

AZTECS USE BIG FOURTH TO WRAP UP TITLE

Victory over Eaters clinches division in city tournament.

ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

With four lead changes in the first four innings, it was a classic tug of war for the Little League AA National Division San Clemente City Tournament title between the Aztecs and Eaters on Tuesday evening at Vista Hermosa Sports Park.

The Aztecs trailed by one going into the bottom of the fourth inning but rallied to score five runs and held on for a 14-7 victory. The Eaters could have forced an if-necessary championship game for Friday night with a win.

Mason Fisher got things rolling for the Aztecs in the fourth with a two-run double, and teammates Riley Frohlich and Shane Aitken provided support with an RBI single and a two-run homer, respectively, to give the Aztecs the lead for good.

"This was a great experience for our kids," Aztecs Coach Rich Flanagan said. "This shows them what happens when you work hard, are dedicated and come to practice every day. It was a real pleasure to be their coach this season."

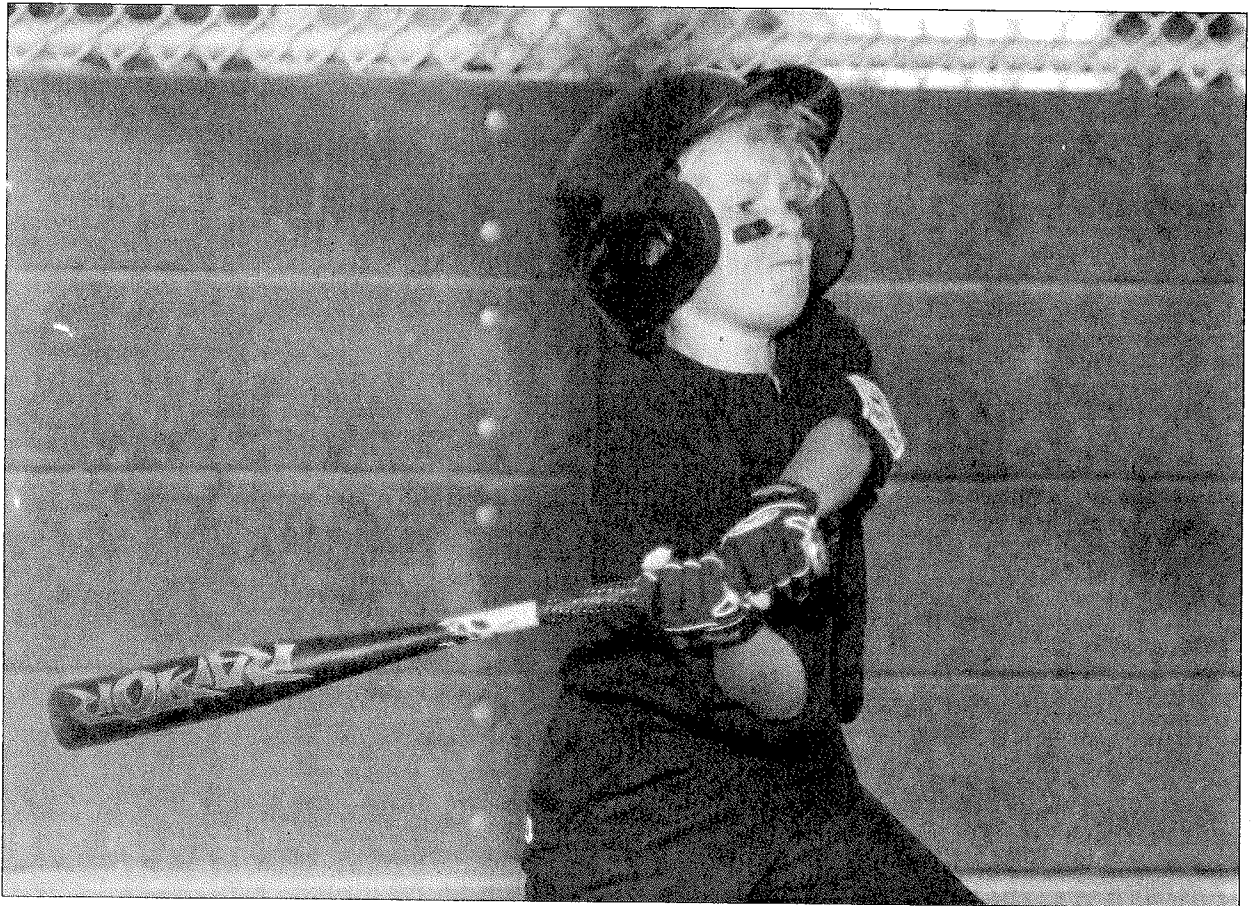
Eaters Assistant Coach Jim Craft said he thought it was one of the best games of the year.

"The kids on both teams gave it all they had, and neither side gave up," Craft said.

- Pat Cubel

BULLDOGS TAKE AAA NATIONAL DIVISION

After battling for a come-from-behind win on



The Aztecs' Shane Aitken hits a two-run homer in the fourth inning during the Little League AA National Division San Clemente City Tournament. PAT CUBEL, FOR THE REGISTER

"This shows them what happens when you work hard, are dedicated and come to practice every day."

RICH FLANAGAN, AZTECS COACH

May 23 just to get to an if-necessary championship game in the AAA National San Clemente City Tournament on Tuesday, the Bulldogs weren't about to let the opportunity go to waste.

And once again, it was Harrison Ames at the center of the game-winning play. Ames' gutsy steal of home after a botched throw back to the mound from behind the plate was the difference in the Bull-

dogs' 4-3 title-clinching victory over the Eaters that secured a berth in the upcoming Tournament of Champions.

"Feels great to win and move on," Bulldogs Coach

John Voris said. "We started this in February, and now we get to keep it going a little longer."

With the game tied at 3 in the top of the sixth, Ames laid down a two-out

bunt single up the third-base line.

Ames, who had the game-winning triple in the seventh inning of the Bulldogs' 12-9 win over the Eaters on May 23, stole second and advanced to third on a passed ball before scoring on the bad exchange.

Eaters pitcher Jackson Clark struck out the other three batters he faced in the sixth.

With two outs in the bot-

tom of the sixth, the Eaters had a runner on third with two outs for cleanup hitter Tanner Tumlinson, who turned in a good at-bat but ultimately ended the game with a ground-out.

"It was awesome," said winning pitcher Anthony Aleman, who recorded eight strikeouts in 3 $\frac{2}{3}$ innings of relief.

"It feels so good to win, a big relief to get this one."

- Jason Saltzman