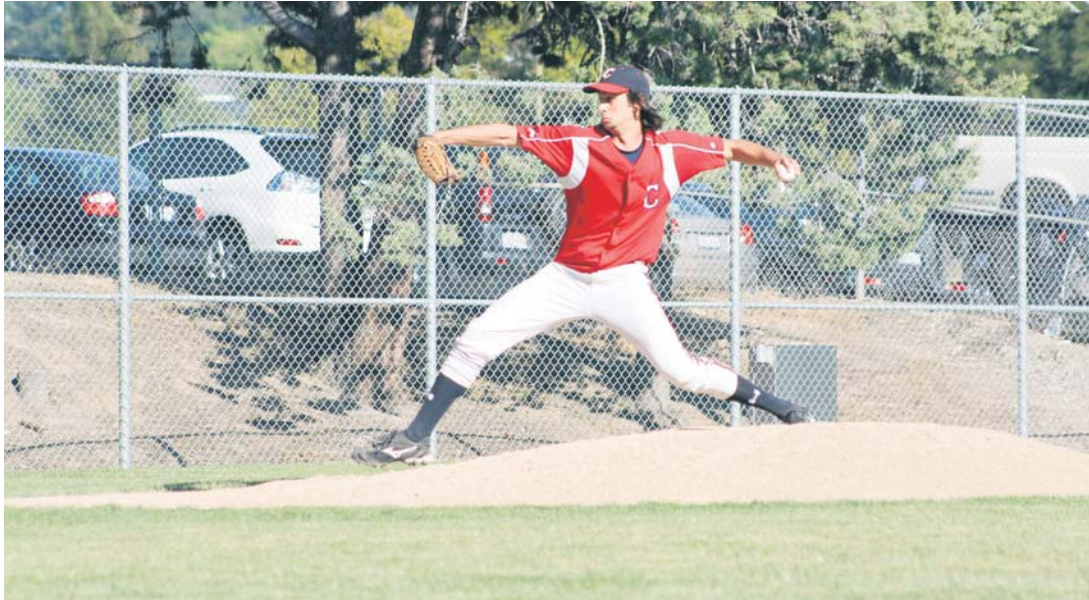


Cougars Snap Two-game Skid with Win Over Knights

By Garrett Ley



The pitch

Photo Jack Fernbacher

In a game with major postseason implications, Campolindo pitcher David Wirth rose to the occasion and blanked the Las Lomas Knights 6-0 in a DFAL match-up on May 6.

The senior left-hander helped the Cougars (13-7, 10-5 DFAL) snap their two-game losing streak and move the team into a tie for second place in the DFAL standings.

Wirth scattered three hits over seven innings, and struck out eight as he improved to 5-2 on the season. His dominating performance came on the right day for the Cougars, who suffered two one-run losses against Northgate and Alhambra the week prior.

The game was postponed to 4:30 p.m. due to several players arriving from an AP Statistics test that ran late. The delay had no effect on the Cougars, who came out swinging a hot bat in the first inning, scoring four runs off Las Lomas right-hander Nick Pingree.

Shortstop Anthony Fadelli set the tone for the game by drawing a four-pitch walk to lead off the game. A single by second baseman Michael Kathan set the table for right fielder Chris Hilke, who roped

a double to right field, scoring Fadelli and Kathan to give Campolindo an early 2-0 lead.

The Cougars weren't finished, as outfielder Corbin Chase hit an RBI single to score Hilke from second base. Wirth later helped his own cause by singling to knock in Chase, and the Cougars were immediately in the driver's seat, leading 4-0 after one inning.

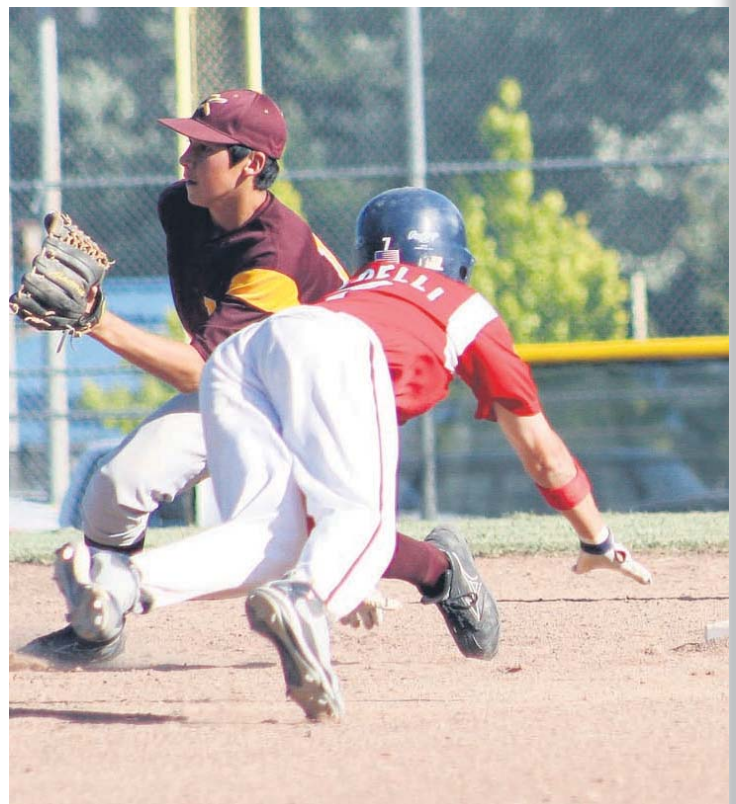
From there, Wirth took over and held the Las Lomas offense in check. The first four batters for the Knights—Scott Brensel, Craig Burton, Ryan Ambalong and Thomas Maiuri—combined to go 0-11 with four strikeouts.

But Wirth couldn't do it without help from his defense. Fadelli made a leaping catch on a line drive hit up the middle in the fourth, and Hilke made a fine play tracking down a foul ball down the right field line, skillfully eluding several spectators in the process.

Campolindo added insurance runs off Pingree in the fourth and fifth inning to extend its lead to 6-0.

Now that the Cougars have secured a spot in the NCS playoffs, they will look to win their remaining games to earn a high seed and a

possible first round bye. Games next week against Mt. Diablo and Miramonte will likely determine



The slide.

Photo Jack Fernbacher