

A big hit

June 14, 2009 by [Scott Spruill](#)

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Davis senior shines as late replacement ||

YAKIMA, Wash. — For a kid who didn't know he was playing in the All-State Baseball Series until Friday, Michael Calderon looked Saturday like he had been gearing up to make an impression all week.

The Davis senior played an inning in leftfield, singled and pitched the final two innings, shutting the door on a late rally attempt, to help Team Rainier defeat Team St. Helens 10-7 in the second game at Parker Field.



West Valley's Cory Urquhart of Team Adams, right, smiles while talking to Naches Valley's Thomas Wilcox of Team Baker after Urquhart doubled in the sixth inning of Saturday's All-State baseball semifinal at Parker Field. (Andy Sawyer/Yakima Herald-Republic)

"I guess I was an alternate," said Calderon, who's also busy with the Yakima Pepsi Beetles in the Hagert Tournament in Selah. "I was excited and ready to play, then they told me I'd pitch the seventh and eighth innings. That sounded good to me."

Calderon faced a dicey situation in the bottom of the eighth when a single and error put St. Helens' runners on second and third with no outs. But two infield outs and a strikeout later the game was over.

"That was tough because I didn't want to blow it, so I just concentrated on throwing strikes," he said. "Keeping the ball down was a big deal because all these guys can hit. There aren't any easy outs."

Pitchers definitely found that out as the two eight-inning games produced 35 runs and 56 hits.

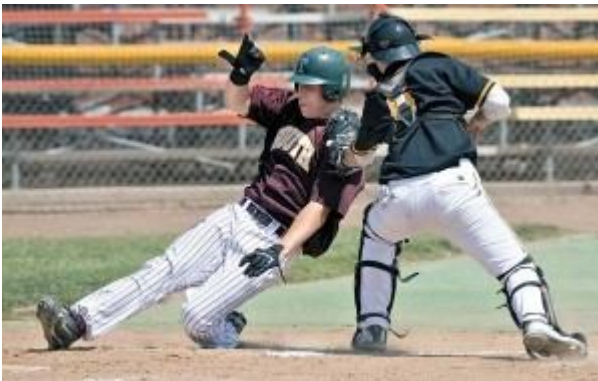
The notable exception to that shelling was Colville's Ben Pinkham, who pitched so well coaches gave him five full innings and he led Team Adams to an 11-7 win over Team Baker in the opener.

After one rocky frame to start, Pinkham allowed only one hit in a stretch of 14 batters, a run that spanned the fourth to eighth innings.

"Being a 2A guy I felt I had something to prove," he said. "The way guys were hitting everything, that made me even more nervous. But after getting used to it here — I usually throw off a lot flatter mound — I got a feel for it and just kept going."

Team Adams got a solid boost from the local trio of West Valley's Cory Urquhart, Ellensburg's Brendan Storey and Selah Jake Fife, which went a combined 4-for-7 with two doubles and three runs.

Storey's two-run double in the fourth inning was part of an 11-batter, eight-hit barrage that turned a three-run deficit into a 9-5 lead. Much of that damage came against Puyallup ace Adam Cimber, a UW-bound submariner who carried the Vikings into the 4A state final.



South Kitsap's Brady Steiger of Team Baker is tagged out by Team Adams catcher Mychal Harrington of Hudson's Bay during an All-State Baseball Series semifinal game on Saturday at Parker Field. (Andy Sawyer/Yakima Herald-Republic)

“He had a funky motion with the ball tailing hard into your hands,” said Urquhart, who started at shortstop and went 2-for-3. “Fortunately we used to have a guy (Zach Biehl) who threw like that and it helped.”

Urquhart and Fife and their Yakima Valley Pepsi Pak teammates Ethan Flory and Thomas Wilcox, who represented Naches Valley on Team Baker, had more business Saturday night with the Pak playing in a Hagert Tournament semifinal.

“We’ve got so much baseball going on now,” Urquhart said, “but I love it.”

Eastside Catholic teammates Matt Boyd and Mike Bush fueled a considerable portion of the Adams attack, going 5-for-6 with two doubles and three runs.

Forty-nine of the day’s 56 hits were on the board before a hitter left the yard, and James Robbins of Shorecrest made sure his made an impact.

A Washington State University recruit and draft pick by Detroit earlier in the week, Robbins crushed a three-run homer to left-center in the top of the seventh inning, triggering a five-run uprising and giving Team Rainier the lead for good in the second game.

After six lead changes, Robbins’ clout and Calderon’s finish sealed it for Rainier, which will play Adams in today’s championship at 1:35 p.m.

Baker and St. Helens meet in the consolation game at 10:25 a.m.

Team Adams 11, Team Baker 7

Baker 201 200 02 — 7 17 1
Adams 200 720 0x — 11 17 0

Cimber, Yearout (4), Garza (7) and Rapacz, Burhman (4), Rapacz (7); Stone, Pinkham (4) and Harrington. Highlights — Baker: Eric Tinnell (Ephrata) 3-4, 3 runs; Brady Steiger (South Kitsap) 3-4, RBI; Josh Rapacz (Richland) 2-4, 2b, 3 RBI; Nate Eppich (Connell) 2-3, 2b, 3b, 2 runs. Adams: Matt Boyd (Eastside Catholic) 3-3, 2 2b, run, RBI; Kyle Phillips (Curtis) 2-4, 2 2b, 2 runs, 2 RBI; Mike Bush (Eastside Catholic) 2-3, 2 runs; Cory Urquhart (West Valley-Yak) 2-3, 2b; Casey Locker (Ferndale) 2-3, 2 runs, RBI; Brendan Storey (Ellensburg) 1-2, 2b, run, 2 RBI.

Team Rainier 10, Team St. Helens 7

Rainier 020 012 50 — 10 13 3
St. Helens 120 003 10 — 7 9 3

Padron, Walker (4), Calderon (7) and Madson; Johnson, Olsen (4), Lidyard (7), Wolfe (8) and Andrews. Highlights — Rainier: Jeff Melby (Bellevue) 2-3, 3b, sb, run, RBI; James Robbins (Shorecrest) 1-4, 3-run HR; David Madson (Sammamish) 1-3, 2b, 2 RBI; Andrew Mendenhall (Southridge) 2-3, 2b, RBI; Tyler Roberts (Southridge) 1-3, 2 runs; Bobby Twedt (Sedro-Woolley) 1-4, 2 runs; Brandon Walker (Kalama) 3 IP, 4 K. St. Helens: Devin Peterson (Marysville-Pilchuck) 2-3, RBI; Nick Andrews (Eastlake) 1-3, 2b, 2 runs; Jeremy Harper (Mossyrock) 1-1, run, RBI; David Lidyard (Cascade Christian) 1-1, run, RBI; Drew Abelman (Cheney) 1-4, 2b, run.

