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THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section
Pages 11-15

DEL PRETE RAPS 3-RUN 3B, CELARDO MAKES 'ML' GRAB

St. Patrick 'Posse' Out-Guns Pesky St. James 'Gang', 11-7

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

Recently, several of the teams of the Angels Division of the St. Bartholomew's Oldtimers Men's Softball League have been watching the exploits of the St. James "Gang". The first half of the season, the "Gang" seemed to be firing with peashooters; however, a bonanza of ammo must have arrived as they had just won five straight prior to their

showdown with St. Patrick at Farley Field in Scotch Plains on July 25. Savoring his team's recent bang, bang shoot 'em up attitude, "Gang" leader and Standard Pest Control owner James Hoelzel, who is more than happy to make "Mouse" calls, said prior to the game, "We are getting it together now. Last night, we beat St. Blaise to make it five in a row. We started out 1-8 and now we are 6-8 - guess. Our guys are show-

ing up (to the game) and that helps." Although the James "Gang" played quite well, St. Patrick turned into a top-notch "Posse" and broke open a tight battle with five runs in the fifth inning and galloped onward to an, 11-7, conquest.

Pat man Ron Del Prete ignited a five-run second inning with a three-run triple and contributed in the decisive fifth inning with a leadoff single and a run scored. Matt Hoelzel - brother of "Gang" leader James - discouraged the outlaws with two hits, a run scored and an RBI, and Ken Larson added to the discouragement with a double, a single and two runs scored. In all, the Pat "Posse" pounded 19 hits.

The James "Gang" had 11 hits and were literally led by leadoff hitter Bob Elmi who rapped a double and a single and crossed home twice. Fran Celardo also had two hits with an RBI and a run scored and Frank Marrero thumped a two-run triple and scored once.

Third baseman Marrero made several fine defensive plays and shortstop Tony Perconte pulled off a fine short-to-second putout in the first inning and initiated a fine short-to-second (Hoelzel)-to-first (Bill d'Eustachio) double play. However, the greatest defensive play came from Celardo in the sixth inning when he performed a diving, skidding on his side, one-handed, grab of a liner off the "metal stick" of Jim Reilly.

St. Pat pitcher Nick Barattucci also

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
HITTING TO THE RIGHT SIDE...James "Gang" member Frank Marrero mangled a two-run triple to right field in the second inning against the St. Patrick "Posse".



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
MOMENT OF INTENSITY AT HOME...Umpire Ed Zazzali, left, makes the safe call on Jade Isle's Mark Marotta, sliding, after discovering that Pep Again catcher Curt Gilmore, right, had the ball knocked out of his glove in the seventh inning. Islander Dan Nigro points at the dropped ball.

GILMORE TRIPLES, SCORES 3; KLUKAS SHINES ON 'D'

'Pep' Again Out-Endurances Jade Isle, 16-12, in 'A' Semis

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

Intensity, emotions and quality play heightens when the chips are down and the pursuit of a championship is on the line. Top-seeded Pep Again energized in the third inning then paced itself to outlast a very

determined Jade Isle team, 16-12, in game 1 of the best-of-three semifinal series in the A Division of the Scotch Plains Men's Softball League at Brookside Park in Scotch Plains on July 24.

Both teams were banging the ball with Pep pounding out 23 hits and

the Islanders netting 24. "Peppy" Curt Gilmore ripped two singles and a triple, had two RBI and crossed home three times, and Joe Ward smacked two singles and a double, knocked in three runs and scored twice. Islanders Chris Klukas (1 RBI, 1 run scored), Jerry Isolda (3 runs scored) and Mark Marotta (2 RBI, 2 runs scored) had four hits apiece and teammate Matt Walsh had three hits and three RBI.

Klukas at his shortstop position, as always, was fantastic to the point that Pep hitters did everything to avoid hitting the ball near him. When they did, in the second inning, Klukas grabbed a hot grounder at the fringe of the leftfield grass near third, reeled around and fired to first for a magnificent putout. In the third inning, he dove to his left to snag a liner off the bat of Pep's Pat Peterpaul.

Jade Isle pitcher Keith Gibbons held the formidable Pep offense to just one single in the first two innings.

Before the game, aware of Pep's ability, Gibbons evaluated, "They have an A- defense and an A+ offense. They have strong hitters with power throughout the lineup."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

GROSSMAN HAMMERS 2-RUN HR

Comcast Power Surge Tops Irish Pub, 10-4

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

One strong power surge in the third inning was all that was required for Comcast to topple Irish Pub, 10-4 in Union County Senior League action at Jerseyland Field in Scotch Plains on July 24. Comcast put together 10 hits - four in the third inning - and were led by Karl Grossmann who had a single, an RBI double and a colossal home run. Irish Pub collected nine hits and was led by Ed Kushner who had a double and an RBI single.

Both teams exhibited brilliant defensive plays. Designated hitter Angelo Corbo said, "Dom Deo pitched a good game, we played the type of game you have to do, no errors. We also hit the ball when we needed to."

Corbo added, "I am a teacher in Glen Ridge, and I just like to play softball, it's good exercise. It's about camaraderie and lots of kidding. The wives all stay home and go using their charge cards. They're happy when we get home, they're smiling and they run up the bill. Meanwhile, we're out playing and getting our youth. It's a lot of fun."

Irish Pub brewed up one run in the top of the first when Ray Polesko and Carmen Cappolla both singled and Walt Serafyn lofted an RBI sac-

rific fly. Comcast tied it in the second. With Bill Reichle on first, Grossman smoked a single to left and Bill Mirto mashed an RBI sacrifice.

Pub bats clanged with two runs in the third. Steve Brownstein yanked a single and Rich Pelesko bashed an RBI single to right. Joe Denecka singled. Pelesko headed home and scored on an infield bobble.

The Comcast surge in the third began with singles from Frank Pep

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

FELLER RAPS GRAND SLAM, MALONEY NAILS 2 RBI HR

SP-F American Legion Jolts Berkeley Heights Nine, 7-6

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

Two fielding errors in the bottom of the seventh inning helped the 17-3 Scotch Plains-Fanwood (SP-F) American Legion baseball team seize a, 7-6, victory over Berkeley Heights (3-16-1) on July 24 at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School. SP-F Raider John Maloney led the offensive by crushing a dramatic two-run homer. Berkeley Heights' record did not reflect its play as pitcher Eric Feller was effective on the mound and also mashed a towering grand slam. "They knew they were in for a game," said Feller. "During the season, they had to go into the bottom of the seventh inning to win as well. Being seeded 15th against a two seed, we definitely gave them a game. I relied mostly on

my cutter, because they're a good hitting ball club. You have to hit your spots and I think I did that pretty well, but I did walk a few batters."

It was a close pitching duel with SP-F pitcher Ryan Weber (7-1) who tossed seven strong innings, allowing nine hits, striking out five and walking three. "Our team maintained its confidence and did what we had to do", said Weber. "Throughout the game, I tried to keep my mind clear. Primarily thinking about throwing it over the plate on whatever my catcher was calling for, but I felt very comfortable and confident out there."

The Berkeley Heights sizzle began in the top of the first when Feller blasted a double deep to center. Jason Hollowell yanked a single and Feller scooted home. An excellent

play by SP-F shortstop Kyle Baker and a fine tag by catcher Andy Mulvey prevented the run. Matt Hiller then retaliated with an RBI single.

SP-F answered with two runs in the bottom of the inning. Matt Powers got a free pass then Anthony Spetola banged an RBI double. Weber followed with a chopper in the infield, but a muffed pickup allowed Spetola to score.

Berkeley Heights displayed power in the fourth and tallied four runs. Alex Caffrey cracked a single in the gap, Jamie Matunas followed with a single and Matt Hiller walked to load 'em up. Feller then strutted to the plate and cleared the bases with his colossal shot in deep center.

"He threw three curve balls to me, so I was looking curve. I guess I just stroked it well," said Feller.

SP-F crept two runs closer in the bottom of the inning. Mulvey walked. Maloney stepped up and sizzled his two-run shot deep into left center.

"I was looking for a curve, but he served up a fastball, right down the middle of the plate, so I jumped at the opportunity," said Maloney. "But

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



Fred Lecomte for The Westfield Leader and The Times
ABOUT TO MAKE THE TAG...SP-F American Legion catcher Andy Mulvey receives the throw from shortstop Kyle Baker and puts the tag on Eric Feller of Berkeley Heights.



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