

# All-State Baseball

## East Valley's Cameron as Versatile as They Come

YAKIMA, Wash. — When head coach Jon Aarstad starts mixing and matching his 18 players on Team Baker this weekend in the All-State Baseball Series, one name will repeatedly pop up no matter what the combination.

Jordan Cameron.

Whether it's an outfielder, a first baseman or a southpaw on the mound, the East Valley senior can deliver the goods and he can't wait to offer up any or all of his services in the annual all-star games at Parker Field on Saturday and Sunday.

"I will play anywhere," he said. "I'd love to pitch an inning or two but wherever they want is fine with me. I've got experience at a lot of positions."

How fitting that Cameron's versatility will highlight the end of his high school career at East Valley, where he was a three-sport standout. He switched from quarterback to wide receiver in football last fall and caught 30 passes, scored 23 points in a basketball game against Quincy and was a first-team CWAC pitcher this spring.

Baseball, however, is the thing for Cameron, who posted an 8-3 record as a senior, helped the Red Devils qualify for state and racked up 81 of his 168 career strikeouts. He also contributed a .400 batting average with 13 stolen bases.

You might think his three-hit shutout of Quincy in a loser-out district game last month was his career highlight, but Cameron can't shake some fond memories of teaming with Kevin Elkins two years ago when EV reached the 2A state championship game.

"I would start and go four innings or so and Kevin would come in and shut the door," he recalled. "We put up a few goose eggs and for me, as a sophomore, that was so much fun."

Cameron, who has played baseball since he "was coordinated enough to throw a ball," is headed to Clackamas Community College in Oregon City in the fall to pitch for the Cougars.

**CATCHER FOR A CAREER:** Goldendale's Aaron Cochran is also on Team Baker and the four-year starting catcher for the Timberwolves could find himself paired with Cameron.

Cochran was not only Lyle Stevens' catcher for those four years but a darn good one, earning first-team all-league honors three straight years and second team as a freshman.

"Aaron had the best work ethic of any kid I've coached," Stevens said. "Nick Dohrman (SCAC West MVP in '08) was like that, but Aaron was always working so hard and doing more than anyone asked of him."

That hard work paid off as Cochran batted a gaudy .633 with 27 RBI this season for Goldendale, which reached the state 1A quarterfinals before falling to eventual champion Cashmere.

Cochran, an all-league linebacker and offensive lineman, is headed to Whitworth and plans to play football and possibly baseball.

**RANGER'S MVP RUN:** J.R. Weigel of Naches Valley is the SCAC West's other All-State pick, joining Cochran, and he'll play on Team Adams for Cashmere head coach Jeff Carlson, whose Bulldogs topped NV in the state 1A semifinals.

Weigel's selection had much to do with being the West's MVP, thanks to his deft infield play, .507 batting average, 26 RBI and 13 stolen bases.

Weigel's award gives the Rangers four MVPs in the last five seasons following Ethan Flory (2009) and Zack Swart ('07, '06).

"We've always been fortunate to have well-rounded kids with good fundamental skills," noted NV coach Bill Walker. "The senior leadership we've had has been a great example for our younger kids."

Walker's run of Weigels has ended at eight years. J.R.'s older brother Matt was a four-year letterman between 2003 and '06.

**HATTEBERG HELP:** Gig Harbor's David Bigelow, who will play on Team Baker with Cameron and Cochran, was part of a stellar Tides' team that benefited from the help of Eisenhower grad and former Major Leaguer Scott Hatteberg.

Bigelow, a Gonzaga recruit, batted .422 with 39 RBI for a team that reached the 4A state playoffs. GH had quality pitching but to address concerns about defense and hitting head coach Pete Jansen asked Hatteberg, who lives in Gig Harbor, to help out.

Hatteberg played for Oakland, Boston and Cincinnati during a 13-year Major League career that ended in 2008. **SATURDAY BANQUET:** Three college coaches will be guest speakers at Saturday's All-State banquet at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center.

Gonzaga's Mark Machtolf, Washington State's Donnie Marbut and Portland's Chris Sperry will hold court at the event, which starts at 7 p.m. Sperry was an assistant coach at Davis from 1993-95.

Players can attend the banquet for free while tickets for non-participants are \$20.

**AROUND THE HORN:** Cameron, Cochran and Weigel will play for their respective teams in Saturday's first eight-inning contest at noon. Two other area players will take the field in the 3:15 p.m. contest — Ellensburg's Ethan Sterkel for Team Rainier and Eisenhower's Will Scott for Team St. Helens. Look for a feature on Scott's comeback from a broken arm in Saturday's edition. ... WSU and UW have five commits each in the Series. Richland's Mike Dunford, Camas' Taylor Williams, Auburn Mountainview's Brandon Williams, West Valley's Mitchell Peterson and Puyallup's Sal Arena are headed to Pullman while Sumner's Alex Sloan, Kentwood's Austin Voth, Blaine's Kyle Olason, Archbishop Murphy's Tyler Kane and Issaquah's Spencer Rogers are headed to Seattle. Full rosters will appear in Saturday's edition.