

***CEPP RAPS WINNING RBI; DiGIOVANNI 2-RUN HOMER; GILSON GETS 4 HITS, 3 RUNS, RBI***

# 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 Pio-

neer, 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. D'Annunzio sliced an RBI single. James DiNizo singled, Mike DiNizo lofted an RBI sac fly, Schmidt reached safely on an error in

right-center and Canfield yanked an RBI single to left.

"That's just one inning. That's one inning," commented Markiewicz as 5 Guys came in to bat.

"Let's start it up," suggested DiGiovanni.

Nothing started for 5 Guys, but when they silenced the Diva's in the second, 5 Guys veteran Drew Koski shouted, "That was a good inning guys. Let's put ourselves up now. Let's get a few back."

Three of the 5 Guys scored in the top of the third to make the score, 4-3. Paradise pummeled a triple to right and scored on Piccolo's single to left. Gilson slipped an RBI triple past the right fielder and DiGiovanni hit an RBI sac fly to left.

Now Diva's Salon were concerned and Lynch lamented, "We got to hit again! We got to hit again!"

It took an inning to sink in and Diva's scored once in the fourth when Canfield doubled and scored on Chemelnik's single to left.

Down, 5-3, in the fifth, Koski chanted, "Hey guys. Get some more runs. Talk it up! Let's go!"

Gilson lined a single to left, and DiGiovanni launched his two-run blast over the leftfield fence to knot the score with one out.

"Let's get out of this inning," begged Mineo.

Diva's listened and strutted in to bat in the bottom of the fifth.

Cepparullo shouted, "Everybody hit now!"

Diva's did not listen.

Despite further cries for offensive help, neither team scored in the sixth inning, but in the seventh, Koski requested, "This is where we got to take it to them."

Gilson directed a single to right, and Giunta jolted an RBI single to left but was gunned down at second attempting to stretch his hit into a double.

Chemelnik led off the bottom of the seventh with a walk. Bello flew out to left, and Lynch singled to put runners on first and second. Mike Cornacchia's grounder to second set up the potential game-ending double play, but slippery fingers at short allowed Cepparullo to emerge as the hero.



*Story on page 11 of The Westfield Leader*

*More Photos in "Photo Library" 12jul05-5-guy-diva*

David B. Corbin for *The Westfield Leader and The Times*

**SLIPPING INTO THIRD WITH A TRIPLE...5 Guys' slugger Pete Gilson slips into third base with a triple in the third inning as Diva third baseman Matt Canfield catches the ball and pitcher Ron Germinder backs up the play. The Diva's pulled out a 7-6 victory in the first game of a double header at Brookside Park in Scotch Plains on July 5.**

***Probitas Verus Honos***

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Diva's Salon	400	100	2	7