

VALL-LLOBERA, DELVECCHIO BLAST HOME RUNS; LERIE RAPS 2 SINGLES, KNOCKS IN 3**Westfield White Uses Long Ball to Topple Summit, 11-1**By **DAVID B. CORBIN***Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times*

"Dog Days" of summer did not slow down the Westfield White 12-year-old baseball team that received stubborn pitching performances from starter Ben Capiello and reliever Mark Walter and also got an across the board hitting attack in an 11-1 victory over Summit at Gumbert 3 Field in Westfield on July 13.

"We are winding down. This is the "Dog Days" of baseball, but today we came out with really good energy. You don't always get it everyday at this time of year, because it's getting late. It's hot," Westfield White Head Coach Humberto Vall-Llobera said.

"There are a lot of kids playing baseball in Summit, and despite what the outcome is they are 12-years-old, and the more kids you have playing the better off you are in the future," Summit Head Coach Hank Gibson said.

"Summit is a little bit down this year. Struggling! So we did what we had to do. The kids were swinging the bat, and we hit the ball well today," added Coach Vall-Llobera.

Capiello pitched the first three innings and limited the Hilltoppers to just one single, while walking none and striking out one. Walker stepped to the mound in the fourth inning and allowed just one run on one hit and one walk.

Summit Coach Hank Gibson allowed his team the opportunity to play various positions. Thomas Walker had both of the Hilltoppers' hits.

"They are playing everywhere and they are still having fun. That's all I care about," Coach Gibson said.

Dylan Ingermann, walked and scored Summit's only run, and Will Gibson had the RBI. Since the game was just four innings, several Summit players had only one plate appearance, but Michael McCann, Andrew Kanaley and Brady Shaeffer put the ball in play in their at-bats. Daniel McGall and Max Hayford put the ball in play in both their plate appearances, and Luca Curran was robbed of a basehit on a fine

defensive play from Westfield White shortstop Mike Knapp.

Westfield White totaled 11 hits and was led by Jake Vall-Llobera, who blasted a solo home run and added a game-ending RBI double. Tom DelVecchio lined a two-run homer over the right field fence.

"It's nice to get off to a good start. When those two guys get going, we are going. DelVecchio looked to get going, and every ball he hit today was hard. Ev-

erybody hit the ball well today, so it was a really good all-around team effort," Coach Vall-Llobera said.

Leadoff hitter Jake Lerie poked a two-run single and an RBI single. Walter walked and had an RBI bunt single and scored both times. Capiello walked and was hit-by-a-pitch and scored both times. Bryce Dannevig ripped an RBI single and scored once. Thomas Gannoway singled and

scored twice. Mike Birle and Matt Barmakian each singled and walked and scored once. Knapp singled. Steve Barden and Alex Apostolos each had two plate appearances.

Westfield White scored once in the bottom of the first inning when Vall-Llobera hammered his solo blast into the right field parking lot. Birle, Capiello, Walter and Gannoway scored in the second inning to make the score, 5-0.

In the third, Barmakian plopped a single over second base and DelVecchio drilled his two-run shot down the right field line. In the fourth inning, Capiello took a fastball on the back, Walter walked and Dannevig hopped an RBI single. Gannoway singled, Lerie pounded his two-run single and Vall-Llobera rapped his game-ending RBI double to center.

With the regular season winding down, each team in the Central Jersey Baseball League are jockeying for a good seed in the upcoming playoffs.

"Right now, we are 8-3, probably tied for second in the league. And we are looking to go [to the playoffs]. Two years ago at 10-years-old, we were champions in a great game against Chatham. The competition is really tough. We are hoping to get a little bit of good play going into the playoffs, because that's what it's going to take. We will have to play solid for about five or six games to get to that game. If I can be in that championship game, I will be happy. Then whatever the results are, I will accept them," Coach Vall-Llobera said.

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*More Photos in "Photo Library"
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LOOKING FOR THE UMP'S CALL... Westfield White's Mike Birle, right, and Summit second baseman Michael McCann look for the ump's call. Birle successfully stole the base in Westfield White's 11-1 win over Summit in Central Jersey Baseball League play at Gumbert 3 Field in Westfield on July 13.

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