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## CHS scoreboard dedicated to former players

### Special to The Acorn

By Ashley Zeldin

Two former Calabasas High School baseball players were remembered recently when the Coyote Club presented a new electronic scoreboard for the school's upper field. The event preceded a game between Calabasas and Oak Park.

Sam Rutherford, who graduated from CHS in 1995, died in his freshman year of college from an enlarged heart.

Michael Bevilacqua, who would have graduated this year, was killed in a jet ski accident in the summer of 2000.

During an emotionally charged ceremony, both the Rutherford and Bevilacqua families were brought onto the field behind home plate, while the CHS and Oak Park baseball teams lined up along the third- and first-baselines respectively.

A commemorative poster honoring Rutherford and Bevilacqua, which will appear under the scoreboard, was presented by several Coyote baseball players, including juniors Kevin Cohn, John Henry Jacobs, Aaron Lowenstein and Shane Hunter.

The U.S. flag was presented by Josh Bernstein, Aaron Levin, Ryan Asher and Drew Saberhagen. Brandon Cohen, a teammate of Rutherford, also helped take the colors onto the field.

Bevilacqua's jersey, No. 11, was officially retired and given to his family by third baseman Justin Klipp.

Also participating was Cops 'N' Jocks, a nonprofit organization that tries to keep student athletes on the right path during high school.

Representing Cops 'N' Jocks for CHS was Dep. Mark Winn of the L.A. County Sheriff's Department.

Each year, the city of Calabasas awards \$1,000 to Cops 'N' Jocks. The money is earmarked for student or community services.



**REMEMBERED--Calabasas High School baseball players dedicate a new electronic scoreboard for the school's upper field to two former players who passed away, Sam Rutherford and Michael Bevilacqua. Participating from left to right are: Shane Hunter, John Henry Jacobs, Kevin Cohn, Aaron Lowenstein, Justin Klipp, Drew Saberhagen, Ryan Asher, Josh Bernstein and Aaron Levin.**

CHS senior Justin Fenchel, who represents Calabasas student government for Cops 'N' Jocks, requested that the money go to the Coyote Club to buy the commemorative scoreboard.

That request, according to Rich Randolph, creator of Cops 'N' Jocks, was unanimously approved.

Paula Benford, co-president of the Coyote Club with Taryn Rudow, said that CHS students also contributed to acquisition of the scoreboard.

"Last year, the student body raised over \$1,300 in Michael's name and asked that this be used to help purchase the scoreboard," Benford said. "This is a nice tribute to the families of Michael Bevilacqua and Sam Rutherford."

After Bevilacqua died, the Calabasas High School Associated Student Body joined with the friends of Bevilacqua and started collecting money, which it accumulated until the funds were recently forwarded to the Coyote Club to help pay for the scoreboard.

Rutherford's family set up a fund in his name and since 1995 has donated money every year. Last year, the account was closed to assist in the purchase of the scoreboard.

Rutherford's jersey, No. 22, was retired in 1995.

Zeldon is a staff writer for the CHS student newspaper, the Calabasas Courier.

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