

## Trucking company brings corporate event to Southern California



Estes Express Lines owner, Rob Estes takes a swing while playing in Southern California.

# Truckin' Softball

Story by Lisa Knight

**O**wner of Estes Express Lines, Rob Estes has been playing softball for 36 years and can remember attending Estes company picnics and playing in softball games when he was a kid. That is why he always tries to have a kids game at the Estes tournaments. Rob Estes said, "We try to gear our tournaments around the family because that's important."

On June 14, the Estes Express Lines softball tournament took place at Wheeler Park in La Verne, California. Estes Express Lines is a trucking company that sponsors its own tournaments in four locations nationwide; Nashville, Tennessee, Kansas City, Kansas, Richmond, Virginia, and this year in La Verne, California. What makes this tournament unique is that the Estes company sponsors the event for employees and their families by covering entry fees, sponsoring the field, the umpires and even the food.

Rob Estes started the tournament in Virginia 27 years ago. "The tournaments are great fun and our folks love the camaraderie. As I tell everybody, we're all equal on the field."

This was the fifth year A&V hosted the tournament in the west, where 11 company teams from California and Nevada competed; but in the end the three top finishers

were the same top teams from the last five years.

Rob Estes and his son Webb Estes flew out from Virginia to participate on one of the company teams, the Warriors, which were the champions.

The City of Industry team, Warriors, definitely lived up to their name in the tournament while going undefeated and running up the score in all of its games but one. Operations Manager for Estes West, Dan Wall said about the team, "We only trailed in a game once all day, that being the championship game against Riverside."

The Warriors first defeated Riverside, OMF's, 44-6 before the championship game, but OMF's weren't going to let the Warriors win without a battle. "This time Riverside played us much tougher, actually taking a one run lead into the final inning," Wall said. "Fortunately for us we were the home team and were able to push the winning runs across the plate." The Warriors ended the game with a final score of 16-15. (After the tournament, OMF's traveled to Richmond, Virginia to play in the Estes East Tournament where they won the championship).

In third place in La Verne was Armed and Hammered from La Mirada, California and the Misfits from Riverside came in fourth. Dave Ramirez from the Warriors was named tournament MVP and Rob and Webb Estes were all tourney players. From OMF's, Brian Parsons, Rich Silvas and Jamie Varner were named to the All Tournament team.