

## Eaton first baseman dislocates elbow in last-inning mishap

PUEBLO — Shane Dyer went one way, Jonathan Apodaca went the other, and then they both went down.

The only difference was Dyer never got up Saturday afternoon, writhing in pain on the infield grass at Hobbs Field at Runyon Sports Complex.

Dyer, playing first base for the Eaton Reds, took a throw from pitcher Dusty Dominguez while Apodaca tried to beat the throw.

"We got stepped on — twice," Eaton coach Jim Danley said. "Sometimes, the heat of the moment and the thrill of competition can bring out different things from different people."

Apodaca was warned about his approach to first base while Dyer was tended to by paramedics, suffering a dislocated left elbow. He was taken from the field on a stretcher.

He was taken to a hospital in Pueblo, but was expected to be released in time to make the trip back with the Reds and their fourth straight Class 3A championship trophy.

"I think we're going to wait for him," Danley said. "He'll come home with us."

The Dyer-Apodaca collision was only one of several confrontations in the game, which left La Junta players frustrated.

La Junta pitcher-infielder Sean Gleason was twice hit by pitches, each time staring down Eaton pitchers as he jogged to first base.

After the game, Gleason, the top pitcher in Class 3A, had to be restrained before the two teams shook hands.

"Unfortunately, those kind of situations spring up in games like this," Danley said.

La Junta coach Jeremy Hunter said his team was not intentionally trying to create a high-intense atmosphere, adding, "you have to take your hats off to Eaton, which played better than we did."

Several Eaton players voiced their displeasure with La Junta fans.

"Their fans said some tough things," Eaton junior Josh Noblitt said. "We could hear them."

The normal jostling between the two teams took place from the dugouts, but Gleason heightened the situation when he fielded a ground ball hit to the pitcher by Eaton's Garrett Walker. Instead of throwing to first, Gleason raced him to the bag.

"It's just one of those times when kids will step outside what are normal boundaries," Danley said.

— Samuel G. Mustari



Eaton's first baseman Shane Dyer raises a finger to indicate the Reds wouldn't go down easily after he collided with La Junta's Johnathan Apodaca. Dyer was taken out of the game on a stretcher after the collision at first base with only two outs left before their fourth consecutive state championship. Dyer suffered a dislocated elbow on the play.