



TITLE-CLINCHING WINS AAE shuts down Eagles on way to AL title

By MATTHEW PETERS ~ STAFF WRITER

VICTORVILLE • Academy for Academic Excellence proved it was the best softball team in the Agape League on Friday at Mojave Vista Park.

The Knights wrapped up their second straight league title with a dominating 10-0 win against Excelsior, which could have earned a share of the league title with a win. The Knights (15-4) finished a perfect 8-0 in the AL for the first-time ever. They won the previous matchup against Excelsior 8-1.

Now the teams turn their attention to the playoffs. Brackets will be released Monday at cifss.org.

AAE made it to the second round of the playoffs a year ago before losing 4-0 to Santa Paula. The Knights were ranked No. 2, behind just University Prep, in the latest CIF-Southern Section Division 7 poll.

“We’re looking to go a long way in the playoffs,” AAE coach Brian Frederick said. “We have a really good team. I’m excited.”

AAE jumped out to a 4-0 lead after the first inning as its first six batters reached base Friday. The Knights added three more runs as Excelsior (14-6, 6-2 AL) got sloppy with five errors in the second. They added two more runs in the third and one more in the fifth.

Cassie Williams, who will play for Cal State San Bernardino next year, went the distance in a mercy-rule shortened game. She pitched a onehitter with 10 strikeouts.

The Knights’ Rebekkah Keller was 2-for-4 and scored three runs, Haley Perea scored two runs and Brianna Frederick was 2-for-3.

Excelsior coach Mike Dickinson said he’s proud of his team despite the loss. Excelsior’s 14 wins were the most in program history. The Eagles were 9-10 last season.

“We’ve come a long ways in one year,” Dickinson said. “The girls are learning and second place is a position we’ve never been in. (AAE has) been league champions multiple times, we’ve been on the bottom of the barrel multiple times and we are climbing ourselves up.”

AAE 432 01 — 10 8 0 Excelsior 000 00 — 0 1 5

Williams and Edwards; Corona and Bonilla. WP — Williams. LP — Corona.

Matthew Peters can be reached at mpeters@vvdailypress.com or 760-955-5365.



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Academy of Academic Excellence pitcher Cassandra Williams and head coach Brian Frederick realize the team won their game against Excelsior on Friday after an unusual game ending play.

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Academy of Academic Excellence's Hanna LoPatriello slides safely into home as Excelsior catcher Julianna Phillips waits for the ball. AAE won 10-0.



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