



Game 27 – Redemption



Coach Messina leads team to 14 – 4 record in inaugural season at the helm

Firebirds even score against Huskies

The Firebirds ended the regular season on a high note with a victory over defending state champion **Horizon 8 - 4** on Wednesday.

Chaparral delivered a solid team effort with contributions on both sides of the plate as seven players shared in the team's 11 hit total, and five different pitchers combined to limit the **Huskies** to six hits for the day.

In **Coach Messina's** inaugural season at the helm, the **Firebirds** finish with a 14 – 4 league record and look poised & ready to compete for another state title as tournament play begins Saturday.

Several players deserve mention for their efforts – **Joey Bielek** had a single & a 2-run HR, extending his team-leading hitting streak to an impressive 21 games; **Nick DeRegis** had three hits including his team-leading ninth HR of the season; **Dillon Bigcrane** hit a 2-run shot, 3-rbi & earned the win in relief when he induced a bases loaded 6-4-3 double play that shut down a **Huskies** rally in the fifth.

Eric Brossart reached base in all three plate appearances with two hits and a walk, plus blocked everything in sight behind the dish; **Kyle Toth** remained hot with a deep drive in the gap that he tried to stretch into a triple; and **Nick Diamond** hit a bomb that was about a foot short of going out for a double, then made a heads-up defensive play for the final out of the game when he fired the ball to first base from right field to catch the runner napping.

Starting pitcher **Tyger Talley** brought his usual fire to the mound and struck out five batters over three innings; **Will Strauss** was effective for 1 1/3 innings giving up one hit & striking out a batter; and senior aces **Nevin Wilson & Peter Lenstrohm** closed the door on the **Huskies** with each throwing an inning of dominant heat – **Wilson** struck out two of the four batters he faced in the sixth & **Lenstrohm** followed suit with two K's in the seventh to close the game.

Looks like **#3 Chaparral** hosts **#14 SD O'Conner @ 11a Saturday** at Jerry Dawson Field in the first round of the State tournament.

Go Firebirds!