

National All-Stars' season comes to an end

Shippensburg pitcher overpowering



Back Mountain National showed a lot of heart, but unfortunately only one hit Saturday, as the local Little League stars fell to Shippensburg 4-0 in the Section 3 title game. The loss denied National, the District 16 champs, a chance to go to the state championships.

After a promising start with John Oliver's single down the third-base line, Shippensburg pitcher Bob Shannon mowed down National batters as every National out was by strikeout. Trailing 4-0 in the bottom of the sixth, National did manage to threaten when Shannon walked Oliver and Rich Klick with one out, but struck out the next two batters to end the game.

Oliver, who pitched the whole game for National, was no slouch, as he struck out nine and gave up only five hits. Unfortunately, one of those was a two-run homer in the third. Then, in the top of the sixth, Shippensburg scored its remaining two runs on the combination of two walks, a passed ball and two singles.

National finished the playoffs with an 8-1 record and a season to be proud of.

The Nationals had advanced with a 9-7 win against South Scranton Wednesday at the South Scranton field.

Rich Klick struck out 16 batters after getting through a shaky second inning.

Oliver reached first on a single in the sixth and Klick got on base with an error. Kevin McDonald hit a hard grounder back to the pitcher who hesitated and did not get anyone out. John Kelly came in as relief pitcher and walked Justin Jumper with the bases loaded scoring Oliver to tie the score. Left fielder R.J. Brooks then hit a single to center to score Klick and McDonald to give the Nationals a 9-7 lead.

Safe at first

Back Mountain's Kevin MacDonald reached first safely in the fourth inning on a Shippensburg error. Waiting in vain for a throw was the Shippensburg pitcher, Bob Shannon.



It was a great season

Back Mountain National coach John Oliver consoled Rich Klick after Saturday's loss to Shippensburg. Klick had pitched a no-hitter last week to move the team up.



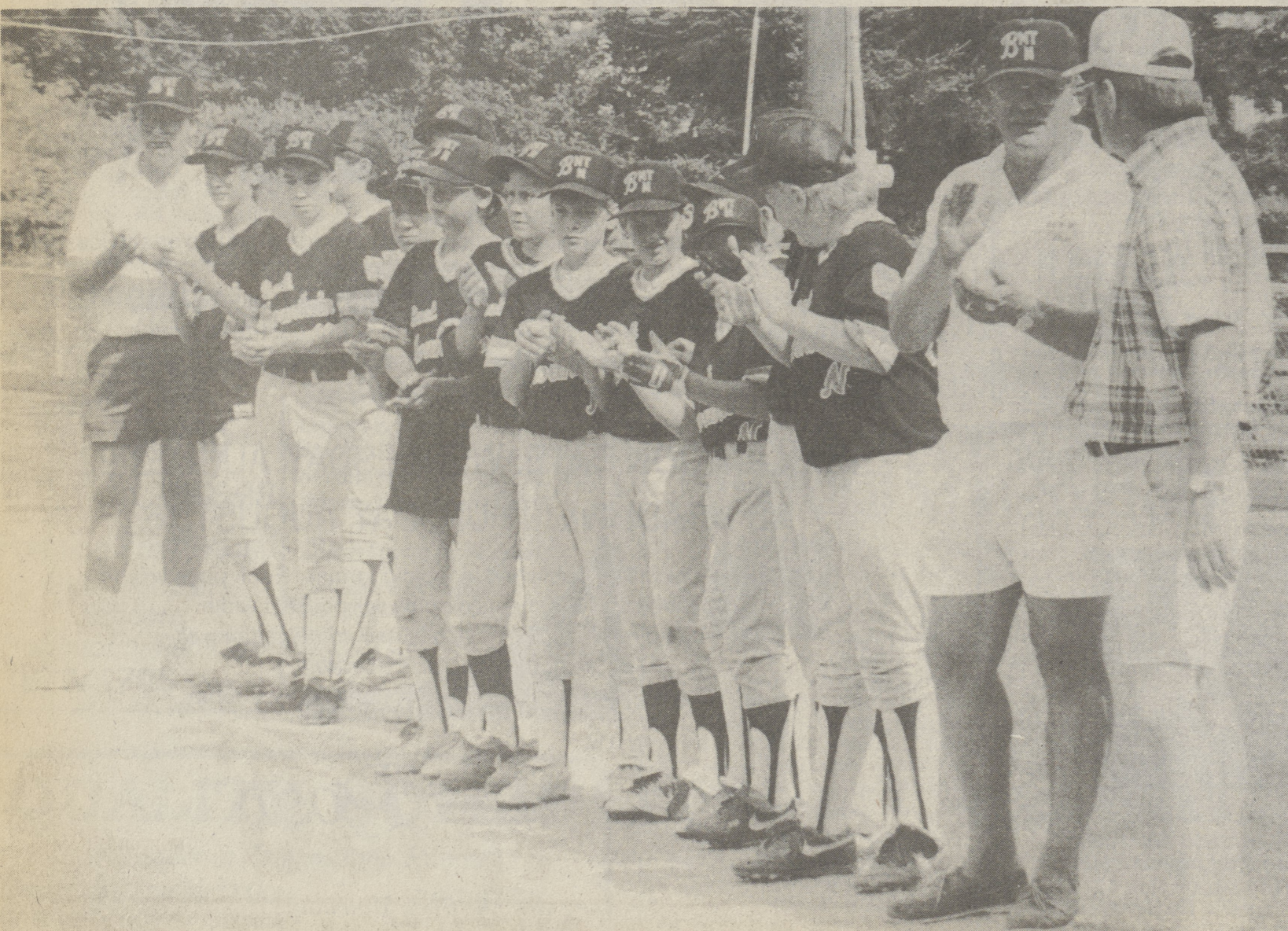
Big crowd

The weather couldn't have been better for Saturday's Little League playoff game at the Back Mountain field. A large contingent of fans from Shippensburg joined local supporters.



He's out

National second baseman Jason Seward stretched to take the throw and force out a Shippensburg player.



Cheers for the victors

Back Mountain National players and coaches applauded the Shippensburg team on their victory in the Section 3 title game

Saturday. National finished the playoffs with an 8-1 record; Shippensburg goes on to the state championships.



Checking the runner

John Oliver came off the mound to pick up a Shippensburg bunt. After checking the runner at second base, Oliver threw the batter out as third baseman Justin Jumper looked on.

Photos by Ron Bartizek