



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times

**MAKING THE PUTOUT AT SECOND...**American Legion Post 3 second baseman Billy Aumenta puts the tag on Charlie Brown's Corey Gallitelli for the putout in the second inning of Game 2 at Brookside Park on August 6.

**WARGO HR, 4 RBI; SIMO HR; DiMASCIO, WILLIAMS HR**

# Charlie Brown's Wins Game 2 Over Amer. Legion Post 3, 9-6

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

Charlie Brown's oozed with confidence with the return of their Linus Blanket but it took until the fifth inning of the nine-inning drama for it to begin to permeate the atmosphere in Game 2 of the Scotch Plains Men's Softball League semifinals against third-seeded American Legion Post 3 at Brookside Park in Scotch Plains on August 6. Trailing 5-1, Charlie Brown's used the long ball to score three runs in the fifth, three more in the seventh and two in the eighth to earn a 9-6 victory and to force a Game 3.

The Charlie Brown's security dynamic duo of Todd Simo and Tony Wargo accounted for six of the nine runs. Simo (2-for-4) blasted a two-run homer in the fifth and scored three times. Wargo (4-for-5) whacked a two-run homer in the seventh and a two-run triple in the eighth and scored three times. Leadoff hitter Scotty Savarese slapped a pair of singles and

scored once. Brian Piccola singled three times and Corey Gallitelli doubled, had an RBI single, walked twice and scored once. Pitcher Frank Mastrocola helped his own cause with a single and a run scored.

The Legion packed some power also. Dennis DiMascio banged a three-run homer in the fourth inning and Chris Williams (2-for-4) cracked a solo homer in the sixth and scored twice. Kyle Williams went 2-for-3 with an RBI and a run scored. Jeff Bendix singled twice and Nick Bandoni doubled and scored once.

But the real show stoppers came with the defense, especially as demonstrated from both shortstops Bendix (Legion) and Wargo (Charlie Brown's). Bendix made a pair of smooth stops in the third inning to prevent runs, absorbed a wicked liner in the fifth and snagged a low liner just inches off the ground in the eighth inning. Wargo's talents emerged in the later innings, beginning in the sixth inning when he scooped a

grounder, stepped on second and fired to first for a double play. In the seventh, Wargo dove to his right to smother a smoldering grounder and converted it to a putout then in the eighth he initiated another double play.

Charlie Brown's first baseman Kyle Berwick used his quick wits to put a tag on Legionnaire Roc Sarna in the ninth inning. After grabbing a line drive in the fifth inning, right fielder Bryan Bolante gunned down a runner heading for third. Third baseman Josh Decker initiated a second-to-first double play in the first inning and Mastrocola grabbed a sharp hopper back to the mound and converted it to a putout.

Legion third baseman Bandoni scooped a steaming grounder and converted it to a putout in the eighth. Sarna made a sliding snag in the ninth inning. Jarrod Pence made a few fine grabs in leftfield, pitcher John Deitch knocked down a harsh liner and alertly converted it to a force out at third in

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## Contact Holds Back Riverside, 15-12, in UC 50+

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on Rothenberg's RBI single to right. Dr. Joe DeRosa reached base safely when his long fly to right was dropped. Muccio followed with his two-run triple to deep leftfield and Jeff Balish gave the Lensmen a 7-5 lead with a looping RBI single over third.

Riverside meekly answered with a run when McCormack wiggled a single and later scored on Wolensky's lined shot to right-center. But Contact inundated the Riverside defense with five runs in the third to seize a 12-6 lead. Dayton hopped a single up the middle and later scored on Byer's sizzling single between first and second. Kaufman reached base on a throwing error, which also allowed Byer to skip home. Gelb scorched an RBI double to right-centerfield, "Wiz" Wiczczak whizzed a single by first then Righetti and Rothenberg followed with RBI singles.

After a calm in the offensive storm but still under Mother Nature's close eye, the Contact Lens men came back with the blazing bats again and added three runs to take what appeared to be a commanding, 15-6,

lead. Bob Biner and Jordan Scher both singled then scored on respective singles by Dayton and Kasper. Byer followed with an RBI sac fly to right.

But the Riversiders were no strangers to overflows and rose to the occasion with their tidal wave of six plate scuffs to narrow the margin to three runs. Wolensky bounced a single past

double and Fastiggi added an RBI sac fly to right. Joe Hrubash (2-for-3) singled over first and John Llano made the score 15-12 with his RBI single past first.

Skies loomed mean and dark. Contact's Scott Cohen stepped to the plate and lined a shot to left. Down came the rain with a fury. People ran for cover. Mother Nature won again.



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**RIPPING A TWO-RUN DOUBLE...**Riversider veteran Rich Polinitza, with Contact's Kerry Gelb watching, rips a two-run double in the fifth inning at Jerseyland Field in Scotch Plains.

first, Newton looped a single over short and Polinitza pummeled his two-run double over the right fielder's head. Merriman followed with an RBI

The game was called. Contact Lens & Vision survived Riverside.

Contact Lens	255 03	15
Riverside Inn	510 06	12

## American Leg. Blankets Charlie Brown's. 23-3

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while hauling in a sharp liner off the bat of Hercul in the fifth inning. Pence made a sliding snare in leftfield and Chris Williams chased down a long shot in left-center. Deitch, however, made the final impressive play of the evening when he absorbed a hot chopper off the bat of Hercul and tossed to first for the final out in the ninth inning.

The American Legion modestly scored once in the bottom of the first inning when Sarna tripled to deep right and scored on Chris Williams' sac fly to left. Three more Post 3 men scored in the second. DiMascio doubled to right and Alvarez bounced an RBI single past short. Spellman singled, Deitch lined an RBI double to center and Bendix slashed an RBI single to right-center.

Six more Post 3 men scored in the third to seize a 10-0 lead. Chris Williams and Pence both singled. Chris Williams later scored on an error then

DiMascio hacked an RBI double to right-center. Bandoni belted his two-run triple just shy of the basketball courts. Spellman sizzled an RBI double to left and Deitch sliced an RBI single to right-center. Sarna, who singled, and Chris Williams, who doubled, both scored in the fourth to give the American Legion a 12-0 lead.

Finally Charlie Brown's managed to tap Deitch for a pair of runs in the top of the sixth. Decker and Berwick singled. Piccola lined an RBI single up the middle and Giannone lofted an RBI sac fly to right. But the Legionnaires quickly answered with three runs when Pence, Kyle Williams and Bandoni scuffed home plate. Post 3 then took a 17-2 lead in the seventh. Deitch drilled a single over third base and scored on Aumenta's single to centerfield and Sarna rocked an RBI single to right.

Charlie Brown's scored their third

run in the eighth. Decker singled, Berwick doubled and Piccola lined out to right to bring home Decker. The American Legion responded with a merry-go-round of six runs on eight hits, gently just taking one base at a time with respective RBI singles from Alvarez, Bendix, Aumenta, Sarna, Chris Williams and Pence.

After the game, all Charlie Brown's pitcher Frank Mastrocola could say was, "Good Grief!"

However, the American Legion Post 3 may have gained a psychological advantage with the impressive drubbing but Game 2 on August 6 should feature the full contingent of Charlie Brown's superstars, including the return of the "Linus" blanket.

Charlie Brown's	000 002 010	3
American Legion	136 203 26x	23

*Probitas Verus Honos*

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Scotch Plains | \$375,000

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Agent: Cathy Lee Tomlinson  
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**SCOOTING TO FIRST WITH A SINGLE...**Charlie Brown's Josh Decker gets the first of his three singles as American Legion first baseman Kevin Spellman observes the play at Jerseyland Field. The American Legion Post 3 won 23-3.

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