

See it all in color at!
www.goleader.com

THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section
Pages 11-15

PICARO POUNDS 2-RUN HR; LUDMER GETS 3 HITS, 3 RBI

Westfield Legion Nine Clubs Clark American Legion, 17-6

By STEVEN KRAKAUER
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times
The Westfield American Legion boys baseball team made quick work of the Clark squad, 17-6, in five innings via 1-run rule on July 12 at Edison Intermediate School in Westfield.

Well, it wasn't exactly quick. The first inning of this batting practice-like barrage lasted 50 minutes, with Westfield jumping to an, 11-4, lead. The entire game lasted more than two hours.

Ace Jay Cook was on the mound for Westfield, and had a shaky out-

ing. Three of the first four batters for Clark touched home plate, and after second baseman Dave Desedica reached first base on a strike out that should have ended the inning. Cook struggled with his control. He walked the next two batters before finally retiring the number nine hitter, Steve Dunn, with a strikeout.

Westfield certainly answered, as their first seven batters scored and 16 batters reached the batter's box. After Brett Picaro reached base on an error and Ben Koket walked, Mike Sofka doubled home Picaro. Sofka finished the game 2-for-3 with two RBI and three runs scored.

Later in the first, Blair Richardson doubled to left center, just inches away from sailing over the 350-foot fence. Richardson had one run and one RBI, as well as going 2-for-3.

Later in that inning, Manny Guasp, who scored three times, ripped a two-run double to center. Westfield had now batted through the order, but wasn't done yet.

Picaro came to the plate for his second time and blasted a 370-plus-foot homerun over the right field

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



A FAMILIAR SCENE...Brett Picaro, left, greets Josh Ludmer after he crosses home plate. The Westfield Legion ball players crossed home 17 times against Clark.

GESSNER ALLOWS 1 RUN, MELILLO KNOCKS IN 4 RBI

Westfield White 13s Stagger Westfield Blue Nine, 15-5

By FRED LECOMTE
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times
The Westfield White (wearing blue) 13-year-old traveling baseball team celebrated in unison, claiming Westfield bragging rights, by defeating Westfield Blue (wearing blue), 15-5 in Westfield on July 13.

"When you throw strikes, good things happen," commented Blue Head Coach Jeff Becker. "Furthermore, when you play good defense and offense the way you fellows played, again, good things do happen. It's a great way to win a ballgame, and I'm proud of our team."

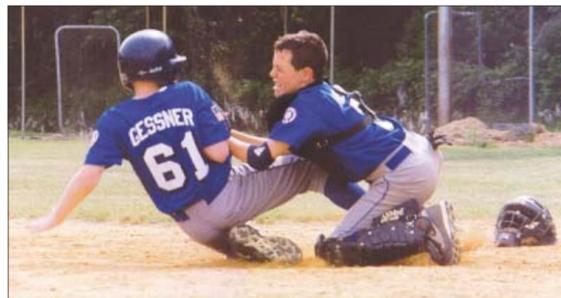
Indeed, that was the difference in this one-sided baseball affair, as pitcher, Pat Gessner led his team to victory tossing 83 pitches, allowing one run on three hits in five innings. "It feels good, because we really wanted to win this game," said Gessner. "I had good mechanics and follow through and made good use of my bread and butter pitch, the change-up. Also, we had great fielding, so

I'm happy. We won our first five games, then dropped two, and here we are today with our third straight victory."

Powerful Dan Melillo coming off a great game against Chatham, (two triples) continued his smashing ways,

as he led the offensive barrage with four RBI. Teammate, Kevin O'Rourke, who collected four singles and a double, said, "I was in a real groove, saw the ball really well, allowing me to jump on the first pitch."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



GREAT DEFENSIVE PLAY...Westfield Blue catcher John Helfand puts the tag on Westfield White base runner Pat Gessner as he attempts to score.

MARSELLA, KUCHAR, CICCOTTI. BUONPANE HOMER

Locksmiths Hand Over Keys, Jailed by Bailbondsmen, 15-12

By FRED LECOMTE
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times
The offense was plentiful on both sides but it took a superb defensive effort on the part of Chico's Bailbonds to secure a 15-12 victory over D&L Locksmiths in Scotch Plains Softball League A Division action at Jerseyland Field in Scotch Plains on July 10.

Victory seemed so close for D&L Locksmith when a five-run outburst in the bottom of the sixth inning

brought them within one, (10-9), but defensive agility on the turf pulled off by Larry Marsalla (short) to John DeFouw (second) and Mike Lembo (first) double play in the seventh appeared to take some of the oomph out of the Locksmith men.

"Chico" Marsalla, "Chico" Mike Kuchar and "Chico" Paul Ciccotti were vicious as they hammered home runs into the meadows while Jeff Kaszak walloped four RBI on four singles in the 19-hit attack. But

enough about "Chico"! The Locksmiths amassed 20 hits, including three RBI off the smoking bats of Sean Goldate and Mike Newhauser. Defensively, right fielder Pat Boyle and centerfielder Greg Griffin wowed onlookers with several remarkable snags in the outfield.

Kaszak got things rolling for Bailbonds with a two-run first inning by drilling a two RBI single to right. However, the Locksmiths retaliated and tied the score in the bottom of the inning. The "Chico's" then followed with two runs in the second. Chris "The Kid" Casini singled and scored. Buonpane got a free pass, Nick Musano singled and "Irish" Billy Fitzpatrick thumped an RBI sacrifice. D&L's Newhauser initiated the scoring in the bottom of the second by pulling a RBI sacrifice to center.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



CORDES CROSSING THE PLATE...Chico's Clint Cordes scores as D&L Locksmith catcher and team captain Leo Hoy awaits the throw.

Donate Your Car

American Red Cross
 Westfield / Mountainside Chapter
 Help Can't Wait
 Call: 1-888-999-HELP (4357)
 One Call Does It All
 Tax Deductible • Free Towing
 Any Make / Any Model • Cars Trucks & Vans
 *Some restrictions apply.
 Advertising supplied by SAS



BREAKING UP THE DOUBLE PLAY...Nick Piscopo of Fanwood Transmissions makes a great slide into second and breaks up a potential double play. Benzmania second baseman Joe DeFabio tagged second for the force play but had throw off-balance to first.

NIES HOMERS, KAUFMAN MAKES FANTASTIC CATCH

Benzmania Rises in 6th, Tops 'Fan Tran' Softball Men, 7-3

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

Benzmania took a big step forward, positioning itself in a tie for second in the A Division of the Scotch Plains Men's Softball League, by stalling out Fanwood Transmission, 7-3, at Brookside Park in Scotch Plains on July 10. The victory gave Benzmania and Fan Tran identical 12-5 records, just one game behind the league leading PEP Again men at 13-4.

Most accounts of athletic events seem to highlight the offensive clout of a team; however, the defensive brilliance in this highly intense game cannot be overlooked, especially that of Benzmania shortstop Neil Kaufman. In the third inning, Kaufman initiated a quick short-to-second (Joe DeFabio)-to-first (Tim Lasse) double play. In the fifth, Kaufman alertly grabbed a deflected

shot off his pitcher and fired to first in time to nail the runner.

However, the best play came in the eighth. A pop fly in foul territory down the left field line had three chasers but no one seemed to have a chance to catch it. Suddenly, Kaufman made a desperate, fully outstretched lunge and snagged the ball about three inches off the ground before he skid across the grass on his chest.

"He was fully extended! He was completely out! He was parallel to the ground!" expressed teammate Emidio Monaco.

In the seventh inning, Benzmania third baseman Joe Cunha scooped a sharp grounder, stepped on third for a force out and tossed to first to complete an inning-ending double play. In the eighth, right fielder Brian Dayton performed some magic with a fine catch.

The Fanwood Transmission men also pulled off some fine defensive plays. In the bottom of the first, shortstop Dave Serido prevented further scoring by being on the front end of a rally-killing short-to-second (Danny Serido)-to-first (Rob Tumulo) double play. In the second, third baseman Greg McComb scooped a grounder, checked the runner considering taking third and fired to first for the out. Then in the sixth, McComb initiated a second (Danny Serido)-to-first (Tumulo) double play.

Offensively, big Mark Nies, who went 2-for-3, hammered a colossal two-run homer into the trees beyond the centerfield fence to help Benzmania snap a 3-3 deadlock with a four-run sixth inning. Teammate Ed Gutierrez whacked a double and two singles, and scored two runs

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

GELB, ARONSON BLAST HRS; EARLY GOES 3-FOR-3

Club 40 Comes Back to Oust Outsider Softball Men, 14-7

By STEVEN KRAKAUER
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Coming into the final games of the season in the JCC men's softball league, the action, like the summer, has really begun to heat up. On July 14 at Tamaques Park, Club 40 edged the Outsiders, 14-7, in a comeback victory.

The first inning displayed the excitement of JCC men's softball. The "Club" leadoff hitter rocked a triple and pitcher Jay Tepper singled him in. Cleanup hitter Mitch Aronson blasted a double that scored his team's second run of the inning.

In the Outsiders half of the inning, Mark Mitchell doubled and was brought home by Bill Early. Early had a stellar day at the plate, going 3-for-3 with two runs and an RBI.

The next hitter, Pete Byer, was able to score Early and tie the game at two. But that knotted score was diminished quickly as Kerry Gelb blasted a two-run homerun over the head of the left fielder. That inning wasn't done yet. Ken Zierler doubled and later scored on Jeff Strauss' double to left-center. Strauss finished 2-for-3 with an RBI.

With a 5-2 lead under their belt after the first inning, Outsiders' pitcher Larry Goland relaxed and comfortably disposed of Club 40 hitters during the second and third innings. Meanwhile, one more Outsider scored in the third, when Jeff

Balich doubled in Early.

By the fifth inning, the Outsiders still had a comfortable, 6-3 lead, but Goland began slipping. With the 10-11-12 hitters up in the Club 40 order, the Outsiders' D was confident the inning would be quick.

It was not to be, however, as the first six Club 40 batters recorded hits. In all, nine batters clubbed hits that inning capped off by Tepper's three-RBI double and Rob Shuman's second RBI-single that scored his

brother, Mike Shuman. Now, with the score 9-6, the tables had turned and the Outsiders were reeling.

The score was 10-6 when the final inning began, the seventh. Club 40 continued the onslaught, thanks to a two-run homerun by Aronson, who finished 2-for-4 with three RBI, and a two-run blast by Mike Helfand, who finished 2-for-4 with two RBI.

In total, 10 of the "Club's" 12 batters touched home plate, while

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



REALLY "CLUBBING" THE BALL...Club 40 slugger Greg Schaeffer clubs a single in the fifth inning. Schaeffer also had another hit in the victory over the Outsiders.

DEEGAN
ROOFING
 COMPANY

908-322-6405

Tear-Offs • Re-Roofs
 Repairs • Gutters

Free Estimates • Fully Insured



OWEN BRAND

Your Hometown
MORTGAGE BANKER



IVY MORTGAGE

Residential - Construction
 Commercial - Bridge Loans

Local (908) 789-2730
 Toll Free (888) 489-9680
 Pager (908) 535-8244
 obrand@ivymortgage.com

Licensed Mortgage Bankers - NJ Dept. of Banking
 Equal Housing Lender