

Union County Senior 50+ Softball Playoff Results:

A DIVISION:
Lombardi & Greenkeepers (formerly Comcast) has won the regular-season championship (21-4 record) and the playoffs for the fourth time in the past five years. In the playoff semifinals, they defeated D&K Detective Agency in two straight games, 11-2 and 13-6. In the finals, they defeated last year's league-champs, Antone's Pub & Grill, in two straight games, 16-3 and 12-5.

B DIVISION:
Promptcare won the regular-season championship (20-4 record) and is currently tied at one game apiece, with Northwestern Mutual, in the playoff finals. The rubber game, which will determine the playoff champion, had been scheduled for September 5. In Game 1, Northwestern Mutual won 8-6. Pitchers Dennis Baker and Wayne Morse bested Promptcare's Dom

Deo, in a pitchers' battle. Bob Bierman's two-out, three-run double in the seventh inning was the key blow for the winners.

In Game 2, Promptcare won 21-3 and scored 11 runs in the final inning to put the game out of reach. Charles Lehman ripped four hits and Bill Hicks (5 RBI) and Mo Fernandez homered for Promptcare. Every batter in the Promptcare lineup produced multiple hits. Solid defense and the Deo's pitching limited the Insurers to seven hits.

60+ DIVISION:
Creative Industries won the regular-season championship (17-2 record), for the sixth consecutive year. The Creators are currently leading in the playoff finals, having defeated IL Giardino's Ristorante, 13-4. Game 2 was slated for September 6. (Best-of-three determines champion).



SUMMER LEAGUE CHAMPS... Team Blue recently won the Scotch Plains Rec. League Hoops title. Pictured, left to right, are: kneeling; Nathan Chow, Kevin Kerby, Josh Lopez and Diamond Carrington; standing, Ryan Biliago, Matthew Greenberg, Jordan Greenberg, Michael Iarrapino and Coach Harlan Greenberg.

SP-F Blue Squad Captures Rec. Department Hoops Title

The Scotch Plains and Fanwood youth played competitive basketball during the summer months in a

league sponsored by the Scotch Plains Recreation Department (SPRD), managed and officiated by summer/winter instructor Ken Miller. Nearly 40 third through sixth graders, led by eight volunteer coaches, competed over seven weeks. The new league brought together advanced winter players from PAL, IHM, YMCA, JCC, and Rec. Dept programs.

The championship game pitted the 4-2 Blue Squad, under Coach Harlan Greenberg and Assistant Coach Jim Scully, against the 5-1 Red Squad, under Head Coach John Murphy and Assistant Coach Dave Nathanson. Each team beat the other once during the regular season but Team Blue prevailed, 26-22, for the title. Blue MVP Matthew Greenberg, his brother Jordan (Honorable mention) and others played sound fundamental basketball. Team Red MVP Xavier Brooks and Honorable Mention James Murphy led their team in scoring.

In the Consolation Game, Team Green, under Coach Jim Brown and Assistant Coach Kevin Charos defeated Team Grey, under Head Coach Doug Layne and Assistant Coach Norm Carrington. Team MVP Kevin Charos's sharp passing and Honorable Mention Grant Brown's rebounding led Team Green. MVP Kedar Carrington's shooting and Co-Honorable Mentions Michael Borik and Jazmyn Carrington led Team Grey.

Rec. Department Commissioner Doug Layne and Miller brainstormed the summer league program. Allison Halperin of the SPRD lent overwhelming support. All the coaches and parents gave an extra effort to make the program a success.

MIDDLETON, STRATTON BOP HRS St. Steve Men Advance, Defeat St. Anthony, 10-6

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

St. Stephen took another step forward in its quest for a showdown with top-seeded St. Anne in the Angels Division of the St. Bart's Oldtimers Men's Softball League by defeating St. Anthony, 10-6, at Brookside Park in Scotch Plains on September 1. The margin of victory came as a result of a few line shots that barely managed to find seams between the Anthony outfielders.

Steve man Keith Middleton found a seam in right field that allowed him to leg out a two-run homer in the third inning. He later added an RBI single. Rob Stratton wedged a liner between the left and left-centerfielders for a two-run homer in the first and Neal LeStrange (2-for-3) popped a two-run single off the tip of the sliding centerfielder's glove. Don Rowbotham (2 runs scored) created a collision between the St. Anthony shortstop and the outfielder to earn an RBI single and Steve Abrunza (2-for-2, 2 runs, 2 RBI) found a delicate seam in right for a two-run single. Dan Margolis ripped a pair of singles and scored once. Jack Kennedy, Lou Balestriere and Howie Bialos each singled and scored. Floyd Roberts singled.

St. Anthony's Bob Camisa did his job at the plate with two singles, an RBI triple and a run scored in his three at bats and Tony Perconte had an RBI single and a double in two at bats. Frank Pepe looped an RBI double and Joe Matuska singled and added an RBI sacrifice fly. Walt Patrylo, Bill McKinney, Gary Cardinale and Bruce Logan each singled and scored a run. Al Antoine singled and Scott Curtis scored a run. Although a few fielding miscues

may have elongated some innings, there was time for a several fine defensive moments of brilliance. Stephen third baseman Kennedy initiated a second-to-first double play to minimize a rally. Balestriere showed some range at second to create a putout. Margolis made a snow cone grab at first and pitcher Bialos made a sensational diving snag and fired first for a putout.

Anthony outfielder Curtis made two nice sliding catches, catcher Cardinale timed his throw perfectly in a run-down play between third and home and McKinney made a gliding grab in leftfield. Pepe lunged to land a liner at second.

Stratton's two-run blast gave the Steves a 2-0 edge in the top of the first but Anthony answered with Perconte's RBI single. With the score the same in the third, Middleton drilled his two-run homer "sharply" to right to make the score 4-1.

When Anthony trotted in to bat, Patrylo suggested, "Let's get some smart hits now. Smart hits!" Camisa chanted, "One base hit at a time!" Patrylo singled and scored on Pepe's double.

After Anthony tied the score, 4-4, in the fourth, Pepe shouted, "We got the hammer. Everything is going our way!"

Not really! St. Steve burst ahead with four runs in the fifth, highlighted by Abrunza's two-run single. Searching for an answer in the bottom of the inning, Matuska muttered, "This is our inning. Everybody hits!" Two hits, an RBI sac fly and an error later, Anthony plated two runs, making the score, 8-6. LeStrange's two-run single in the seventh finalized the scoring.

St. Stephen	202	040	2	10
St. Anthony	101	220	0	6



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
CRAWLING HOME... St. Stephen slugger Rob Stratton finds that he needs a few more feet to complete his home run.

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