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THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section - Pages 11-15

PERCONTE POUNDS HR; RAPHAEL GOES 3-FOR-3, HR Pats Win Battle of No. Ones; Block St. Jude's Quest, 5-3

By DAVID B. CORBIN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times
Brilliant pitching from St. Patrick's Tony Blasi proved to be the deciding factor in a battle of No. 1 teams in the St. Bartholomew's Oldtimers Men's Softball League. Blasi, who yielded no walks, held the Angels Division leaders in check while the Saints Division leaders and reigning St. Bart's champions scored just enough to claim bragging rights with a 5-3 victory at Brookside Park in Scotch Plains on August 3.

Bill Zechman, who had two singles and two RBI. Paul Raphael was the big gun for the Jude's as he went 3-for-3, including a solo homer, and drove in two runs.
Pats center fielder Lee DiDonato displayed defensive prowess with an impressive basket catch in the third inning and right-center fielder Matt Hoelzel hustled to make a great snag in the sixth. Second baseman John DeVito prevented a possible run with a marvelous running catch in shallow right. St. Jude left fielder Tom Ulichny gunned down Pats' Gerry Reipe attempting to stretch a single into a double in the first inning and shortstop Mike Rivera grabbed a difficult pop up and fired to second to complete a double play in the fourth.

DelPrete slapped a single to right, Mike Michelisin walked, Perconte lofted an RBI sacrifice to right and Reipe's ground out to third scored DelPrete.
Raphael rapped his solo homer to deep right-center in the fourth but he would be the final St. Jude player to cross the plate. John Chupko and Larry Szenyi both singled in the fifth but were left stranded.
Two rare strikeouts were recorded in the game. Rivera took a lot of air out of the infield in the first, whiffing on a third strike, and Reipe spent too much time observing a pitch which resulted in a call of strike three.
With the season racing toward a conclusion, perhaps a rematch of these two top-teams will occur in the championship game on Labor Day.



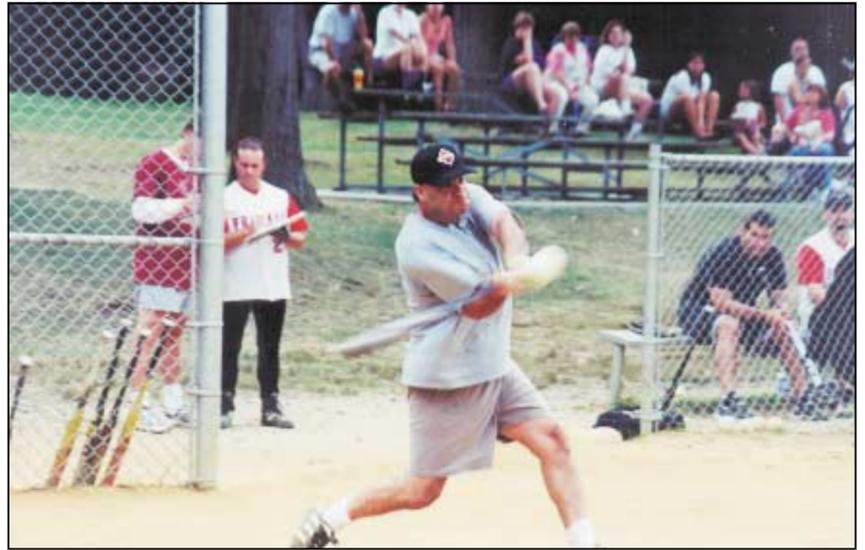
David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
MAKING THE TAG IN TIME...St. Jude second baseman Mike Rivera received the throw from left fielder Tom Ulichny in time to make the putout on St. Pat's Gerry Reipe.

Although out-hit, 10-7, the Pats converted two of the six walks yielded by the St. Jude's substitute pitchers - ace pitcher Joe Matuska was not available - into runs and got major offensive support from Tony Perconte, who smashed a solo home run and finished with two RBI, and

bottom of the inning with his solo blast to remote right-center.
Ken Larson and DeVito both tapped singles in the second and scored on Zechman's two-run single down the right field line. Then the Pats upped their lead to 5-2 in the third. Blasi walked, Ron



David B. Corbin for The Leader and The Times
FLY TO CENTER...St. Pat's Matt Hoelzel launches a fly ball to center.



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
LOOPING A SINGLE TO LEFT...Chico's Bail Bonds got a big boost from Jake Jakubik, who had three singles against a spirited Friday's team. The Bonds men held off a late charge from Friday's and locked up a 14-13 victory.

DONNELLY GETS 4 HITS, HR, 4 RBI, 4 RUNS SCORED Chico Advances to 'B' Finals; Squeaks Past Friday's, 14-13

By DAVID B. CORBIN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times
High drama played out once again between top-seeded Chico's Bail Bonds and fourth-seeded Friday's in Scotch Plains Men's Softball League B Division action on August 1 at Brookside Park in Scotch Plains.
In the first game of a three-game semifinals series, Chico's bailed themselves out by coming from behind to squeak a 23-22 victory.

Friday's pulled off heroics in game two with two runs in the bottom of the ninth to knot the series, then Chico's scored the winning run in the bottom of the ninth in game three, winning 14-13 and advancing to the championship round to face Theresa's Mojave Grill men who bounced Cellular Signal Plus.
Chico's and the men banged out 23 hits, including a home run and a double. Bail Bonds man Brian

Donnelly proved devastating to Friday's as he went 4-for-5, including a two-run home run, with four RBI and four runs scored, including the winning run - actually scored by his pinch runner Randy Langenfeld.
Chico's Larry Marsella excelled with the "metal stick" and punched four singles, scoring once and driving in one. Chris Casini, Greg Watson and Jake Jakubik each had three hits and an RBI with Casini trampling the plate three times and Watson stomping on it twice.
Friday's arrived with a complete bleacher's full of fans, whose support motivated them to dig out of a 13-6 deficit with four runs in the eighth and three in the ninth to knot the score. Mike Armstrong went 3-for-3 with two runs scored and Mike Coviello clouted a two-run shot to lead Friday's 17-hit attack.
Battles between the creams of the crop also begets fine fielding. On two occasions, Bonds man Jake Jakubik made two superb catches in deep left field to prevent sure runs and second baseman Brian Wanat made two fine plays, the second one on a running catch in shallow right.
Friday's center fielder Mike Patriarca grabbed a low liner after sliding on his chin for 10 meters, third baseman Matt Myers snagged a line shot and shortstop Ken Kimble chased down a difficult pop up along the left field line.
Friday's scored two in the top of the first on singles by Kimble and Dan Doyle, an RBI sacrifice fly from Dave Bierstein and an RBI single from Patriarca. Armstrong singled in the second and scored on Dave Doyle's chopping RBI single to give Friday's a 3-0 advantage.
The Bonds men bounced back with six runs in the bottom of the third. Watson singled, Casini tapped an RBI single and Wanat whacked an



David B. Corbin for The Leader and The Times
NOT REALLY THAT OLD...The Elizabeth Resolutes Vintage Base Ball team, comprised of local men, will demonstrate 1873 rules base ball at Echo Lake Park.

Elizabeth Resolutes Announce Exhibition of Vintage Base Ball

Paul Salomone, Captain and organizer of the Elizabeth Resolutes Base Ball Club, has announced that a vintage base ball game and educational program will be presented at 11 a.m. at Echo Lake Park in Mountainside on Sunday, August 12.
"Vintage base ball uses rules, equipment and uniform styles of the mid-to late-19th century game while providing spectators with an entertaining combination of baseball history and competitive play," Salomone said.
The Resolutes are patterned after an early professional baseball team in New Jersey and are members of the Vintage Base Ball Association VBBA (www.vbba.org). The VBBA, is an association of more than 40 clubs in 13 states and one Canadian province that is dedicated to preserve, perpetuate, and promote the game of base ball as it was played during its formative years in the mid-19th century and other historic eras.
The Resolutes will play the Brook-

lyn Atlantics in a nine-inning exhibition match using the rules and customs of 1873 baseball. The game in 1873 was similar to, yet in some ways very different than, baseball today. In the 1870s, fields were not perfectly flat and manicured and did not have dirt cut-outs between the bases; fielders did not use gloves;
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TORSIELLO SCORES 4 RUNS, VEIT KNOCKS IN 4 RUNS Pep Again Men Chuckle Past Kilburg's Klowns, 10-8

By STEVEN KRAKAUER
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times
The sounds of a metal bat breaking against a steel backstop and primal screams could be heard from Brookside Park in Scotch Plains on July 31 when Pep Again defeated Kilburg's Klowns, 10-8, to advance to the A Division finals in the Scotch Plains Men's Softball League.
The game was a nail-biter, as the score was tied, 5-5, entering the bottom of the fourth inning. But the incredible hustle of Pep Again brought the lead quickly into their favor. Doug Fisher unloaded three lead-off singles at various points of the game, and every single needed a

strong hustle down the first base line to beat the throw. This game play enabled the Pep "boys" to accumulate base runners for later run-production.
Butch Torsiello led Pep Again with four runs scored and an RBI. Torsiello was accompanied by Eric Veit as game superstars, as Veit accumulated four RBI on four singles. Kilburg's Klowns had three players who accounted for six of the eight runs. Paul Gosdick, Ed Kitson and Frank Chessa each tallied two RBI. Their combined batting average in the game was .615, while the rest of the Klowns' batting average trailed at .438.

Klowns wanted an interference call, but were unable to convince the umpire of wrongdoing. The Klowns were still able to record a run when Gosdick singled and scored on Mike Parkhill's single.
In the bottom of the inning, good hustle by Walt Fluhr and Jack Sullivan broke up two Klown opportunities for a double play. The Pep "boys" were unable to score, however.
Towards the end of the game, many missed opportunities hurt both teams. In the eighth, Kilburg managed to put runners on first and third base with no outs but were unable to score a run. In the next half of that inning, Pep had runners on first and second and were also ineffective in producing a run.
The win propelled Pep Again into the finals to compete in a three-game series against top-seeded Checchio Chiropractic.
Gilmore, who was 3-for-4 with two RBI and two runs scored for Pep Again, said, "We struggled at the beginning of the year, but we pulled it together and now we're unstoppable."



Steven Krakauer for The Westfield Leader and The Times
A HEATED SEMIFINAL SERIES...Kilburg's Klowns and Pep Again had a very competitive semifinal series but in the end, the Pep men won out to advance to the finals.

Forest Road Park Closes for Fall
Forest Road Park in Fanwood will be undergoing field renovations for the next four months. The Field area will be off limits until the spring season. The field will be leveled and sod will be placed down. A new drainage system will be developed. New backstops and infield will be placed down on the field.
The Fanwood Recreation Commission asks all residents to stay off the fields until further notice.

Pep smoked with two runs in the first inning and the Klowns answered loudly with two in the top of the second. But it was the pep of Pep Again's bats which answered next with three runs on five-straight hits in the third inning. Jim Helwig began with a double and Torsiello, Curt Gillmore, Veit and Dave Legg followed with singles.
In the Klown's half of the fourth, a debatable call spurred by Pep first baseman Veit knocking into a Klown runner on his way to second base was called in favor of the Pep squad. The

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