

MIDDLETON GOES 3-FOR-3; GARCIA 3 SINGLES, DBL; BANASIAK GETS WINNING RBI WALK

Jude 'Walks' to Glory in 8th with 9-8 Win Over St. Kilian

By **DAVID B. CORBIN**

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Controversy over the proper spelling of its name may have become a distraction. Is it one "L" or two "L's"?

Nevertheless, St. Kilian (with one "L") has not been able to buy a victory in St. Bart's Oldtimers Men's Softball League action this year.

Jerseyland Field in Scotch Plains was the scene of a peculiar game that concluded when cleanup hitter Rich Banasiak walked with the bases loaded in the bottom of the eighth inning to give St. Jude a 9-8 victory over St. Kilian on July 6.

What was even more peculiar was the Judes had a runner on third (Brian Miller who singled) with two outs and Kilian veteran pitcher Howie Bialos decided to cede two intentional walks to load the bases in order to face Banasiak, who then decided to show remarkable patience at the plate. Obviously the ploy failed for the 0-8 Kilians.

Kilian did out-hit St. Jude, 21-16, and everyone on the team managed to get a hit except Bialos, who walked twice. Marty Garcia led Kilian with four hits,

including a double, an RBI and a run scored. Tom Baldowski and Tom Grycan each had three hits, two RBI and a run scored, while Gerry Riepe added three hits.

Keith Middleton led St. Jude with three hits, an intentional walk, two RBI and two runs scored. Jim D'Arreca had two hits, an intentional walk, an RBI and two runs scored. Daryl Fornoff (2 runs scored) and pitcher Tony Blasi (run scored) each added two hits.

St. Kilian scored once in the top

of the first on Baldowski's RBI single to left. The Judes scored three runs in the bottom of the first when Middleton chopped an RBI single and Joe DeChiaro looped a two-run single.

"We got three! Let's play some 'D' now," DeChiaro suggested.

Jude's defense could not prevent Kilian from tying the score in the second. Grycan and Matt Daly (2-for-5) both singled and scored respectively on Dave Hackett's grounder to short and Garcia's single to center.

In the fourth, Garcia doubled and scored on Baldowski's single to left to give Kilian a 4-3 lead.

"They only got one guys! Let's score. Line drives. They only have three outfielders," said Tony Perfilio as the Judes came in to bat.

The Judes failed to score in the fourth, but did plate a run in the fifth on Perfilio's RBI grounder to third.

As Kilian came to the plate in the fifth, sensing his team's string of bad luck, Baldowski com-

mented, "We need an act of God to win."

The act almost happened as Kilian scuffed the plate four times in the inning to grab an 8-4 lead. Joe Nam-June (2 hits) tapped an RBI single, and Harry Semple (2 hits) followed with an RBI single. Grycan scribbled a two-run single past third.

St. Jude matched Kilian's output to knot the score, 8-8, in the fifth. D'Arreca and Middleton hit back-to-back RBI singles, and Favorito lined a two-run single to center.

"It's the battle of the Titans here," mumbled Semple.

After St. Jude failed to score in the sixth, Bialos blurted as Kilian came in to bat in the seventh, "We are where we want to be in the lineup."

Kilian ran into some misfortune though when Hackett, who was on third base, tagged up and scored on a lined shot off Baldowski's bat that Banasiak snagged in leftfield. An appeal play ensued and Hackett was ruled out for leaving the base too soon.

"That was a game-saving catch. I thought I had him," Baldowski said of Banasiak's grab.

Kilian got two singles in the eighth but failed to score. Jude's Miller hacked a leadoff single past second. Bob Cihanowyz (1 hit) lined out to left, and Fornoff lined out to Bialos. After a discussion on strategy, Bialos opted to give respective intentional free passes to D'Arreca and Middleton. Banasiak drew his walk, and Miller strolled home with the winning run.

St. Kilian	120	104	00	8
St. Jude	300	014	01	9

More Photos in "Photo Library"
12jul06-st-jude-kilian



Story on page 12
of The Westfield Leader

INTERESTING PLAY AT SECOND BASE...St. Kilian shortstop Gerry Riepe stretches in an effort to tag St. Jude's Dom Favorito in the sixth inning. Favorito was called out.

David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times

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