

**All-State Baseball Series**  
**Champlin's Grand Slam Keys Game 2 Slugfest**

*by Roger Underwood*  
*Yakima Herald-Republic*

YAKIMA -- Not only was Kramer Champlin's grand slam in Saturday's second game of the All-State Series one for the books, it was one for the family home's mantle.

Or maybe even a bookshelf at Western Nevada College, where the Olympia product plans to continue his athletic and academic careers.

Champlin's mother, Debra, proudly displayed the ball her son had blasted beyond the right-field wall at breezy Parker Field, a blow that helped Champlin's Dodgers out-slug the Cardinals 18-14.

She had found it -- or, rather, it had found her.

"Someone threw it back over the fence," Debra Champlin said, "and one of the tournament directors gave it to me."

As the Dodgers had pretty much given it to the Cards, from an offensive standpoint, scoring in six of the game's seven innings. Scheduled for eight, the contest was halted by a time limit.

Thirty-two hits, 12 walks, 11 errors and five hit batsmen had substantially slowed the event's pace.

Champlin, a 6-foot-6 pitcher-infielder, had homered three times last season including once at Safeco Field during the Class 4A state tournament, in which the Bears finished third. He also was drafted last week, in the 37th round by Tampa Bay, but said his immediate plans involve Western Nevada, a junior college in Carson City.

"I hope to major in sports psychology and one day become a coach," he said, "in case baseball doesn't work out."

Entering the game in the top of the fifth inning as a third baseman batting seventh, Champlin knew his team needed to regain its early momentum.

Up 9-2 through two and a half innings, the Dodgers had watched as the Cardinals sent 10 hitters to the plate in a seven-run third, a rally keyed by Troy Stephens' three-run triple to center.

Through four, the Cards had pulled to within 12-11.

But the Dodgers started the fourth with a single by Kris Carlson, Kyle Macy was hit by a pitch and Jeremy Gendlek, an Oly teammate of Champlin's, walked to load the bases.

Taylor Ausbun struck out, but the right-handed-hitting Champlin stepped into a Seafth Howe offering and drove it into the Yakima Valley Community College parking lot.

Another of Champlin's teammates, left-hander Adam Conley, came on to blank the Cardinals in the fifth and sixth innings before yielding two unearned runs in the seventh.

But by that time Champlin had doubled home a run -- his sinking liner bounced over a diving Card center-fielder Ryan Bean -- and later scored in the top of the inning.

Contributing handsomely to the Dodgers' cause was Naches Valley second baseman Jake Evans, who singled off the pitcher's foot in the third and then drove in two runs with a base hit to left in the fourth.

Richland's Houston Castillo was 2-for-3 with a two-run single in the second.

Leading the Cardinals was Patrick Claussen of Lindbergh, who was 4-for-4 with a double, two runs scored and four driven in while Thomas Jefferson's Derek Voight was 3-for-4 with two RBI and two runs scored.

"This has been a great experience," said Champlin, who likely will see mound time in today's 1:35 p.m. championship game against the Braves. "All these guys are great, it's fun to get to know them and it's fun to play against really good competition."

Then, told his Mom had the game's prize souvenir, Champlin smiled and said, "Really? Cool."

Dodgers 3 4 2 3 4 0 2 18 18 6

Cardinals 0 2 7 2 0 0 3 14 14 5

Jordan Everson, Travis Todd (3), Kris Carlson (4), Adam Conley (5) and Taylor Ausbun; Nathan Eisenhauer, Seafth Howe (4), Troy Stephens (7) and Ryan Knutz, Brice Herrick (4).

**Highlights** -- Dodgers: Houston Castillo (Richland) 2-3, 2 RBI; Carlson (Wenatchee) 2-3; David Olson (Auburn) 2-3, RBI, 2 runs; Jay Skilton (Stadium) 2-3, 2b 2 runs; Kramer Champlin (Olympia) 2-2, 2b, HR, 5 RBI, 2 runs; Jake Evans (Naches Valley) 2-3, 2 RBI; Everson (Rochester) 2-3, RBI. Cardinals: Patrick Claussen (Lindbergh) 4-4, 2b, 4 RBI, 2 runs; Wes Jenks (Connell) 3b, RBI; Eric Lane (Port Angeles) 4 walks; Ryan Knutz (Rochester) 2 runs; Derek Voight (Thomas Jefferson) 3-4, 2 RBI, 2 runs; Markus Harkins (Lakewood) 2-4, RBI, 2 runs; Troy Stephens (Moses Lake) 3b, 3 RBI, 2 runs.