



David B. Corbin (August 11, 2005 files) for The Westfield Leader and The Times
BEGINNING OF A RALLY...AFP's Mike Petriarca, left, collides with Sofa King catcher Will Towles to score the first of four runs in the bottom of the ninth inning to tie the score and send the game into extra innings. Sofa King scored a run in the 10th and held on to win 10-9 at Brookside Park in Scotch Plains on August 3, 2005.

Netherwood Nudges Diva's, 14-12, in 'A' Division

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Divia third baseman Pat Ford made two fine plays in the second inning. Diva's entire outfield staff consisting of Kyle Gates, Mike DiNizo, Marc Rusin and John Howart combined for numerous snares of difficult liners.

Damon Roth with three singles, a double, four runs scored and two RBI, along with Jarrod Pence with four singles, an RBI and two runs scored, led Netherwood's hit parade of 22 raps. Tufaro led with four RBI, while rapping a triple, two singles, walking once and scoring once. Woodring had three RBI and two singles, and Lau lashed a two-run double, singled and scored twice.

Divia's Howart hacked four hits in his five trips to the plate and scored once, but James DiNizo held the "Hammer of Thor" with a two-run homer in the first, while adding an RBI single, walking and scoring another run. Mike DiNizo ripped three singles, scored once and added two RBI. Ford singled twice, scored twice and had two RBI. Rusin singled twice, scored once and had an RBI. Pitcher Ron Germinder was credited with two runs scored, a single and an RBI. Andrew Lynch had a pair of singles.

Netherwood scored three runs on three hits in the top of the first with an

RBI single from Pence, followed with RBI sacrifice flies from Tufaro and Woodring. Diva's matched the score with DiNizo's two-run shot over the left-centerfield fence and Ford's RBI single past short.

A seven-run second gave Netherwood a 10-3 lead and visions of an early evening. All 11 batters stepped to the plate. Tufaro whacked a two-run triple to center, Lau ricocheted a two-run double into right and Roth ripped a two-run single into left, while Woodring wiggled an RBI single past short.

Divia answered with two runs with RBI by the DiNizo's in the second then added three in the third to tighten the score to 10-8. Ford, Rusin and Mike Cornacchia provided the RBI. Netherwood's Roth crossed the plate on Tufaro's RBI single over second in the fourth, but Diva James DiNizo scored on Matt Canfield's RBI sac fly in the bottom of the inning. Aumenta led off the fifth with a single to left and Gus Alvarez slashed a ground-rule double to right. Matt Walsh (2 hits) added an RBI groundout, Mike Parkhill (2 hits)

singled and Samila sent an RBI sac fly to center. Ford singled and scored on Germinder's sac fly in the Diva's fifth.

Roth doubled and scored on Woodring's single in the sixth, but the Divas failed to answer thanks to Bendix's leaping stab.

"Nice play Jeff! That's big right there," bellowed Brainard

On the verge of a silent seventh, Diva Cornacchia chanted, "We got to score! It's getting late. Bottom 7!"

His serenade fell upon deaf ears even into the top of the ninth then Roth reminded, "Let's open it up. Let's go!"

Still nothing!

Down to their last chance and trailing 14-10, Diva's Gates and Mike DiNizo tapped RBI singles to bring home Jay Cepparullo and Germinder's courtesy runner and had the winning run at the plate in the name of James DiNizo.

Aware of his towering homer in the first, a conference on the mound ensued. Netherwood's decision was to test their luck against him and it paid off when he grounded out to Samila at third.

Probitas Verus Honos

Netherwood	370	121	000	14
Divia's	323	110	002	12



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
TAGGING UP AND SLIDING INTO THIRD...Netherwood's Gus Alvarez, No. 55, tagged up on a fly ball and slides safely into third as Diva third baseman Pat Ford gets the throw at Brookside Park in Scotch Plains on July 29.

3 of the Scotch Plains Men's Softball League B Division semifinals at Brookside Park. Age certainly did not slow down veteran shortstop Ed Belford of the Sofa Kings. Well known as one of the best shortstops ever from the area, Belford showed no signs of losing his finesse in the third inning, as he covered for a force play at second then, instead of making a "no chance" throw to first, he fired in the opposite direction, nearly nailing the lead runner at third.

August 1, 2007: Fifth-seeded Delasat stalled the first-seeded DJ Limo machine, 17-14, in Game 1 of a three-game series in the B Division of the Scotch Plains Men's Softball League at Brookside Park. Doug Polisa had three-run shot in the sixth and Frank DiGiovanni (3-for-4) clubbed a solo blast and scored twice.

August 3, 2006: After employing a "duck call" mechanism to hustle the visiting Canada Geese off the playing field at Brookside, St. Nick pitcher Frank Chupko proceeded to "sleigh" St. Aloysius, limiting them to just five singles and one run in four innings. St. Nick held a 13-1 lead and received home runs from Damon Roth, Nick DiNizo and Mike Walch but the game ended abruptly when the shorthanded Als had to forfeit after an injury left them without enough players.

August 4, 2005: Darkness mercifully concluded a game in the sixth inning that had the hungry pillagers of St. Aloysius sacking St. Stephen, 21-9, in St. Bart's Oldtimers Men's

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D. Blair Corbin's

Blue Devils

Raiders



Walk Down Memory Lane

From the archives of *The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* — www.goleader.com

August 5, 2010: Playoff spirit was certainly in the air with two teams full of players, who had a refuse-to-lose attitude, in Game 3 of the Union County Senior 50+ Softball League A Division quarterfinals at Jerseyland Field in Scotch Plains.

With the bases jammed in the bottom of the 10th inning, Bob D'Meo watched four straight pitches fall away from the strike zone to give the Brew Crew, formally known as Buffy's and before that Antone's, an 8-7 victory over Awnings Galore. Crewman Don "the Count of" Montefusco charged and made a sliding, game-saving catch to salvage the evening.

August 6, 2009: Two runs in the sixth inning nailed down a 9-8 victory for the Watson Avenue men over Willoughby in the Fanwood Old Men's Softball Association League

at La Grande Park. The victory boosted Watson's record to 8-2 to keep them as the team to beat heading into the playoffs. Jimmy McKeon (3-for-4, 2 RBI) ripped a two-out single to win the game in the bottom of the sixth inning. Jay Cook and John Leonardi each hammered a double, a single and scored a run.

August 6, 2008: Defense stole the show and overshadowed the 17-hit attack of the Sofa Kings in their 11-3 victory over DefCon Sauces in Game

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