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MARKS, MASSIMINO, GARCED RAP 3 HITS EACH; ALUSIK 2 HITS, 3 RBI; KOWALESKI GOES 4-FOR-4

Deegan Closes Linwood Inn in UC 50+ Game 1 Semi, 11-7

By **DAVID B. CORBIN**
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Top-seeded Deegan Roofing managed to keep its unblemished record in tact but not without a bit of a jolt of reality when they faced off with fifth-seeded Linwood Inn in Game 1 of the best of three semifinal series in the A Division of the Union County Senior 50+ Softball League Championships held at Jerseyland Field in Scotch Plains on August 21.

After being drugged for seven runs in the top of the second

inning, the Roofers realized that they were in a 7-3 hole and decided to dig their way out to claim an 11-7 victory.

As the top seed, Deegan Roofing received a first-round bye, while Linwood Inn turned out the lights and shattered the hopes of Liberty Lighting & Glass.

Although key offense was necessary, Deegan pitcher Gary Pence, with the assistance of numerous acts of defensive wizardry, shut down the Linwood Innkeepers in the final five innings. The most important plays

came in innings five, six and seven.

After Deegan second baseman Joe DiFabio made a diving stop of a hard grounder in the fifth to prevent further base advancement, first baseman Joe Massimino corralled a stubborn hopper and converted it to a force out at second, which led to a scoreless inning for the Innkeepers.

In the sixth, DiFabio chased down a popper in shallow right field then third baseman Don Fischer dove to his left to smother a grounder and tossed to first for the second out. Fischer then snagged a low liner, and even though he caught it on a fly, threw to first to insure the third out.

In the seventh, shortstop Nick Russo surrounded a bad hopper and threw to first for the first out. After Linwood tapped three straight singles to load the bases, John Garced ran down a pop fly in right then Pence snagged a sharp grounder and shuffled the ball to first to end the game.

Linwood's defense also managed to keep the Roofers from running away with the game. Centerfielder Steve Lerner turned a double play after catching a fly ball then by gunning down a runner, who tagged up and attempted to make it to second. Second baseman Joey Adase, who made several fine plays, pulled off a diving grab and threw

first to first baseman Mac Kowaleski, who in turn made a slick scoop for the out. In the seventh, leftfielder Brian Schaefer caught up with a difficult liner on the foul side of the leftfield line.

Interestingly, all hits in the game were limited to singles. Massimino was a major contributor to Deegan's attack with three hits, three RBI and a run scored. Marty Marks rapped three singles, scored three times and added an RBI. Garced went 3-for-3 with an RBI and scored twice. Pence (2 runs scored) and Marty Bernstein each tapped two singles. Farlan Alusik went 2-for-2 with three RBI and a run scored.

Kowaleski (RBI, run scored) singled in all four of his at-bats

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