robles, but were unaware the Mid-State Fair is in full swing.