

Bobby Crocker
leads off 3rd
base with
Kevin Eichhorn
at the plate.



Mariners Baseball

2007

CO-CHAMPIONS

of SCCAL

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By Maggie Caldwell and Noel Smith

Baseball has been the hottest high school sports ticket this spring, with nationally ranked Aptos High School's varsity team ending up in the middle of an exciting three-way race for a share of the SCCAL baseball title. The team ended their regular season on Friday with a 13-0 no-hitter by Kevin Eichhorn (son of Aptos coach and former major leaguer Mark Eichhorn) over Soquel High School. Aptos finished with a 25-4 season record and sharing the SCCAL title with Santa Cruz [20-9-1] and

Scotts Valley [20-6-1], all three with an 10-2 SCCAL record.

Excitement over Aptos High's potential for success started early on in the season, Aptos Head Coach Randy Kramer points out, with the team's big win in the Carmel Invitational Tournament.

"We played against good schools," he explains, "Carmel High School is a perennial winner. But we went into their park and came back with a 15-3 win. After that, we believed that we could

beat any opponent."

But Kramer believes they really arrived as a team in the May 1st game against Scotts Valley, when they were down 3-0 in the sixth inning. "Our backs were against the wall," he remembers, "then we scored six runs to win 6-3.

Mark Dorfman, Aptos High's athletic director, also thinks of this win as a season highlight. "Clearly, beating Scotts Valley last Tuesday, put us in the position to earn a share of the league championship."

Parents and supporters of Aptos

High Baseball could well be credited with some of the team's huge success. Fans of Aptos High turned out in droves this season to support the team. Coach Dorfman says that many of their fans have been following this team since their 2002 Little League success and as a result the turnout has been tremendous at all the games.

"The centerfield area is full, the stands are full, and the atmosphere has been really festive and communal," he observes. Coach Kramer comments on this community support, describing it as "everything I've ever wanted or dreamed of, I got this year. It was really nice to see."

In addition, between 125 and 150 supporters turned up at a big Aptos High School Baseball fund raiser this spring for an adults-only evening of celebrating and dancing. While the total amount raised has not been made public, Coach Dorfman says, "It was very, very successful, beyond our expectations."

For the student athletes, being a part of Aptos High Baseball is no small commitment. Coach Kramer estimates they put in an

average of between two to three and a half hours per day practicing, explaining that most of this time is spent working on the fundamentals.

"At the high school level, you can lose games because of the little things," he explains. "So we put in lots of time perfecting those little things."

And there is no shortage of talented athletes willing to put in the years of training it takes to make Aptos High School baseball the powerhouse it is right now. Coach Kramer is impressed with all of the up and coming talent for future varsity teams.

"We've got quite a talent pool on the junior varsity and freshman teams, and

from my involvement in the Little League for the past five years, I can tell there's a lot of players with potential out there. I anticipate Aptos High Baseball being on the map for quite a few years!"

Speaking about a talent pool, six of the fourteen players and one of the coaches on the team were members of the Little League All-Stars from Aptos that went to Williamsport, Pennsylvania and played in the 2002 Little League Baseball World Series Championship.

Coached by Dave Anderson and

retired major leaguer Mark Eichhorn, the Aptos team had the power, skill, stamina and luck to defeat their opponents in local and state tournaments. Winning the western regional championship in San Bernadino, CA, they went on to the drama of the Little League World Series. The Aptos All Stars had become the dream team of 2002 and the subject of a 90-minute documentary called "Small Ball: A Little League Story" by award winning filmmakers Louis Alvarez and Andrew Kolker.

Six of those 2002 All-Star team members are now playing for the Aptos High School team. Evidently the dream is not yet over for these boys and for Aptos. Where will you be taking us to next

Aptos High School player roster

- Nick Agnello UF (Jr.),
- Kyle Anderson* P - 1B (Jr.),
- Andrew Biancardi* 3B (Jr.),
- Bobby Crocker P - OF (Jr.),
- Patrick McCreesh OF (Soph.),
- Kevin Eichhorn* P - SS (Jr.),
- Bryce Ensminger OF (Sr.),
- Beau Fraser C (Jr.),
- Aaron Glaum 2B (Sr.),
- Brian Godoy* P (Jr.),
- Danny Lucas OF (Sr.),
- Tyler Raymond* OF (Jr.),
- Alex Savattone OF (Sr.),
- Curtis Worden* OF (Jr.)

and coaches

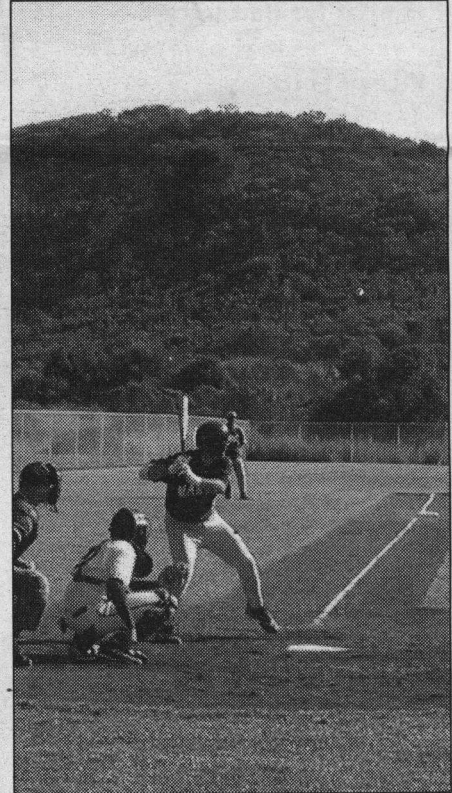
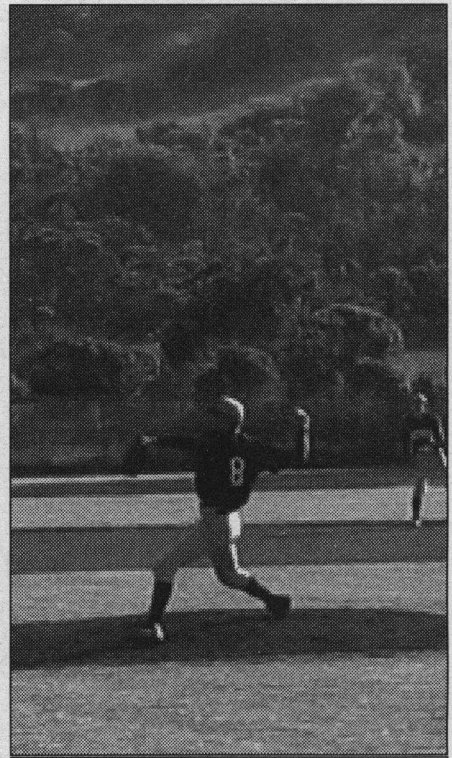
- Randy Kramer,
- Mark Eichhorn
- and Matt King.

*Players on the 2002 Aptos Little League All-Stars team that played in the Little League Baseball World Series.

guys?

Aptos is ranked 50th among high schools in the nation. The team received the No. 4 seed in Division II and will host No. 13 Aragon [17-9], the Peninsula Athletic League's Ocean Division champion, in the first round Thursday May 17 at 4 p.m. at the Mariner's home field.

If they prevail in this game, Aptos will set a school record for wins in a season. Such a win could result in a rematch with No. 5 seed Los Gatos [22-7], the defending D-II champion. The Mariners beat Los Gatos 9-1 in a previous meeting this year, but the Wildcats have a formidable weapon in their All-American pitcher Kyle Blair.



• Kevin Eichhorn pitching no-hitter against Soquel HS

• Andrew Biancardi ready at the plate - Soquel Home Field

• Kevin Eichhorn pitching no-hitter against Soquel HS

