



Catcher Colt Morton signs autographs after Thursday's 9-7 victory. Morton hit a home run to tie the game 7-7 in the eighth inning.

Craig Volpe
Freelance
Photographer

EMS

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Dale said after the game. "It was a frustrating first at-bat when I hit the ball hard and didn't get a hit for it. I went back and got a good hit and came up again and came through."

Dale said getting a blow-out win was good for the team after they have struggled to win the close games all season long.

However, continuing that winning formula everyday has been hard to sustain, Dale said.

"I'm not quite sure how to keep it going from here," he said. "Hopefully we take the same approach and battle the whole way and hopefully come out again with good games. Sometimes we click, sometimes we aren't, but I think it's starting to come together and hopefully we can get some more."

Along with the good, came the bad the past week.

In their 12-1 loss to Yakima Wednesday, the Emeralds were forced to use second baseman Brett Burnham as a pitcher in the ninth inning because their bullpen had been overused.

Surprisingly, Burnham was Eugene's most effective pitcher that night, striking out two batters and giving up no runs.

Burnham said he hadn't pitched

since high school, but was willing to pitch when manager Roy Howell asked him.

"We were losing pretty bad, but it brought some light to the team since it was a rough day," Burnham said.

He said he also doesn't know how to solve their problems, but notices that his teammates are not playing together for the good of the team.

"One day, our hitting is on and the next day, our pitching is off, which means we're not in sync with each other," Burnham said. "Nothing's in sync right now. It's very frustrating. We're trying to figure it out but things aren't happening for some reason."

Eugene continues action today in the last game of a three-game series at Vancouver and returns home for a three-game series against Vancouver beginning 7:05 p.m. on Friday.

NOTES

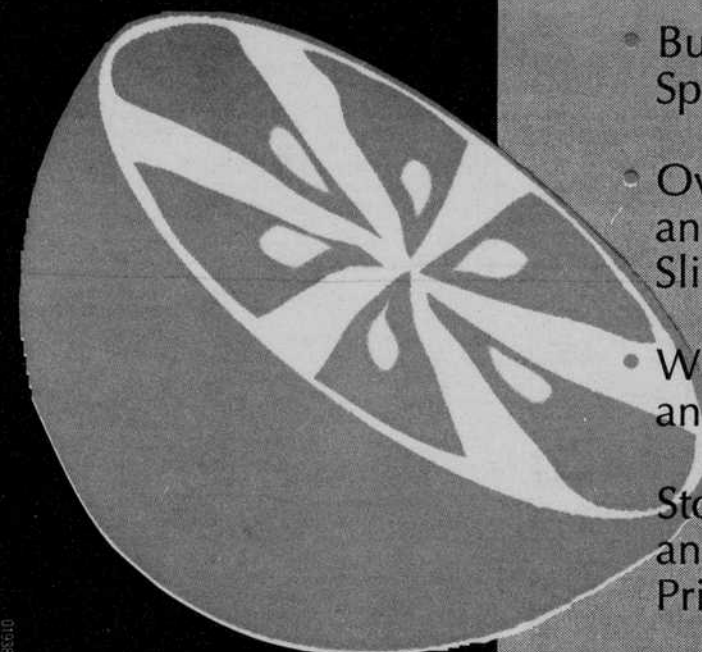
Pitcher Vern Sterry was promoted to Fort Wayne, the San Diego Padres' long season Class A affiliate in the Midwest League. Sterry was one of Eugene's top pitchers with a 2-3 record and a 3.96 ERA this season. ... Eugene is third in league attendance with an average of 3,211 per game for a total of 93,147 this season.

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