

2008 GSSCS Playoff Games

MOST LEAGUE TITLE GAMES ARE ONE-RUN CLIFF-HANGERS

With four of six games decided by one run, the Picnic Day league championship games were an exciting and entertaining blend of good pitching, mostly tight defense and timely hitting.

In the **League 5** title game, California Energy edged Overhead Door 4-3. A 4-6-3 doubleplay in the fifth inning ending a bases-loaded Overhead Door threat after the winners broke a 1-1 tie with three runs, mainly due to errors in a game that otherwise featured outstanding defensive play. The losers were led by Ettore Minor, who homered over the right-fielder's head in the sixth. He also made a great catch to rob California Energy's Allen Riker of a hit.

League 2: Fourth-seeded Harper Properties, managed by Jim Wait, used Jim Lucas' gamewinning hit for a come-from-behind 16-15 victory over second-seeded Sports Leisure Vacations. Rich Edwards homered for the winners. Behind Peter Anagnoston's pitching, Harper Properties shut out Sports Leisure in the final two innings.

League 4: Fourth-seed C&C Plumbing, managed by Jack Kocunik, edged Russ Barnes' defending champion Bradshaw Ranch Golf, 15-14. Four two-out hits -- by Bob Smartt, Dave Tanner, Ed Frantz and Bruce Gilmore -- keyed a five-run sixth-inning rally for the winners. C&C's Rich Ganas' towering drive reached the trees beyond the left-field fence. It was the lone over-the-fence blast of the six Picnic Day league championship playoff finals. C&C, league leader with 16 double plays in the regular season, added three more in the playoffs.

League 3: The top-seeded Old Hornets squeaked by Maita Chevrolet, 7-6. Nonplaying Manager Rich Del Chiaro's Maita squad, which had been the only team to beat the Old Hornets all season, including an earlier playoff game, used two triples by Patrick Morrison and a clutch RBI by Gilmore to draw even with the Old Hornets going into the bottom of the sixth. Old Hornet Brent Korff led off with a single. Hits by Bill Greene and Steve Schuler resulted in Korff scoring the game-winner.

League 1: Mimi's Café defeated Merrill Bookkeeping 5-2. Manager John Chatfield's winners were led by Ken Cramer's two hits, including a double. John Ross had three hits for Merrill, managed by Jerry Jodice.

League 6: Noel Maldonado's Greater Sacramento Softball Association (GSSA) defeated River City Bank, 22-13. The winners pulled away in the final two innings. Jim Stinson, who had a two-run triple for the winners, also made an unassisted double-play at first base. He snared a liner and, in almost the same motion, tagged a surprised baserunner just a step or two off the base. Dave Taylor had four hits for the losers. Doug Peterson had two triples and a double and Dave Vargo had two doubles and a triple for the winners.

Odds and Ends. Double congratulations to Kocunik, L4 manager and L3 player, and Gilmore, who won as a L3 and L5 player. Gilmore nearly played on three winning picnic day teams, but his L3 team, Maita Chevrolet, came up a little short. # (Many thanks to scorekeepers Colette Barnes and Sandy Begg for many details throughout the season.)