

2008 CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE STATE BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Game 4 – Sierra College Wolverines 6, Riverside College Tigers 1

FRESNO – The Sierra College Wolverines continued their winning ways on Sunday with a 6-1 win over the Riverside College Tigers in Game 4 of the 2008 California Community College State Baseball Championships on Sunday, held at Fresno City College's John Eules Ballpark.

With the win, Sierra has advanced to the state championship game, which has been pushed back to 12 p.m. on Monday to accommodate the long day of baseball on Sunday.

In the top of the third, with two outs and Sierra's Kyle Richardson on first base, Ryan Stevens walked before Logan Lotti ripped an RBI double to left, scoring Richardson to give the Wolverines a 1-0 lead. Ryan Knox followed with a doubled to left-center, scoring Stevens and Lotti for a 3-0 advantage.

For the Tigers, it was an afternoon of missed opportunities and some close calls that didn't go their way. In the fourth, RCC had the bases loaded with nobody out, but could only muster one run, cutting the deficit to 3-1.

Sierra responded with a pair of runs in the fifth. Lotti provided an RBI double to right, then, went to third on a wild pitch. The next batter, Ryan Knox hit a grounder to third, putting Lotti in a rundown between third and home. Shortstop Richie Jimenez applied the tag on Lotti, but the ball dropped out of his glove. Originally called out, the umpires got together and reversed the call, giving the Wolverines a 5-1 lead.

The lead grew to 6-1 in the top of the sixth when Kyle Saukko singled to right, stole second and scored on a single to left by Ryan Stevens.

That was enough offense for the Wolverines' pitching staff as the combination of Jeremy Cole (8-4) and Jesse Garcia (two saves) shut the Tigers down the rest of the way. Cole pitched five effective innings, allowing one run on five hits with three walks and two strikeouts. Garcia threw the final four innings, allowing no runs on four hits, walking two and striking out two.

Lotti finished with a 3-for-5 day, with a double, two runs and two RBI.

Riverside's Eric Carillo took the loss, dropping his record to 4-4.