COLLEGE BASEBALL

Unbeaten Delta clobbers Cabrillo

Mustangs unload 14 runs, 18 hits

By Kevin Niendorf
Record Correspondent

Posted Feb. 22, 2015 at 12:01 AM

STOCKTON - After opening the season with 10 consecutive wins, including Saturday’s rout of Cabrillo, Delta College baseball coach Reed Peters freely gave an “A” grade to his pitchers and team defense.

Peters wasn’t as generous with a grade for the Mustangs’ offense, but that could change considering his lineup belted 18 hits in the 14-1 win at Cecchetti Field. It could have been more considering 10 runners were left on base over the first seven innings.

The entire lineup reached base by the end of the fourth inning, with Kimball High product Kris Bartlett leading the way with a double, single and triple in his first three at-bats. Zach Perugi and Lance Berringer also collected three hits for Delta, whose batting average sits at .296, while teammate Collin Theroux (four RBI) smashed his second home run of the season.

“It’s all starting to click and we’re beginning to look good out there,” Bartlett said. “I think it’s from all the hard work we’re doing right now. It’s awesome to be out here with a bunch of guys who like to win.”

The Mustangs (10-0) rallied for five runs in the second inning on a walk and a five-hit barrage highlighted by Jacob Thomas’ double. Delta increased its lead over Cabrillo (6-5) to 8-0 in the fourth with two walks and three hits, including Bartlett’s second triple of the season and Theroux’s round-tripper.

An inning later the Mustangs plated three more runs for an 11-0 lead. Thomas’ second double of the game - and season - was followed by Perugi’s double. In all, the Mustangs produced eight extra-base hits.

“It’s been an up-and-down year for the offense, so hopefully this will give us some confidence,” said Peters, whose team won its last two games by one run. “We’ve got to keep getting better because our schedule will only get tougher and tougher. Our league is a war every time.”

Sophomore pitcher Ricky Delgado improved to 3-0 by throwing 35 of his 59 pitches for strikes over five innings. He allowed four hits, and kept his shutout when he induced a ground ball for an inning-ending double play in the top of the fourth.

“Just knowing you have those guys behind you to pick you up is great,” said Delgado, whose ERA improved to 2.00 through 18 innings.

Cabrillo’s lone run was a home run by Scott Akrop against Delta reliever Bryce Johnson. Cabrillo freshman Luke Tokunaga, who played at Lincoln, was 1-for-3 and was hit by a pitch.

Delta next plays Friday at Chabot, and then March 3 at Sierra before returning home March 5 to host Modesto.