

FRIEDMAN, MOONEY, DiNIZO TOSS SHUTOUT BALL; RUSSO TOSSES 5-HITTER IN 6 INNINGS

SPF Nips WF Shamrocks, 2-0 in Clark Baseball Tourney

By DAVID B. CORBIN

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

"Luck" may not have gone the Westfield Shamrocks' way against the Scotch Plains-Fanwood (SPF) 12-year-olds but both teams displayed superb pitching and very strong fielding in a 2-0 SPF victory during the Clark Tournament at the Clark Little League Field on July 14.

Shamrock pitcher Danny Russo went the distance, scattering five hits and walking one, while striking out one. He did not permit more than one hit in any given inning.

"Danny Russo has been our number-one pitcher all year. He comes to play. Throws strikes. Mixes up his pitches quite well. He's been a gamer. He's been a horse by going all six innings and giving up one earned run," Westfield Shamrock Coach Damon Roth said.

"Both teams' pitchers were throwing strikes, hitting the spots, and both teams' defenses today made a lot of plays," Raider Head Coach Joe Higgins said.

Jake Friedman pitched the first two innings for the Raiders and yielded no hits, while walking one and striking out two Shamrocks. Reagan Mooney stepped to the mound for three innings and allowed just three hits, while

walking one. Anthony DiNizo closed the door in the sixth facing four batters and permitting one walk, while fanning two.

"Our pitchers were leaders today. Jake Friedman pitched two,

and we brought Reagan Mooney in, who has been pitching his tail off lately. He's really been throwing a lot of strikes. He keeps the ball down. He fields his position well and nothing seems to phase

second inning. Second baseman Ben Strauss initiated some fine putouts. First baseman Chris Wagner pulled off a fine scoop in the second inning, and Russo intercepted several difficult

third then scored when the catcher's throw to third sailed into leftfield.

"Our defense was stellar. Ben Strauss did a great job at second base. Our fielding, all-around was pretty solid. We had one hiccup on the steal at third that cost us a run, but our defense and our pitching kept us in the game. We just couldn't get that timely hit," Coach Roth said.

Although the Raiders totaled only five hits, they had several hard-hit balls that the Shamrocks' defense managed to handle, and struck out only once.

"That was the best we've swung the bat in a while. We swung the bat well enough to score six or seven today, but they really made some great plays in the field. We got a little speed, and when we are putting the ball in play, anything can happen. Our guys did a nice job with two strikes today," Coach Higgins said.

Leadoff hitter Patrick Downey had two of the Raiders' hits and in the first inning, he took Russo's first pitch of the game and drilled a double to the centerfield fence. Downey also swiped three bases

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David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times

COVERING HOME TO GET THE OUT...Westfield Shamrock pitcher Danny Russo, right, covers home in time to put the tag on Raider Patrick Downey in the first inning at the Clark Tournament on July 14.

Probitas Verus Honos

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him when he is on the mound," Coach Higgins said. Shamrock right fielder Ryan Roth snared a line drive in the



comebackers to the mound and converted them to putouts.

The Raiders did, however, manage to score their second run in the fourth inning when DiNizo, who stole second base, also stole

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