

# Haas riding high after dominating postseason

## Pitcher was 5-0 with 68 strikeouts in 31 innings in playoffs to lead RC to 1B state title

YAKIMA, Wash. -- Jacob Haas had his freak season at the plate two years ago and just got done with his freak season on the mound. It's always nice to be a well-rounded freak.

Especially during a run to a state championship.

Riverside Christian's ace of all skills wrapped up an 11-0 season with a 15-strikeout, three-hit shutout in the Class 1B state title game, leading the Crusaders to a 2-0 victory over Pomeroy in Centralia.

That one day was impressive enough on its own, but his three-week playoff run was untouchable from start to finish. Starting five of RC's seven postseason games, Haas was 5-0 with two earned runs over 31 innings and strikeout tallies of 13, 15, 10, 15 and 15.

Not a bad step up with a doubled workload from his junior season when he was 5-3 with an earned-run average three times higher.

"I was in a lot better shape and a lot more consistent," Haas said of his breakout year. "I threw 40-pitch bullpen sessions all winter and was stronger to start the season. Consistency was a big part of it, too. Instead of just trying to throw the fastball by people, I could use a curveball and changeup to mix things up."

That mix led to a remarkable two whiffs per inning for the season. And a state title. And an invite to the All-State Series today and Sunday at Parker Faller Field.

The 6-foot-2, 200-pound Haas, who's headed to Walla Walla Community College, also plays first base and batted a hefty .478 with 30 RBI this season. But two years ago as a sophomore, he hit anything and everything, raking to the tune of .662 with 47 RBI.

"I grew a ton that year and just had so much confidence hitting behind my older brother (John)," he explained. "I got hot and stayed hot. Sometimes I've been a little frustrated I haven't still hit like that, but pitching has come first."

No apologies necessary for batting .504 through a high school career. Haas is playing for Team Adams in today's first game at noon.

**MR. EVERYWHERE:** Keeping track of Ellensburg's Garrett Hull has been easy during his senior year. He's been in a lot of headlines.

In September he throws for 274 yards and four touchdowns in a CWAC football game, in December he nearly breaks a school record with 37 points on the hardcourt and nine days later scores 36, and in May he pitches a one-hitter with 10 strikeouts and swats two triples in a district baseball game.

Finishing a high school career as versatile as any to come through EHS, Hull will pitch and play the outfield for Team Baker, which takes the field in the first game today at noon.

Hull batted .475 this season and flashed some wheels with 23 stolen bases. He'll be a two-sport athlete in college, heading to Spokane Community College for basketball and baseball.

**OFF THE BOARD:** Union's Cody Hawken, who will be a teammate of Hull's on Team Baker, was selected as Gatorade's Player of the Year for Washington and a week later he was selected by the Chicago Cubs in the 34th round of Major League Baseball's First-Year Draft.

A 6-foot-3, 205-pound outfielder, Hawken has also signed with the University of Portland and finished with a 3.67 grade-point average. He batted .467 with eight home runs for the 4A state-qualifying Titans.

**STATE CHAMPS:** Fresh off winning the Class 4A state title, South Kitsap will be represented on Team Adams by head coach Marcus Logue and pitcher/infielder Cooper Canton.

Few championships could be as satisfying as this one, considering that Logue's Wolves were state runner-up in 2013 and 2014. And considering SK started this season losing five of its first seven games. But a 7-0 run through the postseason included wins over Decatur, Gig Harbor and Newport, who had all beaten the Wolves in the regular season.

On the same day South Kitsap beat Newport in the title game the school's boys track team also captured the state championship.

**AROUND THE DIAMOND:** North Mason's Daniel Burggraaf, a pitcher and shortstop who will play for Team Rainier, is headed to the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, New York. His father Ralph served in the Navy and his grandfather was in the Marine Corps.

The 6-3, 190-pound Burggraaf was the Olympic League MVP and struck out 101 batters with the help of a fastball that hovers in the mid-80s.

- Hoquiam's Kyle Standstipher (Team St. Helens) was in Yakima two weeks ago, pitching the Grizzlies into the 1A state championship game. He struck out 15 in a 4-0 semifinal win over Freeman, and the next day Hoquiam beat South Whidbey for the title.

- Woodland's Trevor Huddleston (Adams) and Cashmere's Mason Elliott (St. Helens) will be back in Yakima next week for the 21st annual Earl Barden All-Star football game at East Valley.

- **Alumni update:** Auburn Riverside's Michael Rucker, the offensive MVP of the 2012 Series, posted a 5-1 record with six saves and a 3.22 ERA as a sophomore at BYU this spring.

**TONIGHT'S BANQUET:** The annual All-State Series banquet will be held tonight at 7 at the Howard Johnson Plaza. The speakers will be Washington coach Lindsay Meggs and Tacoma Community College coach Ryan Mummert. Tickets will be available at today's games.