

Pirate Baseball Season Debuts Powered by Escalante, Bala



The Oceanside High School Pirate baseball team.
(Photo courtesy of OHS Pirate Baseball)

By **Dave Meyer**

Another opening day and now the sports world is all back to normal — at least for me.

As a baseball player at Oceanside High and beyond, the start of baseball season is always a special time.

On the professional side, the Padres are young and exciting. Most “experts” expect them to finish last in the NL West. The key will be health and pitching. Opening day starter Jhoulys Chacin pitched well for Team Venezuela in the recent World Baseball Classic and the Padres hope for more of the same.

The young hitters should provide plenty of excitement as the Padres build around All-Star first baseman Wil Myers. But it may be a few more seasons before the hitters and pitchers mesh and make the Padres a contender.

On the local scene, Coach Dave Barrett’s Oceanside Pirates are off to a good start. The Pirates look for big things from senior pitcher Matai Bala and Junior Antonio Escalante. Escalante has two complete game wins in his first three games, including a no-hitter against Fallbrook in the Pirates’ season opener.

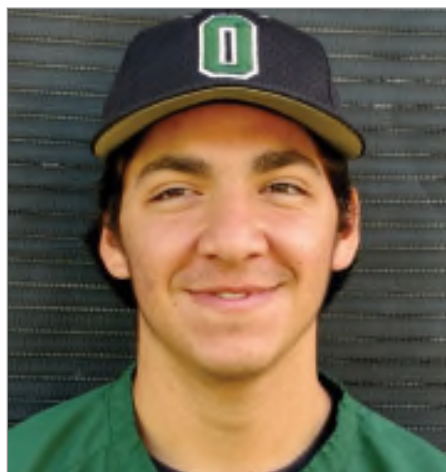
Bala, Escalante and seniors Ben Lloyd and Jason Sroufe lead the Pirate hitters early in the season.

The Pirates were set to open their home league season at 3:30 p.m. April 4 against San Marcos.

Across town, Coach Greg Atkinson’s El Camino Wildcats were due to open their home league season at 3:30 p.m. April 4 against Vista.

Senior hurler Braden Olthoff has two early season wins for the Wildcats.

The Wildcats’ offense has been led by seniors Zach Rebensdorf, Raymond Gutierrez



Antonio Escalante
(Photo courtesy of OHS Pirate Baseball)

and Mattias Tirona. The Pirates and Wildcats will battle it out in the Avocado East League.

Other spring sports to watch include Boys’ and Girls’ track and field and swimming, boys’ golf, volleyball, lacrosse and tennis and girls’ softball and lacrosse. Check the local high school websites for schedules.

Speaking of golf, the El Camino Wildcat Classic will be held April 10 at El Camino Country Club. The tournament is a fundraiser by the Wildcat Booster Club to raise money for scholarships for El Camino seniors. Contact Wildcat Coach Clayton Huggins at echsgolf@gmail.com for more information and to register.

Oceanside native David Meyer has 29 years of legal experience and over 35 years of business experience and has represented the Oakland Alameda County Coliseum, The Upper Deck Company, Cobra Golf and Super Shots Sports, a sports marketing company.