

See it all in color at!
www.goleader.com

THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section
Pages 9-11

SHORTSTOPS PATRYLO, MESSANO STAR ON DEFENSE

St. Anthony Slips Into First; Holds Off St. Wolfgang, 5-4

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

Pitching excellence was in high gear as St. Anthony's Frank Chupko and St. Wolfgang's Ed Fernandez engaged in a duel that was not decided until Chris Millar's fly ball to right field was hauled in with the tying run at third base during a St. Bart's Oldtimers Men's Softball League game at Brookside Park in Scotch Plains on August 2. The result was a key, 5-4, win for St. Anthony, who just bumped St. Francis out of the first-place when the Fran men dropped a 14-10 slugfest to St. Michael.

Interestingly just the day before it was the St. Fran men who took over the top spot when they knocked off St. George, 9-5, to record their 10th straight victory. St. Anthony had been skinned by St. Joseph, 5-4. So as of

August 2, St. Anthony with a 12-6 record had placed itself a half game ahead of St. Francis, whose record stood at 10-5-1. St. Joseph, who lost to St. Vincent, 5-3, on August 2, slid back to third place and St. George at 10-5 after beating St. Sebastian, 11-4, slipped into a tie with St. Francis for second place.

Chupko yielded 12 hits but walked no one and Fernandez allowed nine hits, while walking two batters. However, although there were some crucial errors, there were also a number of key defensive maneuvers, which included four double plays.

St. Anthony shortstop Lou Messano insured his contract renewal when he pulled off an inning-ending double play (DP) in the fourth then followed in the fifth with a diving stop that he converted into a long-throw putout at

first. Anthony third baseman Bob McGuinness initiated a third-to-first DP in the second inning and was on the end of an accurate throw from centerfielder Ed DeFrancesco to nail a runner at third. Right fielder Rick Cintron made a running grab in the third inning and leftfielder John Greenblatt made a sliding snag in the sixth inning.

St. Wolfgang shortstop Walt Patrylo was involved in two DPs. The first was the most spectacular play of the evening when he chased a popup into shallow leftfield and with his back to home plate, he caught the ball, reeled around and fired to second in time to catch the runner off base. The second DP was also very interesting. With the bases loaded and one out in the seventh inning, St. Anthony's Gerry Riepe

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



SWOOPING INTO THIRD...Darby Road's (Brainard) Kyle Williams comes swooping into third base to beat the throw to Diva third baseman Matt Whitman in the second inning of the West Division semifinal Game 1 on July 30.

LAU, RICHARDS, WALTER, DiMASCIO, DEITCH UNLOAD

Darby Brainard Routs Diva's In Playoff Semi Game 1, 24-5

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

Continuous shelling for the first five innings combined with four shut-out innings from pitching ace John Deitch during that span put third-seeded Darby Road Brainard in a great position to glide through the next four innings in Game 1 of the Scotch Plains Men's Softball League West Division semifinals against second-seeded Diva's Salon at Brookside Park in Scotch Plains on July 30. The Darby Roadsters trampled home plate 22 times, while yielding just one run in the first five innings, en route to a 24-5 triumph.

Deitch allowed two singles in each of the first four innings and another two hits plus a walk in the fifth when the Diva's scored their first run. Deitch would hold the Diva's hitless in the sixth before giving up two runs on two hits and a walk in the seventh then he would permit just another single in the scoreless eighth. John Rachko

pitched the ninth inning, allowing two runs on two hits and a walk.

The Diva's totaled 15 hits and the only extra base hit was a two-run triple in the ninth inning from Matt Whitman, who also rapped an RBI single earlier in the game. Tom Lynch (run scored), Marc Rusin (RBI), Mike Rusin and John Howarth each had two hits.

Darby Road Brainard hammered out 29 hits, which included six doubles, a triple and a home run, and leadoff hitter Brady Lau, who scored five times, had five of them with a three-run triple and a pair of doubles. Aaron Richards, who scored twice, went 5-for-5 with two doubles and five RBI. Deitch went 4-for-5 with a double, two RBI and a run scored. Moe Walters whacked a three-run homer and an RBI single. Dennis DiMascio had a pair of RBI singles, an RBI double and an RBI sacrifice fly. Jeff Bendix took the patient route, walking twice, singling twice and scor-

ing four times, while adding two RBI.

The margin in the scoring could have been even wider if it had not been for the outstanding play of Witman at third base. On several occasions, Whitman corralled difficult grounders and converted them to putouts, which included a down-and-dirty diving scoop in the ninth inning. Whitman also initiated a double play in the sixth inning. Diva shortstop James DiNizo also initiated a second-to-first double play in the seventh inning.

Darby Brainard also pulled off a number of spectacular moves beginning with leftfielder Jarrod Pence's grab at the fence in the first inning. He would add a few more running grabs throughout the game. Bendix at short made a smooth diving grab in the fifth inning then as catcher in the seventh, he added another fine catch of a foul ball. Right fielder Gus Alvarez chased down a difficult liner early in the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



SLIPPING INTO SECOND...St. Anthony's Ed DeFrancesco slips into second base before St. Wolfgang shortstop Walt Patrylo makes the tag at Brookside Park in Scotch Plains on August 2. St. Anthony took possession of first with a 5-4 win.

ZERAFKA 4 HITS, HR; ALVAREZ 3-FOR-4, LoBRACE 3 RBI

Fran Men Win 10th Straight; Knock Off Georgie Boys, 9-5

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

Transformation from a cellar dweller after the first five games of the season to the top "crow" on the St. Bart's Oldtimers Men's Softball League ladder came to fruition at Brookside Park in Scotch Plains on August 1. The St. Francis men had something to "crow" about when they came up with the right formula to knock off the formerly first-placed St. George squad, 9-5, and to seize their 10th straight victory.

The win upped St. Francis' record to 10-4-1, while the loss bumped St. George to 9-5 just behind the St. Joseph and St. Anthony men who have 11-6 records. The rest of the pack is sitting well behind with St. Wolfgang

at 6-8, St. Vincent at 6-9, St. Michael at 4-11 and St. Sebastian at 4-12-1. (The records as of August 1)

Despite having only three outfielders, the Fran men still had the right formula on defense with the pitching of Howie Bialos and the sure-handed gloves of second baseman Lou Balestriere, shortstop Rob Zerafa and the efforts of outfielders Gus Alvarez, Joe LoBrace and Josh Baik. Zerafa and Balestriere turned an inning-ending double play in the second inning. Alvarez and LoBrace made key running grabs and Baik came up with a memorable diving-and-rolling catch in the third inning. Balestriere pulled off a smooth backhand for the third out in the fifth inning then ended the game by absorbing a steamer off the

bat of Rob Stratton and tossing to first for the final out.

St. George was not without some defensive glory of its own and Stratton at shortstop came up with several fine plays, which included craftily positioning himself behind second base to scoop Alvarez's hot grounder up the middle in the second inning and making a leaping grab of Baik's liner in the seventh inning. Jim Richey became a running bear in the third inning to chase down LoBrace's low liner in centerfield.

St. Francis also had the right formula at the plate to total 17 hits. Zerafa went 4-for-5 with a solo home run in the seventh and scored four times. Alvarez banged out a pair of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



COMPLETING THE PUTOUT...Darby Road's (Brainard) Kevin Spellman completes the putout on Charlie Brown's Brian Piccola in Game 1 of the West Division Championship in Scotch Plains on August 5. See story on page 11.



FINE EVENING AT THE PLATE...St. Francis batter Howie Bialos raps a single as St. George catcher Brendan McNamara observes. Bialos had a fine evening at the plate with three singles and a pair of RBI in the 9-5 victory.

Committed to You ... and Your Goals!

Whether Buying or Selling, I Will Help Bring Your Real Estate Transaction to a Successful Conclusion!

Betty Lynch, ABR, SRES
Broker / Sales Associate
Immediate Reply Cell: 908-419-5141
Email: Bettylynch1935@gmail.com
www.BettyLynchRealtor.com

Westfield East Office
209 Central Avenue
(908) 233-5555

COLDWELL BANKER
RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

Real estate agents affiliated with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage are independent contractor agents and are not employees of the Company. ©2019 Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage fully supports the principles of the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Opportunity Act. Operated by a subsidiary of NRT LLC. Coldwell Banker and the Coldwell Banker Logo are registered service marks owned by Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC.

"HIRING THE TOP AGENT ISN'T EXPENSIVE - IT'S PRICELESS."

FRANK D. ISOLDI
Broker/Sales Associate
Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

© FRANKDISOLDI
FRANKISOLDI@GMAIL.COM
CELL: 908-787-5990
THEISOLDICOLLECTION.COM

COLDWELL BANKER
RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

209 Central Avenue, Westfield
Office: 908-233-5555

Real estate agents affiliated with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage are independent contractor agents and are not employees of the Company. ©2019 Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage fully supports the principles of the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Opportunity Act. Operated by a subsidiary of NRT LLC. Coldwell Banker and the Coldwell Banker Logo are registered service marks owned by Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC.