

**ST. ANTHONY'S BABOOMIAN, WARFIELD, PRECONTE, BURFEINDT PREVAIL ON OFFENSE**

# St. Anthony Annihilates Dazed St. 'James Gangsters' 16-2

By **DAVID B. CORBIN**

*Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times*

Brother against brother show-downs may be one thing, but St. Anthony, presently the top guns in the Saints Division, outgunned the sputtering St. "James Gang" in a big way in St. Bart's Oldtimers Men's Softball League action at Brookside Park in Scotch Plains on July 12.

St. Anthony jumped on the "James Gang" in a fast and furious manner with a five-run first inning, amassed 22 hits and cruised to a 16-2 triumph.

In the brother against brother situation, John Chupko of St. Anthony and "James Gangster" pitcher Frank Chupko have met face-to-face for decades in the league, but there seemed to have been a question as to which brother been on the winning side the most.

"I would say mine," guessed John Chupko.

"I seriously don't know," answered Frank Chupko.

Anyhow, the victory added another notch in John's favor.

The thunder off the bats of Varojuan Baboomian, Nash

Warfield and pitcher Tony Perconte, especially, helped John Chupko capture that extra notch. Baboomian banged a triple, double and a single, while scoring three times. Warfield whacked three hits, scored three times and had three RBI. Perconte poked three RBI singles and scored once.

Dave Rothenberg added to the "James Gang's" misery with a double, single, two RBI and a run scored. Rob Barone ripped two singles, walked, scored once and had two RBI. Craig Burfeindt

singled twice and scored three times. "Joltin'" Joe Tilocca jerked an RBI triple and looped an RBI single. Charlie Baier (run scored) went 2-for-2, and Kevin St. Onge tapped a pair of singles and scored once.

Perconte had a two-hit shutout going until the bottom of the sixth inning when the "James Gang" scavenged up enough ammo to score two runs. Dan Shneyder singled, and Frank Chupko brought him home with a double that rolled towards the leftfield fence. Veteran Tom

Maher brought Chupko home with a groundout to shortstop. Marty Bernstein had a single in the first inning, and Jim Cassidy singled in the second.

Just before Perconte took to the mound in the sixth, John Chupko mumbled, "Usually Tony is serving up meatballs. Today, he's good."

Baboomian led off the top of the first with a double to right field, and Warfield slapped an RBI single over first. With Rothenberg on base, Perconte punched an RBI single to center.

As Steve Pirella stepped to the plate, Warfield shouted, "Let's go Steve! We ain't done yet. Get some more!"

Pirella scribbled an RBI single to left then Tilocca brought home the fifth run with his looping single to right.

Since the "James Gang" had no ammunition at all, St. Anthony plated two in the third when Warfield managed to score on a series of errors, Burfeindt doubled and Barone lofted an RBI sacrifice fly to right-center. Tilocca thumped an RBI triple and Baier added RBI single in the fourth to jump the score to 9-0. Then the score elevated to 12-0 in the fifth when Warfield, Rothenberg and Perconte each slashed RBI singles.

Not to be forgotten were several fine defensive plays. Warfield and Baboomian each made slick running snags in the outfield, and Barone made a backhand grab at second base. Third baseman John Stuek initiated a second-to-first double play.

St. James' Rob Stratton made two fine plays in centerfield, including one that led to a double play, and Paul Leso made a leaping grab in leftfield. But when Frank Chupko made his second agile play from the mound, resulting in putouts, Perconte, while his team was batting in the seventh, was inspired to say, "Frankie! You are a lot better than your brother."

Interestingly, his brother John was at the plate at the time and wobbled a slow wiggler back to the mound that Frankie flubbed. The miscue sparked a four-run burst, which included RBI singles from Burfeindt, Barone and Perconte and an RBI groundout from Rothenberg.



*Story on page 9 of The Westfield Leader*

*More Photos in "Photo Library" 12jul12-st.-ant-james*

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

**READY TO BLAST THE BALL...**St. Anthony's Dave Rothenberg prepares to blast the softball. Rothenberg finished with a double, a single, two RBI and a run scored against the St. "James Gang" at Brookside Park in Scotch Plains.

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