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THE WEEK IN SPORTS

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APPELBAUM BOMBS 3-RUN HOMER, RACKS UP 5 RBI

St. Jude Stuns St. Luke, 19-6, In 'Battle' of St. Bart's 'Best'

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

Glazed stares of disbelief emitted from the eyes of the St. Luke players when St. Jude paralyzed them with an eight-run sting in the third inning and buzzed on to a stunning 19-6 victory in the "Battle of the Best" in St. Bart's Oldtimers Men's Softball League action at Brookside Park in Scotch Plains on July 13. With that startling win over St. Luke, the top team of the

Angels Division, St. Jude, the top team in the Saints Division, moved one step closer to achieving its nearly impossible dream of winning the league crown on Labor Day.

Eleven of the 12 Jude men contributed to the 25-hit shelling that included only two extra-base hits. The crucial extra-base hit, a three-run home run that highlighted the eight-run third inning, zinged off the bat of Phil Appelbaum, who finished with

three hits, five RBI and two runs scored. Bruce Evans (2 runs scored) accumulated four RBI with his three singles and Pete Chemidlin singled three times, scored three runs and had an RBI. OJ Simpson rapped a pair of RBI singles, doubled and scored twice.

Jude pitcher Pete Vanderheyden, who limited the powerful Luke force to 12 hits, banged three singles and

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BEATING OUT A SQUIBBLER...St. Luke's Joe Tilocca beats out an infield single and St. Jude first baseman Pete Chemidlin prepares to receive the throw.

DONOVAN CRUSHES GRAND SLAM, 7 RBI; GIBSON HR

Powerful Russell Road Routs MacLennan Softballers, 16-5

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

Crafty pitching coupled with timely hitting, including two home runs, led powerful Russell Road to a 16-5 rout of MacLennan Road and a grip on first place in Fanwood Old Men's Softball Association action at LaGrande Park in Fanwood on July 13.

Russell amassed 19 hits and was led by Chris Donovan, who "crushed" a grand slam home run to go with a two-run triple and an RBI sac fly. Craig Gibson (4-for-4) cracked a homerun and scored a run. Luke Cerchio ripped two singles and scored twice. Ed Barlow lashed a double and a single and had two RBI. Eric Gabriel singled, Louie Santana went 2-for-2 and Bob Sawicki contributed an RBI. Eric Barlow rapped an RBI single. Mark Gorman added a hit and veteran

pitcher Hal Breuninger rapped a double, a single and an RBI.

MacLennan was out-hit 19-12, but turned five hits into four runs in the first inning. MacLennan leadoff hitter Adam Borchin spanked two singles and mashed a triple. Colin Osborn singled twice, doubled and had two RBI. Dennis Dagounis doubled, singled and scored a run and Paul Stofa singled and had an RBI. Steve Madden knocked in a run, while Jason Marks, Chuck Amsheyus and Brian Osborn each contributed singles.

There were also fine defensive plays. Russell's Breuninger seized four sharp liners on the mound and Eric Barlow made a fine diving catch in leftfield. Cerchio smothered a chopper at short and Ed Barlow made two key snags at first. MacLennan's Stofa made a major league grab at third.

Pitcher Marks rewarded himself with two brilliant stops and Borchin nailed a runner heading to second.

Borchin led off Mac's four-run first inning with a single, swiped second and scored on Osborn's single. Marks chopped a single. Stofa and Dagounis followed with RBI singles and Madden lined an RBI sac fly to right.

"Initially, they got off to a good start and scored four runs on us early. We came back, tied the game and took the lead," said Breuninger. "Some key plays in the field, just good defense and great offense! We hit the ball well. McClellan is a tough team. Good athletes! They're never out of any game so we had to keep our bats chipping away and get the extra base when we could."

Russell's power proved fruitful with

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CAL RIPKEN DISTRICT 12 TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS...The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Raider 9-year-old boys and their coaches rejoice after defeating a good South Orange-Maplewood team, 5-0, in the championship game at Booth Field in Scotch Plains on July 15. Blue posted an unblemished 6-0 record.

PORCHETTA, HEATH 5-HITTER; DEFOUW 3-RUN DBL

SPF Blue Blanks So. Orange, Wins Ripken District 12 Title

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

Key run-preventing pitching, fielding plays and a productive second inning paved the way for the 9-year-old Scotch Plains-Fanwood (SPF) Blue baseball team to shut down a very good South Orange-Maplewood (SOM) team, 5-0, in the finals of the Cal Ripken District 12 Tournament at Booth Field in Scotch Plains on July 15.

SPF starting pitcher Anthony Porchetta and reliever Matt Heath combined for six strikeouts and demonstrated control by yielding just three walks. In his three innings, Porchetta tossed a two-hitter, fanned three and walked three. Heath yielded three hits, recorded three strikeouts and walked none in his three innings. SOM Villager starter pitcher Jesse Evans, relievers Nile Godfrey and Malcolm Stern limited Blue to seven hits.

Jack DeFouw mangled a three-run double and bashed a single. Leadoff hitter Bryce Weisholtz thumped two singles and lofted an RBI sacrifice. Connor McSherry had a pair of singles and an RBI and Heath added a bunt single. Villager Evans went 2-for-2,

while Malcolm Stern added power with a double. Godfrey and Colin Smith each contributed a hit.

Key defensive plays prevented rallies. Julian Iarussi made back-to-back grabs in the first inning. Porchetta snagged a hot steamer in the second then repeated the feat two more times

in the third. McSherry made a spectacular play stopping a grounder at second and Weisholtz made a major league catch at second that prevented a possible rally.

"Basically, we come into every game with a specific game plan.

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