

CERRIA TIES IT, NORRIS SCORES WINNER IN SEVENTH; HOFFMAN RAPS DOUBLE, SINGLE**WF Blue 12s Score 2 in 7th, Nip Livingston Lancers, 5-4**By **DAVID B. CORBIN***Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times*

Jack Cerria doubled and scored on Danny Bracco's grounder, and Robert Norris singled and, later, alertly scored on a bizarre throwing error in the bottom of the seventh inning to give the first-placed, 8-2-1 Westfield Blue a 5-4 victory over Livingston in New Providence Green League action at Gumbert 1 Field in Westfield on July 19.

Cerria, who dropped his leadoff double into leftfield, remained on second after a groundout to short, then advanced to third on Norris' single to left. When the throw from the outfield went to third, Norris dashed to second. Bracco tapped a grounder to short and Curria headed home, drawing a throw, which allowed Norris to advance to third. After a pitch to the next batter, the Livingston catcher threw the ball back to the pitcher, but it sailed over his head and Norris sprinted to the plate for the winner.

The Lancers entered the game minus a few of its key players but played a composed game on defense and received fine pitching performances from starter Kyle Ferguson and reliever Matt Feresten.

"We played with a lot of heart today. We were missing a few of our better players. It was a shame that we had to lose it the way we did, but our guys played together," Livingston Head Coach Paul Ghamar said.

Ferguson tossed four innings

and yielded three runs on four hits and only one walk, while striking out two. Feresten tossed the next three and allowed two runs and two hits, while walking one and fanning none.

"There weren't that many hits. The pitchers did well. They had six pitchers. We had two of our better pitchers, who have been consistent all year. Our biggest concern was we left a lot of guys

five hits but did manage to draw seven walks and add two hit-by-pitches. Ben Aronow had a pair of RBI singles, walked and stole a base. Jake Ghamar had an RBI single, scored once, walked and

Garnes walked twice, Lucas Alpert was hit twice, and Luke Spiegler walked once.

"Games like this are very tough, because you wind up bringing the other team up, so that they play at a much higher level. A game like this teaches the kids a couple of things. One, whatever happens, you can't give up, and when kids make a mistake, you can't get upset. You just got to move on. Let it go, and you got to play ball. We have been talking about personal pride this entire season, and I just want them to play with pride. As long as these guys keep playing with pride, they will be fine," Westfield Blue Head Coach Pat Pucciarelli said.

Westfield Blue totaled six hits, which included four doubles. Tyler Hoffman doubled and scored, and singled in his three plate appearances. Norris added an RBI. Dean Pucciarelli doubled, walked and scored once. Andrew Milstein drilled an RBI double, and John Sickles scored once. Matt Meusel walked, swiped a base and scored. David Sprug had three plate appearances and Joseph SanGiacomo reached first safely once in his two plate appearances.

The game began with Meusel making a fine defensive play at shortstop and Petrillo beating out an infield single, but Blue pitcher Bracco got the next two Lancers out. Westfield answered with back-to-back doubles from Pucciarelli and Milstein to take a 1-0 lead.

Hoffman whacked a leadoff double to right and Norris followed with an RBI grounder to short to put the Blue up 2-0 after two innings. Livingston scored once in the third when Kline scored on Beresten's single.

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ATTEMPTING A PICKOFF... Westfield Blue pitcher Danny Bracco, No. 15, fires to first baseman Dean Pucciarelli in an attempt to pick off Livingston Lancer Jacob Kline.

on base, which could have led to a few more runs," Coach Ghamar said.

The Little Lancers finished with

swiped two bases. Anthony Petrillo singled, walked, stole three bases and scored once. Feresten had an RBI single. Ferguson scored once. Jacob Kline scored once, walked twice and stole two bases. Tyrell

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