

Atlantic Arsenal Qualified For AAU Hoops Nationals

The Atlantic Arsenal Basketball Club, based in Westfield, recently completed a successful under-13 season. The team plays AAU tournaments in the tri-state area throughout the spring and is comprised of players from Union, Somerset and Morris Counties.

The Arsenal won three tournaments this season in Whippany, Readington and Clifton. Their biggest accomplish-

ment, however, was finishing as runner-up in the AAU Division I State Tournament. This is the highest place the Arsenal has reached in four years with its current team. This qualified the team for AAU Nationals in Memphis this past June, where the team played against the top teams in the country.

Season highlights include an amazing comeback in the State Championship, led by Conor Skea, Joey Kacmarsky and team captain Greg Thomson, each of whom helped cut a 21-point deficit to two in a matter of minutes. The trio combined for 61 points in the game.

The Arsenal returned 12 players from last season. The new addition to the team was Dillon Mahon who helped stabilize the backcourt with great decision-making and key play in pressure situations. Defensive standouts included Clayton Johnson and Peter Niotis who brought great energy to the court and feared no opponents.

Ryan Murray and Scott Miller were threats from the wing with a shot, drive or pass. The point guard position was in good hands all year with fine play from Ryan Hess and John Serzan. Scott Sowinski and Sean Siburn provided solid minutes under the boards for the Arsenal this season.

WF U12 Girls Win First Four in Softball

Westfield's U12 girls softball team won its first four games in the Parkway National East Division.

First, Westfield crushed Union, 19-3, behind the pitching of Gabby Panarese. Next, they knocked off South Orange, 19-8, as Tara Reardon pitched a complete game victory and made several gems in the field. Katie Demassi and Meagan Lupino led the offense with key hits.

Westfield then stunned Clark with a come-from-behind, 13-12, victory. Sara Albright pitched a great five innings and Reardon came in to get the win. Albright, Ally Faktor and Amanda Juchnick made huge defensive plays in the last inning to preserve the victory. Finally, Panarese pitched a complete game in Westfield's 21-17, victory over previously undefeated Elmora. Westfield was down 9-2 but fought back behind the defense of Demassi and won in their last at bat when Albright cracked a bases-loaded double.

See photos of Sports: on www.goleader.com

St. Mark/St. Joe Softball
SPF/Cranford Ripken 12s
Westfield/N. Eliz. Ripken 12s
SPF/West. Ro. Park Tourney
Fanwood Old Men Softball
Westfield/SPF 9s Baseball



SOFTBALL CHAMPS...The Nationals won the 4th/5th grade Girls Softball League of Westfield championship with a 7-6 victory over the Cubs on June 16. Pictured, left to right, are: front row; Sarah Seitz, Jenna Perrotta, Grace Sanzalone, Gianna DeVito and Catherine Bruno; second row, Abigail Faone, Aditi Jain, Veronica Murphy, Sophia Barry, Kaitlyn Hughes, Stephanie Milan and Christina Gulla; back row, coaches John Perrotta, Chuck Seitz and Russ Gulla.



2006 ROSELLE PARK TOURNAMENT CHAMPS...The Scotch Plains-Fanwood 9-year-old tournament baseball team won their second consecutive championship. Team players are: Jeffrey Rogers, Danny Harcourt, Zach Lipshitz, Kevin Maxwell, Ryan McSherry, Christian Isolda, Ryan Jensen, Tyler Kovacs, J.T. Beirne, Garrett Zito, V.J. Makris, Johnnie Del Sordi and Brendan Kelly. Manager Scott Rogers and Coaches Jerry Lipshitz, Guy Jensen and John Maxwell.

SPF 9s Clip Westfield White, Win Roselle Park Tourney

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"I'm proud of the kids, obviously. They picked up where they left off at the end of last summer. All the kids pulled together. They really support each other. We have a good balance of pitching, catching, fielding, hitting and we never give up," said Scotch Plains-Fanwood Manager Coach Scott Rogers. "We were on the verge of losing against a really tough Cranford team. We're three outs away from our first loss and these guys pulled together and came back. This team has a lot of character; the coach's staff (Jerry Lipshitz, Guy Jensen, John Maxwell), they're very knowledgeable. The kids never give up and they have fun playing. That's the bottom line."

Although Raider pitching limited White power to just three hits, Chris Reilly snuffed up his nose and banged out a two-run double and A.J Monaco whacked a single. There were some brilliant plays to compliment the not-so-effective hitting. Shortstop Michael Tivenan and Kevin Urvin showed finesse by making smooth catches in the first, and Tivenan stopped the bleeding with a smooth sliding catch in the second. Matt Russo fired a strike to nail the runner at home in the third.

"I want to congratulate Scotch Plains on a terrific run," said Westfield White Manager Phil Russo. "We started out, 0-1, came back and won five consecutive games to get to the finals. I'm very proud of them and, hopefully, we'll bounce back and have a good season the rest of the way."

Lipshitz, who was named the Most Valuable Tournament Player said, "I cannot explain the feeling. It feels fantastic. Everyone on the team gives

110 percent. We never give up. It's amazing! We've been hitting the ball pretty good the last couple of games, the fielding is excellent and we made some great plays today."

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WF U10 Softballers Battle In North Edison Tournament

The Westfield U10 Blue girls softball team competed in its first tournament in North Edison and showed much poise against some tough competition.

Westfield tied Metuchen, 3-3, in the first game. Great pitching came from Sarah Seitz, who went the distance. Seitz was awarded the MVP in the game. Emily Mastrocola at short, Elena Scarano at third, Nicole Boretz at second and Natalie Tupper played well defensively.

Westfield lost to North Edison in the second game despite some timely hitting from Julia Penczak. Lena Morello and Cali Chambliss were strong defensively. Penczak

received the MVP in the game.

Next, Westfield faced a very strong Sparta team and held their own in this very tough match up. Mastrocola was given the game MVP award. Westfield then played Sparta again. Mastrocola turned in a strong pitching performance and held Sparta scoreless through three innings. Tupper and Morello came through with great hits and Scarano came on in relief, as did Chambliss, but the girls suffered a tough 5-3 loss.

Throughout the tournament, Rebecca Kiefer, Megan Ariola, Allie McBrearty, Tiffani Gregory, Lauren Monaco and Jamie Siburn played great defensively.



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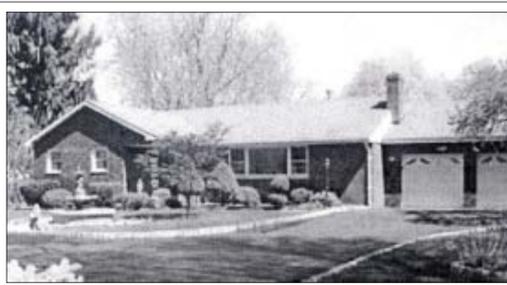
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