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RIPKEN 10U DISTRICT 12 CHAMPS...The Cranford Gold defeated Summit for the Cal Ripken 10U District 12 Title. The Cranford Gold participants were Charlie Springer, Cooper Falk, Braydon Fry, Tyler Muccigrosso, Gabe Deeb, Nicholas Dizdar, Pat Bendert, Alex Affronti, Daniel Montes, Brody Ewing, Frank Neglio and Aiden Capizzi with coaches Dave Falk, Matt Springer and Greg Fry.

Cranford Bumps Summit for Ripken Dist. Title

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The Cranford Gold and Summit competed in Pool A and both finished with 4-0 records. Summit defeated Scotch Plains-Fanwood in the play-off quarterfinals then knocked off the Chatham Cougars, who were undefeated in Pool B, to advance to the finals. Cranford Gold received a first-round bye then defeated Millburn/Short Hills, winners over New Providence, to reach the finals.

The Summit team consisted of Gavin Schnall, Owen Sherman, Curt Friedrich, Gianni D'Agostino, Andrew Matter, Anthony Della Rosa, Matt McKeever, Jack Lopuszynski, Greyson Eckhardt, Ben DeLong and Jackson Conroy with coaches Tim Schnall, Mark Sherman, Joe DeLong, Anthony Della Rosa and Clinton Matter. The Cranford Gold participants were Charlie Springer, Cooper Falk, Braydon Fry, Tyler Muccigrosso, Gabe Deeb, Nicholas Dizdar, Pat Bendert, Alex Affronti, Daniel Montes, Brody Ewing, Frank Neglio and Aiden Capizzi with coaches Dave Falk, Matt Springer and Greg Fry.

Against Summit, Bendert pitched the first four innings, allowing three hits and two walks, while striking out four Hilltoppers. Muccigrosso pitched the final two innings and yielded two

hits and a walk, while striking out three batters. Friedrich pitched the first three innings for Summit, yielding five runs on five hits and three walks, while striking out three Cougars. DeLong pitched the final two innings and allowed just one hit and two walks, while striking out three batters.

Bendert blasted a solo home run in the second inning and Muccigrosso, who scored twice and walked once, hammered a solo homer in the third inning. Falk went 2-for-3 with an RBI double and scored twice. Deeb had a pair of RBI sacrifice flies. Summit leadoff hitter Schnall doubled, singled and scored once.

Summit posed a bit of a threat in the top of the first inning. Schnall rapped a leadoff single then D'Agostino drew a walk with two outs. Matter drilled a low liner to right but Ewing prevented any scoring when he lunged forward to make a great diving snag.

Springer led off the Cranford first inning with a single to leftfield then Falk hit into a force out but would later score when Fry slashed an RBI single down the right field line. Later with Fry on third and Muccigrosso on second, Deeb lofted his first RBI sac fly to leftfield.

Summit's Della Rosa slapped a lead-off single over first in the second in-

ning but Bendert struck out the next three batters to bring his team to the plate. Interestingly, Bendert blasted his leadoff home run over the centerfield fence. Later in the inning with Montes on second, Falk slammed an RBI double off the centerfield fence.

Summit got on the board in the third inning when Schnall doubled to right and scored on Friedrich's groundout to second. But the Cougars immediately answered when Muccigrosso sent the baseball sailing over the centerfield fence to make the score 5-1.

Cranford Gold upped its lead to 7-1 in the fifth. Falk bounced a single, advanced to second on a passed ball and then scored on Muccigrosso's groundout to second. Muccigrosso would later score on Deeb's RBI sac fly to centerfield.

The Hilltoppers still had fight within them and D'Agostino led off the sixth inning with a single to right. Della Rosa drew a one-out walk then Lopuszynski's grounder resulted in a throwing error and D'Agostino scoring from third. Muccigrosso buckled down on the mound, struck out a batter then got the next batter to ground out to short to end the game.

Summit	001	001	2
Cranford Gold	221	02x	7

MILLBURN'S AH NOW 3-RUN HR, RBI TRIPLE; ZHU 2 HITS

Millburn Tops Mountainside For Ripken 12U District Title

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

Nearly every year for, at least, a decade Millburn has had a representative in the Cal Ripken 12U District 12 Tournament and in many cases, the Millers have emerged with the title. There was nothing new once again as the Millburn White baseball team got on the offensive immediately and defeated Mountainside, 11-1, in five innings for the title at Gumbert 2 Field in Westfield on June 23.

Both teams were aligned in Pool B and the Millers gained the top seed by defeating Chatham, 12-0, Westfield White, 8-0, Summit, 13-3, and Mountainside, 6-3. Mountainside defeated Summit, 6-5, Chatham, 7-2, and Westfield White, 9-0, in pool play then defeated New Providence, 9-1, in the playoff quarterfinals and

Lawrence, Quinn Conn, Jack Fehrenbach, Ryan Spaar, Keigo Fujita, Alex Faust, Finlay LaLonde, Max Zhu and Brett Ploetner, along with coaches Anthony Dasti, Dom Dasti, Dan Rosenthal and Randy Faust. The Mountainside participants were Dylan Gardner, Alex Adornato, Jason Habedank, Anthony Denora, Mike LiLoia, Harry Woodard, Ryan Hilongos, Zach Pater, Mike Basile, Charles Salerno, Leu Villanueva and Alec Chicelo, along with coaches Andrew Adornato, Terry Gardner, Jason Habedank and Mike LiLoia.

Ah Now went the distance on the mound for Millburn and recorded eight strikeouts, while walking one and hitting a batter. LiLoia pitched the first two innings for Mountainside and Adornato pitched the next three innings.

was hit by a pitch, sped to second on a passed ball and scored when Lawrence reached base on an error. Ferenbach singled as Lawrence advanced to third then Fujita laid down an RBI suicide squeeze bunt.

Four more Millers scored in the second. Zhu singled over first and Ploetner was hit by a pitch. Ah Now stepped up and crushed his three-run shot well over the leftfield fence. Lawrence singled over second and would later score on a passed ball and a wild pitch.

Villanueva led off the Mountainside third with a single to right then dashed to second on a passed ball. Habedank's infield single provoked a throwing error, which allowed Villanueva to skip home. A spectacular catch by shortstop Habedank and another by Denora in left prevented Millburn from scoring in the third.



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TAKING HOME SAFELY...Millburn Miller Peter Lawrence slides home safely in the second inning as Mountainside pitcher Mike LiLoia and catcher Harry Woodard scramble to get the ball during the Ripken 12U championship game.

Cranford, 15-5, in the semifinals, while Millburn shut out Westfield White, 7-0, in the semifinals.

By virtue of Millburn White and Mountainside teams playing well through pool play and winning their quarterfinal and semifinal games, both teams have automatically qualified for the Cal Ripken state tournament, which will also be held at the Gumbert Fields in Westfield this weekend. It would be the fifth trip to the state tournament that this particular Millburn team would take since they have won their previous four district tournaments — 8U, 9U, 10U, 11U. With the 12U championship, Millburn coach Anthony Dasti was awarded the Second Annual Kevin Ford Award.

The Millers consisted of Dylan Ah Now, Greg Rosenthal, Peter

Mountainside totaled five hits. In his three plate appearances, Habedank singled, walked and was hit by a pitch. Villanueva had only one plate appearance but made good on it with a single, while scoring the team's only run. Gardner, Adornato and Denora each singled.

The Millers totaled eight hits but they backed it up with a pair of walks and a pair of hit batters. Ah Now blasted a three-run home run, an RBI triple, was hit by a pitch and scored three runs. Zhu singled twice, had an RBI and scored once. Lawrence singled and scored twice. LaLonde rapped an RBI single and scored once, Faust doubled and scored once and Fehrenbach singled and walked once.

The Millers took a 2-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning. Ah Now

Ah Now struck out the side in the fourth then Millburn added a run when Rosenthal's fly ball to right was dropped and he then managed to round the bases on a passed ball and a wild pitch. Ah Now struck out the first two batters in the fifth then Mountainside posed a threat when Gardner and Adornato both singled and Habedank walked to load the bases. But Ah Now got Denora to ground out to second.

Millburn put the game away with four runs in the fourth. Spaar walked, Faust whacked a double to right-center and LaLonde plopped an RBI single into left. Zhu added an RBI groundout then Ah Now smacked an RBI triple down the right field line and scored on a throwing error.

Mountainside	001	00	1
Millburn White	240	14	11



STEALING SECOND BASE...Blue Devil Mike Lynch steals second base in the first inning as Cranford shortstop Ben Monahan prepares to catch the ball during the Babe Ruth 13U District 12 Tournament in Cranford on June 21.

Cougar 13Us Whip Westfield in Babe Ruth Dist.

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the next eight batters that he faced until the top of the fourth. Riley ended up yielding just one hit and a walk, while striking out three Blue Devils. Paris started on the mound for Westfield and was relieved by Korr with two outs in the third inning. Hyland relieved after Korr walked the first two batters in the fourth inning.

The Cougars totaled 15 hits and leadoff hitter Baratta went 3-for-4 with four runs scored and an RBI. Monahan went 3-for-3 with a double and a walk, three RBI and four runs scored. Olear went 3-for-3 with three RBI and two runs scored. Carracino rapped an RBI single, a two-run double, walked, was hit by a pitch and scored once.

The top of the first inning looked promising for the Blue Devils when Lynch was hit by a pitch then Davis and Paris drew walks to load the bases with one out. But Riley entered, struck

out Langhart then got Hyland to ground into a force out.

Barattaled off the Cougar first with a single to right then stole a pair of bases. Monahan walked, Carracino jolted an RBI single to left then Kahney lofted an RBI sacrifice fly to left to give the Cougars a 2-0 lead. Both teams failed to score in the second and Riley sat the Blue Devils down 1-2-3 in the third.

But the real noise began in the Cranford third inning as 10 Cougars scratched home plate and it all began with Baratta reaching on a throwing error. Monahan hammered an RBI double to center, McCaffery scribbled an infield RBI single and Carracino was hit by a pitch. Riley sizzled a two-run double down the third baseline, Chapman (2 runs) walked, Olear looped a two-run single and Bruckman singled to center. Baratta and Monahan added RBI singles then after McCaffery

and Carracino both walked, Kahney lined an RBI single to left. More damage may have been done but Blue Devil leftfielder Evan Dunham made the catch of the evening with a diving snag inches from the ground.

Westfield's only run came in the fourth. Davis drilled a leadoff single to left and Shyposh walked. After Davis stole third, he scored on Hyland's looping force out into shallow right field.

The Cougars' "metal sticks" remained very active in the fourth. After Toy and Chapman drew free passes, Olear slashed an RBI single to right. Chapman scored on a wild pitch. Baratta hopped an infield single, Monahan tapped an RBI single to center, McCaffery drew another walk and Carracino ended the contest with his double to centerfield.

Westfield	0	0	1	1
Cranford	2	0	10	4

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