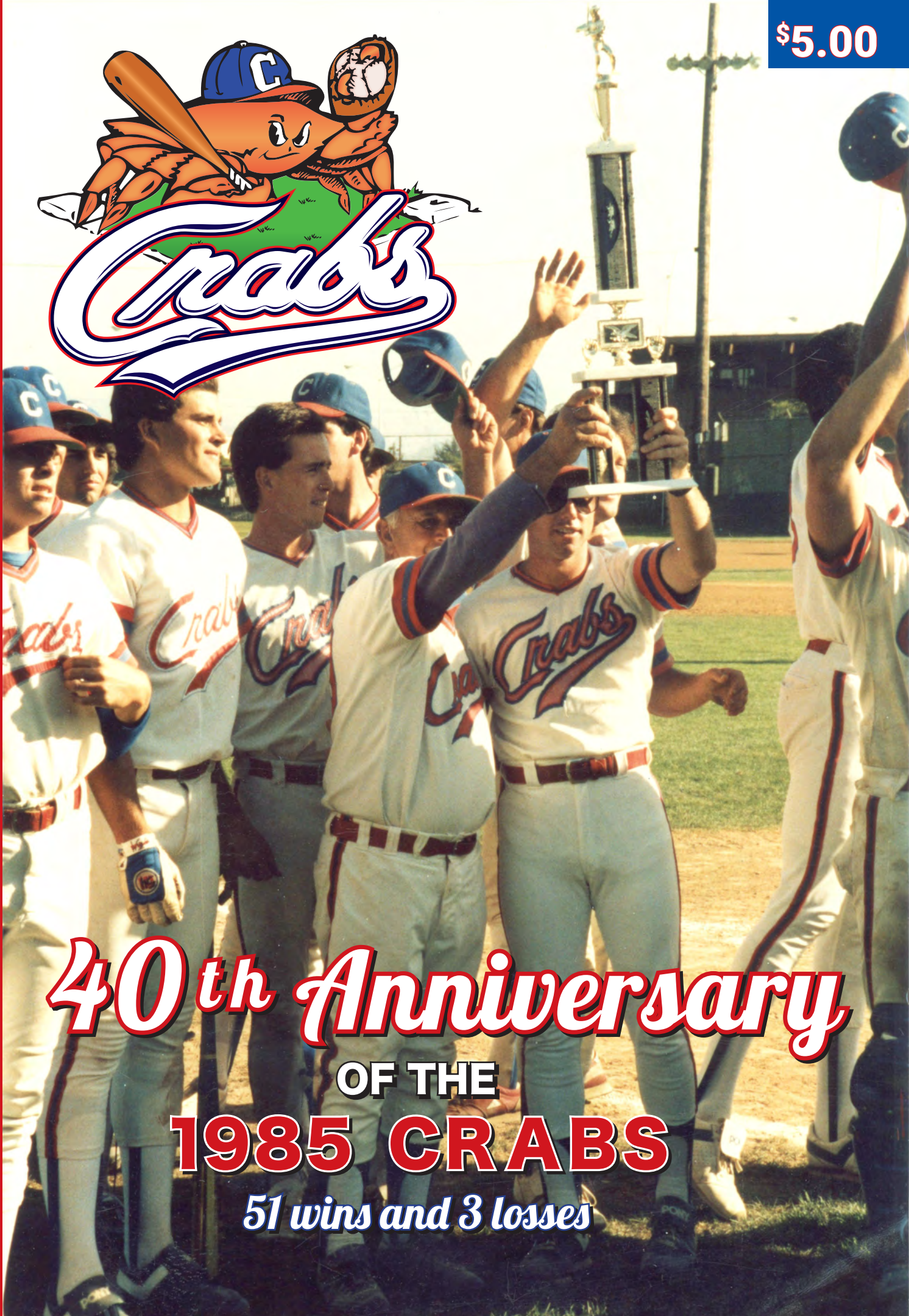


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Welcome to Humboldt Crabs Baseball 2025!

The Arcata Ball Park was in a constant state of construction this off season. The front entrance had been completely ripped out and the left field area had been torn up.

"We really looked at what were the most important features at the ballpark to upgrade and how to gain better access to left field. One of the top priorities was to update the facade and to open up the entryway," Emily Sinkhorn, the Environmental Services Director at the City of Arcata said.

"The entryway is a bit wider, both for ingress and egress as well as accessibility. I hope the entryway will feel even more welcoming to the community. Hopefully the front entry embodies some of those larger ballpark features, but still retains the intimate feeling of going to a Crabs game. It's a unique experience in a small town," Sinkhorn added.

The renovations were possible due to a state funded grant and financial assistance from the Humboldt Crabs. Find the ballpark facelift article on page 32.

The red stairs leading down to the entrance resemble an amphitheater that will invite baseball fans young and old into the park. Fans should be able to get into the left field area better with a new cement ramp that goes down to the grassy and open seating area.

Thank you to Hooven Co., and all the construction crews for making an old ballpark look brand new again especially after a long and wet winter. Maybe we can get dugouts next year?

— RedwoodNews.TV, edited for clarity

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Your 2025 Humboldt Crabs



Visit the Crabs website at humboldtcrabs.com to find the roster and team's stats. Follow the Pacific Empire League (PEL Summer 2025) on the Pointstreak scoring app for schedules, standings, stats and leaders.



#5 Liam Forsyth

Southeast Missouri University (SEMO)
C/1B

Senior

Bats/Throws: R/R

Hometown: Hayward, CA
Chabot College: Spent the two seasons at Chabot

College (JUCO) playing for head coach Will Tavis and Paul Weibens. In 2023, was a part of a conference champion before finishing as co-champions in 2024 in the CCCAA. During the 2024 campaign, Forsyth was a first-team all-conference selection and won the 2024 gold glove award. In 2023, Forsyth was a part of a team that set the CCCAA Juco Team home run record.

Prep: Forsyth started and lettered his final season at Bishop O'Dowd High School for coach Alque Ryans. He was the varsity's MVP in 2021 from his catcher position. He was on the honor roll all four years at Bishop O'Dowd where he also played water polo.

Personal: The son of Timothy Forsyth and Sandra Clark. Majoring in business.



#28 Nico Lombardi

Cal State Fullerton
Catcher
Junior

Bats/Throws: R/R

Hometown: Fremont, CA
Junior (2025): Played

in 15 games with seven starts during the 2025 season. Finished the year with a .321 batting average, four runs and three RBI.

Prior to Cal State Fullerton: Spent two seasons at San Francisco State and one season at Ohlone College prior to transferring to CSF.

High School: Attended Washington High School in Fremont. Played three years of varsity baseball.

Personal: Born in Hayward. Parents are Tony and Kathy. Has two sisters, Natalie and Angelina. Majoring in American Studies. Enjoys fishing in his free time.

Game day superstition is taking a cold plunge. Models his game after Buster Posey.



#10 Kawanakoa Soares

University of Hawaii Hilo
3B/C
Sophomore

Bats/Throws: R/R
Played for the Crabs in 2023. Born and raised on the Big Island of Hawai'i. He is Samoan, German, and Filipino. Has been playing baseball since he was three years old.

Personal: One older brother named Makoa and a younger sister named Destany. Parents are Tasha Fabinal and Jacky Kamohai. Loves to go to the beach, spearfish, fish, and hang out with family and friends.

#22 Houston Hirschhorn

UC Davis
Infield

Sophomore

Bats/Throws: R/R

Hirschhorn is originally from Kingsburg, CA.



#24 Cayden Lee

Simpson University
1B/3B
Senior

Bats/Throws: R/R

Hometown: Eureka, CA
High School: St. Bernard's Academy

Personal: Majoring in Sports Management.

#1 Elijah McNeal

UC Davis
Shortstop
Freshman

Bats/Throws: R/R

Hometown: Dublin, CA.
McNeal spent 3 years as a starter for



Dublin High School varsity baseball and was selected first team All League for 2025 baseball season in the EBL Athletic League. McNeal was selected to play for the Oakland A's Area Code Team in the

summer of 2024. He will be playing at UC Davis beginning in the Fall of 2025. Personal: Parents are Mia and Aaron. Majoring in Managerial Economics.

#26 Tate Medicoff

Santa Clara University
1B/OF

Freshman

Bats/Throws: R/R

Hometown: San Francisco, CA
At Santa Clara: First year with the program, joining as a true freshman in 2024-25.

High School: WCAL 1st team junior and senior year, led league in homers both years 12 homers senior year 3rd team Rawlings all American senior year SHC leadership and MVP award junior and senior year. Best offseason lifting/training performance junior and senior year. Hit 12 homers his senior year batting .387 with 36 RBI's and 29 hits.

Personal: Enjoys reading, playing ukulele, meditating, and journaling. Parents are Valerie and Sheldon. Majoring in Business.



#9 Keenan Morris

Santa Rosa Junior College/Oklahoma Baptist University
Infield

Junior

Bats/Throws: L/R

Hometown: Eureka, CA.
Played for the Crabs in 2024.

Junior Year: Started all 46 games for the Oklahoma Baptist University Bison, tied for the most runs scored on the team with 45, totaled 14 doubles for second most on the team. Finished the



season with a .323 BA, 54 hits, seven home-runs, 41 RBI and a .442 on-base percentage
 Prior to OBU: Last season at Santa Rosa JC, produced 40 hits, 10 doubles, a .288 batting average and slugging mark of .468, had a 4-for-4 performance with two homers and five RBI during a Feb. 28 game at Folsom Lake College and was a Big 8 Conference Gold Glove winner in 2024. Majoring in Marketing.



#13 Micael Perazzo

Sacramento State University
2B/3B/SS
Freshman
Bats/Throws: L/R
 Hometown: Redwood City, CA

Earned All-West Catholic Athletic League honors and was named team captain as a senior, helping his team to a league title. Scored 19 runs and drove in 19 more in 29 games as a senior, collecting a pair of doubles, two triples, and a home run. Helped the Padres to a share of the 2024 WCAL title. Also played one varsity season of football and basketball.
 Personal: Parents are Tony and Kathy. Has two sisters, Nicole and Cali. His father played baseball at the University of San Francisco. Four-year member of the Principal's List and honor roll, member of the National Honor Society, CIF Scholar-Athlete, member of the California Scholarship Federation and Block Society.

#4 Parker Rodgers
College of the Redwoods
Catcher/Utility
Junior

Bats/Throws: R/R
 Hometown: Eureka, CA

Played for the Crabs in 2024. Graduated from Eureka High School in 2021.

Played two years of at College of the Redwoods. Last year Rodgers transferred and completed his first year at Minot State University.
 2024-25 Season



at Minot: Named to Fall 2024 Vice President of Academic Affairs Honor Roll. Personal: Parents are Shannon and Nancy. Majoring in History Education.



#11 Cameron Sewell

Sacramento State University
Infield/Utility
Sophomore
Bats/Throws: L/R
 Hometown: Medford Oregon.

Sac State: Appeared in 45 games and made 40 starts in his collegiate debut season. Hit .233 with 35 hits, 26 runs scored, and 21 RBI, while slugging three doubles, a pair of triples, and two home runs. Made only two errors in 160 chances (.988) at second base defensively. Personal: Parents are Kristi and Todd. Sewell likes to go hiking and fishing. He also enjoys pickleball. Sewell owns a vintage clothing business. Majoring in Business Marketing.

#2 Nolan Hamilton
Mesa Community College
Outfield
Sophomore

Bats/Throws: R/R
 Born: Humboldt County

Mesa 2023-24: GP: 24, R: 11, SB: 6, H: 17, RBI: 4, Ave: .347. Mesa 2024-25: GP: 44, AVE: .246, HR 0, RBI: 16, R: 19, SB: 15.

Personal: Raised in Gilbert, AZ. Spent two years at Mesa Community College and is looking to attend a four-year college or university to major in Computer Science. Personal: Parents are Teri and Justin.



#17 Tyler Howard

UC Davis
Outfield
Sophomore
Bats/Throws: R/R

2024: Earned his way to become an everyday staple of the UC Davis Aggie outfield during



his first season. Played in 41 games, starting 37 of them. Led UC Davis in batting average during debut season where he hit .302 with 39 hits, 26 runs, and 19 RBIs, while also leading the team in on-base percentage (.405). Recorded 5 doubles, 1 triple, and 1 home run. Posted a .380 slugging percentage and .405 on-base percentage. Drew 19 walks and stole 8 bases in 13 attempts. Was flawless in the outfield, making no errors in his 79 total chances. Personal: Parents are Jennifer and Mike. Majoring in Economics.

#6 Sutter Moss
San Joaquin Delta College
Outfield
Freshman

Bats/Throws: L/R
 High School: Colusa, CA
 Delta College: GP: 43, AVE: .366, HR: 10, RBI: 31, R: 42, SB: 9



#35 Jacob Pappas
Fresno State University
Outfield
Junior

Bats/Throws: R/R
 Prior to Fresno State: Attended Cabrillo College for two years, redshirting in his first and serving as an infielder in his second.

Played in 2 games, accumulating 71 hits in 174 at-bats, had 13 doubles, three triples, five home runs, and 39 RBIs, hit .408 with a .475 on-base percentage and .603 slugging percentage.

High School Years: Attended Santa Cruz High School and played first base, shortstop, pitcher and outfield, lettered as a sophomore in his sophomore through senior years, won a league championship sophomore year, named first-team All-League and also played basketball in high school.

Personal: Majoring in Marketing. Parents are Paul and Michelle and both served in the military. Has two older sisters, Jessica and Nicole. Enjoys golfing and surfing, hates sharks. Favorite athlete is Steph Curry.



Continued on next page



#3 Timmy Reed
University of San Francisco
Outfield
Freshman
Bats/Throws: L/L
 Hometown: Roseville, CA.

High School: Four-year baseball player at Granite Bay High School. Received Defensive Player of the Year and 1st Team All-League honors in 2024. Batted .337 in 2024 and .312 in 2023.

Personal: Likes to go hiking and loves music. Has a dog named Zeus. Parents are Tracy and Brenda. The best thing about being a student athlete is the ability to play the sport I love while getting the ability to earn a degree in Business Management.



#7 Peter Caldera
Sacramento State University
RHP
Freshman
Bats/Throws: R/R
 High School: Two-

year varsity letter winner who helped lead the Granite Bay Grizzlies to a pair of section titles as a junior and senior. Played the outfield and also saw time on the mound. Finished 5-0 on the mound with a 2.07 ERA as a senior in 13 appearances. Struck out a prep best 37 batters over 27 innings and held opponents to a .183 average. Posted a 3-1 record with a 4.53 ERA as a junior, striking out 32 over 29.1 innings, limiting opponents to a .213 average. Hit .360 as a senior with a home run and a pair of RBI. Also lettered in football. Personal: Parents are Larry and Stephanie. Has a brother, Chris. Named a Perfect Game Preseason All-American in 2023-24 with the Baseball Performance Academy (BPA). He enjoys Mario Kart and random adventures.



#33 Cody Collins
Sacramento State University
RHP/MIF/Utility
Junior
Bats/Throws: R/R
 Hometown: Fortuna, CA.

Collins made the Top Performer video from the 2022 Northern California Prospect Showcase.

#16 Adam Enyardt
Saint Mary's University
RHP/Utility
Junior
Bats/Throws: R/R

Prior to Saint Mary's: Played at Stockdale High School in Bakersfield. Batted .400 and plated 40 RBI at the plate in his senior year. All-State player and two-time all-league outfielder in the Southwest Yosemite League. As a Freshman (2023): A two-way player and appeared in 23 games, recorded 25 strikeouts over 32.2 innings on the mound. As a hitter, appeared in 28 games with one start and went 3-9 with an RBI at the plate.

As a Sophomore (2024): Enyardt made 16 appearances and two starts on the mound for the Gaels. He finished with 24 innings of work which included 22 strikeouts and 2-2 record. Enyardt didn't allow more than three runs in a single appearance this season and recorded a season high four strikeouts in three innings of work in a 15-5 victory vs. Air Force.



#19 Jonah Fragus
Fresno State City College
RHP
Sophomore
Bats/Throws: R/R
 High School: Clovis West

15 games played in 2024-25 and 9 games played in 2023-24. Major: Business
 Parents: Jennifer and Christopher

#39 Max Hippensteel
UC Davis
RHP
Senior
Bats/Throws: R/R
 Hometown: Salinas
 Played for the Crabs in 2024. Played in 10 games, 22.1 innings



pitched, gave up 10 hits, 6 runs, ER 5, BB 11 and had 38 strike outs. Record: 4 wins, 0 losses. ERA 2.01
 Salinas High School: Excelled for the Cowboys as a multi-sport athlete and two-way baseball player. Hit .524 as a junior, guiding team to a league and CCS section championship.
 Personal: Parent is Tisha and has two siblings. Enjoys going to the beach and spending time with family. Majoring in Communications.



#25 Brody Jacobs
Central Arizona College
RHP
Freshman
Bats/Throws: R/R
 Hometown: Phoenix

Appearances: 8, W 1, L 1, SV 0, IP 11.1, ERA 4.76, WHIP 1.41, K 11.
 Personal: Parents are Lori and Brian.
 Majoring in Communications.



#34 Spencer Jacobs
Park University Gilbert
RHP
Sophomore
Bats/Throws: R/R
 Previous School: Arizona Christian

Hometown: Orange, CA
 Major: Psychology

#30 Kayden Kohlberg
Southeast Missouri State University (SEMO)
RHP
Freshman
Bats/Throws: R/R

Hometown: Imperial, Mo.
 Prep: Started and lettered for two seasons at Seckman High School for head coach Bradley Hagedorn. He was a first team all-district selection and a second team all-conference honoree during his high school career. Finished his career with a 6-1 record, accumulating a 2.82 ERA over 44.7 innings pitched. Recorded 53 strikeouts and a 1.41 WHIP in two seasons. Won



the district championship during his time at Seckman.

Personal: Parents are Kyle and Charity. Kayden also played soccer in high school. While everything else is left-handed, he throws a baseball with his right hand. Kayden intends on majoring in business administration.

#18 Brock Lenhardt

College of the Redwoods
RHP

Freshman

Bats/Throws: R/R

As a Freshman Zinck-Lenhardt earned GVC All Conference Honourable Mention.

Following a season where he was top 10 in every major statistical pitching category in the Golden Valley Conference at College of the Redwoods. Top 8 in ERA, Top 5 in K/9 overall, Top 4 in K/9 min 40 innings pitched and Top 10 in WHIP. His most notable outing coming where he toed the rubber against number 1 ranked in all of NorCal Feather River College, where he went 7 innings allowing only 1 run, 4 hits and only 1 walk with 9 strikeouts.



#20 Wade Mountz



San Jose State

RHP

Freshman

Bats/Throws: S/R

Hometown: Morgan Hill, CA.

Made four appearances for the Spartans in 2025. Recorded his first career

strikeout against Louisiana (2/14).

Pitched a scoreless inning against Cal Poly (4/8). First season at SJSU

Personal: Parents are Brad and Myra. Majoring in Kinesiology.

#40 Miles Oliver

College of the Redwoods
LHP

Sophomore

Bats/Throws: R/L

Oliver played high school baseball at Arcata High School and



won the 2022 Charlie Lakin Tournament and the Division 4 NCS Championship in 2023. Spent last two years at College of the Redwoods earning All Conference honorable mention this last season.

#32 Baylor Sandberg

Sacramento State
University

RHP

Freshman

Bats/Throws: R/R

Hometown: Fallon, Nevada

Four-year varsity letter winner in baseball for the Greenwave High School who also lettered in football and basketball during his prep career. Struck out 97 batters over 45.2 innings as a senior, posting a 5-1 record with an 0.77 ERA while holding opponents to just 14 hits, 10 runs (five earned), and walking 25. Hit .469 in 30 games with 44 runs scored, seven doubles, nine triples, three home runs and 34 RBI. Also stole 26 bases. Helped his team to a 2024 regional championship as a senior, earning 3A East and 3A North Region MVP honors as well as all-state laurels. Named the 2023 Nevada 3A East MVP as a junior, was an All-Northern Division Co-MVP, and was named to the all-state first team as a junior. Hit .489 over 28 games with 33 runs scored, 17 doubles, seven triples and 39 RBI. Slugged .865 with a .539 on-base percentage while stealing 16 bases. On the mound, finished 3-3 with a 3.59 ERA over 11 appearances, striking out 60 over 37 innings and holding opponents to a .221 average.



#12 Myles Standish

University of Hawaii

LHP

Sophomore

Bats/Throws: L/L

Hometown: Eureka, CA
Played for the Crabs 2023 and 2024.

Freshman Year:

Appeared in six games, all out of the bullpen.

Did not allow a hit over five shutout innings of work with seven strikeouts and just one walk.

Worked three-up, three-down innings



with two strikeouts in each of his first two career appearances, vs. Holy Cross (Mar. 4) and San Diego State (Mar. 22). Got the final out of the ninth inning vs. Cal Poly on Apr. 21, allowing UH to come back and tie the game in the bottom half before winning in extras.

Prior to college: Ranked No. 31 among left-handed pitchers in California by Perfect Game. A three-year letterwinner and 2023 graduate of Eureka High School. Posted a career 2.34 ERA while going 12-6 with 179 strikeouts to just 18 walks over 92.2 innings pitched. Pitched in three games as a senior in an injury-shortened 2023 season, finishing with a 1.27 ERA and 21 strikeouts over 11.0 innings. Named the Humboldt-Del Norte League Big 5 MVP as a junior in 2022. A second-team California all-state selection by MaxPreps. Went 8-4 with a 2.28 ERA and 126 strikeouts to only 13 walks over 64.1 innings pitched. Struck out 10 or more batters in a game five times, including an 18-strikeout effort in a complete-game one-hitter on May 12. Threw a five-inning no-hitter on just 47 pitches with 11 strikeouts vs. Fortuna High School on Apr. 27. Also hit .316 with two homers, eight doubles and 24 RBIs. Personal: Parents are Phil and Tina. Majoring in Kinesiology.



#8 David Zazueta

Central Arizona
College

LHP

Freshman

Bats/Throws: L/L

Hometown: Nogales, AZ.

Personal: Parents are Jorge and Holanda. Majoring in Psychology.

Crabs coaching staff remains intact for 2025



Robin Guiver #27

Manager

Guiver pitched for the Crabs in 1998 and 1999 and played at Washington State University.

Guiver was hired as an assistant coach in 2000 under manager Ken "Shorty" Ames and has been with the Crabs ever since.

He has accumulated 257 wins for the Crabs with 73 losses. Guiver needs 72 more wins to tie former Crabs manager Matt Nutter (2006-2013).

He also coaches at San Lorenzo Valley High School. His wife Alexis and their two boys Beau and Wes live in Santa Cruz County.



John Bryant #21

Assistant Coach

Bryant played college ball at Fullerton (National Champions in 1984) and played for the Cincinnati Reds Double-A team (1984-87).

Bryant has been an assistant baseball coach at Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa, California. Previous to OCC, Bryant was at Santa Ana College for 17 years.

Bryant is also a special education teacher at Loara High School.

He has been with the Humboldt Crabs since 2018.



Eric Giacone #15

Pitching Coach

Giacone played for the Crabs in 2004 and 2005. He was a pitcher and outfielder for the College of the Redwoods before transferring to California State University, Chico to play for the Wildcats.

Giacone handles the scheduling for the Crabs and has been the pitching coach since 2014. Giacone also helps organize the Crabs youth camps every summer.

Giacone was the Eureka High School varsity baseball team's head coach from 2009 to 2016 and guided the Loggers to a 17-11 record in 2014. He went on to become the EHS Assistant Athletic Director.

Giacone recently married and owns and runs his own painting business.



Jeff Giacomini #36

Assistant Coach

Giacomini is a former Crab and three-time MVP (2007-2009). Giacomini played professionally for two years with the Wichita Wingnuts in 2010 and the Calgary Vipers in 2011.

He returned to the Crabs in 2012 and 2013 as an assistant coach and camp director for then manager Matt Nutter.

Giacomini was inducted into the Crabs Hall of Fame in 2014.

Giacomini coached Eureka High School's JV baseball team for four years (2013-2016) and Eureka's varsity baseball team 2017-2018 and 2020-2021. Eureka was Big 5 league champions in 2017-2018 and 2020, and Co-Champions 2021.

Giacomini enjoys playing golf and coaching his two children Tristan and Sophia in the off-season.

Head Athletic Trainer Nathan Kees

Nate Kees has been a mainstay for the Humboldt Crabs organization since 2003. Kees has also been involved with the athletic departments of both the College of the Redwoods and Humboldt State University.

Kees is often referred to by Crabs players as the

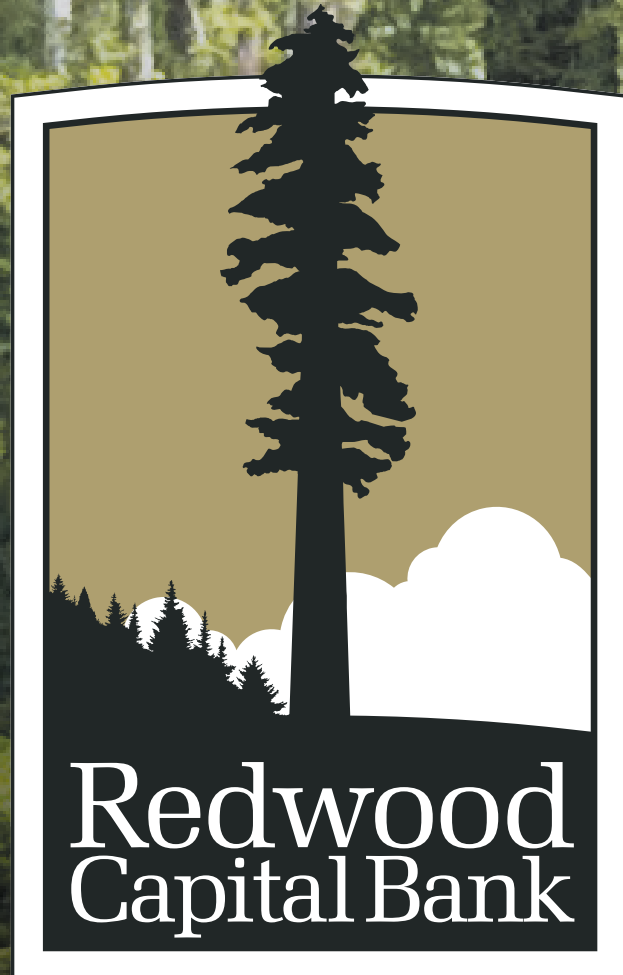
best athletic trainer they've met, according to the players' feedback surveys over the years. Kees also works for Solo Sports screenprinting, in Arcata that prints some Crabs gear. Solo Sports is owned by his wife Amber. They have three children: Tanner, Rylan and Jaxon.



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**MEMBER
FDIC**

Jerry Nutter honored with a baseball on the left field wall

When you're at the Arcata Ball Park, make sure you take a look at the baseballs hanging out in left field on the wall. The 1995 Crabs Board of Director's president Jerry Nutter received his honorary baseball last summer for his many years of volunteer service. Nutter was credited as saving the Crabs from extinction when Ned Barsuglia announced his retirement. Nutter and his group later made the Crabs a nonprofit community organization. Nutter passed away in 2012.

The other balls on the wall: Lou Bonomini, 29. He was not only the Crabs founder, but he was a player, manager and original owner of the team. Ned Barsuglia served on the first Crabs Board of Directors, and was also the General Manager and Chief Scout. Former Crabs manager Ken "Shorty" Ames has the second most wins after Bonomini during his time from 1996-2005 posting a record of 387 wins and 93 losses.

Photo from left to right: Former Crabs manager Matt Nutter, his wife Shondra and their daughters Madelin, Tessa and Daisy were in attendance for the Jerry Nutter ceremony.



Run the bases after the game on Sundays, start at 3rd base

Kids and their families can run the bases after all Sunday games. Give the players and staff some time to get ready and then line up in left field near 3rd base. A member of the ballpark staff will give everyone the green light to go. The Crabs ask that you only run the bases a few times as staff needs to rake the field and gather the players' laundry. Thanks to Emerald City Laundry for ensuring our Crabbies' white uniforms are the brightest whites!

Hire a Crabs baseball player for the summer months

If you would like to hire a Crabs player for part-time work during the summer months, please contact our volunteer job coordinator and Crabs Board Member Larry Zerlang at (707) 496-4802. Crabs players can do light yard work and painting.



2025© Humboldt Crabs annual program. Program Cover: Lou Bonomini and Bo Hughes hold up the trophy for the West of the Rockies Tournament that was hosted by the Crabs at Arcata Ball Park in 1985. Program designed and produced by Tracy McCormack of Mack Graphics. Copy editing by Jocelyn Robinson. Thank you to Maria Bonomini Briggs and Conor Fitzgerald for the use of historical records and photos. Thank you to Conor Fitzgerald and Liam Warner for their articles. Thank you to Crabs Board of Director Matt Filar for the use of his photographs.

Season Passes & Single Game Tickets sold online at humboldtcrabs.com and at Wildberries Marketplace in Arcata. Call Wildberries (707) 822-0095 for Ticket Outlet Hours and acceptable payment. All seats in the park are general admission.

May/June 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					30 MAY ↗	31 ↗
					Novato Knicks	
					7:00	6:30
1 JUNE ↗	2 ↗	3 ↗	4 ↗	5 ↗	6 ↗	7 ↗
Novato Knicks			Humboldt Eagles		Fresno A's	
12:30			7:00		7:00	6:30
8 ↗	9 ↗	10 ↗	11 ↗	12 ↗	13 ↗	14 ↗
Fresno A's		Stockton Pearls			Athletic Edge Express	
12:30		7:00	7:00		7:00	2:30
15 ↗	16 ↗	17 AWAY ↗	18 AWAY ↗	19 AWAY ↗	20 AWAY ↗	21 AWAY ↗
Athletic Edge Express		@Healdsburg Prunepackers		@Lincoln Potters		
12:30		6:00	6:00	6:00	6:35	6:35
22 AWAY ↗	23 ↗	24 ↗	25 ↗	26 ↗	27 ↗	28 ↗
@Lincoln Potters		Chico Lone Wolves			Lincoln Potters	
6:35		7:00	7:00		7:00	6:30
29 ↗	30 ↗	Schedule subject to change Please check humboldtcrabs.com for info See website for radio information and find the Humboldt Crabs Live Stream on YouTube				
Lincoln Potters						
12:30						

July/August 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 JULY ↗	2 ↗	3 ↗	4 ↗	5 ↗
		Marysville Giants			Solano Mudcats	
		7:00	7:00		2:30	6:30
6 ↗	7 ↗	8 AWAY ↗	9 AWAY ↗	10 AWAY ↗	11 ↗	12 ↗
Solano Mudcats		@Medford Rogues			West Coast Kings	
12:30		6:35	6:35	6:35	7:00	5:30 DH
13 ↗	14 ↗	15 ↗	16 ↗	17 ↗	18 ↗	19 ↗
West Coast Kings		Seals Baseball			Healdsburg Prunepackers	
12:30		7:00	7:00		7:00	6:30
20 ↗	21 ↗	22 ↗	23 ↗	24 ↗	25 ↗	26 ↗
Healdsburg Prunepackers		Bercovich Honors			Medford Rogues	
12:30		7:00	7:00		7:00	6:30
27 ↗	28 ↗	29 ↗	30 ↗	31 ↗	1 AUG ↗	2 ↗
Medford Rogues		PEL Championship Series Teams and Location TBD			Placer County Peloteros	
12:30		Athletic Edge Express	Athletic Edge Express		Placer County Peloteros	6:30
3 ↗		*Crabs may host opponents below instead. Start times TBA				
Placer County Peloteros		↗ Denotes an appearance by the World Famous Crab Grass Band				
12:30		f t i humboldtcrabs.com				

TICKET PRICES

Adults\$10 Adult Season Pass\$150
Children (3-12 yrs.)\$4 Child Season Pass\$75

TICKET OUTLET

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Tickets and Season Passes also available at humboldtcrabs.com

SPECIAL EVENTS

- Sunday, June 1 • Star Wars / Star Trek Day
 - Wednesday, June 4 • Flannel Night
 - Sunday, June 8 • Fairy Day
 - Friday, June 13 • Tie Dye Day
 - Sunday, June 15 • Father's Day
 - Tuesday, June 24 • Superhero Day
 - Saturday, June 28 • Sponsor Night/Harry Potter Day
 - Sunday, June 29 • Mascot Day
 - Tuesday, July 1 • Camo Night
 - Saturday, July 12 • Alumni Fest / Parents' Weekend
 - Saturday, July 19 • Pajama Night
 - Saturday, July 26 • Italian Heritage and Pirate Night
 - Saturday, August 2 • Fan Appreciation and Mustache / 70's Night
- Full list available online •

Check humboldtcrabs.com for updates and changes to the schedule or leave a message on the Crabs voicemail (707) 840-5665 or email humboldtcrabs@gmail.com



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Pacific Empire League returns for second season with new partners

The Pacific Empire League (PEL) is excited to announce the release of its eagerly awaited 2025 schedule, building on the phenomenal success of its inaugural season. Last year, fans in California and Oregon witnessed the rise of a new powerhouse in summer collegiate baseball, culminating in a tightly contested championship. The Healdsburg Prune Packers secured a historic "4-peat" state title in an intense showdown against the Lincoln Potters.

"I am incredibly proud of the stellar teams that make up our league," says Natalie Norman, President of the PEL. "These teams not only compete at high levels but also provide comprehensive opportunities for growth—from athletic development to visibility for major league scouts. They achieve this in

some of the most breathtaking regions on earth, supported by vibrant fan communities."

"The success of our inaugural season has set a high standard for the future," Norman adds. "This year, we're fully committed to serving the sport in every way—by intensifying rivalries, fostering greater community involvement, and enhancing the overall excitement of the league. We're also focused on expanding our wonderful partnerships, including with Trackman, our official ball and tracking system. As the gold standard in sports analytics, trusted by MLB and the NCAA, Trackman plays a crucial role in elevating the level of play and player development within our league."

Follow the PEL on socials: Facebook, X and Instagram.

Players drafted into the Major League system

The Pacific Empire League stands as the proud home to some of the nation's oldest, most storied, and successful summer collegiate baseball teams along the West Coast. This prestigious league boasts a rich history including former players who have left an indelible mark on the sport, showcasing the high caliber of talent that has graced its fields over the years. Presented below are a select few of our distinguished alumni who were either drafted into the MLB or played in MLB.

- Jason Alexander - **Crabs and Prune Packers** - Angels
- Anthony Bender - **Prune Packers** - Marlins
- Robert Garcia - **Prune Packers** - Royals
- Augie Garrido - **Humboldt Crabs** - Indians
- Tony Longmire - **Solano Mudcats** - Pirates
- Nathan Martorella - **Lincoln Potters** - Padres
- James Outman - **Humboldt Crabs** - Dodgers
- David Peterson - **Medford Rogues** - Mets
- Christian Encarnacion Strand - **West Coast Kings** - Twins
- Joe Ryan - **Prune Packers** - Rays
- Spencer Steer - **Medford Rogues** - Reds
- Daniel Susac - **Lincoln Potters** - Athletics
- Andrew Vaughn - **Prune Packers** - White Sox
- Peter Van Loon - **West Coast Kings** - Orioles
- Bradley Zimmer - **Humboldt Crabs** - Indians



August "Augie" Garrido Jr. was an American professional baseball player and coach in NCAA Division I college baseball, best known for his stints with the Cal State Fullerton Titans and Texas Longhorns.

• **HEALDSBURG PRUNE PACKERS** In the inaugural season of the PEL, the Pack finished with the best overall record of 39 wins and 7 losses and claiming the league championship in a 3-game playoff against the Lincoln Potters. Joey Kramer led the PEL in batting at .406 with 15 dingers and 44 RBIs.

• **LINCOLN POTTERS** Finished their 2024 campaign with 36 wins and 18 losses after a winner take all championship final series against the Prune Packers. The Potters took game one 13-12 and then fell in game two 5-3 and were dispatched in game three 13-2.

• **HUMBOLDT CRABS** Were up and down all summer, but put the pieces together in July with a 5-game win streak in and finished in third place with 33 wins and 17 losses. Pitchers Nolan Long had 7 wins for the league best and Andrew Overland had the best ERA in the league with 2.78 ERA.

• **MEDFORD ROGUES** The Rogues struggled to stay above the .500 mark all season and finished hot with a 5-game win streak and posted 27 wins with 20 losses and placed fourth. Rogues Cody Nitowitz had the second best batting average in the league at .398

• **SOLANO MUDCATS** Finished 2024 season with 15 wins and 19 losses and placed fifth.

• **WEST COAST KINGS** Struggled to put a string of wins against their tough opponents in the PEL and finished in last place with 5 wins and 20 losses.

Note: Pointstreak standings separates playoffs from regular season wins and losses.

Packers bounce back from opening loss to win inaugural PEL championship

KIENAN O'DOHERTY
THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

Another year, another championship for Joey Gomes and company. The Healdsburg Prune Packers thumped the Lincoln Potters 13-2 on Friday night to win the inaugural Pacific Empire League trophy. The victory marks the fourth straight state championship for Healdsburg, as they've won the California Collegiate League state title the last three years in a row.

"Hands down, the Pacific Empire League is the most competitive league," Gomes said. "Anytime we go on the road now, it's a packed house. We had a thousand people last night, and a thousand people tonight. It's fan-driven first."

After falling in the first game to the Potters 13-12 before rebounding in game two with a 5-3 win, the series would come down to Friday's winner-take-all finale.

And after the Potters took the lead in the top of the first, it was all Healdsburg.

A five-spot in both the second and seventh innings did most of the damage as the Pack was back to their offensive best.

Luke Mistone (Murray State) ripped an RBI single that plated Eamonn Lance (Arizona State) to get the Packers on the board in the second. After Healdsburg then loaded the bases, Maddox Molony (Oregon) walked to give Healdsburg the lead.

Alex Leopard (UC San Diego), who has been one of the Prune Packers most improved and consistent players, then launched a ground rule double to the deepest part of the park, scoring two more.

Not a batter later, longtime Prune Packer Joey Kramer (Washington State), who was playing in his final game for Healdsburg, plated another on a sacrifice fly. Suddenly Healdsburg was up 5-1.

The title is the fourth straight for Kramer, who has played the last four summers at Recreation Park.

"I remember when I was a kid, it was a dream to play out here, playing for Coach Gomes and be here with the guys," Kramer said. "To be able to do it for four years has been a blessing for sure. My career has grown so much out here, and I love it, and I'm going to miss it."

And while the offense was firmly in its groove, so was the pitching.

Elliot Joslin (Saint Mary's) started things off on the bump and put in a performance of the summer, striking out seven and allowing no hits in five innings of work. Cardinal Newman alum Mason Lerma (UC Davis) then came in and did his job, allowing just one run on two hits over two innings.

From there, Caden Wooster (Santa Clara) and Tucker Bougie (Cal



Healdsburg Prune Packers' Camden Hayslip, right, celebrates his home run with teammate Eamonn Lance during their game against the Lincoln Potters in Healdsburg on Thursday, August 1, 2024. The Prune Packers defeated the Lincoln Potters 5-3. (Christopher Chung/The Press Democrat)

Berkeley) closed it out, hurling an inning apiece and combing for three strikeouts. It was a redemption inning for Bougie, who gave up the huge comeback to the Potters in game one.

Healdsburg finishes the season at 39-7, and a PEL record of 24-6. And it's safe to say the Pacific Empire League won't be going away anytime soon. "There's already talks about how successful the first year went, and we will be expanding as a league," Gomes said. "Hopefully we're establishing an absolute juggernaut of a league on the West Coast."

You can reach Staff Writer Kienan O'Doherty at 415-887-8650 or kienan.odoherty@pressdemocrat.com. On X (Twitter) @kodoherty22.

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Potters hire former player Eli Garcia to manage squad

LINCOLN, CA — The Lincoln Potters have hired Potters Legend Eli Garcia to be the field manager for the 2025 season. Garcia, a Lincoln native, played parts of five seasons for the Potters from 2017 to 2021.

“We are excited to bring Eli back to the Potters organization as the skipper. He’s a Potters Legend that we witnessed grow as a player and now we can’t wait to watch him lead this team and grow as a coach,” said President and General Manager Matt Lundgren.

After graduation from Lincoln High School in 2016, Garcia continued playing collegiately at Sierra College then later transferred to Cal State Northridge where he spent a season on the pitching staff for the Matadors. Following his college career, he began helping evolve young ball players with the local youth development team, the Peloterros. Garcia was then hired as the head coach of Roseville High School’s Varsity baseball team prior to the 2024 spring season where he led Tigers to a 17-9-1 record in his first season.

“I’m very honored and humbled to be able to wear Lincoln across my chest again,” Garcia exclaimed. “I want to thank the Potters organization for the opportunity. I truly



believe this is one of the best places to spend your summer as a player and I’m excited for the new wave of players to witness how much Lincoln loves their Potters,” he added.

Garcia has hit the ground running with his creating his staff and recruiting a talented roster of local and out-of-state players. Stay tuned for an upcoming announcement regarding the coaching staff.

2025 SEASON

The 2025 Season will be the ninth-consecutive summer of Potters Baseball at Historic McBean Stadium. The Potters have new merchandise, promo nights, and giveaways cued up to make 2025 another fantastic season at The ‘Bean. Partnering with Gladding, McBean since the true inaugural season in 1923, other local partners and community support have kept the Potters alive and they thank their summer baseball fans for the support.

Rogues find new skipper in Kevin Olmstead



MEDFORD, ORE — After undergoing a third search for a manager in as many off seasons, the Medford Rogues announced a local hire for the third time in program history in Grant Pass native Kevin Olmstead.

Olmstead, who currently serves as an assistant baseball coach and recruiting coordinator at Oregon Tech, takes over for Nate Esposito after only one season at the helm of the Rogues. He will be the program’s fourth manager in four seasons in 2025.

A North Valley High graduate, Olmstead guided the Grants Pass Nuggets in American Legion AAA play last summer and will be making his debut as a collegiate wood-bat summer league head coach this coming season.

“It’s an honor and a privilege to be given the opportunity to be the head coach of the Rogues,” Olmstead said in a release announcing his hiring. “Being from southern Oregon, it’s a dream come true that I get the



privilege to help make an impact in our local southern Oregon community.”

“I can’t wait to get started with the Rogues family and instill the championship culture they have created,” he added.

Olmstead takes over a Medford program that accumulated a 27-20 record and finished fourth during the inaugural season of the Pacific Empire League.

Rogues general manager Jeff Weiss led the coaching search as the franchise enters its 13th summer season and seeks to build on its affiliation within the PEL.

“Coach Olmstead understands the importance of connecting with our community,” Weiss said in the news release. “We believe his leadership will not only develop our athletes but also strengthen our ties with local fans and organizations. Kevin’s vision and energy will help shape a competitive and enjoyable experience for all involved.”

Olmstead guided the Nuggets to a

fifth-place finish in Area 4 play last summer but Grants Pass was able to reach a play-in game for the state tournament due to league-champion Eugene’s status as the tournament host. Grants Pass won in a play-in before losing in the first round and then snapping a six-game losing streak to the Medford Mustangs in a 6-5 Day 2 elimination contest. The Nuggets were eliminated with a loss in the ensuing round of play.

Olmstead is in his fifth season as an assistant coach at Oregon Tech after two seasons in a similar role at Lassen Community College.

At the end of last season, Esposito accepted a staff position with Cal State Northridge and became unable to continue his duties in Medford. The Granite Bay, California, native had replaced Parker Berberet, who served one season as manager after three years as an assistant coach to Ashland native Bill Rowe.

Esposito was the fourth former Beaver at the reins in six years for the Rogues following Tyler Graham (2018), Rowe (2020-22) and Berberet (2023).

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Stepping onto the field as a Crab for the first time

Third base coach John Bryant makes the drive from SoCal to Arcata every summer for the Crabs baseball experience

Question: When did you first become aware of Crabs Baseball and what did you know about the program from your Cal State Fullerton days?

Answer: My first experience about the Crabs was with some of my Titan teammates who played in '83 with Nick Fuscardo as the Head Coach. They had some hilarious stories about their experiences. Next was when my son almost played for them. He was given two choices — play for the Crabs or go to summer school. He opted for summer school so he could graduate early. I really got baptized by fire when I showed up that first year. I really had no idea of the tradition or pride that the program had. I am very humbled to be a part of that tradition.

Q) What makes the Crabs special that encourages you to drive up from Huntington Beach every summer?

A: It definitely starts with the people! Robin Guiver, Eric Giacone, Brad Morgan, Nate Kees, and Jeff Giacomini and their families all welcomed me and allowed me to intrude on their party. They make every day a memorable and happy experience. The Crabs Board of Directors is amazing and supportive beyond imagination. The fans are also extremely supportive and entertaining. And lastly, the players are absolutely a joy to work with. The atmosphere is a unique and enjoyable experience. I have the beach and the mountains to experience so I do not really sacrifice anything to be here. I do not enjoy the cold, but all the positive outweighs any negative exponentially.

Q) When you stepped onto the field for the first time were you aware that you were now a part of Crabs history?

A: Absolutely not. It did not take very long though to realize how intense and important the Crab legacy is to all the individuals involved with the program.

Q) When you heard the band play for the first time and saw 800+ fans in the stands, did this surprise you?

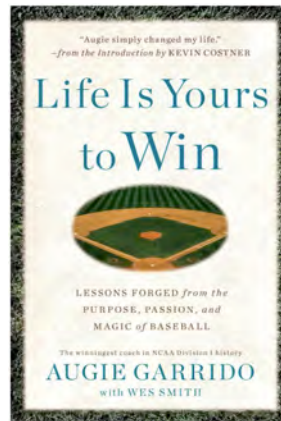
A: I was definitely dumbfounded when Guiver told me the biggest crowds are when the band plays. So yes, I was very surprised how important the band was to the atmosphere in the stands. They are definitely worth their weight in gold.

Q) You coach 3rd base for the Crabs, what's your baseball philosophy that you teach on the base paths?

A: The objective is to score runs. You cannot always rely on hitting to score runs. The four components to run production are hitting, base-running, bat control, and bunting. So basically, we evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the roster. We try to utilize any means within those strengths to gain 90 feet without giving up outs. The game is difficult. If the pitcher and defense executes the fundamentals, they have a chance to get an out. If they don't execute them we gain an advantage to score and that is our offensive game plan.

Q) What are your favorite baseball or sports books you would recommend for college players to read?

A: I am a big proponent of using baseball to teach and mold young people to be productive citizens in life. The two books I would recommend are, "Life is Yours to Win" by former Crab and former University of Texas manager Augie Garrido. The other would be "Heads Up Baseball" by Ken Ravizza. Both men were significant and influential individuals in my life. Both books deal with the player's perception of things and how to deal with them. It identifies methods to evaluate success versus failure as well as how fickle that evaluation can be.



Q) What is your advice for fitness, training, strength or nutrition for Crabs players who want to improve their game?

A: Eat whole foods that do not come in a box or bag. Eat at least a gram of protein for every pound of body weight. As far as weight training, utilize compound movements involving barbells and dumbbells to strengthen the body as a system. Work in all three planes of motion — Sagittal, Frontal and Transverse because players move in all three of them. I would recommend placing an emphasis on the Posterior Chain (calves/hamstrings/butt/erectors). Those are the muscles that allow athletes to be explosive and fast.

Q) What have you learned over the years coaching the Crabs is the best way to get players who have never played together to win games?

A: Understanding and communicating each individual player's strengths and weaknesses that they can contribute to help the Crabs be successful both offensively and defensively. Working with each player to develop their weaknesses into strengths. Making sure they comprehend the message and give them tangible methods, drills, and perceptions to improve and reach the level of competence of the fundamental skills of their game.

VERMONT

Q) Which Crabs players impressed you, had the most natural talent or were a joy to work with?

A: I have enjoyed having the opportunity to work with every player for the past eight summers. The players that I enjoyed the most were the individuals that really wanted to work and get better. Some of the personalities that come to mind include Tatum McCarthy (Fresno State), Kellen Strahm (San Jose State), Damian Henderson (Cal State Bakersfield), Javier Felix (Cal State Monterey Bay), Gabe Giosso (USF) are a few of the players that I have a special place in my memory.

Q) What would you say all of the Crabs coaches bring to the table as far as your individual baseball assets or acumen or approaches?

A: I believe it is an opportunity for the players to have different perceptions to draw from and learn the game. Everybody learns in different ways.



Having a variety of platforms to communicate and help the players is a definite advantage they should utilize to maximize their experience to get better, which is the purpose of summer ball.

Q) How do you keep the quality of play up every summer?

A: I think we have done a great and consistent job of getting players who have the tools to play. Success in this game is always going to come down to the skill sets of the players and their ability to execute the game within that skill set on a consistent basis.

Q) Are there any life lessons or baseball wisdom that you share with the Crabs players?

A: I realize that every Crab player's dream is to play in the big leagues and I respect that and hope it happens. Ultimately, I believe the greatest aspect of baseball is its ability to train young

people to deal with failure and adversity and become mentally tough. I have always advocated

that the three most important personality traits necessary for success in life are character, self discipline, and mental toughness. I do not know of or believe there is a better activity to participate in to develop these attributes than baseball. It is the only game where you can be absolutely perfect in your execution and fail. Learning to "control your controllables" is critical to success in the game and ultimately life. Getting young people to buy into this in this social media society is difficult because it is driven by followers and likes which emphasizes placing importance on others opinions rather than your own true actions doing the right thing.

**Responses are edited for clarity*



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Giacone relishes Crabs baseball's positive vibes

When the band plays Journey, Crabs pitching coach Eric Giacone still gets the goosebumps

Question: When did you first become aware of Humboldt Crabs Baseball?

Answer: I've known about the Crabs for as long as I can remember. My older brother had a couple friends that played when I was young so we would come to games to watch them play. I really started watching games though when my older brother Nick began playing in 2000. He played for three years before we eventually played together in 2004.

Q) What makes Crabs Baseball so unique or special that encourages you to suit up every summer?

A: The energy. The Arcata Ball Park is a special place in the baseball world. I've watched many games, at many places, at many levels in my life and a packed Crabs park has a spirit that is unmatched. If you like baseball, it's impossible to not feel that passion at every game.

Q) When you stepped onto the field for the first time as a Crab, were you aware that you were now a part of a larger Crabs history?

A: I had a very good understanding of what I was a part of as a player. Putting on a Crabs uniform for the first time as a player is a proud moment, especially as a local player. It's an unforgettable accomplishment that will be with me forever. As a coach, I've tried to teach the legacy of the Crabs to our new set of young men every year. Understanding the Crabs legacy creates an effort out players that no pep talk can match.

Q) When you heard the band play for the first time and saw 800+ cheering fans in the stands ... did it give you goosebumps?

A: The band at the Arcata Ballpark is something that will never get old. Part of the unmatched energy comes from the band. That vibe has not been duplicated at any other ballpark I've



ever been to. When the song Separate Ways by Journey comes on it takes me back to 2004-2005 as a player. That song gives me goosebumps to this day, 20 years later.

Q) What makes the Crabs so fun?

A: The people. From the volunteer board of directors, to the staff, players, coaches and fans. There's a small but very supportive ballpark team that makes the Crabs go. Being surrounded by all the enthusiasm from all the different groups keeps me coming back every summer. I try to return that same energy back to the community because the fun of being a part of Crabs baseball is the lifeblood of what has kept the organization going for more than 80 years.

Q) What's your pitching philosophy for these young college players when they are getting ready to go in or when they come out of the game perhaps discouraged?

A: I do my best to teach the process of what summer baseball is. Too many people get caught up in the results and it doesn't allow them to grow. Every pitcher that comes to us has something they need to work on. Reaching that goal may not line up with direct results on the mound. I try to get them to see the bigger picture. Acquiring more innings of work for their spring team or learning something new that could help them at the next level should be

the aspiration. Getting the players to understand that takes time but is so valuable for them.

Q) Do you feel like the Crabs road trips are what ultimately brings the team together?

A: Everybody loves a good road trip. We hope that we can bring them together before we hit the road though. It does seem when we get back from the road that every team is more in sync with each other.

Q) What is your advice for Crabs players who want to improve their game and take it to the next level?

A: Toughness. Every player that puts on a Crabs uniform has skill. Most are very mechanically sound. The ones that are going to move on to bigger and better things are the ones that are mentally tough. They go through struggling times and come out stronger than they were before.

Q) What have you learned over the years coaching the Crabs is the best way to get players who have never played together to work as a team?

A: A lot of that comes down to the natural leadership of the players. When no one steps up initially it takes a little longer for everyone to get to know each other as well as work together. As coaches we can do little things to

speed up the process such as team meals or workouts, but it happens quicker when the players take it upon themselves or figure out who the leaders are and to create bonds necessary to build a team spirit.

Q) What would you say all of the four coaches bring to the table as far as your individual baseball assets or acumen or approaches that perhaps complement each other?

A: Our staff has played and coached in many places through our careers. I think because of that we bring different pieces to the organization that compliment each other well. I think we also bring different energy to each aspect of the game. I think we all agree we want our players to play free and that ultimately helps us to win games. We don't want our players looking over their shoulder. They should not be afraid to make mistakes. We preach be who you are on the field and don't worry about making mistakes. Just play.

Q) Any advice for the Crabs players who arrive in Arcata for the first time?



A: Take advantage of the outdoors. Many of the players that come in have never been in a rural area like ours for an extended period so I tell them to use their time off to explore. Go to the beach, hike in the redwoods, do some fishing, walk the town. It's a great opportunity for them to be grown ups, in some cases for the first time, so take

advantage of it. When it's time to get to the ballpark and lock in, then it's time to win. When the game is over, or it's an off day, get out of your apartment and go enjoy Humboldt County.

**Responses are edited for clarity*

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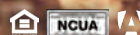
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Giacomini's field of dreams lives on in Humboldt



Crabs hitting coach Jeff Giacomini feels at home on any baseball diamond

Question: Who called you to let you know you'd be playing for the Crabs?

Answer: I received a call from Robin Guiver while I was playing for Sacramento State in 2007.

Q) When you stepped onto the field for the first time as a Crab, were you aware that you were now a part of a larger history?

A: At the time I did not understand the full Crabs history, but I quickly learned the legacy of the Crabs. I will always remember taking the field for



the first time as a player and hearing the crowd roar was something I will always remember. As a coach I am blessed to take the field every day. There is nothing better than being on the field with team and surrounded by hundreds of people cheering for the Crabs.

Q) Who do you remember most from your MVP teams as two of those teams had racked up 40+ wins. 2007: 42-12, 2008: 35-13 and 2009: 48-11

A: I remember the entire team. We were like a family. Matt Nutter, Robin Guiver and Matt Wilson played such a huge role in my success as a Crab. I could not be more thankful to that coaching staff. Kevin Morsching was also a huge role on the team. His energy was larger than life and was one of my best teammates. His tragic passing was one of the toughest things I have ever experienced.

Q) Crabs Board of Directors Larry Zerlang said you were his first recruit. Where did Zerlang place you when you arrived from Ukiah?

A: Larry was so helpful when I arrived in Humboldt. From day one he looked after me. He placed me in the Woodridge Apartments. The apartment was furnished and my roommates were awesome. Larry took me to lunch, helped me get a great job at the Fairhaven power plant. He helped me fix my car the first day I got here! Larry made me feel very welcome like I was family. The entire board of directors were great too. They provided the best experience I could ever ask for. I felt spoiled.

Q) What made Matt Nutter such a good coach back in those days? What were some of his skills that you may have adopted?

A: Matt Nutter was a great manager. He also made us all feel like family. We used to have Sunday barbecues at his house and those were some of the most



memorable times of the summer. Matt never applied any pressure on us. He was always very supportive and let his players game and that is what made it so fun. The coaching staff always had our back and showed us appreciation every day.

Q) You made the decision to go play out of state for the Wingnuts and the Vipers away from your family and girlfriend Mona. What was that experience like?

A: Mona and I met in 2008 and we have been together ever since. Playing in the Midwest and Canada was a great experience. It was difficult to be away from Mona, but she new I was living out my baseball dreams. She supported me every step of the way. We got married in 2016 and now have two children, Tristan and Sophia. She is the rock of our family. Mona is so happy I am still with the Crabs.

Q) You returned to the Crabs to coach alongside Nutter and Guiver in 2012-2013 and those teams went 37-9 and 42-14 and were nationally ranked 29th and 26th. What were the characteristics of those teams and how what is the biggest difference from coaching back then and now for the Crabs?

A: Those two summers were great. We had a lot of success. The biggest difference now is not having Nutter on the staff. Other than that, the way we do things is still very similar. Guiver sets the tone for our staff. He is a great manager and I truly appreciate his leadership. Coaching alongside Eric

Giacone and John Bryant has been an incredible experience. We are a well-oiled machine. We take great pride in helping our players be better than when they came in. We also make sure their time in Humboldt is unforgettable. I really try to recreate the similar experience I had with the Crabs as a player. The new league we are in is also a huge change for the better. The PEL is a big upgrade and we are able to compete at a higher level.



Q) What makes coaching baseball so special now that you're back with the Crabs? You also spent many years with the Steelheads and the B-52s as a player/coach.

A: Baseball has been my passion since I was three years old — it's all I've ever wanted to do. Playing the game was an incredible experience and I truly credit baseball for shaping the person I am today. Baseball has been my guide at every stage of life.

When I was released from Wichita, the Steelheads gave me exactly what I needed. The team gave me a chance to keep playing, to keep grinding and to stay connected to the game I love. Coming back home and getting those at-bats meant everything. Then when I was with the B-52s, I not only played but took on a huge role as President of Operations. That was one of the most challenging jobs I've ever had, but it never felt like work because I loved every second of it. Eventually, the year-round responsibilities and the challenges of COVID made it hard to sustain, but I'll always be proud of that experience.

Being back with the Humboldt Crabs feels like home. Even during my years with the B-52s, I missed being part of this team. My family missed it too. They love the Crabs just as much as I do. Being a Crabs coach again means everything to our family.

A lot of people look forward to summer for camping, travel and lake trips, but for me, putting on a uniform, taking the field and being part of a baseball family, that is my summer.

My kids grow up each year with essentially 24 big brothers. My wife and I get to raise them around a team, a

tradition and in the community we love.

So when people ask why I do this every summer, the answer is simple: It's my dream. It always has been and hopefully always will be.

Q) Did you learn any life lessons or have any takeaways from your Eureka High School coaching years as well as the B-52s?

A: I learned a lot. I think the biggest lesson I learned with the B-52s is how much work it takes to run a summer baseball program. It's so much more than just playing the game.

The B-52s brought back the baseball field at Redwood Acres. It is so great to see how much baseball is being played there today. Without the B-52s that field would not be as pristine as it is now.

Being with the B-52s, I learned how to build relationships on and off the field. I learned how to be a mentor and really become an ambassador for baseball.

My time at Eureka High School was a great experience. I learned how to coach at the high school level, which is a bit different from college. I really enjoyed my time with the Loggers.

Q) What lessons did you learn from your Dad about baseball, life and perhaps philosophy that you have adopted over the years?

A: My Dad Warren always taught me to never quit. I went through a lot of ups and downs during my baseball journey and he was a big advocate for me to keep going and to never give up on my dream of becoming a professional baseball player. My mom Marla and step father Doug were also a huge part of my support system. My parents financially supported me all the way through

college so I could focus on my school work and baseball.

Q) What is your advice for Crabs players who want to improve their game and take it to the next level?

A: Never give up on your dreams. Every choice you make, you should always ask yourself, "Is this going to help me achieve my dream or jeopardize it?" Work your butt off in school, at the gym and on the field. No regrets.

Q) Which baseball players impressed you or you thought had the most natural talent?

A: Bradley Zimmer from USF was a guy that I knew would go far. He had it all and it was a pleasure to help him in his baseball journey to the major leagues.

Q) Most summer teams only have one or two coaches, the Crabs have four. How do you complement each other?

A: Our coaching staff complements each other very well. Bryant and I work with the hitters and Guiver and Giacone take care of the pitchers. Bryant and I have a very similar ideology in regards to our coaching approach to hitting. It is very rare that our coaching staff is not on the same page.

Q) Are there any life lessons or nuggets of baseball wisdom that you share with all the Crabs players who arrive in Arcata for the first time?

A: Create as many relationships as you can and enjoy every moment, because time flies when your having fun.

Q) What would you say you're imparting on your kids when it comes to playing sports these days?

A: It is a different mentality today with younger kids. Your coaching approach has to come from a very supportive nature and always be mindful of their feelings. No matter what happens always be proud of them for giving it their best.

**Responses are edited for clarity*

Former Crabs, where are they now?

Crabs in Pro Ball

by **Conor Fitzgerald**

Four former Crabs, including three who were teammates in 2016, have spent time on MLB 25-man rosters so far this season. **James Outman** has played nine games for the Dodgers and is now with the Oklahoma City Comets, in second place in Triple-A



Jason Alexander

with 18 home runs. **Jason Alexander**, has made 5 appearances with the A's and Astros this season, and now has a 1.32 ERA with the Sugar Land Space Cowboys. **David Hamilton** has played 54 games in Boston as the main backup middle infielder for the Red Sox.



David Morgan

The newest former Crab in the MLB, 2021 Crabs infielder **David Morgan** who has since converted to a pitcher, started this season in Double-A, has a 2.70 ERA for the San Diego Padres.



Starting pitcher **Alex Pham** (2018), ranked by MLB.com as the 29th best prospect in the Orioles farm system, starts the season with Double-A Chesapeake Baysox, while his former Crabs teammate **Kellen Strahm**



Kellen Strahm

is patrolling the outfielder for the Rangers Triple-A affiliate Round Rock Express, and third in AAA with 27 stolen bases. **Josh Mollerus** (2019) is pitching for the Rangers High-A affiliate Hub City Spartanburgers. First baseman **Kevin Fitzer** (2022), drafted by the Rockies



OUTMAN, JAMES
#8 OF, Sacramento State University



James Outman



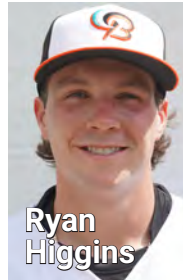
Josh Mollerus



David Hamilton

in the 16th round last summer, is with the Fresno Grizzlies in the California League.

A few former Crabs are also playing in the independent leagues. In the Atlantic League, **Ryan Higgins** (2019) is hitting .284 for the York Revolution and **Cary Arbolida** (2022)



Ryan Higgins

is hitting .459 for the Hagerstown Flying Box Cars. In the Pioneer League, **Andrew LaCour** (2022)



Kevin Fitzer



is pitching for the Yuba-Sutter High Wheelers, **Ethan Brown** (2022-23) is pitching for the Grand Junction Jackalopes, and **Nick Leehey** (2022) is playing for the Oakland Ballers.



Cary Arbolida



Alex Pham

Two 2017 Crabs teammates played in the Frontier League last summer, **Jeremiah Burks** for the Florence Y'all's and **Alejandro Lara** for the Windy City Thunderbolts, and they have also not yet signed with any teams in 2025.



Andrew LaCour



Ethan Brown



Jeremiah Burks



Alejandro
Lara

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Former Crabs, where are they now?

Q & A with Damian Henderson, Mr. Red

by Liam Warner

On the night of July 6, 2019, Damian Henderson stood in the left-handed batter's box at the Arcata Ball Park. It was the bottom of the ninth with a couple of runners on. As Henderson stepped into the batter's box, Crabs radio broadcaster Benjamin Schaffer remarked over the airwaves that "Damian Henderson leads the club with eight home runs, wouldn't it be great to see him tie the single season record right here, right now with a walk-off three run home run for the Crabs."

The very next pitch was launched into the night sky towards right field. Schaeffer's voice rose to meet the moment, blending with the crescendo of the elated crowd: "That ball is outta here, deep to right field, the Crabs win it! A walk-off home run for Damian Henderson!"

Henderson had tied Brian Blouser's record with nine home runs in spectacular fashion. Henderson didn't have to wait long to write his name in the Crabs history books; just 10 days later, on July 26, he launched a line drive to — you guessed it — right field for number 10 against the Lincoln Potters.

Since his storied Crabs career, Henderson has had quite a ride. He would sign with the Cincinnati Reds as a free agent pitcher after the 2020 draft was shortened due to Covid, then he would move on to the Pioneer league as a two-way pitcher and DH. Injuries and struggles on the mound would eventually lead Henderson to train at former Dodger star Trevor Bauer's facility in Arizona, where the Cy Young Award winner also had a YouTube content side business that Henderson would get involved in.

Today if you want to see what Damian Henderson is up to, you can head over to the Momentum YouTube channel (@watchmomentum) or his Instagram page (@_damian_henderson_) to see Henderson make YouTube videos with Bauer and other baseball content creators.



Question: How is life right now?

Answer: I can say life is pretty amazing right now, I'm out in Arizona doing the YouTube and Instagram stuff and spending time with my amazing wife. I'm having the time of my life and having lots of fun.

Q: How did you get involved with the Momentum YouTube channel?

A: It was crazy, I had never really watched YouTube videos before until I got into that facility. It's Trevor's (Bauer) place so one side is professional athletes and the other side is content. I kind of just joined in on the content sometimes and, you know, I'm a pretty fun guy and just happy to be alive and that's something they thought would be great to have on camera. Eventually they were like 'Hey, do you want to do this for a living?' If you told me as an 8-year-old living on a farm in North Carolina that I would be posting YouTube videos I would have laughed, like there's no way.

Q: How did you end up on the Crabs?

A: So the story is that I was looking to

go play summer ball somewhere, and my coach said, 'You should go play for Humboldt' and I responded "I don't know where that is.' All of a sudden, I got a text from Crabs Manager Robin Guiver and he said 'Do you want to come play?' and I was like, "Heck yeah, tell me where to go and where to show up'. Guivers sends me the address and I see that it's 19 hours away from me and it's a two-lane highway through the Redwood Curtain and I thought, 'this is insane.' But when I was driving up to Arcata I thought, "This is one of the most beautiful places ever. I'm literally so freaking happy I made it here. Crabs board member Larry Zerlang then texts me, 'Here's a place to live.' After all that, it was just go play ball and have fun.

Q: What was your first impression of Humboldt and playing for the Crabs?

A: When I first showed up — I'm a small-town guy from Goldsboro, North Carolina — in Humboldt, I got the instant small-town vibes. The first thing I did when I moved in was walk right over the highway to the field. I had never done that before and thought that was super cool. We had our first



Henderson played for the Lake Erie Crushers alongside former Crab Kokko Figueiredo and was later signed by the Grand Junction Jackalopes in 2024. He played alongside another former Crab Ethan Smith when he was in Colorado. The outfielder also spent two seasons in the Pioneer Baseball League with the Ogden Raptors (2023-2022) after a year in the Reds organization in 2021. He started his baseball career at Community Colleges at Cal St. Bakersfield (2020-2019) and Salt Lake City (2018). A Roadrunner, Mr. Red, a Raptor and Jackalope walk into a bar ... there's a joke in there somewhere.

practice that day and Guiver was telling us about how the crowd was super supportive and loud. I had never been in that kind of environment before as an athlete. The first game I played in I was like 'Oh my gosh! So many people showed up!' I couldn't even hear myself think in the outfield.



Q: What did you enjoy most about playing for the Crabs?

A: How do I pinpoint it? That's probably the hardest question you've asked. It was probably just all the relationships I built with all of my teammates, coaches and the staff. Just the whole experience and the moments I had with everyone there. The entire Crabs summer family was so kind. It's always just about having the best time of your life.

Q: When did you know you were going to break the home run record? What was it like hitting that walk off to tie the record and then breaking the record?

A: I saw how far it was in right field at the first Crabs practice. I hit BP and hit a couple of balls over to the police station and I was asking Guiver what the record was for home runs because I knew I was going to break it. I knew I needed to get the ball in the air.

[The night he tied the record] They brought in the lefty, the closer because it was a lefty-on-lefty matchup. Before he threw the pitch, I remember thinking 'He has to throw me a fastball right down the middle, and if he does, I'm gonna hit it out for the game,' and that's exactly what happened. It was one of the greatest memories of my baseball career. The next day waking up, I thought, I get to do it all over again. That's what was so great about Humboldt — getting to play often enough to have great memories over and over.

[The day he broke the record] I went on a bit of a dry spell after hitting that ninth home run. I felt the pressure of the town for some reason. What happened was I was trying to hit a homer and that made it worse. That game I finally just said, 'You know what, deep breath, if it happens it happens.' It was the second or third at bat, a fastball inside that I don't usually hit, and I got myself a nice little Humboldt Crabs bomb, a little short porch right field fence scraper. As soon as I hit it, I knew, I even have a video of Guiver jumping up.

Q: What did you do on your off days in Humboldt?

A: I did pretty much what every Crabs player did, which was go to College Cove and we would hang out there. I would go to the gym right across the street (from the apartment). I worked at Pierson Building Supply, I loved Piersons. My job was to cut rebar and help customers and stuff like that.

Q: How did your time with the Crabs help your future baseball career?

A: It was really nice to get another point of view from another set of eyes. I had all the ability in the world, but it was nice to get their eyes on me to refine that skill. I attribute that summer to the coaching staff really helping me and finding an approach. I had this freedom in being able to take an aggressive swing in all counts. In college baseball sometimes it can be so serious, like you gotta do it this way whereas in Humboldt it was so free, like it just unlocked me.

Q: What is your advice to an incoming Crabs player?

A: Do a lot. Like I did so much. I went rock climbing, I hiked, I walked the beaches and went to College Cove, I went to the Redwood Forest, I met so many new people. Just do stuff you've never done before, like that will help you grow as a human. The best way of putting it is just unlock. Just unlock, relax, and have fun.

Q: What is your message to Crabs fans?

A: I'm really excited to see them again! They're all such amazing people. I remember a lot of conversations we had. All the good times we had too. Every person that plays for the Crabs, that's probably the top three things they remember. The people that are there and the support from the community. The support that they give to the players is unmatched. I'm just so thankful for what they did for me. I want to find a way to give back someday. I really appreciate them and love them all.

**Responses are edited for clarity*

Steve Fish's memories of the Crabs' brush with folding in 1995 and his time with the team

1995 Crabs Program

STEVE FISH

Pitcher • Throws R • Bats R
 Height: 6-1 • Weight: 180 • Sophomore
 Hometown: Portland, Oreg.
 School: Redwoods JC
 Birthday: 10/25/74



Steve was a dominant starter for the Crabs last year, posting an 8-1 record with a 0.64 ERA. He struck out 56 batters in 56 innings. For the Corsairs this spring he was 4-4 with a 3.43 ERA. This is his second year with the Crabs.

I was a Crab from 1994 to 1996, so I was there when the threat of folding the team happened.

I do think they kind of hidden some of it from the players. Particularly since a few of us local guys put up some really good numbers and they didn't want to lose us. We had a core group of College of the Redwoods players that moved onto the D1 and higher levels that were somewhat removed from the Humboldt media. We had all signed contracts to come back, and most of us were outside the state.



Steve Fish with Baseball Betty Lacefield



Ned Barsuglia on the left and Tom Giacomini on the far right

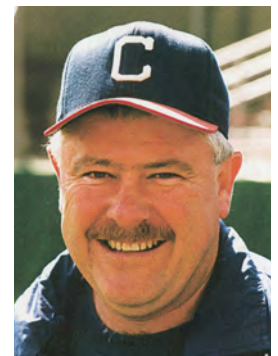
I remember it being a surprise when I returned. I still remained super close with Ned Barsuglia, and built an instant bond with Jerry Nutter. They



Jerry Nutter with Vince Maiocco and Vera Bonomini

entrusted me to run the camps and clinics as a player, where as before, coaches had directed them. Staff was new, Shorty Ames came on board as well to coach the next year in 1996.

I remember everything running super smoothly still. The board kept the same incredible atmosphere and really didn't try to reinvent the wheel, but had some younger energy that made things a little more lively from an atmospheric perspective (as I'm sure things were when Bonomini and Barsuglia were younger).



Ken "Shorty" Ames

Ned was still as cranky as ever though, but there was no doubt I was his favorite.

He was excited to see me every day and was always eager to discuss new players coming into play for the Crabs regardless of the team changing hands. He would still call me for a few years after just to check in.

I came back to Humboldt in 2012 and I had brought my three Australian teams to play in Eureka for the first time. I was so busy with the teams that I didn't get a chance to go and see Ned while we were there in June. That was the hardest part for me, not having any time to stop by to see him.

When I was in the area, I had learned I was going to be inducted into the Crabs Hall of Fame. I was going to come back to Arcata for the induction in July which was only a few weeks later.

I was really looking forward to catching up with Ned after not seeing him in 17 years. However, he passed just after I left Eureka in June 2012 and before I returned in July 2012 for the Induction. I was devastated.



Steve Fish

Crabs broadcaster recalls highlights from the 1985 team

I had just completed my first year at Humboldt State when the sun rose summer of 1985. I was a junior college transfer that was driven to get into sports broadcasting. Little did I know that the Arcata Ball Park and covering a historic season by Humboldt Crabs would kick off my professional career.

I was teamed with KHSU Sports Director Paul Bressoud to do a game of the week throughout the summer. I have never met someone who loved the game of baseball and its history more than Paul. We had a blast! And so did the Crabs.

Bo Hughes was one of the most focused coaches I have ever met and he had to be. The Crabs lineup was a firing squad for opposing pitching staffs. The Crabs hit .359 as a team. It wasn't often that we would see a close game with pitchers like Mike Harkey and slugger Steve Neel. Not that Bo didn't have fun, he was simply all business when he stepped on the "Yard" as he liked to call it. As the Crabs dominated each game, Hughes constantly reminded them to treat every pitch like the game

depended on it.

The fun came after the games as the team would gather at Blue Max Pizza to celebrate the win. If my memory serves me, Blue Max would give a player a full pizza for a dinger and slices for doubles. Crabs sponsors like Blue Max Pizza are so important to the survival of summer baseball teams.

This 1985 team produced a lot of pros and many left an impression on me that makes me think those games happened yesterday and not 40 years ago. One of those plays was a throw by Ray Williamson from deep in the corner, a frozen rope, to cut down a runner that should have had a routine double. I still believe it's the greatest throw I've ever seen live.

Neel was a Ruth type figure leading the team in home runs. He hit some massive bombs.

Pat Garman, a deadly hitter who was solid at third. Tony Felicione is still running the bases leading the club with a .445 batting average. How about John Klar hitting .400. Jeff Johnsen had plenty of power and I can still see

Bill Cruickshank rounding third and heading home.

Mike Harkey was an ace. As soon as you saw him throw that heat you knew you were seeing a guy that was headed to the show. No doubt about it. Scott Chiamparino was equally impressive and edged Harkey for the ERA title 1.78 to 1.82.

Eric Gunderson and Steve Olin, teammates at Portland State, were great guys to watch play and hangout with. It still hurts when I am reminded of the day that we lost Olin in that tragic boating accident in March of 1993 just a couple of weeks after I left KIEM Channel 3 for a TV job in Reno.

By the end of the season KATA-AM jumped on the Crabs bandwagon and acquired radio rights which produced my first professional check and eventually my first job in commercial radio. That led to future seasons calling Crabs games along with HSU football and basketball. It all started with a magical 46-1 regular season record at the Arcata Ball Park.

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2024 Humboldt Crabs Stats

Wins & Losses Record: 33-17 | Manager: Robin Guiver

Batting Stats

Batting Stats | [Expanded Batting Stats](#) | [Sabermetric Batting Stats](#)

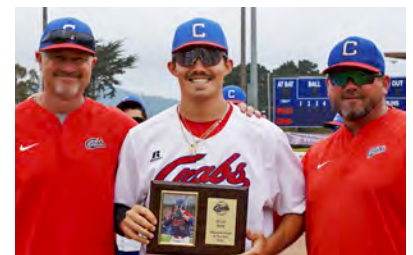
Conference Non conference **All**

Player	P	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	HBP	SO	SF	SH	SB	CS	DP	E
Rodgers, P	U	.533	9	15	2	8	3	1	0	7	8	1	5	0	0	2	3	0	2
Saloman, L	P	.500	1	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Ruby, J	IF	.392	41	171	39	67	10	0	2	25	19	8	6	3	1	8	1	2	3
Ham, B	1B	.366	45	164	37	60	14	1	3	38	24	20	25	0	0	4	2	2	3
Bode, R	P	.333	4	12	2	4	1	0	0	2	1	0	3	1	0	3	0	0	3
Felix, J	IF	.266	39	139	41	37	10	0	5	30	29	5	32	2	0	5	3	3	8
Rivera, E	C	.257	30	105	13	27	4	0	0	11	13	5	11	1	1	3	1	2	2
Avila, A	U	.256	24	86	20	22	6	1	1	5	13	3	22	0	0	12	4	1	1
Castaneda, V	U	.248	34	125	22	31	6	2	4	21	15	5	33	0	0	13	3	0	2
Callahan, C	IF	.241	21	83	18	20	4	0	0	13	9	3	8	0	0	6	2	3	12
Lee, J	U	.239	32	113	25	27	6	1	1	15	19	10	29	1	0	15	4	3	5
Morris, K	IF	.238	32	101	22	24	3	0	3	17	20	7	18	1	0	5	3	0	5
Harding, T	C	.237	36	135	25	32	5	2	1	32	13	6	27	5	1	2	0	4	0
Farfan, M	SS	.235	11	34	6	8	1	0	1	5	3	6	14	0	0	0	0	0	4
Coloma, K	OF	.210	24	81	13	17	7	0	3	20	16	2	14	2	0	1	2	0	1
Mckernan, M	CF	.200	33	95	21	19	9	0	0	9	21	3	27	2	0	3	1	1	2
Keys, T	U	.189	17	53	10	10	1	0	2	9	6	4	19	2	0	9	3	0	3
Kennedy, T	U	.184	29	98	14	18	6	1	0	5	15	4	30	1	0	15	3	1	6
Browning, B	OF	.147	23	68	10	10	2	0	2	7	8	3	31	0	0	1	0	2	1
Hippenstell...	P	.000	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Overland, A	P	.000	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Total:		.263	50	1681	341	442	99	9	28	271	253	95	356	21	3	107	35	24	66

Crabs player awards
Most Valuable Player
JETT RUBY



Offensive Player of the Year
BILLY HAM



Pitching Stats

Pitching Stats | Expanded Pitching Stats | Sabermetric Pitching Stats

Conference Non conference **All**

Player	G	GS	CG	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	W	L	SV	2B	3B	ERA
Hippenstell...	10	0	0	22.1	10	6	5	11	38	4	0	0	1	0	2.01
Avila, A	3	0	0	4.1	4	1	1	5	8	0	0	0	1	0	2.07
Hughes, I	10	0	0	10.0	5	3	3	7	12	0	0	0	1	0	2.70
Overland, A	11	7	0	45.1	43	17	14	8	47	4	1	1	12	0	2.77
Ignaciak, B	15	0	0	27.2	17	13	10	21	35	2	2	4	3	0	3.25
Saloman, L	9	9	0	39.1	29	24	15	23	53	1	1	0	4	1	3.43
Saso, C	10	10	0	53.1	55	25	21	22	43	2	2	0	5	1	3.54
Long, N	10	10	0	46.2	52	24	19	16	49	7	2	0	4	2	3.66
Romero, Z	7	3	0	25.0	25	14	11	7	16	1	1	0	4	1	3.96
Ruiz, C	9	5	0	29.1	32	14	13	13	35	4	3	1	6	0	3.98
Standish, M	4	3	0	15.0	10	7	7	9	18	1	0	0	2	0	4.20
Carey, S	5	2	0	18.2	25	17	9	2	20	0	1	0	6	2	4.33
Yamanaka, E	8	0	0	15.2	14	10	8	9	12	1	1	0	0	0	4.59
Stockton, B	15	1	0	31.2	35	18	18	8	45	1	0	1	8	1	5.11
Schwaiger, T	9	0	0	15.1	12	11	9	17	17	2	0	0	4	0	5.28
Nieman, C	13	0	0	18.2	22	13	12	12	18	3	2	0	4	0	5.78
Bode, H	13	0	0	30.2	39	22	21	8	38	0	1	0	7	2	6.16
Total:	161	50	0	449	429	239	196	198	504	33	17	7	72	10	3.93

Note: Statistics are based on 99 of 100 games scored.

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STATS

Crabs player awards

Pitcher of the Year
ANDREW OVERLAND



Relief Pitcher of the Year
BRYCE STOCKTON



Coaches Award
ETHAN RIVERA



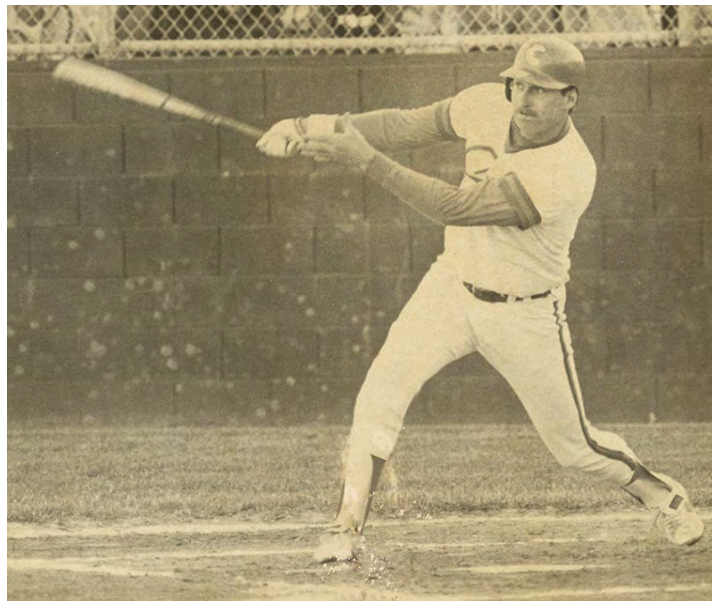
The Lou Bonomini-led Crabbies were a fine team that racked up wins by the dozen while the three defeats are tops in team history alongside the 1999 squad led by Ken "Shorty" Ames that went 45-3. The 1985 squad ended up ranked 17th in the nation that season.

A Player's Perspective – the 1985 Crabs

by Fred Hanker

The summer of 1985 with the Humboldt Crabs was one of my most memorable summers in my lifetime. The 1985 team was one of the best teams Humboldt has ever assembled and was inducted into the Crabs Hall of Fame. Our players consisted of college players mostly on the west coast. I attended Cal State Dominguez Hills in Carson, California. The only player we had who was not a college player was the great Steve Neel. He was a local legend that was on several Crab teams and older than all of us. He was a home run hitting machine. We had 4 players who went on to play in the Major Leagues, and another 7 that went on to play minor league baseball. The MLB players were Steve Olin, Mike Harkey, Eric Gunderson and Scott Chiamparino. We also had two 1st round draft picks in the MLB Draft, Harkey and Pat Garman, both from Cal State Fullerton.

Our record was an incredible 51-3 including a 46 game win streak that was snapped on the last game of the regular season. That was the most difficult day of the summer to



Humboldt's first baseman Steve Neel set the Crabs single season home run record with 20 in 1985. Neel ended the 1985 season with a batting average of .353 and 60 RBIs.

actually feel what it was like to lose a game. We ended up taking the team to Wichita, Kansas for the NBC World Series, where we went 1-2 as most of our players went home after a long summer.

The team and town really took care of us. We all had daytime jobs and played ball in the evening. I worked for Crab legend Lou Bonomini tearing down roofs with Steve Stowell. Lou's wife would always make me and Steve lunch and homemade blueberry pie. It was the best pie I ever had. General Manager Ned Barsuglia also employed players. He was always front and center and the face of the Crabs. Both



Fred Hanker argues with an umpire at the Arcata Ball Park in 1985.

Lou and Ned were outstanding human beings and I will never forget their generosity and humor. Those two gentlemen were the heart and soul of The Crabs and a pleasure to play for.

Bo Hughes, from Cal State Fullerton, was our manager and he was a joy to play for. I keep in touch with him to this day. I roomed with Ray Williamson and Scott Champiarino, both from Santa Clara. Ray was a long time friend and high school teammate of mine. He was given the nickname "Freeway Ray" by the fans because of all the home runs he hit onto Highway 101. The local pizzeria Blue Max would give out the following free: any home run by a Crab player was given a free large pizza, a triple was a free medium pizza, and a double was a free small pizza. If you pitched a shutout or got the win you got a free large pizza. It's safe to say the three of us ate well all summer at little or no cost, and their pizza was the best in town.

Arcata was a great town to spend a summer playing baseball. We were a tight group who spent a lot of time together. Our shortstop Jeff Johnson played the guitar and we came up with a Crabs team song. I can almost recite the entire song to this day. We also spent the few off days we had fishing together, hanging out by the river, and just relaxing.

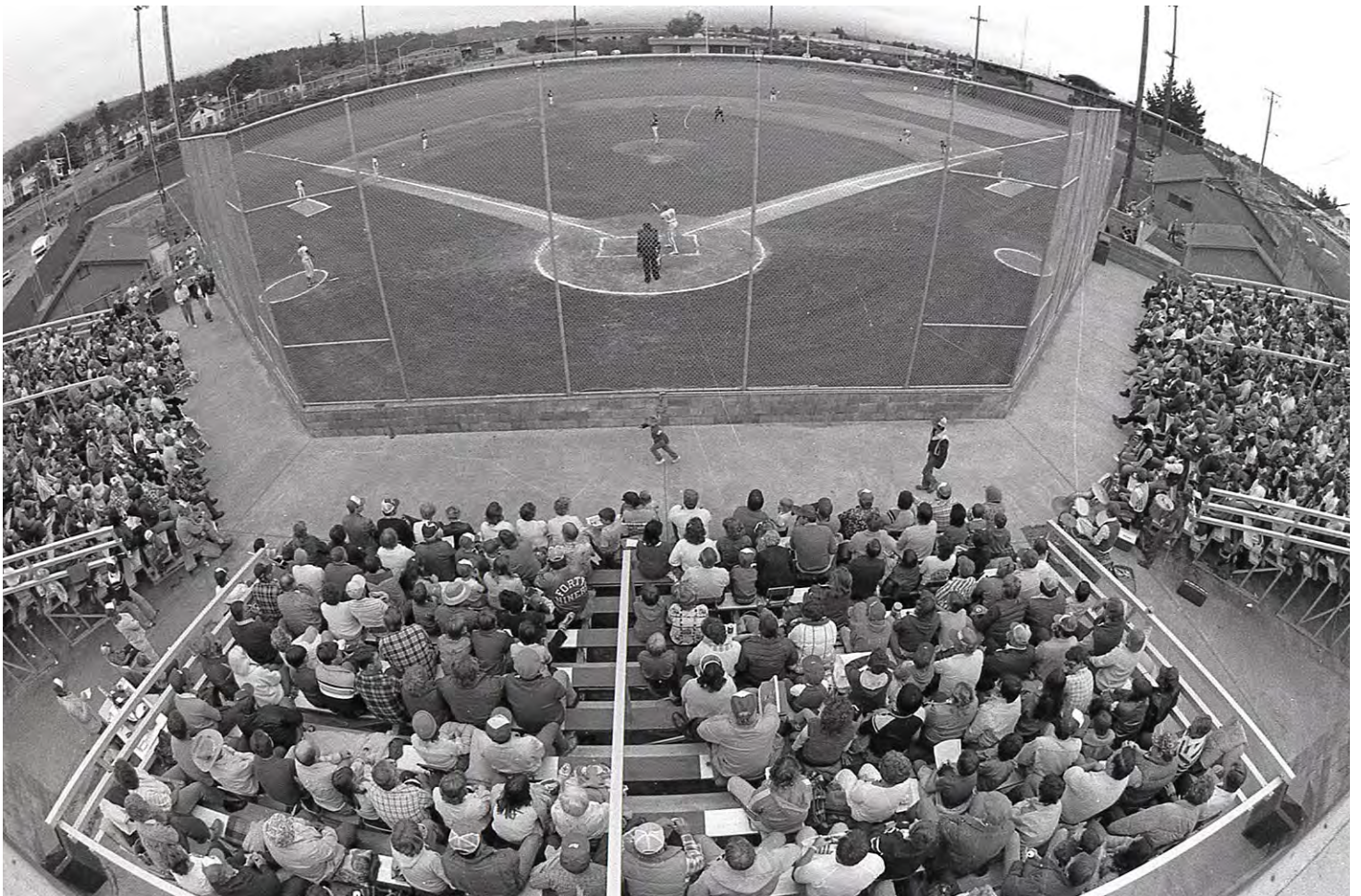
We had sellout crowds virtually every game and the crowd was very supportive. The Crab Grass Band was also very memorable and still plays to this day. I remember well all the great promotions they had that helped fill the stands. I developed a lot of great relationships with the fans. I was



The Crabs won the 1985 West of the Rockies Tournament which was played at the Arcata Ball Park. Nine players from the team were selected to the West of the Rockies all-tourney team. There were only 13 total selections.

in town two years ago to receive my Crabs Hall of Fame plaque and throw out the 1st pitch in a game. It was a very memorable moment for me.

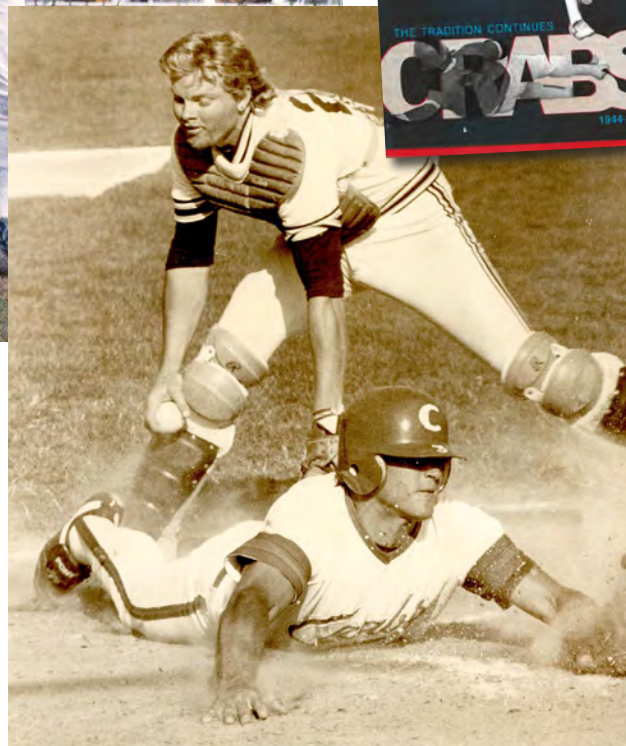
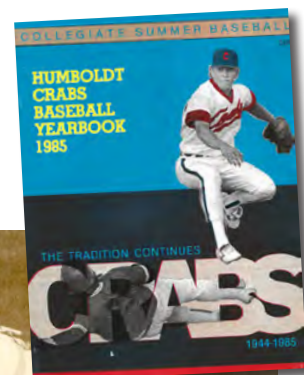
In closing, the 1985 Crabs was to this day the single best team I ever played on. That includes high school, college and pro ball. I still keep in touch with a few of the guys but over time you end up losing touch. It has been and always will be one of my favorite little towns. I hope to visit again soon in the near future and catch a game.



1985 Humboldt Crabs, 51-3 record

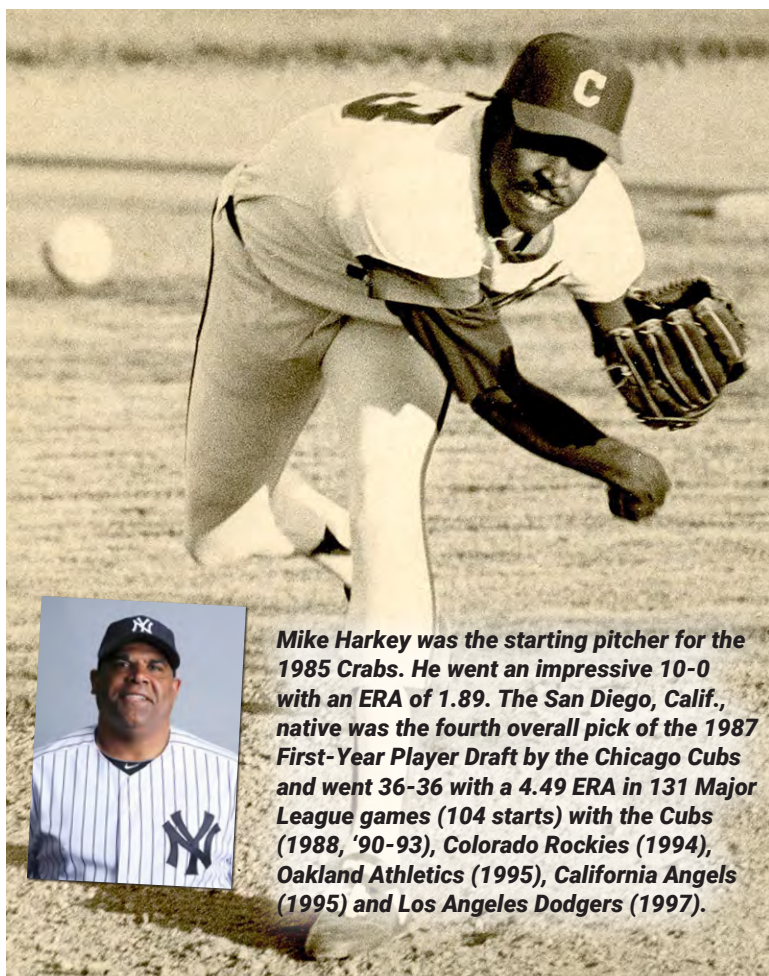


The 1985 team had a 46 game win streak that was snapped on the last game of the regular season.



Pat Garman scores against the Mudville team from Stockton.

The 1985 team at one of their barbecues.



Mike Harkey was the starting pitcher for the 1985 Crabs. He went an impressive 10-0 with an ERA of 1.89. The San Diego, Calif., native was the fourth overall pick of the 1987 First-Year Player Draft by the Chicago Cubs and went 36-36 with a 4.49 ERA in 131 Major League games (104 starts) with the Cubs (1988, '90-93), Colorado Rockies (1994), Oakland Athletics (1995), California Angels (1995) and Los Angeles Dodgers (1997).



Crabs second baseman Billy Cruikshank

Mike Harkey was chosen as the RHP on the All American summer team by Baseball America. Harkey went on to play for Team USA.

Ray Williamson coming home against El Cerrito



The 1985 team included four players that went on to the big leagues including pitchers Scott Chiamparino, Mike Harkey, Steve Olin and Eric Gunderson.

Dan Schoenhoffer

Billy Cruikshank

John Klar

Mike Harkey

Mike Murphy



Jeff Menefee

Roger Zottneck

Kevin Ross

Rob DeYoung

Pat Garman

1985 Humboldt Crabs Roster						
#	Name	Position	Class	College	Drafted	Highest Level
29	Lou Bonomini	Manager				
7	Bill Hughes	Coach		Cal State Fullerton		
	Clint Brill	Catcher	Grad.	Humboldt State	1981 - 3rd Round - Braves	Class-A
26	Kurt Gritts	Catcher	Grad.	College of the Siskiyous/HSU		
39	Jeff Hooper	Catcher	So.	Washington State	1987 - 36th Round - Mariners	Double-A
38	Mike Hill	Catcher	So.	College of the Sequoias		
	Roger Zottneck	Catcher	Sr.	Cal State Fullerton	undrafted, signed Angels 1985	Class-A
14	Jeff Menefee	Pitcher	Fr.	College of the Redwoods		
16	Shawn Hathaway	Pitcher	So.	Washington State	1987 - 22nd Round - Cardinals	Class-A
22	Jon Stone	Pitcher	Fr.	Contra Costa College		
25	Steve Olin	Pitcher	So.	Portland State	1987 - 16th Round - Indians	MLB
27	Scott Chiamparino	Pitcher	Fr.	Santa Clara University	1987 - 4th Round - Athletics	MLB
32	Rob DeYoung	Pitcher	Fr.	Fullerton JC	1986 - 21st Round - Phillies	Class-A
33	Mike Harkey	Pitcher	Fr.	Cal State Fullerton	1987 - 1st Round - Cubs	MLB
34	Mike Murphy	Pitcher	Jr.	North Alabama University		
37	Eric Gunderson	Pitcher	Fr.	Portland State	1987 - 2nd Round - Giants	MLB
	Pete Larsen	Pitcher	Grad.	UC Davis		
2	Jeff Johnsen	SS	Jr.	Washington State		
3	Bill Cruikshank	2B	Jr.	Washington State		
9	Pat Garman	3B	So.	College of the Sequoias	1986 - 1st Round - Rangers	Triple-A
30	Fred Hanker	3B	Jr.	Cal State Dominguez Hills	1987 - 31st Round - Athletics	Class-A
43	Steve Neel	1B	Grad.	Cal Poly SLO	undrafted, signed 1983	Class-A
10	Kevin Ross	OF	So.	College of the Redwoods		
12	Tony Felicione	OF	Jr.	Long Beach State		
18	Steve Stowell	OF	So.	UCLA	1987 - 14th Round - Twins	Double-A
28	Dan Schoenhoffer	OF	So.	St. Mary's College		
31	Ray Williamson	OF	Jr.	Santa Clara	1986 - 9th Round - Indians	Class-A
35	John Klar	OF	Sr.	Hayward State		
	Steve Roberts	OF	So.	UC Davis	1987 - 29th Round - Blue Jays	Rookie League



Pat Garman, Mike Harkey and Dan Schoenhoffer. The 2025 New York Yankees season marks Mike Harkey's 19th on a Major League coaching staff, also serving as the Pitching Coach for the Arizona Diamondbacks from 2014-15 and spending the 2006 season as the Bullpen Coach for the Florida Marlins. He also served as a Minor League Pitching Coach for seven seasons in the Chicago Cubs (2007) and San Diego Padres (2000-05) organizations.



Arcata Ball Park receives major facelift

Upgrades to entrance and ADA access to left field grass area

The Arcata Ballpark, and all of its enduring charm, underwent some big changes this year that are sure to enhance the experience of the fans who visit in impressive numbers every summer. The ballpark was fine from a fan perspective, with many options for seating and concessions, and an unmistakable old school charm, making it a source of pride for locals, an impressive symbol of Americana to Minor League Stadium aficionados and even a spot on late night television with Jay Leno.

The changes to the ballpark are immediately noticeable, as a new facade greets attendees immediately on arrival, but a deeper look reveals other important and practical upgrades which took the planning, care and funding to give The Arcata Ball Park the improvements that it, and its fans deserve.

The facade is a welcome change. Gone are the unremarkable beige/brown panels that separated the field from the street. In its place stands a welcoming, stylish entrance made of tiles that resemble bricks and wood, with the name, "Arcata Ball Park, Home of the Humboldt Crabs" arched in metal atop two brick pillars.

"The key component was opening

up the entryway to make it even more inviting, invite more sight distance and interest for people to walk in from downtown," said Emily Sinkhorn, the City of Arcata's Environmental Services Director in an interview with KRCR news.

The new changes however, are just the latest in the ballpark's story, as it has evolved since its original construction in 1941 as an \$11,577 government project by the Works Progress Administration. Built a block away from the Plaza, the ballpark, originally surrounded by Victorian homes and small streets, is now enclosed by Highway 101, the Arcata Transit Center, City Hall, the police station and the library.

In 1952, with the addition of Highway 101 going through town, the Crabs moved and raised the light poles, as well as added a 20' left field fence, giving the ballpark its perfect for baseball, unique outfield.

In 1955 the Crabs had to leave the ballpark and took up residence in Eureka's Albee Stadium, where they remained for 10 years, before splitting their home games between Arcata and Eureka.

In 1967, the Eureka stadium's grandstands were condemned, and



In 2022, the Arcata Mayor Stacy Atkins-Salazar, then Crabs Board President David Sharp and state Senator Mike McGuire hold up a check that represented a \$1 million dollar grant awarded to the City of Arcata from the state for upgrades to their community parks. The Arcata Ball Park received a large portion of the funds for renovations. The Crabs are also contributing \$100,000 toward the cost of construction.

the team once again played full time at the Arcata Ball Park.

The seventies saw more changes, as Caltrans changed 101 to four lanes and the ballpark answered by raising the fence even more.

Continued on next page

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Arcata community parks receives one million dollar grant

Continued from previous page

Then in May 1978, just weeks before the start of the Crabs season, without notifying Crabs manager Lou Bonomini, the City of Arcata tore out the redwood grandstands, “condemned by a dry rot problem,” leaving the original redwood facade. The city planned to install new aluminum bleachers that would accommodate 1500 fans, on a new concrete slab that included a ramp entrance to replace the old stairs. The original estimated cost of \$34,600 was exceeded, the bleachers did not arrive before the start of the Crabs season on June 10th, so bleachers were borrowed from St. Bernard’s School. The Crabs were forced to play some home series at the Babe Ruth Field next to Redwood Acres. Many other planned renovations were put off for decades. Before the 1980 season, some of the old growth redwood salvaged from the former grandstands was used to build a new press box that was dedicated to longtime Crabs PA announcer and Times-Standard sports editor Don Terbush.

For about 25 years, the ballpark remained largely unchanged. In 2006 one of the most distinctive oddities of the ballpark, the softball field in right field, known by many as “The Scab,”



Mike Harkey pitches at the Arcata Ball Park in 1985.

was removed and covered with grass, and the terrace along the outfield wall was leveled out. Before the 2019 season, a new metal press box and new bleachers for approximately 900 were installed.

In 2022, California State Senator Mike McGuire stood between the pitcher’s mound and home plate with a wireless microphone in hand, and made an announcement.

“We need to be able to invest in the Crabs to ensure a successful future in the decades to come and that’s why we are so excited to announce tonight, the state of California will be investing \$1 million dollars into the Arcata Ball Park!” McGuire proclaimed to the cheering Crabs’ fans in the packed

stands.

McGuire briefly described the new features that would be built at the ballpark with the funding he had acquired for the facility before presenting an oversized \$1 million dollar check to then Crabs Board of Director’s President David Sharp, Arcata Mayor Stacy Atkins-Salazar and Arcata Councilwoman and Arcata Chamber of Commerce President Meredith Matthews, who had all joined McGuire in the infield for the announcement.

“Nothing says summer like Humboldt Crabs baseball. A North Coast original for more than 80 years, Crabs baseball is full of family fun and one of my favorite games to catch,” said McGuire, who is originally from Healdsburg, California. “When the iconic downtown stadium needed a facelift, it was an honor to work with the city and the Crabs to secure \$1 million in state funding for community park improvements. This is an investment that all of Humboldt will experience and enjoy for years to come.”

The announcement was welcome music to Crabs President David Sharp. “Our facade was literally falling apart. The old announcer’s booth was abandoned with no plan to remove it. Our entrance was dark, cramped, and uninviting, and easy access to the left field seating area was lacking,” Sharp said. “Neither the Crabs nor the City of Arcata had the funds to make a big project happen on our own and we



1970s era photo of Arcata Ball Park

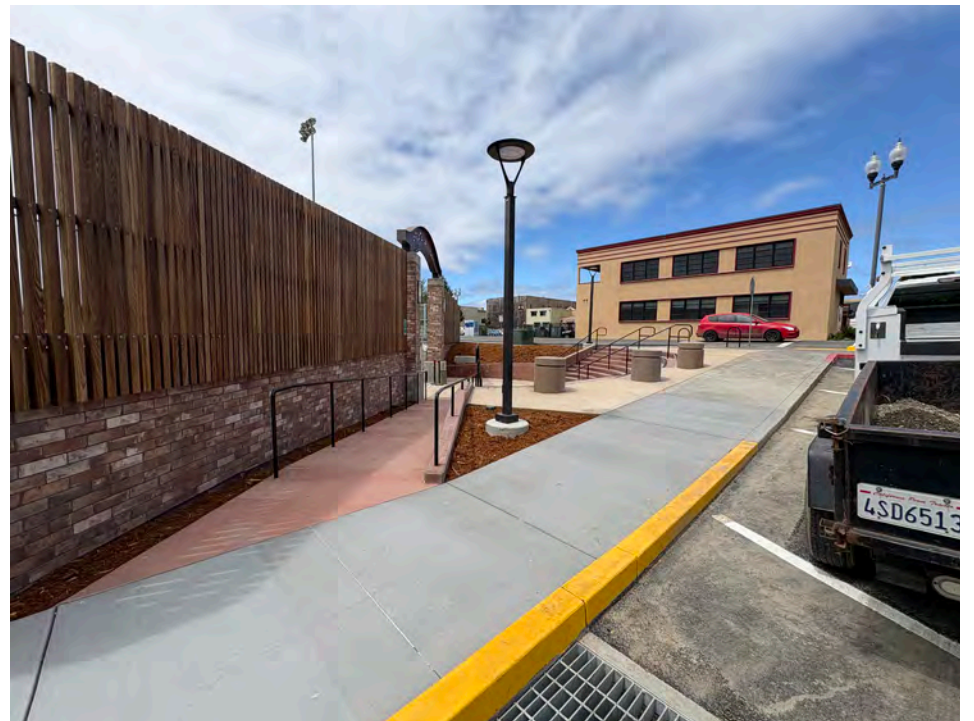
needed help. State Senator McGuire had been to Crabs games in the past, seen firsthand our community and fan support, saw the big picture and wanted to help.”

“We’re the oldest continuously operated summer collegiate baseball team in the country because of our fans and community support,” Sharp added. “We literally couldn’t have Crabs baseball without them, and we couldn’t have these exciting ballpark improvements without Senator McGuire. We are beyond grateful for the support of our fans, community, and to the Senator.

And so Hooven Construction was brought in to make these renovations, but they didn’t stop at the facade. They also removed the unused press box at the top of the bleachers, and improved ADA access to the grassy, family area in left field.

The new improvements pay homage to the history of Humboldt Baseball, with a classic look that’s not cliché, and a modernism that isn’t out of character. They are a symbol of the town, the county, and the state’s commitments to a beloved jewel of Humboldt County. Where fans from all walks of life come together to enjoy one of America’s great past times. And the ballpark can now stand as a source of pride for all of Humboldt for decades to come.

— compiled by Conor Fitzgerald,
Liam Warner and Richard LaPreziosa



photos by Tracy McCormack

Guiver's tenure endures for more than two decades

Question: When and how did you first become aware of Humboldt Crabs Baseball or what did you know about the program when you were at Washington State?

Answer: I first heard about the Crabs when I was visiting a friend who was playing basketball at Humboldt State. When I was at Washington State my coach asked me were I wanted to play summer ball and I replied, the Humboldt Crabs. It took a while for then General Manager Ned Barsuglia to come around to adding me to the roster, but thankfully he eventually did.

Q) What makes Crabs Baseball unique or special that encourages you to drive up from Santa Cruz every summer to Humboldt County?

A: There are so many things that make the Crabs unique. The ballpark, the band, the weather, but more importantly the fans! It takes a lot of work to move every summer, but I wouldn't do it if it wasn't worth it. My family loves our time in Arcata, and it is like a second home to all of us.

Q) When you stepped onto the field for the first time as a Crab, were you aware that you were a part of a larger Crabs history and legacy?

A: Yes, I realized pretty quickly how much history and tradition the Crabs had. Barsuglia and Shorty Ames (my Manager on the Crabs) did a great job of getting us to understand what the Crabs meant to the community. Just seeing the ballpark overflowing with fans really made it clear how much the Crabs mean not just to Arcata, but the entire county.

Q) When you heard the band play for the first time and saw cheering fans in the stands ... Did this surprise you? Or did it live up to what you had heard about Crabs fans?

A: I had never seen a baseball band before so it was a definite surprise.

The band is amazing, they bring so much energy and excitement to the ballpark. They make the games very entertaining even during blowouts and for the non-baseball fans.

Q) What are some of the first things you explain to the team once all the player's have arrived, picked out their jerseys and have taken the field for the first time? Or what are some of your team speeches' main points to get the players excited to be a Humboldt Crab?

A: I try to impart on the players that they are joining a team that is really special. Once you're a Crab you are always a Crab, and that means something. I try to explain to them that the fans will love you if you play the game the right way. The fans are big baseball fans and if you're not doing things the right way they will let you know.

Q) The organization made you hold up actual Dungeness Crabs in your 1998 players cards – can you share the story behind those days.

A: I remember that well. We all met down at the harbor on a Saturday morning and Crabs Board of Directors Larry Zerlang arranged for the live crabs. Those cards turned out awesome.

Q) What is your advice for college players who want to improve their game? What steps do you think they need to take mentally or physically?

A: Put the right work in and the results



will come. We have players who have a wide range of experiences at their schools, so every situation is different. The guys who work hard during the summer usually end up going back to their schools better players than when they got to Humboldt.

Q) What have you learned over the years coaching the Crabs is the best way to get college players who have never played together to buy into the winning ways of the Crabs?

A: It takes some time for the guys to gel, but it usually happens pretty quick. Getting on the field and competing on games is a great way to get guys used to playing together, there is no better way. The road trips are a great way for guys to spend time together off the field which often leads to better play on the field. One of my favorite things is at the beginning of summer you have a bunch of guys who for the most part do not know each other and at the end of the season there are hugs, tears and lifelong friendships have been made.

Q) How would you describe your coaching style in comparison to former Crabs coaches Matt Nutter or Shorty Ames?

A: I learned a ton from both of those guys, as well as from all the assistant coaches I have worked with over the years. I would like to think that my coaching style is a mix of a lot of the coaches I have



been around, from Nutter and Shorty to Matt Wilson, Brad Morgan, Mike Jordt, Ryan Dettman, Tyson Fisher, Giaco, Giacone, John Bryant and many more. I consider myself very lucky to have the opportunity to work with all the coaches who have put on a Crabs uniform.

Q) What did you learn from Ned Barsuglia as far as recruiting players and what are some of your selling points you make to potential players?

A: Ned taught me so much. I was fortunate enough to watch him work in person. Ned introduced me to a lot of coaches, which helped me get my foot in the door. Like a lot of things in life, I feel that establishing relationships with people is the key to recruiting. It is pretty easy for me to ask players to play for the Crabs because I know how great of a job we do taking care of the guys. I can honestly speak from the heart

to both the players and their coaches about the program. Some of my pitches include the ballpark, the band, the atmosphere, and our head trainer Nate Kees is a huge selling point! Also, the cool weather, the housing situation, and the tradition. We take really good care of the guys, and that goes a long way!

Q) Are there any nuggets of baseball wisdom that you share with the Crabs players who arrive in Arcata for the first time since you went through the same thing back in 1998?

A: Nothing that jumps out, but here are lots of conversations that happen over the summer that give me the opportunity to share all my Crabs stories. I have been with the Crabs a long time, but I still see new things at the ballpark all the time. I always look forward to seeing what happens here every summer!

The most popular guy in the ballpark: Head Trainer Nate Kees

Question) What makes Crabs Baseball special that encourages you to suit up every summer?

A: The history, people, atmosphere, working with athletes, being a part of something special.

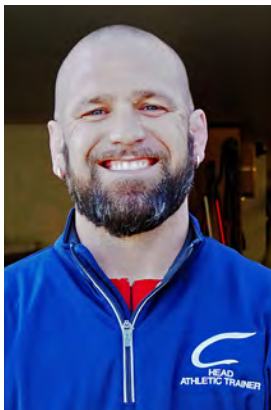
Q) What would you say is your secret to being a well-regarded and well-rounded athletic trainer?

A: Service and trust. High quality service (medicine), building trust in the athletes who we serve.

Q) Do you have any general advice for the incoming squad?

A: Consistent dedication to their craft. Find the opportunities to get better.

Q) What is your advice for fitness, training, strength, or nutrition for Crabs players who want to improve their game?



A: It is all important. If you want to be great, you have to do all the little things and you are the sum of your pieces.

Q) You spend a lot of time with various Crabs teams — what is it about the various coaches that allows the Crabs to keep up its winning ways over the decades?

A: Their approach on how to play the game and respect for Crabs legacy and history.

Q) Are there any life lessons or nuggets of wisdom that you share with all the Crabs players who arrive in Arcata for the first time?

A: Humboldt Crabs Baseball is something you have never experienced; get in, sit down, hold on, cause the summer flies by. In the end, you'll make memories you will look back on and talk about for the rest of your life.



The Humboldt Crabs mission is four-fold:

- To promote family entertainment by providing high-quality summer collegiate baseball games to the public at a reasonable price;
- To provide talented collegiate-level baseball players with a positive summer baseball experience;
- To support youth sports programs (with an emphasis on baseball or softball) in the Humboldt County area with contributions of funding and/or equipment, as funds permit, in addition to annual baseball skills camps and clinics operated by Humboldt Crabs players and coaches;
- To preserve and build the tradition of Humboldt Crabs Baseball.

Humboldt Crabs Baseball, Inc. is a 501(c)(4) community-owned organization. A board of volunteers rely on the help and support of community as well as the many sponsors who allow the Humboldt Crabs Baseball operation to keep functioning.

Crabs Board of Directors
President: Scarlet Palmer
president@humboldtcrabs.com

Co-Vice Presidents: Vikki Rossi and David Sharp
Treasurer: Mary Ellen Barthman
Secretary: Erik Fraser

Directors: Larry Zerlang, Matt Filar, Michelle and Neil Butler, Robert Jimenez, Brice Gummingsall, Dan Feramisco and Zach O'Hanen. Contact the Crabs: humboldtcrabs@gmail.com or (707) 840-5665.

Media Booth Staff: Radio Broadcasters Benjamin Schaeffer and Mitchell Monge, Team Statistician and Broadcaster Liam Warner, PA announcers Tim Warner, Tres O'Brien and Josh Reed, Scoreboard Operator Jack Sparks, Analytics Finn Warner. The Crabs games are broadcast locally on ESPN radio 107.3 FM and 1340 AM or online at kata1340.com. Subscribe youtube.com/@HumboldtCrabs for live streaming of the games.

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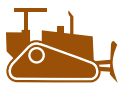
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