

Little League nearing playoffs

The Rangers captured their third consecutive regular season American League championship, and the fight for first place in the National League remained a dog-fight, as Back Mountain Baseball, Inc. completed Week 8 in major league baseball action.

The top four teams from each league will qualify for the playoffs, which are set to begin on Sunday, June 26. The Rangers, under manager Tom Evans and assistants Bob Faneck and Gerry Wycallis, raised their record to 14-1 last week while the second place Tigers finished the week with a mark of 8-8 with just four games remaining in the regular season.

On the National League side, things are much more intriguing, with the race looking like it may go down to the season's final day. The Dodgers remained in first place with a record of 12-4. The Phillies and Giants remain close on the Dodgers' heels with marks of 11-5. The Phillies defeated the Giants twice last week while the Giants downed the Tigers and the Dodgers defeated the Astros and Reds. The Reds, 10-6, remain right in the thick of the playoff race. The smoke may clear a little this Thursday night when the Phillies take on the Dodgers while the Giants and Reds square off in the nightcap.

REDS 5 - PIRATES 4

Justin Bicking went the distance tossing a three-hitter while allowing striking out nine batters, to lead the Reds over the Pirates. Jon Habrack led the Reds with two doubles while David Jumper had the only other two hits for the winners, both singles. Dave Norris had two of his team's three hits to lead the Pirates while Dan Fauerbach added a single.

BOB HORLACHER 10 - INDIANS 9 (Senior League)

Skip Dozikowski had three hits while Price added two, to lift Bob Horlacher over the Indians in the Senior League baseball action. Larry Lettie led the Indians with three hits while Dave Williams (double), Brad Adams and Kevin West had two hits apiece.

PITSTON 11 - PIRATES 10 (Senior League)

Josh Yoh had four hits, including a double, to lead the Pirates in a tough loss to Pittston in Senior League action. Joe Tarity had three hits while Dave Rogers and Rick Lora (double) each added a pair of hits for the Pirates.

PIRATES 8 - HARVEYS LAKE 7 (Senior League)

Jerry Delescavage picked up the mound win and helped his own cause including a pair of



FIRING LINE - Phillies pitcher Josh Katyl picked up the win when the Phillies met the Giants in the continuation of an earlier game. The teams entered the 7th inning tied 4-4. Jesse Schechtman scored the Phils run on Katyl's infield single, then Katyl stopped the Giants in their half of the inning.

POST PHOTO/RON BARTIZEK

doubles, to lead the Pirates over Harveys Lake. Kevin Williams had three hits for the winners while Keith Zinn and Dave Rogers added two hits apiece. Wesley led Harveys Lake with three hits including a double and triple, while Titus added a pair of hits.

TIGERS 11 - ATHLETICS 4

Sarah Rogers had three hits to lead a balanced Tiger attack over the A's. Mike Keating, who picked up the mound win, had two hits, including a triple, while Randy Knappman, Kyle Reid, Brian Barrett and J.T. Wisneski had two hits apiece. Dan Marascio led the A's with a pair of hits.

DODGERS 3 - ASTROS 0

Colin McHale and Steve Moyer combined to throw a four-hit shutout at the Astros. McHale pitched five innings, striking out six, while Moyer struck out two in the final inning. Moyer had a double to lead the winners, who had just three hits. T.J. Dougherty and McHale had the only other hits for the Dodgers. Jared Harteis had two outstanding defensive plays with the bases loaded to preserve the win. Lorne Trapani had two hits for the Astros while Mike Stanislow and Damien Temperine had a single apiece.

PHILLIES 3 - GIANTS 1

Ryan Sorber fired a three-hit

striking out 12 in six innings, to lead the Phillies over the Giants. Chuck Whitehead had two hits, including a two-run double, to lead the Phillies' offense. Josh Katyl and T.C. Harding had the only other hits for the winners, both singles. Joel Whipple pitched well for the Giants, despite the loss, striking out six and allowing just four hits in going the distance. Tom Byron had two of the Giants' three hits with Whipple getting the third.

PHILLIES 5 - GIANTS 4

Three Phillies pitchers combined for a one-hitter and Jesse Schechtman scored the game-winning run in the top of the seventh, to lead the Phillies over the Giants in the completion of an extra-inning affair from a game played earlier in the season. Josh Katyl picked up the win, pitching the final inning and had the game-winning hit, an infield single. Chuck Whitehead had a double while Ryan Sorber, Matt Hoover, T.C. Harding and Colin Donnelly had the only other hits for the Phillies, all singles. Whitehead, Sorber and Katyl combined to strike out 13 batters in the seven innings.

Tom Byron had the only hit for the Giants, a single in the third. Joel Whipple pitched three and two-thirds innings of strong relief for the Giants, allowing just one run while striking out four.

CARDINALS 5 - PHILLIES 4

Mike Regan struck out seven batters in five innings and scored two of his team's five runs to lift the Cardinals over the Phillies. The Cardinals made the most of just two hits on offense, singles by Regan and Mike Tanner. Ryan Sorber had three hits to lead the Phillies, while Chuck Whitehead and Matt Hoover added two hits apiece and Josh Lesinski had a double.

DODGERS 7 - REDS 6

Matt Loftus pitched six strong innings and had the game-winning hit in the bottom of the seventh, to lead the Dodgers over the Reds in an extra-inning contest. Loftus, who struck out 13 batters in six innings, had three hits at the plate while John Isaac added a pair of singles. Colin McHale pitched the seventh inning to pick up the mound win. Jon Habrack hit his major league-leading sixth home run, a two-run shot over the centerfield fence, to lead the Reds. Habrack pitched the first six innings, striking out nine. Juan DeRojas had a triple for the Reds while Dan Laurenzi added a single.

YANKEES 7 - INDIANS 3

Steve Federspiel picked up the mound win, striking out eight, as the Yankees downed the Indians. Robbie Werner and Emmanuel were the hitting leaders for the Yankees. Brian Endrusick had three hits to lead the Indians while Kevin Piekara added a pair of hits.

Legion team has great credentials

By DAVE KONOPKI
Sports Writer

Its grip has been known to strangle the life out of even the most fierce competitor. Even the strongest have been known to crumble under its power.

But there have been those who, when facing it, have risen to the occasion and even those who thrived under it.

Now, its' coming face-to-face with the Back Mountain American Legion baseball team "It" is pressure, and it surrounds this baseball team like Patton surrounded Rommel.

The Dallas and Lake-Lehman High School baseball teams advanced to the District 2 finals in the Class AAA and AA finals, respectively this year and provide the majority of the players who make up the Back Mountain American Legion baseball roster. Now, with that success securely under their belts, expectations for the legion team have risen dramatically.

"The pressure to win is there and there's much more pressure this year," said Back Mountain head coach John Konopki, who enters his fifth season as head coach and ninth year overall in the program. The program serves baseball players ages 16-18 who reside in the Back Mountain. "Because Dallas and Lehman had

such successful seasons this year, everyone expects a lot from us. I know it and the kids know it."

But Konopki, himself a former Dallas High School, collegiate and Back Mountain American Legion baseball standout, welcomes the challenge.

"We know that every time we take the field we'll be seeing the opposing team's ace (pitcher)," explained Konopki, who has led Back Mountain into the playoffs four times, including a berth in the regional playoffs. "We won't see their number two or number three pitchers. But we welcome the challenge. That's the way it should be. We told the kids that if we're going to win this thing, we'll have to beat the best anyway."

Konopki, who established himself as the winningest freshman coach in the Wyoming Valley Conference during his 13 years at Dallas Junior High School, credits the local Little League and high school programs, and their coaches, for the talent he receives each year.

"I know to some this may sound cocky or arrogant, but from the Little League programs right up to the high schools, the Back Mountain has one of the best baseball organizations around," Konopki said. "It's one of the elite pro-

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Youth bowlers compete in tourney

The Blue Angels of Back Mountain Bowl took part in the PA State Young American Bowling Alliance state final tournament last weekend at Jay Lanes in Pottstown. They were the first team from the Back Mountain to qualify for state play, competing in the 10 to 12-year-old division after beating out 2,000 other teams. They finished fifth at the District 3 tournament.

Front row, from left, Shawn Titus, Jerel Titus, sons of Larry and Letha Titus, Dallas. Standing, Bill Gardner; Bobby Gebhardt, son of Joyce Gebhardt, Trucksville and Robert Gebhardt, Wyoming; Marc Gardner. The Gardners are sons of Mary Ann Mecca of Chinchilla and Bill Gardner of Harveys Lake.

Major League Girls' Softball

Red Sox remain unbeaten

With only four games left to play in the regular season, the Red Sox remained undefeated by beating the Cardinals and the Horlacher Yankees this week. The Red Sox success lies with its outstanding defensive play. Their solid infield plays with few errors.

This along with strong pitching and consistent hitting has kept the Red Sox undefeated in league play throughout the past two seasons. The Dodgers stay in second place with a win over the Horlacher A's with their only two losses being to the Red Sox. The Cardinals and Phillies are staying close at third place in the standings.

League Standings	League Record	Overall Record
Red Sox	8-0	14-0
Dodgers	4-2	10-2
Cardinals	3-3	5-3
Phillies	3-3	5-3
A's	1-6	2-9
White Sox	0-6	2-9

Game results of June 4: RED SOX 18 - CARDS - 14

Maria Wright got the win for the Red Sox getting by the Cardinals 18-14. Maria helped her own cause with a triple and a double. Sarah Stolarick went four for four, Courtney Bouthot went two for two and Amanda Stolarick hom-

ered in this Red Sox win. Jennifer Noon, April Naugle, Rachel Bouthot, Sarah Armand, and Julia Chiampi also got key hits for the Red Sox. Nicole Yuknavage had a homerun for the Cardinals, Melissa DeCesaris tripled and Michelle Pryor went three for three to keep the Cardinals in the game.

DODGERS 22 - HORLACHER A'S 9

Monica Latosek picked up the win for the Dodgers as they defeated the A's 22-9. Melonie Sappe homered and Kourtney Koslosky tripled to lead the offense for the Dodgers. Other hot bats for the Dodgers were Stacey Amann who was four for four with two doubles, and Megan Daney, Christy Hiller, Jesse Tarity and Nichole Siewell all had multiple hits. The A's top hitters were Marion Johnson with a double, Angela Harris, Nikki Butler and Angie Shilanski.

RED SOX 18 - HORLACHER YANKEES 9

Sarah Stolarick went three for three with a triple and a double and picked up the win for the Red Sox with an 18-9 victory over the Yankees. Jennifer Noon tripled and Maria Wright, Rachel Bouthot and Courtney Bouthot had three hits apiece to lead the Red Sox offensive attack. Karen Eytet also came up with two hits for the Sox. O'Brien doubled for the Yankees.

Harveys Lake Little League

HARVEYS LAKE METS 15 - BK. MT. ASTROS 7

Trailing 7-4 as they went to the bottom of the 5th inning, the Mets erupted for 11 runs to defeat the Bk. Mt. Astros 15-7. D.J. Kapson pitched three innings of shutout ball allowing only one hit while striking out nine and walking two to pick up the win. Kapson led the Mets hitters with two doubles and a single while Gary Sagan came through with a double and two singles. Greg Woronko added two singles. Lorne Trapani had a double and a single while Mike Stanislow had two singles to lead the Astros hitters.

HARVEYS LAKE METS 5 - HORLACHER WHITE SOX 3

The Mets prevailed in a pitching duel which saw the Mets strikeout 15 while walking one and the White Sox strikeout 14 while walking none. The Mets had five hits highlighted by D.J. Kapson's 13th homer of the year and Francis Rogan's triple.

Ryan Crispell homered for the White Sox and M. Burnside singled and doubled. Crispell went the distance for the White Sox allowing five hits while Greg Woronko and D.J. Kapson pitched for the Mets who are now 14-0 for the year.



COLLEGE BOUND - A group of Dallas High School senior football players announced their college choices last week. From left, front row, John Howe, Wilkes; Charles Siglin, Kutztown; Jared Cooney, Lackawanna Jr. College; Ed Mattie, Lackawanna Jr. College; Corey Cherup, Wyoming Seminary; Greg Nadzan, Yale. Standing, from left, Head Coach Ted Jackson; Frank Galicki, principal; Brian Brady, Shippensburg; Brian Ford, Wilkes; Bob Cicon, athletic director.

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