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Team Effort Leads to Success West Diablo Valley All-Stars Play in Western Regionals

Submitted by Bruce Kelley and Ann Chen

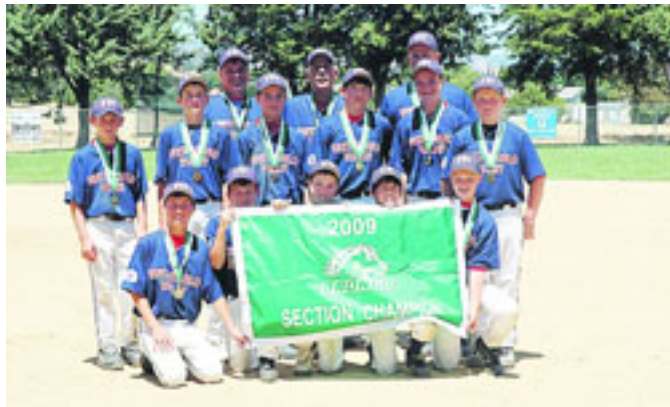


Photo Michele Armosino

Vaccaro and closer Jake Rider shut down Blossom Valley's potential for offense while in-the-field defense came from Neil Kelley, Ben Skinner, Scotty Smoot, Brandon Armosino, Megan Reid and Tommy Larsen, Scotty Chen and Neal Weikert. Offense was led by Chen with three hits.

In the second win of the tournament, a 4-2 victory against Sierra Valley of Sacramento.

Kelley led the pitching efforts for five innings. Vaccaro pitched lights out in the last two innings for the save.

Armosino and Reid Gibbs led the offensive attack with two hits each.

The match-up against Morgan Hill, the eventual tournament winner, proved to be a tougher challenge for WDV. Morgan Hill took a three-run lead early in the game. The Broncos answered back with a run led by Vaccaro's two-run homer over the left-center wall. Kelley rode the offensive momentum to third base by stealing second and third. Smoot drove Kelley home by taking a base-on-balls and running to second to draw the throw, allowing Kelley to score. The Bronco's offense ended there however and Morgan Hill took control of the game and the victory, 6-3.

The Broncos were eliminated from the tournament with a loss to Bel Passi of Modesto.

Panagotacos said, "As we saw, to win the tournament at this level is extremely difficult, but I wouldn't have put anything past this group. It's one of the finest teams I've coached."

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