

DePROSPERO GETS 4 RBI, BARONE KNOCKS IN 4 RBI

St. Luke Scores in 8th to Nip St. Jude Softball Men, 13-12

By FRED LECOMTE
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

St. Luke's kept its hopes alive in the Saints Division when Tim Deegan scored the tying run in the seventh and Brian Glod erupted with the winning run in the eighth-inning to squeak out a 13-12 victory over St. Jude in St. Bart's Oldtimers Men's Softball League action at Brookside Park in Scotch Plains on July 2.

The Lukes punched out 24 hits, including six doubles. Rob Barone bashed two doubles, two singles, scored once and added three RBI. Glod went 2-for-3 with an RBI double and scored twice. Deegan hit three RBI singles and Rob Stratton (RBI) finished 4-for-4. Paul Morello went 3-for-4 and Matt Fugett had two singles and an RBI. Marty Marks hammered a pair of doubles and Steve Abrunzo pounded one. Tom Crylan added an RBI single, while Tom Clark and Frank Chupko each contributed a hit.

John DeProspero led Jude's 24-hit attack with three hits, including a double, and four RBI. Dave Weischadle went 4-for-4 with two RBI and Kevin St. Onge finished 4-for-4 with an RBI. Bruce Evans had a pair of singles and an RBI double. Dan Nigro singled and scored twice. Joe DeChiaro had two hits and an RBI. Paul Prospero singled and scored once. Keith Middleton and Brian Williams each had two hits, while Matt Marino and Phil Gano each had one.

Fine defensive plays were also abundant. Luke leftfielder Marks made four great catches, two in the

eighth inning. Clark, on a throw from Glod in right, tagged out a runner at home. Frank Chupko seized two liners on the mound, Deegan made two fine running catches, while Fugett made a run-saving grab in the seventh. Jude shortstop DeChiaro initiated a second (Williams)-to-first (Nigro) double play in the eighth. Pitcher Tom Kucin snagged a sizzler and mailed the ball home to catcher Marino in the fifth then made an excellent grab in the sixth. Evans had a pair of outstanding putouts and Newton chased down a liner and made a spectacular, behind-the-back catch.

"Guys were dropping some balls but, as far as the hitting is concerned, it's been perfect. These guys hit the ball really well. Everyone was scoring back-and-forth. The last person scores wins! We just happened to get lucky on a couple of innings there and shut them down 1-2-3. We got lucky in the meat of their order. They just flew out to us and we were able to hold them. Beating St. Jude is always fun for me," said Luke team Captain Fugett.

Highlighted by Stratton's RBI double, Barone's two-run double and Fugett's RBI single, St. Luke took a 4-0 lead in the top of the first. St. Jude combined five singles to go with Evans' and De Prospero's doubles to score five runs in the bottom of the inning. Luke added a run in the second when Glod scored on a wild throw. St. Jude answered with two runs when Nigro cracked a two-run single to grab a 7-5 lead.

In the third, the Lukes gouged out

four runs on four singles, a screaming double by Marks and an error but Jude responded with three singles and DeProspero's two-run hit to tie the game at 9-9.

Luke added one in the fourth and one in the fifth. Glod doubled to deep left center and Deegan spanked an RBI single in the fifth. The Lukes manufactured three runs in the fifth sparked on four singles, including RBI by Weischadle, John DeProspero and Paul DeProspero's sac fly to grab a 12-11 lead.

Chupko, who muted the Lukes the rest of the way, and was rewarded with the tying run in the seventh when Stratton scored on Deegan's single to center then Glod delivered the winning blast in the eighth.

"Our pitcher was on the ball. I think we played a good game but three innings we kind of had a little lapse whereby their leadoff hitter scored and those three runs were the difference in the game," said Jude captain DeChiaro.

"This is probably the most memorable game so far. A game back-and-forth like this is what's fun about the league. People enjoy it," said Fugett.

"We were missing one of our biggest outfield players in Dave Fiore. We had a big injury in Keith Middleton (hamstring), so we had to compensate. To be honest, errors are part of the game. If we make half of the mistakes that we did today then we would have pulled it out," concluded DeChiaro.

St. Luke	414	110	11	13
St. Jude	522	030	00	12



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
ADDING AN IMMEDIATE PUNCH...Deegan Roofing's Mike Parkhill blasted a two-run homer in the first inning against Shapiro's. He later hobbled a single in the fourth inning.

PARKHILL, LAU LAMBASTE TWO-RUN HOME RUNS

Deegan Roofers Nail Down Shapiro's Softball Men, 9-2

By DAVID B. CORBIN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Veteran Mike Parkhill and semi rookie Brady Lau each whacked a two-run home run in the first inning to guide Deegan Roofing to a 9-2 triumph over Shapiro's in the first game of a doubleheader in Scotch Plains Men's Softball League action at Brookside Park in Scotch Plains on July 1.

The victory boosted the Roofers' record to 12-2 to keep them in pace with the mighty Investors Savings squad for the top spot. The two teams split in their face-to-face meeting earlier in the season and, "we both lost to the same team once. It used to be called Cepp's (Vets)," said Deegan team captain Steve Brainard.

Parkhill and Lau also added a single in their three at bats and veteran teammate Tom Straniero demonstrated his seemingly perpetual finesse at the plate by going 3-for-3 with a run scored. Jeff Bendix, who did manage to reach base safely and score a run in all of his three at bats, hopped a double in the second inning to add to the Roofers' 13-hit attack.

Bendix managed, once again, to convince his team captain to place him in the leadoff spot by guaranteeing a hit. "He was lucky," blurted

teammate Jerry Isolda when Bendix eked out his double.

Deegan pitcher Rick Carlucci had a shutout going for four innings until a certain sports reporter brought it to his attention in the fifth. Shapiro's plated both of their runs in the fifth and finished with 11 hits, all singles. Tony Bucco had Carlucci's number with a 3-for-3 evening. Tim Lamora (run scored) and Joe Carrascuillo each tapped a pair of singles. Drew Pietkowski (run scored), John Bettinger (RBI) and Jamie Clark each singled, while Chris Galati chopped an RBI single.

The Deegan infielders turned three double plays (DP) beginning with Carlucci, the pitcher, grabbing a grounder and firing to second baseman Isolda, who fired to Rich Banasiak at first. Isolda initiated the next two DPs with Bendix (short-stop) scuffing second and Banasiak covering first. Shapiro's added a DP flair in the sixth with pitcher John Veglia tossing to Artie Shapiro, covering second, who fired to Gene O'Leary at first.

"The combined age was about 120 on that play," Veglia estimated.

Parkhill's two-run shot cleared the centerfield fence by a foot, then after Oscar Perez doubled off the fence

and scored on Banasiak's RBI single, Lau lashed a liner over the right fielder's head and had to leg out his two-run homer.

Kevin Woodring led off the third inning with a bouncing single to right then Kevin Spellman spanked an RBI double to left to give the Roofers a 6-0 lead. In the fourth inning, Straniero found the correct spot in right field to drop a single. Brainard singled to center and Isoldi lofted an RBI sacrifice fly to center. Bendix battered a wicked shot to deep left field that was dropped. Brainard and Bendix round the bases and scored.

In Game 2, Bendix hammered a leadoff triple to secure his No. 1 position in the lineup for future games.

Shapiro's	000	020	0	2
Deegan Roofers	501	300	x	9



Fred Lecomte for The Westfield Leader and The Times
ACTION AT THIRD BASE...St. Luke's Rob Stratton, right, stirs up a lot of dirt as he slides safely into third before St. Jude's Bruce Evans can make a tag.

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