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SPORTS

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YHS alumni game postponed

Rain doesn't dampen area kids day at the ballpark

By [Mike Hackworth](#)

(Updated Wednesday, February 14, 2007, 4:23 PM)

The Yosemite High School baseball field looked like a small pond last Saturday morning, and it appeared that the planned Alumni Baseball Game Day festivities would have to wait for another week. One problem. There were nearly 50 area youngsters who had ignored the rains and had come out to see the Pros.

Part of the schedule of events that the kids had looked forward to was meeting and "hanging out" with professional baseball players/Yosemite High graduates the likes of Ted Lilly (class of '94), Eric Stolp (class of '02) and Cory Miller ('95).

Disappointing young players was not something that the new Yosemite head baseball coach John McMillen was willing to do.

After huddling with his assistant coaches Rob Nobles and Ken Dennis, the president of the YHS baseball boosters club, Ross Peckinpah, and the pros, Lilly, Stolp and Miller, the decision was made that all the kids who had come out for the clinic would gather in the home dugout of the Badgers varsity field and that the kids could meet and speak with the three baseball guests.

For nearly an hour, the former Badgers answered questions ranging from "what do you do when you can't play baseball anymore," to "when did you learn to throw a curve ball," and then there was the expected question posed to Lilly about his point of view about the use of steroids (asked by an adult).

Miller allowed that there are plenty of opportunities for players after their on-field careers are over and they are just as fun (Miller is the bullpen catcher for the Chicago Cubs).

Lilly explained that he would rather wake up each morning knowing that he got to where he was by working hard and not relying on something else to help him out. He then responded to a question about how many games he had won in his pro career (59-58).

Stolp told the kids that learning to throw a curve ball was not easy but it had to be learned at an early age and that not all pitchers can master the pitch.

After the questions, Lilly passed out baseball cards to the kids and then the trio signed autographs and posed for photographs.

The on-field clinic will take place this Saturday, Feb. 17 at 9:30 a.m. The alumni game will be played at noon.

Unfortunately, Lilly and Miller had to report to the Cubs for training camp and will not be able to play.



Alums go pro. (left to right) Eric Stolp, Ted Lilly and Cory Miller interacted with area kids last Saturday.

Photo by [mike Hackworth](#)



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