

## Game 1 – North # 1 Diablo Valley 3, South #2 Santa Ana 2

FRESNO – Corey Conflenti's game-winning single in the bottom of the ninth lifted the Diablo Valley College Vikings to a 3-2 win over the Santa Ana College Dons in Game 1 of the 2009 CCCAA State Baseball Championships, played at Fresno City College's John Euleus Ballpark.

Conflenti finished with three hits, one run and one RBI to lead the Vikings (36-15), while Travis Kruger added two hits and an RBI.

Vikings' lefty David Hurlbut threw seven strong innings, allowing two runs on six hits with two walks and 10 strikeouts. Kenny Arnerich (5-2) picked up win in relief, allowing just one hit and two strikeouts over the final two innings.

After getting out of a first-inning jam, the Vikings took an early lead. An infield single, hit-by-pitch and bunt single loaded the bases with nobody out. Clean-up hitter David Buscovich's RBI ground out to second brought in Ben Englehart to give Diablo Valley a 1-0 lead.

But Dons' righty Brian Peacock (8-3) worked his way out of the jam and limited the Vikings to just one run in the first.

In the bottom of the third, a one-out triple by Conflenti was followed up two batters later by a two-out, RBI double down the left-field line by Travis Kruger, giving the Vikings a 2-0 lead.

After allowing the first two batters to reach, Hurlbut settled down, retiring 15 of the next 17 batters he faced.

In the seventh, Jake Eccles put the first blemish on his record, swatting his 19<sup>th</sup> home run of the season, a 3-2 drive down the left-field line, cutting the lead to 2-1.

Three batters later, T.J. Yasuhara singled, stole second and scored the tying run when Cory Goodchild ripped a pinch-hit double to left-center, evening the score at 2-2.

Peacock matched Hurlbut pitch for pitch, walking three and striking out eight through eight innings.

In the ninth a one-out walk by Deren Rehr-Davis took Peacock out of the game. Reliever Christian Mesa came in and grazed Adam Greenberg with an inside pitch, putting runners on first and second.

A wild pitch moved both runners up a base, putting the winning run 90 feet away with a 3-2 count. When catcher James Davis appeared to give an intentional walk signal on the next pitch, Meza and Davis fooled the entire stadium with a fastball down the middle, striking out the Vikings' hitter for the second out.

Tyson Edwards was hit by a Mesa fastball to load the bases with two outs, bringing up Conflenti, who ripped the game-winning single to right-center to end the game.

With the win, the Vikings will advance to the championship semifinals, where they will play the winner of tonight's game between San Joaquin Delta and Orange Coast.

With the loss, Santa Ana will play the loser of the Mustangs/Pirates matchup on Sunday, beginning at 10 a.m. at FCC.