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Prep Baseball

New guy leads Judge in shutout

By Andrew Aragon

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The new kid on Judge Memorial's baseball team is doing OK.

Jaxon Myaer, who didn't play for the Bulldogs last spring so that he could focus his time and energy on basketball, hit a grand slam in the first inning to spark Judge to a 9-0 win over Park City in Region 10 on Tuesday.

"Baseball is fun, man," Myaer said. "It's relaxing and I can just [mess] around in the outfield - eat sunflower seeds, sing, talk to the other outfielders . . ."

Myaer's decision to sit out the baseball season last year paid off for him personally. He had an MVP season in basketball and earned a scholarship to play at Utah State. But it did bother Myaer, who has hit three home runs and is batting better than .500, when he missed out on Judge's surprising run to a second-place finish in the 3-A baseball tournament last spring.

His teammates are happy to have him back with them. Myaer's grand slam gave the Bulldogs a 5-0 lead, and allowed starting pitcher Joe Pond to relax and throw strikes.

The win gave Judge sole possession of first place in Region 10 and a one-game lead over the Miners.

"Huge relief," was how Pond described Myaer's first-inning blast. "You can come out and know you don't have to blow it past them. I could just throw strikes, and if they got hits, so what."

Park City didn't get many hits - just three - against the hard-throwing Pond. The Bulldogs' ace threw a complete game with 11 strikeouts. The Miners never got past second base on him.

"Nails," said Judge coach Jeff Myaer. "Today, he got on top of it. Once he gets in a groove, if he has command of all three [of his] pitches, he's very, very difficult to hit."

Pond also helped himself from the plate with a two-run home run and an RBI single.



Jaxon Myaer rounds the bases after hitting a grand slam against Park City. (Ryan Galbraith/The Salt Lake Tribune)