Delta 12, West Valley 6

STOCKTON — Freshman Bryce Graddy made the most of an improbable situation when the Tokay product smashed two home runs to lift the Delta baseball team to a victory over West Valley on Saturday at Cecchetti Field.

Filling in at shortstop for Jacob Thomas (illness) and batting ninth on a blustery day, Graddy's only home runs this season barely cleared the 324-foot wall in left field. His 4-for-4 outing included four RBI and three runs as the Mustangs defeated the Vikings 12-6 to remain undefeated through five games. Graddy hit one home run in his four years at Tokay.

"It was a big day for him, obviously," Delta coach Reed Peters said. "I don't think he's hit one out in (batting practice) for that matter. We had a little breeze going out to left, which we never do here, so it was a good day to get a couple of balls up in the air and he did today, that's for sure."

Graddy, at 5-foot-10 and 160 pounds, also credited the wind.

"It was probably one of the windiest days of the year and I just happened to connect on a couple," he said. "I don't remember them at all. I just put my head down and ran."

West Valley's Matt Kuhl also took advantage of the wind by hitting the 10th pitch by Delta starter Ricky Delgado over the wall for a 1-0 lead. Undaunted, the sophomore right-hander from Antioch struck out the next three batters to end the top of the second inning.

"It's one guy, one swing," Delgado said. "It happens. How you bounce back is what makes you who you are. I had my curve ball working, but my slider wasn't working the way it usually should. But that just happens, you're not robotic."
Delta responded in the bottom of the second with Collin Theroux's leadoff walk and three consecutive doubles by Nelson Muniz, Ryan Smith and Jelanie Davie on three consecutive pitches by Vikings' (2-4) starter Billy Mullins. Jake Derwent's RBI single capped the rally for a 4-1 lead.

After leaving the bases loaded in the third inning, Delta increased its lead to 6-1 in the fourth when Theroux's two-out single plated Smith and Graddy. Graddy's first home run in the fifth also plated Davie and Derwent for a 9-1 lead.

"It was good to see the bats wake up after Thursday's performance where we waited until the ninth," Peters said. "We knew (Delgado) would be a little amped up but he came out and threw very well. It was a good job on his part just pounding the zone and getting after it like he always does. He's a great competitor."

Delgado struck out seven, allowed seven hits and two runs, and walked none over six innings. Relief pitchers Bryce Johnson, Matt Huss pitched scoreless frames before Lance Berringer allowed four runs on four hits in the ninth. Jacob Rosales entered to get the final two outs. Zach Perugi and Muniz added RBI singles in the eight to finish the Delta scoring.

Delta hosts San Mateo at 2 p.m. Tuesday.

By Kevin Niendorf

Record Correspondent

Posted Feb. 8, 2015 @ 12:01 am

http://www.recordnet.com/article/20150208/SPORTS/150209730/101015/A_SPORTS