

May 6, 2001

CSM HAS MERCY ON DEVILS, ADVANCES TO STATE SOFTBALL TOURNEY MAY 11-13

The College of San Mateo women's softball team rolled into the state softball tournament with three straight home victories in a Northern California regional tournament over the weekend.

The Bulldogs (31-9) defeated Diablo Valley, 8-1 and Merced 2-1, on Saturday to advance to Sunday's finals. Merced came back in the losers' bracket with a 3-1 victory over College of the Redwoods and met CSM for the title. The Bulldogs led the Blue Devils 8-0 after five innings, which made the "mercy" rule come into play, ending the tournament.

Rachel Pacheco, the Coast Conference North Division pitcher of the year out of Half Moon Bay high, hurled all three games. "She gave up only two runs," CSM coach Tom Martinez was quick to emphasize. Pacheco aided her own cause in the finale, going 2-for-3 at the plate, batting in four runs, and scoring once. Infielder Jane Wojciechowski, a Capuchino grad, also had two hits and scored twice.

CSM's did have some trouble with Merced in their initial meeting. The Blue Devils led, 1-0, before CSM scored two runs in the bottom of the sixth inning. Infielder Alicia Messer (Half Moon Bay) got the game winning hit with two outs and CSM never looked back after that.

San Mateo, seeded third in Northern California, will begin play in the 2001 Hyundai-California Community College State Tournament on Friday (May 11) at the Buchanan High School Softball Complex in Clovis. Pairings will be announced Monday.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S SOFTBALL REGIONAL TOURNAMENT NO. 3 SCORES

At College of San Mateo

First Round: San Mateo 8, Diablo Valley 1

Merced 8, College of the Redwoods 3

Second Round: San Mateo 2, Merced 1

Redwoods 5, Diablo Valley 1

Elimination Game: Merced 3, Redwoods 1

Championship: San Mateo 8, Merced 0 (5 innings, mercy rule)

Team season records after tournament: San Mateo 31-9, Merced 22-15, Redwoods 26-15, Diablo Valley 23-19.