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THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section
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KLUCKAS 'KLOUTS' 2-RUN HOME RUN, BAGS 4 RBI

FOMSA Hunters Track Down Montrose, 11-5, in Semi Game 1

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

Top-seeded Hunter Avenue of the Fanwood Old Men's Softball Association (FOMSA) has bagged 13 of 14, regular-season opponents and added one more to its trophy case by successfully tracking down Montrose Avenue, 11-5, in game 1 of the best-of-three semifinal series at Forest Road Park in Fanwood on August 20. The Hunters' only loss (6-5) came at the bats of the Midway Avenue "Maulers".

Having hoped for a perfect season, Hunter mound veteran Al Manzi opened, "It was upsetting. Our one loss was on some bad calls."

The calls seemed to be accurate in game 1 of the semis and so were the Hunters as they fired off 13 rounds of singles, a double, a triple and a home run. Chris Kluckas was the loudest with the "metal stick" as he crunched a two-run home run and cracked a two-run single. Also, Phil Wein thumped a triple and tapped an RBI single and Kyle Bilcher battered a double and bounced a single to lead the hunt.

Struggling primarily just to get its team's complement of players to show for the games, Montrose finished its season 6-9 and received the fourth seed. With a better attendance, Montrose eliminated fifth-seeded

lashed a triple and scored a run. As usual, Kluckas was excellent at shortstop and, although not making the putout, made a fantastic diving grab of a grounder to limit Montrose batter Kevin Reinert to a single. In leftfield, Reinert made a fabulous leaping snag of a rising liner from the bazooka of Hunter Steve Kamins and Gaito made an interesting catch in right field. However, the neatest play of the evening came from Manzi when he pursued Bob Swisher's bunt down the first baseline and hand-slapped the ball to first in time to make the putout.

Hunter immediately put Montrose on the defensive with four runs in



WINNING THE SECOND BATTLE OF MIDWAY...Watson "Glory Boy" veteran pitcher Pete Lima makes his delivery to Midway mauler Matt Costello in the second inning. Midway won game 1 of the semifinal series but Lima recorded four strikeouts and yielded just one walk and seven hits to lead the "Glory Boys" to a 5-4 victory in game 2.



SUCCESSFUL FACE SLIDE INTO SECOND BASE...Hunter Joe Penzak successfully bags a stolen base in the fourth inning as Montrose shortstop Craig Lodato performs a wicked leap to get the throw.

ALL-CORBIN TEAM COMES SEPT. 12

The fifth annual All-Corbin Team will appear in the September 12 issue of *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood*. The All-Corbin Team features photos of fine or unusual plays, umpires and fan shots taken at local softball league games. This year will also include youth baseball and Vintage Base Ball photos.

Poplar Place to reach the semis. "We have been having trouble getting guys to the games. Sometimes, we start with eight (players) and finish with nine. The open field makes it hard to defend," said Montrose pitcher Bob Swisher.

Against the Hunters, Montrose garnered nine hits, including a triple and a double. Rob Shuten went 2-for-3, including a two-run double, and scored a run. Scott Gaito singled and scored twice and Mike Lembo

at the bottom of the first. Mike Ewing and Bilcher both hopped singles, Frank Cuccaro chopped an RBI single over second and Kamins sailed an RBI sacrifice fly to center. Scott Stogner skid a single past second and zoomed to second on a throw to home. Wein followed with an RBI single.

With spunk, Montrose displayed its teeth in the third and tightened the score to 4-3. Lembo led off

TINERVIN GOES 3-3, 2 RBI; MCCOMB DRIVES IN WINNER

Watson Ave. 'Glory Boys' Win Second Battle of Midway, 5-4

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

June 4-7, 1942 - 60 years ago - the United States Navy and Air Force soundly defeated the Japanese in history's pivotal battle of Midway in the Pacific Ocean. Two veteran pitchers with a combined softball league experience of more than 60 years battled in a critical, emotional duel until Watson Avenue scored two runs in the bottom of the seventh inning to sink Midway, 5-4, in game 2 of the Fanwood Old Men's Softball Association semifinals at Forest Road Park in Fanwood on August 21.

Midway Avenue, seeded second, won the first semifinal battle, 11-5, on August 19 but the third-seeded Watson "Glory Boys" were held together by mound ace Pete Lima - a veteran Westfield High School physi-

cal education teacher - who limited the Midway sluggers to seven hits and one walk while fanning four. Midway mound ace Manny Perez also baffled the Watson speedsters, mixing off-speed pitches with flame throwing, and yielded eight hits and one walk while striking out one.

Every game has its share of good defense and timely hitting that determines the outcome but this showdown also featured intense emotion and some heated tempers that resulted in an ejection. Fifty percent of the players disputed some of the umpire's calls while the other half agreed. That's sports, however! Regardless, the fate of the game was actually determined in the seventh by the "metal stick".

"I have played 48 years of organized softball, since I was 12," re-

vealed Lima. "And that's not counting baseball. Every game is different and, sometimes, the umpires can determine the outcome of games."

What did happen in the seventh, "Glory Boy" Craig Tinervin, who went 3-for-3 with two RBI and a run scored, ripped an RBI single to bring home Rob Baykowski with the tying run and advanced to second on a miscue in right. Rob McComb followed with the winning RBI single to right field.

Midway, however, drew first blood with a run in the top of the first. Billy Beehner yanked a triple down the right field line and scored on Jerry Lipschitz's sacrifice fly to center. Midway punched in another run in the second when Matt Batau jabbed an RBI single to center to

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BETAU BANGS 2 HRS, DOUBLE, 7 RBI; GORDON HRS

St. Annes Amble Easily Past St. Pauls, 16-3, in Playoffs

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

As with the entire regular season, the right combination just did not seem to meld with the fifth-seeded St. Paul men as they fell to fourth-seeded St. Anne, 16-3, in the opening round of the Angels Division of the St. Bartholomew's Oldtimers Men's Softball League at Jerseyland Field in Scotch Plains on August 23. St. Anne pitcher Al Batau definitely had it all together with the "metal stick" as he belted two home runs and a double to harvest seven RBI.

Batau blasted a three-run homer in the first inning and a two-run shot in the fifth, both in the gap in right-centerfield, and deflected his two-run double off the second baseman in the sixth to lead the 18-hit assault. Teammate Bob Guy rapped a double and a single, scored twice and had an RBI. Big Bob Vecek went 2-for-3 with two runs scored and an RBI while Norm Hansen and Glen Walz both had two singles, an RBI and a run scored.

Of the St. Paul pack, Joe Shea had three of the team's 13 hits while Mike Brennan, Howard Bialos and Bob Pielhau each tapped two singles. John Gordon had the most impressive hit, a two-run homer over the leftfielder's head in the first.

The first inning hinted at the possibility of a competitive game when the Pauls scored two in the top of the

first. Pete Glock singled and Gordon clocked his two-run shot. The Annes answered quickly with a four-run roar. Steve Ferro singled, Tony Williams walked and Batau cracked his three-run shot. Vecek singled and later scored on Walz's RBI single.

After the first inning, Batau also

became the "master of the mound" as he baffled the St. Paul batters in all but one of the remaining six innings. In the fourth, St. Paul's Matt Fugett singled and, after two pop-ups to the mound, Pielhau singled and Brennan followed with an RBI single. Further

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MOFFETT MANGLES HR, PADOVANO PUMMELS HR

Westfield Stuns Sheriffs, 13-8; Seize U. C. Police NL Crown

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

A fully armed squad of Westfield police swarmed their way into Rahway Park and captured the Union County Police National League Division Softball championship, overpowering the Sheriff's department, 13-8, using a "there's no tomorrow. See the ball, all singles," 18-hit assault on August 21. Billy Moffett and Frank Padovano triggered crushing, colossal home runs.

Steve Voom boomed three RBI and "hustling." Ed Belford belted two singles and a double. Dave

Wyman fired off two singles and a triple destined as a homer. Unfortunately, a bad leg prevented the feisty Wyman to come home. Nick Norton bagged two RBI.

Defensively, Westfield Blue stunned and disarmed the Sheriffs in the seventh inning on a Belford (short) to Jeff Johnson (second) double play. Veteran pitcher, Chief Barney Tracey, solidified the defense with continued excellence against the good-hitting and aggressive Sheriffs who accumulated 11 hits, including a two-run homer by Ken Barnes. Daryll Warner whacked two doubles and a

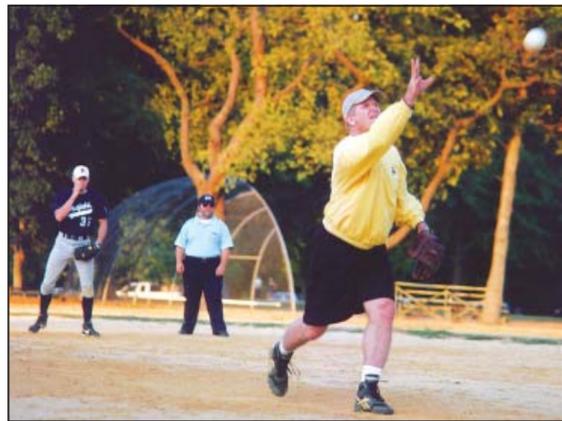
single for four RBI while Pat Grady muscled three RBI.

"The Sheriff's Department has kind of become our big rival," said Tracey. "It's been three years now that we have been anxious to pay them back. Since winning the championship, it's been great around here. Everybody is walking around upbeat and happy. The last time we went to the championship and won everything was in 1986. So we look forward to the challenge on August 28."

As to his pitching strategy, Tracey said, "Personally, I have been playing against the Sheriffs for so many years that I know a lot of their players. Believe it or not, even in slow pitch softball you can have a little strategy. Some guys, I really try to keep the ball in tight on them, others, I try to keep the ball inside on right hand hitters, outside on lefties, so it seems to be working."

In the top of the first, Belford and Tracey moved in quick on Sheriff pitcher Bill Sharkey with back-to-back singles. Mike Smalls pulled the

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CONTROLLING A RIVAL...Veteran pitcher, Chief Barney Tracey, works his strategy to perfection, moving the ball around at will. Westfield went on to win the divisional Union County Police Championship.

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ST. GOLIATH ON THE OFFENSIVE...St. Anne slugger Bob Vecek hammered two hits and scored twice against St. Paul.



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