

CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE STATE BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Game 2 – Riverside Tigers (33-18) vs. West Valley Vikings (40-9)

By Tony Altobelli, Sports Information Director, Orange Coast College

FRESNO – Bryce Howard's tie-breaking, two-run home run in the top of the eighth lifted the Riverside College Tigers to an 8-6 win over the West Valley College Vikings in Game 2 of the California Community College State Baseball Championships on Saturday night at Fresno City College's John Eules Ballpark.

Howard, the Tigers' leadoff hitter smacked his first home run of the season off of Vikings' righty Danny Dyer, capping off an exciting day of championship baseball.

After grabbing the lead, righty reliever Sean Greer made it count by retiring all nine batters he faced in the final three innings for his sixth victory of the season.

With the win, Riverside will take on Sierra in a winners' bracket game on Sunday at 2 p.m., while the Vikings will play Southwestern in an elimination game at 10 a.m.

In a game that featured five lead changes, West Valley (40-10) wasted no time to find the scoreboard. In the top of the first, Brett Hall led off with a walk, advanced to second on a wild pitch, went to third on an infield single by Alex Todd and scored on a double-play grounder by Kevin Becker, giving the Vikings a 1-0 lead.

Riverside (34-18) quickly responded in the top of the second when Erik Krzysiak singled to left, advanced to second on a sacrifice bunt by Luis Tovar and scored on an RBI single to center by Richie Jimenez.

With the wind blowing straight out to center, runs came fast and furious. In the top of the third, Riverside jumped out to a 4-1 lead on RBI doubles from Daniel Duran and Krzysiak, followed by an RBI single by Michael Hur.

That lead didn't make it out of the inning as West Valley struck back for four in the third. Dyer, filling in for injured standout Ryan Tregoning, found a good time for his fourth hit *of the season* as he drilled a three-run home run to left – his first of the season -- tying the game at 4. A two-out, RBI double by Pete Fertado followed, giving the Vikings a 5-4 advantage.

Again, Riverside struck back as Billy Hamilton lifted a two-run home run to right, giving the Tigers a 6-5 lead in the top of the fourth.

The see-saw contest was evened up in the bottom of the fifth when Dyer walked, went to second on a Tyler Derby grounder, then scored on a single to center by Marty Mullins, knotting the score at 6-6.

