

Winners have a blast at All-State

By *ROGER UNDERWOOD*
YAKIMA HERALD-REPUBLIC

It wasn't like Greg Peavey took a deep breath Sunday and blew the ball over the fence at Parker Field.

But considering recent events involving the Hudson's Bay standout, he might very well have exhaled during the All-State Baseball Series title game, and the accompanying relaxation could have made his two-run, walkoff home run somewhat wind-aided.

"This is all about taking time to relax and just enjoy ourselves," Peavey said after Team A's 9-8 triumph over Team D. "We've all been stressing so much, trying to get scholarships and finishing high school and all. This was just a lot of fun."

Moreso for the winners, of course, along with the 20 players from the four Series teams who were chosen by coaches to compete in the Cascade Cup on June 23 in Vancouver. That event will pit the Washington contingent against a team from Oregon in two eight-inning games at Peavey's alma mater.

Three local players — Zack Swart of Naches Valley, Saby Martinez of Davis and Justin Kraft of Eisenhower — were among Sunday's selections.

So was Peavey, as one might have thought, especially after he followed a leadoff eighth-inning walk to Camas' Zach Gallagher with a blast that carried beyond the left-field barrier and made a winner of La Salle's Michael Pleger, who pitched the last two innings.

"It's always more fun to win," said Peavey, who pitched two scoreless innings before moving to third base. At bat, he was 2-for-4.

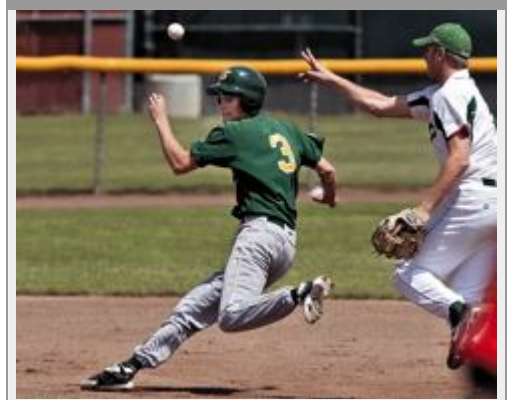
And don't forget, Peavey had been chosen in the 23rd round of last week's amateur draft last week by the New York Yankees. Should talks between the Yanks and Peavey's agent, Scott Boras, prove fruitless, he has a scholarship to Oregon State waiting.

But as Peavey said, Sunday was a time for fun, and all involved seemed to genuinely enjoy themselves regardless of their team's outcome.

Team A's Riley Henricks of Kamiak was indeed all smiles after producing a homer, two singles and two RBI which, combined with his pair of doubles, a single and three RBI on Saturday earned him the Most Valuable Offensive Player award.

Sehome shortstop Kai Hatch, who converted every play he should have made and a few he probably shouldn't have, was named Most Valuable Defensive Player.

Sunday's title game saw Team A lead 6-0 through six of the scheduled eight innings, only to have Team D score eight runs in the seventh.



ANDY SAWYER/Yakima Herald-Republic

Peninsula's Scott Cashman of Team A, right, tosses the ball past Team D's Kai Hatch of Sehome during a rundown Sunday in the championship game of the All-State Baseball Series at Parker Field. Hatch was tagged out in the rundown.

A three-run homer by Peninsula's Stephen Hagen and a two-run shot by Sedro Woolley's Brandon Amundson were the key blows, with Pleger being summoned after the latter.

Pleger, who came on with no outs, allowed one more run before pitching a scoreless eighth.

The first game, too, featured a wild momentum swing with Team B erasing a five-run deficit against Team C by scoring four times in the sixth inning and seven more in the eighth en rout to a 13-7 win.

A two-run triple by Hanford's Kevin Johnson and a two-run single by Nooksack Valley's Brent Handy highlighted the rally.

Swart pitched the first four innings for Team C, which was coached by NV's Bill Walker, Selah's Mike Archer and Walker's brother, Tom, the head man at Connell. Swart scattered five hits while striking out four and walking none.

North Thurston's Cody Brooks had the biggest game for Team B, which was guided by Bill and Tom Walker's father, Bill Walker Sr. Brooks went 3-for-5 with a double, two runs scored and another driven in while Martinez was 2-for-3 with an RBI triple and Auburn Riverside's Matt Renner was 2-for-3 with two RBI.

Devin Grindy of Camas led Team C by driving in three runs with a double and single.

Four other local players who were picked for the series — Kraft, Selah's Brooks Archer, Naches Valley's Drew Belton and La Salle's Lawrence Cacchiotti were not available. Kraft and Cacchiotti were with the Yakima Beetles for their Senior Legion league openers in Walla Walla while Archer and Belton were occupied by graduation-related activities.

"This was a great weekend," said Kamiakin's Rex Easley, who coached Team A. "You'd like to take a group of kids like this and just go on about a 50-game road trip — start in Florida and work your way home."

ALL-STATE BASEBALL SERIES

SUNDAY AT PARKER FIELD, YAKIMA

CASCADE CUP SELECTIONS

Representatives for Washington in a June 23 doubleheader at Hudson's Bay High School in Vancouver against a team from Oregon.

(Selected by coaches)

Matt Renner (Auburn Riverside), Braden Degamo (Mariner), Riley Tubbs (Tahoma), Zack Swart (Naches Valley), Devin Grindy (Camas), Saby Martinez (Davis), Cody Atkinson (Bothell), Kai Hatch (Sehome), Chris Dennis (Bothell), Zach Gallagher (Camas), Tyler Thompson (Richland), Riley Henricks (Kamiak), Greg Peavey (Hudson's Bay), Brodie McCormack (Brewster), Nick Opitz (Kamiakin), Stephen Hagen (Peninsula), Anthony Froemke (Lakeside — Nine Mile Falls), Nick Leid (Richland), Gary Kuykendall (Bonney Lake), Justin Kraft (Eisenhower).

CONSOLATION

TEAM B 000 105 07 — 13 14 1

TEAM C 210 300 01 — 7 10 1

Brent Handy (Nooksack Valley), Matt Renner (Auburn Riverside) (4), Anthony Wirkkala (Ilwaco) (7) and Matt Beers (Woodinville), Braden Degamo (Mariner) (7); Zack Swart (Naches Valley), Brandon LeDoux (Pateros) (5), Peter Santie (Evergreen) (7), Mike Guthrie (Foss) (8) and Joe Benish (North Kitsap).

Highlights: Saby Martinez (Davis) 2-3, 3b, RBI; Cody Brooks (North Thurston) 3-5, 2b, RBI; Mark Purser (Mount Spokane) 1-4, RBI; Braden Degamo (Mariner) 2-4; Anthony Wirkkala (Ilwaco) 1-3; Kevin Johnson (Hanford) 1-2, 3b, 2 RBI; Matt Williams (Lakes) 1-3, 2b, RBI; Matt Renner Auburn Riverside) 2-3, 2 RBI; Brent Handy (Nooksack Valley) 1-3, 2 RBI; Mike Guthrie (Foss) 1-2; Matt Hart (Todd Beamer) 2-2, 2b; Devin Grindy (Camas) 2-3, 2b, 3 RBI; Chris Sturdivant (Redmond) 1-3, 2b, RBI; Kirk Wetmore (Tahoma) 1-3; Kyle Baskett (Mount Rainier) 2-4; Joe Benish (North Kitsap) 1-2, RBI.

CHAMPIONSHIP

TEAM D 000 000 80 — 8 10 1

TEAM A 321 000 12 — 9 8 1

Ian Dahl (Mark Morris), Justin Klumker (North Thurston) (3), Corey Hitchcock (Moses Lake) (7) and Brodie McCormack (Brewster), Ben Mednicoff (Hazen) (5); Greg Peavey (Hudson's Bay), Nick Opitz (Kamiakin) (3), Tyler Thompson (Richland) (5), Ryan Frost (Tumwater) (7), Michael Pleger (La Salle) (7) and Andy Racus (Federal Way), Matt Swan (Kamiakin) (5).

Highlights: Kai Hatch (Sehome) 1-3; Cody Atkinson (Bothell) 1-1; Jacob Huylar (Eastmont) 1-2; Ben Mednicoff (Hazen) 1-1, RBI; Stephen Hagen (Peninsula) 1-2, HR, 3 RBI; Anthony Froemke (Lakeside) 1-2; Joe Paxton (Issaquah) 1-2, 3b, RBI; Bryan Black (Meridian) 1-2, RBI; Brandon Amundson (Sedro Woolley) 1-1, HR, 2 RBI; Riley Henricks (Kamiak) 3-4, HR, 2 RBI; Scott Cashman (Peninsula) 1-2, 2b, RBI; Greg Peavey (Hudson's Bay) 2-4, HR, 2 RBI; Brandon Strange (Mark Morris) 1-3, RBI; Andy Racus (Federal Way) 1-3; Matt Swan (Kamiakin) 1-1, 2b, RBI.