49ers fall behind early, lose to Cabrillo

By Andy Arnenquin

The Yuba College baseball team faced off against Cabrillo in the second annual Gary Engelsen Memorial Tournament on Friday night, and for the first six and a half innings, it was a carbon copy of Thursday's 10-1 win at Feather River.

Just like in the tournament opener, the 49ers failed to manufacture runs early, issued too many free passes and once again gave up a big inning to fall behind 10-0 before finally getting the offense going.

By then it was too late, as while Yuba did manage to scrape together seven runs, the visiting Seahawks were able to shut the door and hand the 49ers a 10-7 loss at Colusa Casino Stadium in Marysville.

The 49ers also committed four errors which led to five unearned runs in the game, dropping them to 6-3 on the year heading into today's tournament finale at 2 p.m. against West Valley.

"We've got to stay in the game early, and part of that is picking the ball up on the ground when we can and getting to their bullpen earlier," said Yuba coach Ryan Evangelisto. "Their guy was good. They threw their ace, and we're going face to face to good pitchers like that who can throw a breaking ball or a changeup on any count.

"It's tough on the hitters, but we've got to find a way to break through and just scratch out one or two runs early."

Cabrillo (7-1) opened the scoring with a run in the top of the first and added to its lead by plating three unearned runs in the third to take a 4-0 lead against 49ers starting pitcher Tyler Sharp.

The score remained the same until the seventh, when the Seahawks broke the game open with a big six-run inning. Three Yuba relievers issued four walks and hit a batter during the frame, and coupled with an error, Cabrillo built the lead to 10-0.

The 49ers had just two hits — a pair of infield singles by Hayden Lieseman — before finally coming to life against the Seahawks' bullpen in the bottom of the seventh, snapping a 14-inning scoreless drought.

River Valley High product T.J. Dove singled, Hank Pankratz doubled and Brandon O'Callaghan walked before Dillon Lopez stepped an RBI single to right to get Yuba on the scoreboard. Pankratz later scored on a wild pitch. Cole Hummel drove in a run on a groundout and Bryan Murphy added a sacrifice fly to make the score 10-4.

Yuba City's Justin Norse ripped a pinch-hit, two-run double high off the wall in left in the bottom of the ninth, and Tanner Seibel raced home on a wild pitch to complete the scoring for the 49ers.

Sharp allowed three hits and struck out two over four innings to take the loss. Cabrillo starting pitcher Ryan Carpoza struck out five and allowed just two hits over six scoreless innings to earn the win.

Despite the loss, Yuba went on to out-hit Cabrillo 9-6. Lieseman led the way with three infield singles. Lopez finished 2 for 4 and Dove reached base safely three times while making a sensational diving catch in center field in the sixth inning.

"We still have some good arms to roll out tomorrow, so I'm excited," Evangelisto said. "As cliché as it is, we've got to take it one game at a time and go get em. We want to end this and get a W."

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