



GETTING IT DONE...Westfield PD-1 outfielder Jim McCullough triggered a three-run homer in the first and banged a two-run hit in the seventh. Despite his heroics, Elizabeth outgunned Westfield, 22-16.

MCCULLOUGH HRS, 5 RBI; PADOVANO BANGS 3 RBI

Elizabeth Policemen Outgun Westfield PD-1 Men, 22-16

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

A truckload of ammo arrived in time, then left empty after a showdown between the 8-4 Elizabeth PD 1 squad and the 8-4 Westfield Blue 1 team in the Union County Police Softball League at Memorial Park in Westfield on August 17. Both offenses used massive firepower, however Elizabeth triggered six more explosions and returned home with a 22-16 victory.

Westfield banged out 16 hits and got fine production from two of its veterans, Jim McCullough and Frank Padovano. McCullough shattered the ball with a three-run blast and scored two runs in the seventh. Padovano splattered the ball with a single, a double and a triple and three RBI. Steve 'Voom' Peterpaul went 3-for-3 and scored two runs, Mike Smalls smacked two hits, including a double, with two RBI and Tom Ostrander jacked a two-run double.

Elizabeth showed up more than ready and triggered a 29-hit assault. Chris Montenegro was the main shooter with five hits, including two doubles and a monstrous homer, and six runs scored. Vito Tropiano demonstrated some serious firepower

with four hits, including a double and a solo bomb.

"Last year they spanked us and I'm sure you remember writing that story very well," said Elizabeth team captain Bill Gladkin. "We have a good hitting team, however we got some help from that ump today. They took a slim lead. We held them and got some calls to give us a nice lead. A lot of close calls seemed to go our way, but it happens. We know Westfield is a really good team. Hopefully, if we meet in the playoffs, we can get a couple of those same calls."

Elizabeth broke open the battle in the first inning with five runs on six hits, highlighted by Tropiano's double. Blue retaliated with a six-round thumping in the bottom of the inning. Barney Tracey singled. Norton strolled to first and Dave Wayman bopped an RBI single. Smalls scorched a two-run sizzler and McCullough pulled the trigger for a three-run homer run to left center.

Elizabeth maintained its aggressive attitude and plated seven runs on RBI by Antonucci, Montenegro, McNamara, Tropiano (2), Niewinski and Mike Meola in the second.

Elizabeth scored two runs and Westfield one in the third. Each team exchanged four rounds of fire in the fourth inning. Montenegro banged a three-run home run for Elizabeth while Ostrander and Padovano each cracked two-run doubles for Westfield.

In the sixth, Elizabeth added a run and Westfield answered with two to make the score, 19-13. In the seventh, Tropiano banged a solo home run and Rich Meola cracked a two-run double for Elizabeth. Westfield ignited three runs in the bottom of the inning. Peterpaul tapped an RBI single. Smalls smashed a double to center and McCullough followed with two-run double.

"This was a tough game against a good hitting team," said team captain Padovano. "We hit the ball decent but not consistently while a few errors here and there made the difference. We need to fine tune ourselves heading into the playoffs. People need to bat in the same order, the same time and every game. Right now we're not doing that. Defensively, Chris Polito, our shortstop will be back, so we'll be okay out there."

Elizabeth	572	401	3	22
Westfield	601	402	3	16

Marion-Jacobson Men Tie Northwestern Mutual, 9-9

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

A fierce battle between the Northwestern Mutual men in black and the Marion and Jacobson Roofers ended in a 9-9 deadlock in Game 2 of the Union County Senior 50+ Softball League, Division 2 playoffs at Memorial Field in Westfield on August 18. Northwestern banged out a 14-7 win in Game 1 on August 16.

Marion and Jacobson's Roofers totaled 20 hits in Game 2. Big Al Brown powered a double and scored four runs. Oscar Harrison went 3-for-3 with two runs and Joe Rugilio drilled home two runs. Bill Hicks had three hits in three plate appearances and scored a run and Lester Reddeck cracked three hits. Warren Wactor, Terry Rotella, Emil Sudzina and Charles Harzell each contributed with two hits.

All 15 Northwestern men contributed to mount a 17-hit assault led by Tom Murray who poked two hits and brought home three runs. Rich Polonitza had a good day going 3-for-3 with two runs scored.

Reddick and Wactor scored on Harrison's single in the top of the first for Marion. Northwestern answered with an RBI single from Anthony Abbaleo in the bottom of the inning then took the lead with

two runs in the third.

Two Roofers crossed the plate in the third. Reddeck hammered a double and scored on a single by Hicks. Brown slapped and RBI to right then got cut down on a nifty throw by Rotella.

In the fourth, the Roofers tacked on one more run, highlighted by Ruglio's smooth bunt single. In the meantime, right fielder Jim Price made a spectacular catch. Four Mutual men waltzed over home plate in the fourth. Polonitza smashed a bases-loaded, two-run liner, Gonzalez yanked a RBI sac fly ball to right and Murray spanked an RBI grounder to center.

In the fifth, Harrison spiked a run-scoring single and Brown followed with a double to give Marion an 8-7 lead. Northwestern answered with a run in the sixth on a single by Rich Grossberg and a double by Abbaleo. While one Mutual man challenged the ump on a call at the plate, Roofer Walaster shouted, "I don't want to see any money changing hands ump."

In the seventh, Hicks and Harrison each stapled singles and Brown zoomed an RBI sacrifice fly ball to right to put M&J up, 9-8.

"That ball is nothing but a marshmallow. You can't hit it far," hollered Hicks at the opposition.

However, three Mutual men strolled in to bat and loaded the bases in the bottom of the seventh. With no one out, Murray did his part by booming a shot that drifted home the run.

"It's a real good league we play in. We come out here to have fun and we do, win or lose," said Northwestern team Captain Rich Grossberg. "We don't have any long ball hitters, so we scratch and claw for every run that we get. We put our singles together, try to run smart and take advantage of every opportunity we can and try not to make any mistakes."

"We had an excellent defense, excellent offense, but so do they," noted Marion Roofer manager Harzell. "This was a pretty good game, up and down. We go ahead, they come back; however, Tuesday the 23th, we expect to play our normal game and win this thing."

Marion Jacobson	202	130	1	9
Northwestern	120	401	1	9

NORTHWESTERN WINS

On August 23, Northwestern Mutual scored a run in the bottom of the eighth to defeat M&J, 10-9, and to advance to the Division 2 finals against Awnings Galore. Wayne Morse, who had walked, scored on Steve Falco's single to the outfield.



LETS GET THE PINCH RUNNERS LINED UP...Trailing by one run in the bottom of the seventh, the Northwestern Mutual loaded the pods with "men in black" then tied the game, 9-9, on Tom Murray's RBI. The Northwestern Mutual men defeated Marion and Jacobson, 14-7, in Game 1 of the Division 2 semifinals.

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