

# All-State baseball: Janis fills in where needed

## *East Valley Senior Pitched, Caught and Played Outfield for Red Devils*

June 11, 2011 by [Scott Spruill](#)

YAKIMA, Wash. — It couldn't be more fitting that East Valley's Jonathan Janis was named CWAC first team in baseball as a utility player.



What else would you call a kid who made nine starts as a pitcher, caught a full doubleheader, played in the outfield, bolstered the bullpen and clubbed home runs on consecutive at-bats?

That's the definition of utility and, in Janis' case, it's also worth an invitation to this weekend's All-State Series at Yakima County Stadium.

Janis will join Naches Valley's Cody Johns and Chris Walker on Team Adams, one of four teams sharing 70 of the state's top seniors in all-star doubleheaders today and Sunday. Team Adams and Team Baker are first up today at noon, followed by St. Helens vs. Rainier at 3:15 p.m.

"I was everywhere and I enjoyed it," Janis said of his multitasking final season. "I came in as our No. 1 pitcher but we had some injuries and I had to move around. I had experience at those positions, plus it gave my arm some rest.

"Hopefully that will help me this weekend because I'll play anywhere they need me."

The 6-foot-3, 175-pound Janis plans to pitch at Clackamas Community College next season but admits it's nice to have a back-up plan — literally — if the need or opportunity arises. A mid-season injury to catcher Cody Cruse forced Janis behind the dish for several starts, including 14 innings in a crucial league doubleheader against Ellensburg.

"That was a good day for me because I hit a couple home runs in the second game and we won both," he said. "It was a long day but I felt good back there."

Janis, who grew up in Wapato, moved to New Mexico for his middle-school years and returned to the Valley prior to his sophomore year, has shown his natural versatility well beyond baseball. After throwing for 1,103 yards and 13 touchdowns as EV's quarterback last fall, he averaged nearly 20 points a game in basketball with a 36-point outburst against Ephrata.

"It's good to be young, I guess, because I don't feel tired at all," he said. "I'm ready for more."

### **Setting up residency**

After playing for Team Baker this weekend, Concrete's Tyler Howell will return to Yakima in two weeks for the 2A-1A-B All-Star Classic football game. Then comes a more extended stay when he enrolls at Yakima Valley Community College in the fall.

The shortstop/pitcher batted .475 and piled up 91 strikeouts this spring for Concrete, was the MVP of his feeder game last week and will play baseball for the Yaks. But he's been as well known for football, breaking Skagit County's career records for rushing yardage (3,622) and scoring (66 TDs).

## **Seeing double**

Bryce Jackson wears No. 24 and Ty Jackson wears No. 27. That will be the only way to tell them apart on Team St. Helens.

Southridge's twin brothers were co-MVPs of the CBBN 3A, both play first base and pitch and both are headed to Washington State.

Both are 6-foot-3 with Ty listed 15 pounds heavier at 230. Ty batted .532 with a league-high 34 RBI and was 6-0 on the mound while Bryce checked in at .476, 25 RBI and 4-1.

## **State-title high**

Bothell's Brian McAfee (St. Helens) and Burlington-Edison's Dylan Boe (Rainier) are just two weeks removed from leading their teams to state titles.

Boe, a catcher who clubbed a school-record 23 career homers, returns to County Stadium where he had five hits in BE's 2A final four victories over Clarkston and Sehome.

McAfee, a pitcher headed to Cornell, hurled a complete-game shutout to beat Richland 6-0 in the 4A semifinals and then drove in the go-ahead run in Bothell's 3-2 title win over Jackson.

Crazy senior numbers for McAfee: 9-0 record, a streak of 46 scoreless innings, 83 strikeouts in 69 innings, 0.55 ERA.

## **Tracking the draft**

Three players in the All-State Series were selected in this week's MLB first-year player draft, topped by Skyview pitcher Kody Watts.

The 6-foot-3, 190-pound Watts, who has signed with the University of Portland, was tabbed in the 15th round by the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Newport pitcher Jared Fisher (6-5, 225), a Washington signee, was claimed in the 26th round by the Houston Astros, and Union shortstop Caleb Whalen (6-2, 180) was taken in the 42nd round by the Milwaukee Brewers.

## **Around the horn**

Enumclaw's Eric Koenig (Baker) during a six-game stretch in April went 13 for 20 with eight home runs and 18 RBI ... Lakes' Dillon Gee (Adams) won't stay at first base long. He stole 26 bases for the Lancers. ... In addition to Howell, YVCC has another All-State recruit in R.A. Long's Austin Wegdahl (Rainier). ... North Mason's Kasey Bielec (Adams), whose mother Shelley played basketball at Central Washington University, plans on heading to Ellensburg as well.

## **Weekend details**

Parking is free with family, adult and student/senior tickets available for daily and two-day passes. ...  
Saturday's banquet at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center (1507 No. 1st) starts at 7 p.m. and tickets are \$20. Guest speakers are head coaches Donnie Marbut (WSU) and Lindsay Meggs (UW).