

**BERNSTEIN BATS IN 4 RBI; MEEHAN, DIGIACOMO HR**

**St. Joseph Rises in 5th, Rocks St. David Softball Men, 13-7**

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

Quality play and crafty pitching, capped with an eight-run outburst in the fifth inning led St. Joseph to an easy, 13-7 victory over a scrappy St. David team in St. Bart's Oldtimers Men's Softball League action at Forest Park in Scotch Plains on July 20.

As it turned out, the hitting skills of Marty Bernstein and Lou Messano and effective pitching by veteran Frank Chupko proved to make the difference in the game. Bernstein launched a triple, a double and a single, and finished with four RBI. Messano (2-for-3) crushed a pair of doubles and tacked on two RBI and Dan Margolis (3-for-3, run scored) contributed to the 16-hit attack. Bill Lyons went 2-for-3, with a run scored. Lou Blau drilled a double and scored a run and Dean Talcott produced two runs. Pat Enright hacked a single and scored a run, Tom Lesniewski tallied a run, while Bruce Logan, Paul Newton and Jerry Miccolis each had a hit.

Defensively, Chupko turned a heads-up, pitcher to second (Messano) to first (Lesniewski) double play in the second inning. Messano scooped a grounder, stepped on second and delivered to first (Lesniewski) for a double play, quell-

ing a rally in the seventh.

Slugging Chris Meehan provided St. David with power by clocking a two-run homer in the first and added a single. Steve DiGiacomo reached stardom with his solo blast homer in the sixth. Tim Deegan whizzed two singles and had two RBI. Leadoff hitter Mike Stiller hit safely in all four of his plate appearances. Bobby Chianowyz went 2-for-4 and scored a run and Captain David Rothenberg slapped a pair of singles. Nate Mangiris, pitcher Matt Vastano and Joe Sodano each slapped singles. Vastano made a fine 'el grande' snag in the fourth. Chianowyz playing left, provided two fine running snags and George Balint made a great stretch at second to record an out in the sixth.

The Daves took a 2-0 lead in the top of the first when Stiller who singled rounded the bases after Meehan delivered a shot that landed somewhere in never-never land. The lead was short-lived, however, as St. Joseph snapped back with a run in the bottom of the inning and two in the second inning. Bernstein drained a triple to left and scored on Lyons' sac fly in the first, while Talcott and Lesniewski lofted RBI sac fly balls to centerfield in the second. In the third, St. Joseph snarled with two runs to take a 5-2

lead. Miccolis ripped a single up the gut, Messano burned a gapper for a double and Bernstein sizzled a two-run single to leftfield.

St. David chipped away with a run in the fourth when Deegan scuffed the plate on an overthrow.

One inning later, after Vastano hollered, "Bobby, I know you get hungry. There's a dish in front of you." Chianowyz tomahawked a single scoring Stiller.

Firing at will, in the bottom of the fifth, St. Joseph sealed the deal and put eight runs on the board. Logan lashed a single. Newton walked. Messano and Bernstein added back-to-back two-run doubles. Lyons slapped a single. Enright and Margolis each ripped RBI singles. Blau lifted a sac fly to deep center and Talcott got into the act scoring a run on an infield bobbie.

Desperate after accessing the damage, Dave's Vastano muttered, "My pitching is on. Are we men or what? Let's get eight, right now. Heeding Vastano's direct order, DiGiacomo stepped up and clobbered his solo homer to left center in the sixth and Deegan walloped a two-run laser in the seventh but it was not quite enough.

St. David 200 111 2 7  
St. Joseph 122 080 x 13



WILD PLAY AT SECOND BASE...Montrose leftfielder Mike Swisher catapults himself to second base as Midway Ave. second baseman Jay White awaits the relay. Montrose sank Midway, 4-2.

**Scrappy FOMSA Montrose Avenue Men Sink Battling Midway Avenue Softballers, 4-2**

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a few bunts but they made the plays and came up with some clutch hits and deserved to win. Remember though what I said, we're coming back and will be ready to go."

The "Montrose Gang" roared with two runs in the bottom of the first inning. Chris Kluckas earned a free pass, darted to second, Beyer drilled an RBI single to center and Sherr banged a sacrifice fly ball to left center.

Midway's Cahill made a nice snag at second for an out and Ditrilio got on his horse and converted a back-hand stab deep in left in the top of the second inning.

In the third, Montrose scuffed the plate with one more run. Kluckas led off with a walk, advanced to second and Sherr fired a two-out single to right. Montrose got a dazzling defensive performance from third baseman and team captain Jim Swisher, who converted six putouts in those first three innings of play.

Midway launched a scoring threat in the top of the fourth inning when Perez ripped a two-out single and Cahill rapped a double but Mike Swisher got the beat on a Matt Blasi shot to left and made a nice running catch to silence the threat.

Montrose tallied a run in the fifth inning when Kup thumped a double and streaked home on Beyer's sizzler to left. In the inning, Bianco made a smooth scoop at short and Anthony Blasi showed off his gun by throwing out a runner from third.

Midway opened fire and retaliated with two runs in the sixth. Ditrilio launched a double in the hole in right field, Perez fired off an RBI triple and

scuffed the plate on a single by Cahill.

With Manny Perez hollering words of encouragement. "He's throwing meatballs now. Just hit it over the middle and don't try to kill it," the Montrose defensive gang led by Bill Swisher and Bob Swisher, silenced the threat by executing three putouts to perfection.

Midway 000 002 0 2  
Montrose 201 010 x 4



OH YES, BABY, I'M IN THERE...Eating a bit of dirt while barreling into third after tripling in the first inning does not seem to agree with St. Joseph's Marty Bernstein. Marty also ripped a two-run single in the third and banded a two-run double in the fifth. The Joe's rocked the St. David men, 13-7 on July 20.

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