



MENDOCINO-LAKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NEWS RELEASE

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EAGLES WIN SERIES OVER SISKIYOU

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On Friday and Saturday, February 7 and 8, the Mendocino College Eagles baseball team hosted a four-game series with the College of the Siskiyous Eagles of the Golden Valley Conference.

For clarity purposes in this article, “Eagles” will be used in reference to the Mendocino Eagles and “Siskiyous” will be used to refer to the Siskiyous Eagles.

Having started their season two weeks ago on January 24, the Eagles had yet to chock up a game in the win column coming into their series with Siskiyous.

They had opened their season on January 24, hosting College of the Redwoods (also a member of GVC). Redwoods won both those games by scores of 5-3 and 3-1.

On January 30, the Eagles played at Cosumnes River College in Elk Grove. The Hawkeyes are members of the Big 8 Conference. Cosumnes River won that game 9-4.

Four days later, the Eagles played their second road game of the season vs. the Butte College Roadrunners in Oroville. Butte, another GVC member, pounded out a 24-5 win, the Eagles’ record dropping to 0-4.

While 4 losses are a small sample size compared to a season schedule of up to 40 games, Eagles, no doubt, were intent and focused on turning things around to avoid a much longer and serious slide to start their season.

The Siskiyous games weren’t a “must-win” situation for the Eagles. But getting into the win column and getting some positive vibes going was far better for the Eagles than the alternative.

They won Game 1 played Friday morning by a score of 2-1. Game 2 played that afternoon was a shootout, with the Eagles outshooting Siskiyous 16-9 in 7 innings.

Game 3 on Saturday morning was another nail-biter, with Eagles winning their third game in a row, 3-2.

Siskiyous, undoubtedly smarting a bit from being on the short end of the stick in the first three games of the series,



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probably had strong motivation in Sunday's afternoon game to not to get swept in the fourth game of the series. According, they managed to break open a relatively tight game late to win 11-2.

The Eagles' 3-5 pre-conference record after this past weekend's games earns them a third-place standing among the other 7 Bay Valley Conference teams at midweek. Los Medanos has a pre-conference record of 4-2. Contra Costa and the Eagles are both 3-5, Laney 3-7, Solano 2-5, Yuba 3-9, Marin 2-7 and Napa Valley 1-6.

The non-conference standings are relative and not predictive, given that the BVC teams don't play the same pre-conference schedules. Perhaps if a give team is 8-0 or 0-8 at this point might offer a somewhat valid speculation of how that team's remainder of the season might play out. But mostly, it's still too early to speculate.

In the Eagles case, being a team with a majority of freshman players on the roster, the Siskiyou series can certainly be looked at as nice confidence booster.

The game on Friday morning was probably the most important game of the series for the Eagles and for their season to date. Getting a win would break their 4-game losing streak and give them their first win of the season.

Sophomore right-hander Gary Grosjean, Jr., got the starting call for the Eagles in Game 1 Friday morning. Right-hander Joseph Saenz started for Siskiyou. The teams battled through six scoreless innings.

Siskiyou got the first hit of the game in the top of the first, a one-out single. But that runner was erased on an attempted steal, with freshman catcher Derek Laferriere gunning him down. Grosjean ended the inning like he started it, with a strikeout.

The Eagles got two runners on in their half of the first on a one-out single by sophomore DH Preston Mello and a two-out walk by freshman right fielder Rylan Aikens but didn't score.

Siskiyou went down in order in the second. Sophomore Kyle Ellis got a one-out double in the bottom of the second but was stranded.

Siskiyou got a hit and a walk in the third, but both runners were stranded. The Eagles went down in order in the bottom of the third.

Siskiyou was retired in order in the fourth. The Eagles got a 2-out single by Laferriere in the bottom of the inning. He stole second but was stranded.

Siskiyou stranded a runner in the fifth who had reached by being hit by a pitch. Although the Eagles got a leadoff single by freshman shortstop Adrian Villalobos in the 5th, he was later thrown out at the plate trying to score on a grounder to short. Sophomore second baseman James singled in the inning but was stranded.

Grosjean pitched around a leadoff single in the top of the sixth, stranding the runner. The Eagles went down in order in the bottom of the inning, the score remaining 0-0.



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Siskiyou broke the scoring ice in the top of the seventh, getting a leadoff double. The runner was sacrificed to third and scored the first run of the game on a single. Grosjean limited the damage, stranding two runners. The Eagles went down in order in the bottom of the inning.

In the top of eighth inning the Siskiyou leadoff batter got hit by a pitch. But he was stranded when the next 3 batters were retired. In the bottom of the eighth, freshman centerfielder Jacob Monday got a leadoff single, but he was stranded.

Grosjean got the first two batters in the top of the ninth on a ground ball and popup, but then yielded a single and walked a batter. Those two runners were stranded when the next batter flied out to center for the third out.

Trailing 1-0 coming up to bat in the bottom of the ninth, Eagles sophomore first baseman Logan Barrick reached base by getting hit by a pitch. Laferriere followed with a bunt single, with Barrick moving up to second.

Freshman Miguel Martinez pinch ran for Barrick. Ellis lined an 0-2 pitch to center for a single, with Martinez stopping at third and Ellis advancing to second, loading the bases, still with no outs.

Siskiyou made a pitching change, bringing in LHP Layne Richardson to face Villalobos. Villalobos took the first pitch for a ball. He fouled off the second pitch.

With the count 1-1, he swung at the third pitch, lining the ball to right down the line with the ball landing several feet fair.

Martinez come home from third with the tying run and Laferriere, close behind, touching the plate for the winning run, the Eagles winning the game 2-1.

The Eagles players, led by Barrick, rushed onto the field shouting and mobbed Villalobos on the infield grass behind the pitching mound, celebrating his walk-off hit to win the game 2-1, the Eagles getting their first win the season.

When the impromptu celebration concluded, the players gathered in front of the Eagles' dugout to listen to a post-game talk by Eagles head coach Bret Ringer who had just picked up his first win as the team's head coach.

When the post-game concluded, the players got to work prepping the field for the second game of the doubleheader which would start in about a half hour.

Perusing the stats for the Eagles first win of the season showed Grosjean getting the complete game win, allowing 1 run, 7 hits, striking out 6 and walking 2.

The Eagles had 10 hits in the game, including 2 each by Wirt, Laferriere, Ellis and Villalobos, with Monday and Mello each having a hit. Ellis' double was the Eagles' only extra base hit.

As mentioned above, the Eagles won the afternoon game on Friday quite handily, getting the big early lead and



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never being threatened although Siskiyou did score runs in the last 4 innings of the 7-inning game.

Siskiyou outhit the Eagles, 11-9, but committed 6 errors to contribute 4 unearned runs to the Eagles 16-run total. As they had in the first game, the Eagles committed no errors in the second game.

Starting and winning freshman RHP Jacob Monday pitched 4 innings, allowing 3 earned runs, 8 hits and walked 2. He then played the rest of the game in center field. Freshmen RHPs Miguel Martinez and Alex Tamayo 1.2 and 1.1 innings respectively, allowing a total of 3 hits, 9 walks and 3 runs each.

Barrick, Laferriere and Alvarez each had 2 hits in the game. Laferriere had a double and drove in 4 runs and scored 2. Alvarez drove in 3 runs. Freshman left fielder Ryland Aikens had a hit, drove in 2 runs and scored 3. Wirt, leading off had a hit, an RBI and scored 2 runs. Eight different Eagles scored at least 1 run.

As opposed to the pleasantly warm, clam winter weather on Friday, Saturday's weather, though also sunny, was rather blustery, with a strong breeze blowing in from right field and temperatures getting a mite chilly.

Barrick got the start for the Eagles, with RHP Dustin Mansell on the mound for Siskiyou.

It looked like Siskiyou might put up a seriously crooked number in the top of the first. The number ended up crooked, but only a minimally so, 2 runs. A leadoff walk got things started, followed by a single, the only hit. Then both runners stole a base. One run scored on a ground out, another on a sac fly. After hitting a batter, Barrick got the third out on a strikeout.

The Eagles managed to load the bases in the bottom of the first on a Villalobos single, Barrick taking one the team, getting hit by a pitch and Laferriere reaching base on an error to load the bases. But all three runners were left on base.

Barrick retired the side in order in the second and the Eagles managed only a Monday walk. Barrick allowed 2, 1-out singles in the top of the third, but one of the runners was caught stealing and no runs were scored.

Barrick helped himself out in the bottom of the second, singling home Aikens who had reached on an error, making the score 2-1

Barrick pitched through some more traffic on the bases in the top of the 4th, allowing two 1-out singles, but stranding both runners.

The Eagles tied the game in the bottom of the 4th. Ellis got a leadoff single. Mello, starting at first, got hit by a pitch. Ellis scored the tying run later in the inning on an error, following an Alvarez hit.

The score remained tied through the sixth, each team getting some baserunners in that stretch, but no runs.

Barrick pitched a scoreless top of the 7th, retiring the side in order on 3 groundballs.



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The Eagles took a 3-2 lead in the bottom of the inning on one big swing by Villalobos. He sent a rocket of a shot off his bat that quickly and easily cleared the left field fence for a home run to give the Eagles a 3-2 lead.

The next three batters were retired, with the game going to the 8th inning.

Given a lead, Barrick set the side down in order in top of the 8th, all on ground balls. The Eagles got only a two-out walk to Alvarez in the bottom of the inning.

Barrick went back out to pitch the top of the ninth. He walked the first batter who was pinch ran for. That runner was sacrificed to second.

The fourth batter of the inning lined out to Monday in center field for the second out. The next batter walked to put the potential go-ahead run on base.

But neither runner crossed the plate. The final batter of the game grounded to Alvarez near the bag at second, with Alvarez feeding to shortstop Villalobos for the game-ending force at second.

Barrick got the complete-game win, allowing just the 2 runs on 6 hits, with 4 strikeouts and 3 walks.

The Eagles and Siskiyous each had 6 hits in the game. Villalobos had 2, including the “Big Fly” for the winning run. Siskiyous left 7 runners on base, the Eagles 9.

For the third game in a row the Eagles played errorless ball, while Siskiyous committed 3 errors.

Facing an 0-for-4 series, Siskiyous took another early lead in Game 4 played that afternoon.

Freshman RHP Christopher Doak got the start for the Eagles. Lefty Joe Digiacoimo started for Siskiyous. After a scoreless first inning, Siskiyous struck for 3 runs in the second combining a hit batter a single, a walk and a Sac Fly and 2 Eagles errors.

The Eagles answered with a run in the bottom of the inning, with Barrick (playing first base) and Miguel Martinez (DH) getting hits and Barrick scoring to make the score 3-1.

Neither team scored in the next 3 innings of play. Siskiyous added their lead in the top of the sixth with a 2-out double to drive in a run. The Eagles got only a Barrick single in the bottom of the inning.

Leading 4-1, Siskiyous added on 7 insurance runs in the top of the 7th of this 7-inning game. The half inning included 4 hits, 2 walks, 2 hit batters, a stolen base, and an error.

In the bottom of the inning in their last at bats, the Eagles, getting some players some action, used 3 pinch hitters: freshman Josh Marcione, sophomore Josue Jaquez and freshman Alex Tamayo. Tamayo got a two-out hit. Akins followed with hit. Ellis singled to drive in Tamayo.



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A grounder to third ended the game, with Siskiyou salvaging one game of the 4-game series.

Eagles head coach Bret Ringer noted after the game that playing “four games in two days is rough. In the first three games we played defense really well. We pitched really well. We executed which we had struggled to do earlier.

“It was good to see us get some bunts down and get some guys running around to apply some pressure. They (Siskiyou) struggled with that (pressure). If we can keep doing that throughout the year, we’ll be in a lot more games than out of them.

“We saw a lot more positive things in these games than the previous games. That was good to see.”

Included in that mix was the pitching, especially the two top starters, Grosjean and Barrick, which understandably pleased the head coach

“Our two main guys both pitching complete games was huge. We’re going to ride on those guys giving us innings. It was good to see both of them compete and battle and get us to the end of those games.”

Ringer noted that “after we swept the first two games, our focus was to get that third game, which is less pressure than having to win the fourth game to win the series. Winning a fourth game is a battle. It’s tough.

“You’d like to get greedy and go for the sweep. “But it’s still a good feeling to win three out of four. If we throw strikes and make plays we’ll be in a lot of games. We didn’t do that earlier in first few games. But overall, this was a good weekend.”

The Eagles’ next game is Friday, February 14, at Santa Rosa JC. Next week they play at Folsom Lake on Tuesday, February 18 and then host Ohlone for single games on Friday, February 21 and Saturday, February 22.