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TAM

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play to "minor-league baseball."

At the end of the nearly four-hour contest, the Red Sox came back from a 9-4 deficit to defeat the Yankees 11-10 in the bottom of the ninth inning on a walk-off, two-run home run.

Truly, one of the most memorable baseball games ever.

• In the NFL, Miami Dolphins running back Ricky Williams decided to

retire at the age of 27. Williams, who was just hitting his peak after rushing for 1,372 yards last season, retired not because of injury, legal problems or personal issues.

The reason he left?

Williams wants to travel around the world and not deal with the rigors of playing professional football.

Fair enough, however, I wish I had the opportunity to earn millions of dollars to play a sport that I should supposedly love. I wouldn't pass that up for a second.

• Hayward Field will play host to the 2004 USA Junior Olympic Track & Field Championships beginning today.

After successful seasons from the Oregon men's and women's track and field teams, the triumph of the 2004 Prefontaine Classic and now this week's nationally renowned track meet, Eugene continues to cement itself as Track-town, USA.

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EMS

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"It's been frustrating these past couple of weeks," Vincent said. "I've been trying to work my way out of it. I think I just ran into one there. I'm just trying to limit my strikeouts and I was fortunate enough to hit it out of the ballpark, so it felt pretty good."

"I might be able to pick it up from here. I want to help win more ball games and personally lift the average up a little bit."

In the next game, however, Vincent struck out twice and walked two times in Thursday's 3-2 loss to the Aqua Sox. The Emeralds left nine runners on base and had an opportunity to tie the game in the bottom of the ninth inning.

Eugene's Ruben Mora reached second base with one out and the top of the batting order coming up. But leadoff hitter Matt Thayer and shortstop Sean Kazmar could not produce the key base hit to tie the game.

"We had a lot of chances," said Thayer after the game, who is the only Emerald batting above .300 at .305 with 16 RBIs through Sunday. "We

didn't put it together when we needed to. Our pitchers kept us in it and we got runners where we needed them. We just couldn't get that one hit to get them in."

Eugene starter William Ponce (0-5) picked up the loss despite giving up only two runs and striking out three in five innings.

"We had a lot of chances... we didn't put it together when we needed to."

— Matt Thayer

Emeralds leadoff hitter

One of the two runs scored that game by the Emeralds was from catcher Colt Morton's home run. Morton is in a tie with Lachlan Dale for the team lead in home runs (10) and is second to Dale in RBIs (21).

Morton said his team has the potential to overwhelm teams, but yet are not doing it consistently.

"We've got the lows and we've had a couple of losing streaks and then we'll come out and absolutely pound

somebody," Morton said. "It just seems like all of our hitters just click on one night."

Eugene continues action today when they face Yakima in the fourth game of their five-game series in Yakima. The Emeralds return to Civic Stadium for a five-game homestand against Spokane on Thursday at 7:05 p.m.

NOTES

Eugene lost five of the six games of last week's homestand against Everett. ... Everett's Yung-Chi Chen, a native of Taiwan, was cheered every at-bat by a group Taiwanese students, who attend the University of Oregon and went to every game of the six-game series. ... In Wednesday's 16-3 win, Thayer was moved from leadoff to third in the lineup, where he walked twice, scored two runs and had one RBI. "It doesn't really matter where they put me," Thayer said. "I'll hit wherever they need me to hit." ... Eugene is second in the league in attendance, averaging 3,315 in 19 games for a total of 62,990 so far this season.

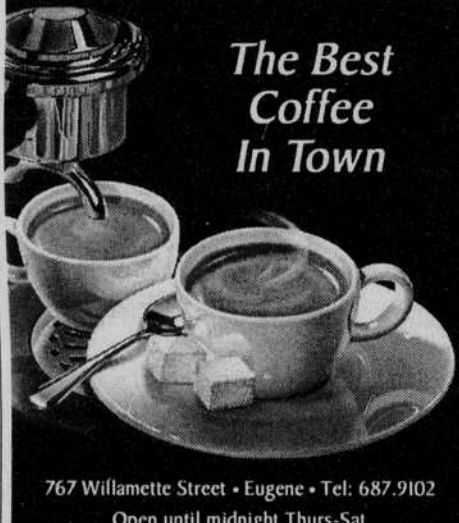
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