

SPORTS > OC VARSITY

# Orange County softball pitcher of the year: Grace Uribe, Huntington Beach



Grace Uribe of Huntington Beach is named the Orange County softball pitcher of the year. Uribe is shown in Irvine on Tuesday, May 21, 2019. (Photo by Leonard Ortiz, Orange County Register/SCNG)

---

By **DAN ALBANO** | [dalbano@scng.com](mailto:dalbano@scng.com) | Orange County Register

PUBLISHED: June 4, 2019 at 1:53 pm | UPDATED: June 4, 2019 at 2:02 pm

---

Huntington Beach's softball team struggled with injuries most of the season but still remained one of the best squads in Orange County.

By the end of the spring, the Oilers were ranked No. 1 for the first time and were the county's lone representative in the CIF-SS Division 1 semifinals.

Along the way, Huntington Beach coach Jeff Forsberg said his team had an ingredient that helped them absorb seemingly one injury after another and stay competitive: ace Grace Uribe.

"We have the pitching and I think softball is all about pitching," the veteran coach said. "With Grace pitching, we can compete."

[All-County Softball](#) | [Player of the Year](#) | [Pitcher of the Year](#) | [Coach of the Year](#) | [All-County Teams](#)

With her team dealing with numerous injuries and tough competition in the newly-formed Surf League, Uribe delivered her best season in the circle, posting a 14-5 record with 1.94 ERA.

For her efforts, the junior, who is committed to Texas A&M, is the Register's Orange County pitcher of the year.

"I grew a lot," said Uribe, a second-team All-County selection last season. "I learned to deal more with setbacks. ... I definitely think I grew as a person rather than just a pitcher. I think my ability came with the experience."

Uribe's improved poise showed in the playoffs.

In a first-round game at No. 4-seeded Grand Terrace, she allowed five hits and struck out seven in a 3-2 victory for the Oilers (19-9), an at-large playoff entry from the Surf League.

Uribe surrendered only one run and struck out five in her first six innings against Esperanza in a second-round contest, leading Huntington Beach to a 9-5 victory.

In the quarterfinals, she held Chino Hills to four hits in a 3-1 victory that sent the Oilers to the semifinals for the first time.

Even in a 7-2 loss to eventual Division 1 champion Norco in the semifinals, Uribe still logged another complete game.

“In a year that our depth was so tested due to injuries, Grace put our team on her back,” Forsberg said of Uribe, a first-team all-league selection who plays travel ball for the Firecrackers. “Her competitiveness, focus and attitude helped us ... (and) our team really believed in her.”

Uribe’s contributions weren’t only in the circle. She hit .390 with five home runs and 22 RBIs, mostly from the No. 3 spot in the batting order. She belted a home run against Esperanza in the playoffs.

In a key 4-0 victory at Marina late in the Surf League, she hit a two-run home run through the wind in the first inning and recorded the shutout in the circle.

“Finally,” Uribe said with a laugh of about her success as a hitter. “I didn’t get to show it last year.”

But what Uribe mostly wanted show was leadership for her teammates.

“I think it’s important for the position I play that they can look up to me and see if I’m feeling good, they should be feeling good,” she explained.

And in 2019, Grace Uribe helped her banged-up team feel much better.

---

Tags: [All-County teams](#),  
[Dan Albano](#),  
[OCVarsity softball](#)

---



SPONSORED CONTENT

## People Always Think She's His Daughter, But She's His Wife! [↗](#)

By Obsev



---

### Dan Albano

Dan Albano has been a high school sports writer at The Orange County Register since 1993. He covers football and all the aquatics: boys and girls water polo and boys and girls swimming. Dan's passion for water sports has earned him the nickname, Aqua Dan, in the newsroom and taken him to multiple U.S. Olympic Swim Trials and many USA water polo events as a reporter. He also writes about high school football recruiting, including The Register's annual FAB 15 teams that list the top high school football players in the Western U.S. before National Signing Day. He compiles the Hot 150 list of football players to watch in Orange County before each season. During football season,

he also partners with Steve Fryer and Jonathan Khamis on **OCVarsity.com**'s Gridiron Show and hosts a weekly podcast on Trinity League football. In 2015, Dan received the Bud Dwyer Jr. media award from the Southern California High School Football Coaches Association. Dan is a graduate of Cal State Fullerton, where he worked at The Daily Titan as a news reporter, sports reporter, managing editor and opinion editor.

 Follow Dan Albano  
[@ocvarsityguy](https://twitter.com/ocvarsityguy)