

Samohi baseball one win away from a title

BY JON HABER

Special to the Daily Press

DOWNTOWN Fresh off a pair of victories over Beverly Hills, the Santa Monica High School baseball team is just one win shy of clinching its third straight Ocean League title.

The only thing standing in their way is an equally talented Culver City club that's one sweep away from snatching the league crown.

The Vikings (13-11, 8-0) will test their undefeated league record against the rival Centaurs (13-10, 7-1) today in the season's final series of the year.

The two-game set will determine who reigns supreme over the rest of the Ocean

League. If Samohi wins one of two, the Vikings will regain their title. However, if Culver City can pull out a sweep, the Centaurs will come out as the new league champs.

Even though his team only needs one win, Samohi head coach Rob Duron said he doesn't feel his team has any advantage. He feels his team needs to go out and play hard for two games.

"I don't like that one win thinking because all of a sudden you [can] lose the first game, then guess what, it's a one-game deal for both teams," he said. "It's one step at a time."

"We don't think about anything other than that," the coach added. "It's like building a wall, one brick at a time."

Despite the Vikings' slow start to the season — Samohi was 4-9 entering league play — the young team managed to find a way to piece together enough hitting to compliment a dominating pitching staff, led by aces Tyler Skaggs (4-0, 1.79 ERA in league) and Paul Salazar (4-0, 1.34 ERA in league), and now finds itself one win away from the playoffs.

Duron, who joined the team in the fall, credits the turn around to a season-long building process that remains in the game plan.

"There's constant adjustments being made," he said. "We're still adjusting. Being a new coach, it wasn't easy. But every day,

SEE BASEBALL PAGE 9

Samohi science team takes home the grand prize in national contest

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

WASHINGTON Four California high school students used a complex mathematical function called a Maclaurin series to come up with the correct answer — "two-thirds" — Monday to win the Energy Department's annual National Science Bowl.

The team from Santa Monica High School beat 66 other schools and won a trip to the International Youth Science Forum in London this summer.

"We felt that if we were going to win it, it was going to be this year. Our team was just really solid," Dimitry Petrenko, 18, the team's earth sciences specialist, said after the win.

Petrenko and his teammates, Alexandre Boulgakov, 16, Marino Di Franco, 16, and Ian Fels Scheffler, 17, planned to celebrate by going out to dinner.

"Each of our guys really knows their stuff," said coach Ingo Gaida, a biology teacher at Samohi. "It's not like they're just studying for the competition; they just really love their subjects."

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger issued a statement on the win Monday.

"On behalf of all Californians, I congratulate the students from Santa Monica High School for winning this year's National Science Bowl competition," the governor said. "Their accomplishment highlights our state's commitment to science education, and I commend these students for their hard work and dedication."

A team from Mira Loma High School of Sacramento, Calif., placed second, winning a trip to a nuclear science facility in France. Thomas Jefferson High School for Science & Technology in Alexandria, Va., placed third and will get a trip to an accelerator facility in Virginia. Fairview High School of Boulder, Colo., came in fourth place.

More than 300 high school students on 67 teams participated in the competition. They represented 42 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The top 16 finishers each received \$1,000 for their school science departments.

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PROJECT RUNWAY

Models parade across the stage during the Santa Monica College LA Mode 2008 Fashion Show held at the college's Concert Hall on Friday, May 2. The show featured designs created by students in SMC's Fashion Design & Merchandising department.

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