

The Press Telegram

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Dirtbags go to bat for kids in need

By John Canalis, The Canalis Report

Sports: There will also be a raffle, goodies at benefit event at Blair Field.

LONG BEACH _ The May 2 Long Beach State Dirtbags game against UC Davis at Blair Field will benefit Children Today, a nonprofit organization that provides day-care services for homeless children.

Long Beach State plans to hand out Evan Longoria bobblehead dolls to the first 1,000 people at the gate. Longoria, who helped lead the Tampa Bay Rays to the World Series last year, played for the Dirtbags in college.

A raffle will also be held for a Longoria autographed bat and other memorabilia. Longoria still lives in Southern California.

Those who attend the game can help Children Today by bringing a pack of diapers or pull-ups, sizes 3-6, and the Dirtbags will give free tickets to the Cal Poly San Luis Obispo series May 15-18 and a discount coupon good at the Dugout Store.

Children Today operates Play House child-care centers in West and North Long Beach that allow homeless parents to spend the day working, looking for work or going to school while their children are being looked after.

Tickets can be purchased at www.longbeachstate.com or at the Blair Field box office.

On the Web site, type in "children" in the ticket area to get discounts that lower prices to \$5 for adults and \$3 for children.

The event begins at 6:30 p.m. May 2 at Blair Field, 4700 Deukmejian Drive.