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THE WEEK IN SPORTS

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CEPP RAPS WINNING RBI, DiGIOVANNI 2-RUN HOMER

Diva's Screech Out 7-6 Win; Nip 5 Guys on Bumper Night

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

One misplay turned victory into a heartbreaking defeat for 5 Guys, last year's Masters of the B Division, to the Diva's Salon from the A Division in the first game of a double header on Bumper Night in Scotch Plains Men's Softball League action at Brookside Park in Scotch Plains on July 5.

Leading by one run and dealing with runners on first and second and one out in the bottom of the seventh inning, 5 Guys' second baseman fielded a ground ball and flicked to the shortstop to set up what would appear to be the game-ending double play. Unfortunately for 5 Guys, the ball was mishandled leaving a bases-

loaded situation. Joe Cepparullo stepped to the plate and slashed a two-run single to right field to give Diva's a 7-6 victory.

The 5 Guys out-hit Diva's Salon, 14-12, and also held an edge in the power category with a home run and two triples as compared to a pair of doubles. Former Westfield High School standout wrestler Frank DiGiovanni blasted a two-run homer and added a single and an RBI sacrifice fly. Pete Gilson went 4-for-4, including an RBI triple, and scored three times. Pete Paradise, a former New Providence Pioneer wrestling and baseball standout, whacked the other triple and scored once.

Scotch Plains-Fanwood (SPF) JV baseball coach John Giunta, also a former Pioneer, ripped three singles and added an RBI in his three plate appearances. Pat Noonan tapped two

singles, and Mike Piccolo, another Pioneer, had an RBI single and scored once. Frank Markiewicz singled.

Aside from his game-winning two-run single, Cepparullo, a former SPF standout baseball player, drilled a double and scored a run. Matt Canfield lined an RBI single, doubled and scored once. Jared Chemelnik went 2-for-2, with an RBI and a run scored. Andrew Lynch singled twice and scored once. Former SPF products Anthony DiAnnunzio (RBI) and James DiNizo each singled and scored once, while Mike DiNizo singled and added an RBI. League veterans Tony Mineo singled and Art Schmidt scored a run.

Diva's Salon clipped 5 Guys for four runs in the bottom of the first inning, and it all began with Cepparullo's leadoff double.

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More Photos on Ballyhoo Sports
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David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times

OUT AT HOME...Westfield White catcher Jake Saltzer puts the tag on Ryan Dooley in the fifth inning as his Berkeley Heights teammates look on at Gumbert 2 Field in Westfield on July 4.

BOLEY, ROOT PREVAIL ON MOUND FOR FIVE-HITTER

Westfield White 11s Silence Berkeley Heights on July 4

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

Sparks did come off the "metal sticks" of the Westfield White 11-year-old baseball team, but strong pitching performances from Blue Devils Sean Boley and Sean Root silenced the potentially dangerous

bats of Berkeley Heights in a 10-0 victory at Gumbert 2 Field in Westfield on Independence Day.

Boley pitched the first two innings, allowing two hits, while walking none. Root started in the third inning and allowed only one hit in each of his three innings on the mound, while

walking none.

"It was a really good performance. We had a tough game last night. I was concerned that there would be a little letdown after a tough win last night, but they played great," Westfield Head Coach Steve Root said.

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Probitas Verus Honos



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David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times

A BASE TOO FAR...Diva's second baseman James DiNizo tags 5 Guys' John Giunta as he attempts to stretch a single into a double in the seventh inning at Brookside Park on July 5.

JOHNSON 2B, 1B, 3 RUNS; FULLER, 'PAPA' 2-RUN 2BS

Westfield Blue Stops Summit In N. Providence League, 9-4

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

Seven games in Cooperstown did not seem to slow down the Westfield Blue 12-year-old baseball team. After one day's rest, the Blue put together a strong pitching performance, assisted by fine defensive plays to go with an offensive assault to defeat Summit, 9-4, at Gumbert 3 Field in Westfield on July 7.

Starter Ryan Chirichella pitched three shutout innings, allowing four hits and no walks, while striking out four batters. Kevin Fuller pitched the fourth inning, Matt Feinberg pitched the fifth inning and Chris O'Connor tossed the sixth inning to slam the door on the Little Hilltoppers.

"We were focused out there today. I didn't know what type of team we were going to get when we came back. Up in Cooperstown, we played seven games in three days, four days. Everybody comes back. You have one day off then you start to finish the regular season," Westfield Head Coach Scott Faktor said.

Summit put the bat on the ball and finished with seven hits and even made a game out of it until Westfield broke loose in the bottom of the fourth inning. Adam Klein led the Hilltoppers with two singles and a run scored, while adding a pair of stolen bases. David Axtell drilled an RBI double, and Max Model scored twice. Ian Filiault (RBI), Brad Klein,

San Goldstein and John Dolan each added a single. Cole Model walked, and Vivek Mhatre ripped a pair of line drives that led to great defensive plays.

"Our kids put the ball in play. Making things happen! We struggled at the beginning of the season, but they are getting a lot better at it. Hopefully at the end, we will be on top," Summit Head Coach Justin Vitti said.

Westfield totaled nine hits, and Jack Johnson led the way with a 2-for-2 morning, which included an RBI double, a walk and three runs scored. Jake Obgarten (stolen base) delivered two singles, an RBI and a run scored. Fuller (run scored) and Lee Papadopoulos each drilled a two-

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David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times

PULLING IN WITH A KEY TWO-RUN DOUBLE...Westfield Blue's Lee Papadopoulos, right, pulls into second base with a standup two-run double in the second inning against Summit on July 7.

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