EAGLES *BASEBALL* DIAMOND NEWS

Eagles eliminated by

Edinburg Vela Sabercats in two straight

By: Conrado Perez, Jr. – Eagle Pass Sports Central

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The mighty Eagle Pass Eagles varsity baseball team mentored by head coach Reynol Mendoza and assistant coaches Henry Silva and Chris Villa fresh off their two game sweep of the La Joya Coyotes in the bi-district round this past weekend returned back to Laredo, Texas on Friday, May, 11, 2018 to open their best two of three series against the Edinburg Sabercats for the UIL Region IV Area Round title with a series opening 7:00 PM matchup at the Laredo Uni-Trade Baseball Stadium with game 2 scheduled for 11:00 AM on Saturday, May 12, 2018 and if necessary game 3 scheduled for 30 minutes after the completion of game 2.

The Sabercats entered this series sporting an overall season record of 25-4 while the Eagles came in with an overall season mark of 17-16. The winner of the Eagle Pass-Edinburg Vela series would advance to face the winner of the Los Fresnos-Mission series for the Regional Quarterfinals title.

GAME 1

The opening game of this best of three series saw the Eagle Pass Eagles take the early lead with a pair of runs in the bottom half of the third inning with David Lopez reaching on a one out walk and immediately stole second. Rey Rey Mendoza lifted deep sacrifice fly to centerfield to advance David Lopez to third, Dee Andre Torres reached on an error which enabled David Lopez to come home on the play, Braulio Rodriguez was hit by a pitch, Christian Del Bosque followed with an RBI single to bring home Dee Andre Torres.

In the top of the fifth the Sabercats narrowed their deficit to a single run with a lone run in the frame. With Eagles starting hurler Rey Rey Mendoza breezing along allowing just one run and scattering four base hits up to this point, momentum quickly turned as the Sabercats erased their one run deficit with a four run rally in the top of the sixth highlighted by a three run homerun run off the bat of Edinburg Vela's designated hitter Eric Martinez to take a 5 to 2 lead over the Eagles.

In the bottom of the sixth the Eagles could only counter with just one more run with Braulio Rodriguez reaching on a base on balls Christian Del Bosque followed with a single as did Derek Ibarra too to load the bases with no outs, with one out Isaac Gonzalez was issued a bases loaded walk to bring home Braulio Rodriguez with the bases remaining loaded but unfortunately the next two batters struck out to end the threat.

The Eagles then went down quietly in the seventh enabling the Edinburg Vela Sabercats to escape with the 5 to 3 victory over the valiant Eagles.

Score by Innings: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 R H E

EDINBURG VELA 0 0 0 0 1 4 0 **5 9 1**

EAGLES 0 0 2 0 0 1 0 **3 5 2**

Losing Pitcher: Rey Rey Mendoza ***Leading Hitters***: Christian Del Bosque 2 for 4 with 1 RBI, Isaac Roque 1 for 2 Rey Rey Mendoza 1 for 4, Derek Ibarra 1 for 4, David Lopez 1 run scored, Braulio Rodriguez 1 run scored, Dee Andre Torres 1 run scored and Isaac Gonzalez 1 RBI.

GAME 2

The second game of this best of three series once again saw the Eagles take the early lead by plating a lone run in the top of the first with Rey Rey Mendoza leading off the game with a walk and eventually coming around to score on a fielder's choice off the bat of Christian Del Bosque.

The Sabercats not wanting to let this series go to a third game stormed back in the bottom of the first with a big four run output to take the lead for good in this contest. But the proud Eagles who never give up scratched and clawed their way back to where at one point only trailed by one run (5 to 4) heading to the bottom of the sixth but unfortunately Lady Luck was not on the Eagles side in this game as the Sabercats tacked on three more insurance runs to come away with the hard fought 8 to 4 victory to sweep the series from the Eagles in two straight.

The Eagle Pass Eagles thus culminate their 2018 season with an overall season record of 17 wins with 18 losses but they certainly did not go down without a true gallant fight and played their hearts out with pride, dignity and class. Eagle Pass Sports Central congratulates the mighty Eagles on a truly magnificent season and would like to wish the graduating senior class members the very best of luck in all of your future endeavors.

Score by Innings: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 R H E

EAGLES 1 0 2 0 1 0 0 **4 5 3**

EDINBURG VELA 4 0 0 1 0 3 x **8 11 1**

Losing Pitcher: Eric Heredia ***Leading Hitters***: Dee Andre Torres 2 for 2 with 2 runs scored, Braulio Rodrigue 1 for 3 with 1 RBI, Roly Riza 1 for 3, Derek Ibarra 1 for 4 with 1 RBI, Christian Del Bosque 2 RBI's and Rey Rey Mendoza 2 runs scored.

UIL REGION IV AREA ROUND PLAYOFFS

LAREDO ALEXANDER vs. BROWNSVILLE HANNA **One Game series**

Game 1 Laredo Alexander won 8 to 2

Game 2 Laredo Alexander won 6 to 1

LAREDO ALEXANDER advances to face McALLEN

EAGLE PASS vs. EDINBURG VELA **Best 2 out of 3 series**

Game 1 Edinburg Vela won 5 to 3

Game 2 Edinburg Vela won 8 to 4

EDINBURG VELA advances to face LOS FRESNOS