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Baseball: Ems win in fourth

Continued from Page 5

As the case has been for most of the season, the Ems jumped out to an early lead scoring a run in the home-half of the first inning. Second baseman Adam Cross led off with a rope single to center and later scored from second base on a single by Rust.

The deciding inning for the Ems came in the fourth when they jumped on Noriega for four more runs. Steve Hacker started the inning with his 15th home run of the season, a monster shot to deep right-center. Rust and Gavin Brown followed with consecutive walks and one batter later Mark DeRosa singled up the middle scoring Rust and ending Noriega's night.

Reliever Pete Della Patta didn't fare much better. He struck out the first batter he faced then walked the next three, bringing clean-up hitter Hacker to the plate for his second plate appearance in the inning — this time with the bases juiced.

With the crowd of 3,000 on their feet, Della Patta got Hack-

er to lightly tap a one-hopper back to the mound for the third out of the inning.

The Ems scored a couple more in the sixth when Dax Norris doubled home Cross, and John Arnold led off the inning with his fourth homer of the year.

Cross got on base four of his five times up to bat, including three walks, scoring two of those times. The second baseman earned the lead-off spot after injuries to Pooh Hines and Angel Espada cost them their season.

"The reason we are so successful is that everyone plays a role on this team," Cross said. "My role is to get on base and I was successful. We got some hits and played well."

The Timberjacks made it interesting in the top of the ninth, scoring two runs off Ems pitcher Rodney Allen who had come in during the seventh to relieve Cochran. With one out remaining, Ems' manager Jim Saul brought in Jason Flach to close out the game. He got Justin Bowles to ground out and end the game.

Shortstop: DeRosa plans to make up for mom's expense

Continued from Page 5

season, he will immediately head back to Philadelphia for fall semester.

"The one stipulation I made with my mom and my dad was that I have to go back and get my degree," says DeRosa, who is in the prestigious Wharton School of Business with an emphasis in marketing. "And the Atlanta Braves support that totally."

Getting the degree will be the easy part. What will be hard is having to sit in the stands and watch the team he once led, play on Saturday afternoons.

"I live with eight football players (at school)," says DeRosa, "so it is going to be tough."

But an offer to watch the Oregon football team go through two-a-day drills was met with a shudder.

"That is the one thing I'm not going to miss," said a smiling DeRosa. "It is the worst week and a half of your life."

Although DeRosa has struggled at the plate for most of the summer, (he is currently batting .230), the experience, and coaching, and camaraderie has kept him from regretting his decision to go pro.

"It's been a learning process for me this year," admits DeRosa. "I'm a streaky hitter. I get real hot, and then I get real cold. At the plate I'm thinking too hard and worrying too much. This game is tough on the mind."

While he may be struggling, the Ems are not. The team is in a pennant race with Boise and playing extremely well. DeRosa believes that has to do, in part, with cohesiveness that exists amongst the players.

"This team seems to have a real gel," claims DeRosa, "and I think it shows in how we play. It's a great bunch of guys. We have a lot of fun together on and off the field."

DeRosa shares an apartment

with centerfielder Adam Johnson in a complex close to Civic Stadium that also houses the entire Ems team. The building has been dubbed "Club G-3" for "a reason yet to be determined," according to an amused DeRosa.

He admits that he pressures himself to perform in an attempt to show the Braves that they didn't make a mistake drafting him early.

"I should be playing well," says DeRosa. "(The Braves) thought that much of me, so I should be able to perform. But that is the funny thing about baseball. A lot of the drafting is done on potential — what I'm going to be able to do down the road."

Potential is obviously something the Braves see in DeRosa since they gave him a \$90,000 signing bonus. But ever the business major, DeRosa does not plan to spend it foolishly. The first \$30,000 is going to pay for his last year at Penn, so his mom, who has worked as a hostess at a restaurant to pay for his tuition, won't have to.

"(The bonus) was pretty big for a 21-year-old kid," says DeRosa. "But what I wanted was for my parents not to have to pay for my school. That was the nice part of getting the money."

But even though DeRosa is a bit more financially secure, he is still having experiences that money can't buy.

"A few days ago I got my cards in my locker," says an elated DeRosa, "and I was like 'Oh my God, I got my baseball card!' Things like that are great. The fans and kids wanting your autograph is great."

"It is unbelievable, the way the fans have rallied around us. I didn't expect this when I came out here. This is the greatest thing in the world and I couldn't be happier because this is what I love to do."

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