

## **WESTERN DIVISION**

### **WEST LAWN OWLS**

■ **Coach:** Tony Matz III, 12th season, 316-139.

■ **Last year:** 14-8 West (third place), 19-22 overall; Berks playoff qualifier.

■ **Key returners:** OF Josh Yocum, 1B Brad Binder, SS Tony Cipolla, P Brad Impink, P Matt Fidler, OF Shane Stacherski, OF Drew Zielinski, OF Dennis Zimmerman, C Dave Schultz, IF Regan Carroll, 2B Andy Hohl, P Brett Vroman.

■ **Others to watch:** C Eric Pettit, OF Eric Shipe.

## Legion

### Non-league

North Parkland 11, Conrad Weiser 4  
West Lawn 6, West Chester 4  
Highlights: For the Owls, Brad Impink was  
1-for-2 with two runs scored and Shane  
Stachereki 2-for-4 with an RBI.

### Rec leagues

**Legion**  
**Non-league**  
West Lawn 5, Bensalem 4  
Highlights: Brad Binder went 3-for-3 with  
two RBIs for West Lawn.

## Legion

### Ralph Leininger Tourney

At Owls Field

	R	H	E
Warrington	101	000	030 - 5 8 3
West Lawn	200	000	110 - 4 8 3

W: Drew Tillman (1-0). L: Brett Vroman (0-1).  
S: Justin Murta. 2B: Shane Stacherski (WL).  
3B: Tony D'Amico (W). Drew Tillman (W).

Highlights: Tony D'Amico and Drew Tillman hit back-to-back RBI triples in a three-run eighth to put Warrington up to stay. Eric Pettit went 2-for-2 and Shane Stacherski and Regan Carroll were each 2-for-5 for the Owls (2-1).

Non-league



## Legion

### Ralph Leininger Tourney

At Owls Field

FIRST ROUND

Shillington ..... 100 211 501 - 11 13 1

Doylestown ..... 010 000 010 - 2 8 6

W: Brett Mack (1-0). L: Aaron Drellich (0-1).

2B: Vinnie Rinaldi (S), Aaron Drellich (D) 2.

3B: Dan Batz (S).

FRANK FRATNIK (D). 3B: Dan Batz (S).

HIGHLIGHTS: Shillington's (1-0) Vinnie

Rinaldi went 2-for-3 with two runs; Frank

Anderson went 2-for-4 and J.J. Mout went

2-for-4 with two RBIs; and Brett Mack

allowed six hits and one run in six innings

and went 2-for-4 with two RBIs.

At West Lawn

WINNERS' BRACKET

Shillington ..... 06(11) 000 400 - 21 15 2

Warrington ..... 002 020 302 - 9 12 4

W: Tim Gobar (1-0). L: Justin Murta (0-1).

2B: Frank Anderson 2 (S), Mike Stahler (S),

Casey Long (S), Greg Barrett (W). 3B: Casey

Long (S), Brian Franey (W), Tony D'Amico

(W). HR: Vinnie Rinaldi (S).

HIGHLIGHTS: Shillington's (2-0) Frank

Anderson went 3-4 with two doubles and five

RBIs. Vinnie Rinaldi was 3-4 with a home

run and four RBIs. Casey Long went 2-5 with

2 RBIs, a double and a triple.

LOSERS' BRACKET

Doylestown 030 100 040

West Lawn 203 1112 11x 21 20 2

W: Brad Impink (1-0). L: Matt Lewis (0-1).

2B: Matt Lewis (D), Eric Pettit (WL). 3B: Eric

Pettit (WL), Brad Binder (WL). HR: Josh

Yocum (WL).

HIGHLIGHTS: Eric Pettit went 4-for-5 with

four runs for West Lawn (3-1); Tony Cipollit

went 3-for-5 with two runs; Josh Yocum went

2-for-3 with a homer, four runs and four RBIs;

and Draw Ziellinski went 2-for-5 with three

runs and three RBIs.

## Berks Legion

■ West Lawn 16, Wyomissing 2: Wyomissing pitcher Bruce Anglin walked seven of the 16 batters he faced in the first inning, helping West Lawn to an early 10-1 lead. Anglin lasted for only 1 $\frac{1}{3}$  innings.

West Lawn pitcher Bret Vroman tripled in the first led the offensive attack in the first with a triple.

"It was the walks in the first that killed us," Wyomissing coach Tom King said.

An three-error in the second didn't help, either. With runners on first and second, Eric Pettit hit a ball to center field that Dan Stoltzfus was unable to field and all three runners scored.

### Local Legion

		R	H	E
West Lawn	(10)30 001 2	-	16	11 1
Wyomissing	000 101 0	-	2	4 4

W: Brett Vroman (1-0), L: Bruce Anglin (0-1). 2B: Brady Kidd (WV), Tony Cipolla (WL). 3B: Brett Vroman (WL).

■ **West Lawn 10, Muhlenberg 3:**  
 At Owls Field, West Lawn scored seven runs in the first two innings. Josh Yocum (3-for-3) and Shane Stacherski had RBI singles in the first. Drew Zielinski had a two-run single.

Brad Binder hit a three-run homer in the third, a RBI triple in the sixth and finished with four RBIs.

### Legion

#### Berks League

	R	H	E
Hamburg .....	208	370	000 - 18 10 1
Conrad Weiser ...	104	000	000 - 5 6 7
W: Brad Biehl (1-0). L: Mike Jackson (0-1).			
2B: Bryan Wagner (H), Mark Gabel (CW) 2.			
3B: Nick Evangelista (H). HR: Tom Krick (H).			
	R	H	E
Muhlenberg .....	011	000	010 - 3 8 5
West Lawn .....	430	003	00x - 10 12 2
W: Matt Fidler (1-0). L: Seth Hoffmann (0-1).			
3B: Jason Reinhart (M), Craig Kemp (M), Brad Binder (WL). HR: Brad Binder (WL).			

■ **West Lawn 12, Hamburg 4:** At West Lawn, Andy Hohl went 2-for-4 with three RBIs and three runs, Dave Shultz was 3-for-5 with two RBIs, Brett Vroman was 2-for-4 and scored twice and Josh Yocum was 2-for-4 with two RBIs and a run.

For Hamburg, Brian Wagner went 3-for-5 with a run scored and Tony Cipolla struck out eight in seven innings.

	R	H	E
Hamburg	001	200	100 - 4 10 4
West Lawn	150	130	02x - 12 12 3

W: Tony Cipolla (1-0). L: Zane Kerschner (0-1). 2B: Tom Krick (H), Zane Kerschner (H), Dave Schultz (W). 3B: Brian Wagner (H), Andy Hohl (W), Josh Yocum (W).



■ West Lawn 26, Conrad Weiser 2: At Robesonia, Tony Cipolla and Drew Zielinski hit back-to-back homers in a five-run first inning to the help the Owls (4-0) cruise to the victory.

Cipolla went 3-for-4 with three RBIs and four runs, Andrew Hohl was 4-for-5 with four RBIs and three runs.

Mark Gabel hit a solo homer in the second inning for the Scouts (0-4).

### Berks Legion

	R	H	E
West Lawn	541	511	26 18 0
Conrad Weiser	010	001	2 5 4

W: Brett Vroman, L: Justin Sneeringer 2B: Brad Binder (WL), Anthony Cipolla (WL), Andrew Hohl (WL), Eric Pettit (WL), Eric Shippe (WL), Dave Drago (CW), 3B: Andrew Zielinski (WL), HR: Cipolla (WL), Zielinski (WL), Mark Gabel (CW).



## BERKS LEGION

as the Bears (3-0, 11-2) cruised by the Cougars (1-1, 1-1) in the East.

Trout struck out four and allowed three hits over five innings and also went 2-for-4 with a double and three RBIs.

Steve Gabel was 2-for-3 with two RBIs for the Bears, who visit Shillington Saturday at 5 p.m.

■ **West Lawn 7, Reading 2:** At Owls Field, Matt Fidler struck out seven and allowed five hits over seven innings as the Owls (5-0, 9-2) remained unbeaten in the West by beating the White Sox (2-1, 2-1).

Fidler (2-0), who also went 2-for-3 with a double and RBI, combined

with Josh Yocum on a five-hitter. Shane Stacherski had an RBI double in a three-run first that put West Lawn up to stay.

Reading's Brian Miller was 2-for-4.

■ **Birdsboro 22, Tipton 6:** At Optimist Field, lefty Matt Lavin struck out 11 over six innings and also went 3-for-3 with two doubles, a triple and three RBIs as the Orioles (2-1, 4-1) routed the Rams (0-2, 0-2) in the East.

Toby Ranck went 4-for-5 with a homer and five RBIs for Birdsboro, which went up to stay with a four-run first that was capped by Charlie Werner's two-run single. The Orioles put it away with an eight-run fifth that made it 15-3.

Reading .....	101 000 000 - 2 5 3	R H E
West Lawn .....	300 130 00x - 7 6 1	
W: Matt Fidler (2-0). L: Daryl Miller (0-1).		
2B: Shane Stacherski (WL), Matt Fidler (WL),		
Drew Zielinski (WL).		

■ **West Lawn 15, Schuylkill Valley 0:** At Schuylkill Valley, Josh Yocum and Tony Cipolla combined on a five-hit shutout to lead the Owls (6-0, 10-3) to the Western Division win over the Marlins (1-3, 1-3).

Yocum had an RBI double and scored on an RBI grounder by Brad Binder as West Lawn took a 2-0 lead in the first.

David Schultz had a two-run homer, Yocum a solo homer and Shane Stacherski an RBI triple to highlight West Lawn's five-run fourth.

Stacherski went 3-for-3 with four RBIs and scored three runs, Binder 2-for-5 with four RBIs and Schultz 2-for-3 with three RBIs for the Owls.

	A	B	R	H	E
West Lawn	14	520	200	-	15 15 0
Schuylkill Valley	10	000	000	-	0 5 5

W: Josh Yocum (1-0). L: Dan Weyandt (0-1).  
 2B: Yocum, Jon Weidner. 3B: Yocum, Shane Stacherski. HR: David Schultz.

■ **West Lawn 15, Wyomissing 5:**  
 At Owls Field, the Owls (7-0, 11-3) used seven hits to score six runs in the first inning on their way to beating the Bison (0-6, 0-6) in an Eastern Division game.

Josh Yocum, who went 2-for-4 with two runs and four RBIs, doubled to score Eric Pettit and Andy Hohl for West Lawn's first two runs. Pettit and Hohl each scored three runs for the Owls.

Shane Stacherski picked up the win, striking out three and allowing three hits in five innings.

Brad Binder went 4-for-6, scoring two runs and knocking in four for West Lawn.

Eric Sweitzer, Dan Conte and Kerry Marshall each had two hits for the Bison.

	R	H	E
Wyomissing	5	10	6
West Lawn	15	17	1

W: Shane Stacherski (1-0). L: Jack Orwig (0-1). 2B: Dan Conte (W) 2, Dan Stolzfus (W) 2, Kerry Marshall (W), Josh Yocum (WL), Drew Zielinski (WL). 3B: Tony Cipolla (WL), Josh Yocum (WL), Brad Binder (WL) 2, Shane Stacherski (WL).

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BERKS LEGION

# Fidler is pitching in as No. 1 guy for Owls

■ Matt Fidler is now the main man for West Lawn. And judging by his performance against Hamburg Wednesday, the role suits him just fine.

By Darryl Grumling

Eagle/Times

You could hardly blame Matt Fidler if he was starting to get tired of playing, well, second fiddle.

As a junior pitcher at Holy Name this spring, Fidler was the team's No. 2 starter behind Wake Forest-bound ace J.J. Moul.

Then when the Legion season began last month, Fidler was pretty much penciled in for the same role with West Lawn.

But when ace Brad Impink decided to leave the Owls a few weeks ago, Fidler finally found himself in a leading mound role.

And judging by his performance of late, it's a position that suits Fidler just fine.

Wednesday night, Hamburg wound up up paying the Fidler - so to speak - as the 17-year-old righty allowed just four hits over eight-plus innings in visiting West Lawn's 10-4 Western Division victory over the Hawks.

"Just an outstanding pitching performance," said West Lawn coach Tony Matz III, whose Owls (8-0, 12-3) took a commanding three-game lead in the West by

sweeping the season series with the Hawks (4-2, 7-4). "Matt went out there and kept a very good hitting team off-balance most of the night."

After allowing a two-out homer to Todd Roberts in the first inning, Fidler (3-0) settled in and didn't allow another hit until the seventh. He took a two-hitter and 10-2 lead into the eighth before tiring and allowing two more hits and two more runs before Matz summoned Brett Vroman to close it out.

"I wanted to finish, but it was the right move," said Fidler, who struck out six.

So was starting Fidler against a team that had scored 44 runs in its past three games. Mixing his curve and change effectively with his fastball, Fidler never let the Hawks mount any kind of real threat.

"I just felt strong tonight," Fidler said. "My curve was working really well, and the infield played a great game."

"He threw a hell of a game against us," said Hamburg coach Jeff Seidel, who got seven innings of four-hit ball from his top pitcher, righty Brad Biehl (2-1). "I didn't think anybody could do that to us."

Hamburg was also done in by its defense, which committed four errors - two of them leading to three unearned runs in the second that put the Owls up to stay at 3-1.

Regan Carroll's two-strike squeeze highlighted a two-run seventh that gave Fidler some breathing room, then the No. 9 hitter Carroll (two runs, three RBIs) launched a two-run homer in a four-run eighth that put it away.

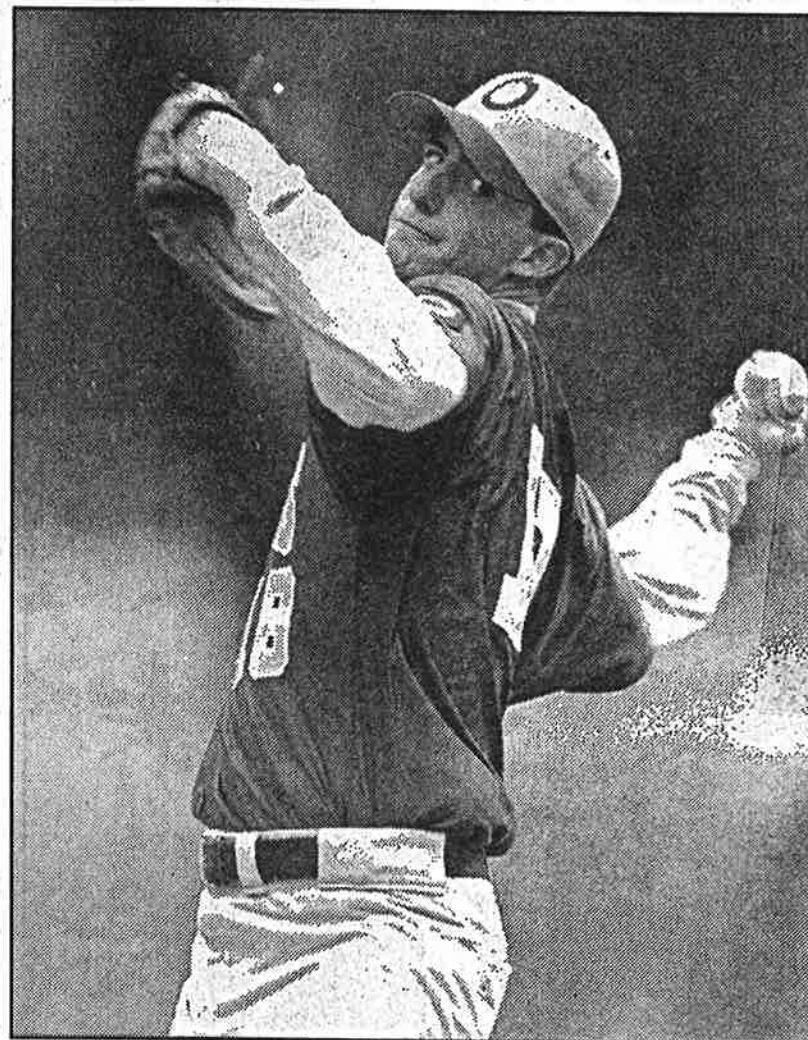
"We played a real solid game," Matz said. "We played up to our expectations and we made some big plays."

Fidler helped his own cause by driving in two runs and leadoff man Eric Pettit had two hits, two runs and four steals - including one of home.

"I think we're playing pretty well as a team," said Fidler, whose next start likely will be against Exeter Tuesday, when the Owls begin a telling stretch of games against the top teams in the strong Eastern Division.

"But now, we have some big tests coming up, and we want to see if we can step it up to the next level," he said.

Much like Fidler has in his role thus far.



Eagle/Times: Diane Staskowski

West Lawn's Matt Fidler continues to provide leadership from the mound for the Owls.

## Berks Legion

East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Shillington Red Sox	5	0	1.000	-
Birdsboro Orioles	5	1	.833	1/2
Boyetown Bears	5	1	.833	1/2
Exeter Blue Jays	3	1	.750	1 1/2
Kutztown Cougars	2	3	.400	3
Oley Lynx	2	4	.333	3 1/2
Fleetwood Tigers	1	7	.125	5 1/2
Topton Rams	0	5	.000	5
West Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
West Lawn Owls	8	0	1.000	-
Hamburg Hawks	4	2	.667	3
Muhlenberg A's	4	2	.667	3
Reading White Sox	4	2	.667	3
Gregg Post Keys	1	3	.250	5
Schuylkill Val. Marlins	1	4	.200	5 1/2
Conrad Weiser Scouts	1	5	.167	6
Wyomissing Bisons	0	6	.000	7

### WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

Oley 8, Fleetwood 6  
Shillington 14, Kutztown 1  
West Lawn 10, Hamburg 4

WEST LAWN		HAMBURG				
ab	r	h	bi			
Pettit lf	4	2	1			
Zimmerman cf	0	0	0			
Hohl 2b	4	0	1			
Yocum cf	5	1	0			
Binder 1b	4	0	1			
Stachurski rf	5	1	0			
Cipolla ss	4	2	1			
Schultz c	2	1	0			
Fidler p	3	1	2			
Vroman p	0	0	0			
Carroll 3b	2	2	1			
Totals	33	10	7			
West Lawn	.030 000 241-10					
Hamburg	.100 000 102-4					
E:	Hohl, Cipolla, Hoshauer, C.Brennan, Roberts, Snyder. DP: West Lawn 1, Hamburg 2.					
LOB:	West Lawn 6, Hamburg 5. 2B: Yocum, Binder, Krick, Biehl. 3B: Hohl, Fidler, Krick. HR: Roberts, Carroll. SB: Schultz, Carroll, Pettit 4, Stachurski, Snyder. S: Schultz, Fidler, Carroll.					
IP		H	R	ER	BB	SO
West Lawn Owls						
Fidler W, 3-0	8	4	4	4	5	6
Vroman	1	0	0	0	0	0
Hamburg						
Biehl L, 2-1	7	4	5	1	5	3
C.Brennan	2	5	5	4	1	0

Fidler faced three batters in the ninth. HBP: by Biehl (Schultz). WP: Biehl 3, Fidler 2, Vroman, Biehl. C.Brennan. T: 2:48. A: 250.

**Legion non-league**

West Lawn 8, Roslyn 2

Highlights: Brett Vroman went 2-for-3 with one run and Denny Zimmerman 2-for-5 with three runs for the Owls (13-3).

**Reed**



## LEGION LEADERS

### LEAGUE GAMES ONLY

(Wednesday's games not included)

■ **DOUBLES:** Dan Batz, Shillington, 9; Brad Biehl, Hamburg, 7; Vinnie Rinaldi, Shillington, 7; Jon Runke, Birdsboro, 7; Josh Yocum, West Lawn, 7; Jeremy Coleman, Reading, 6; Jake Kutz, Kutztown, 6; Chris Papst, Birdsboro, 6; Justin Templin, Fleetwood, 6.

■ **TRIPLES:** Jason Reinhart, Muhlenberg, 6; Kraig Kemp, Muhlenberg, 5; Brad Binder, West Lawn, 4; Ryan Negri, Fleetwood, 4; Aaron Siak, Boyertown, 4; Shane Stacherski, West Lawn, 4; Josh Yocum, West Lawn, 4.

■ **HOME RUNS:** Brad Manderbach, Birdsboro, 5; Jeremy Wunderlich, Birdsboro, 5; Dan Batz, Shillington, 4; Tom Krick, Hamburg, 4; Todd Roberts, Hamburg, 4.

■ **EXTRA-BASE HITS:** Dan Batz, Shillington, 13; Vinnie Rinaldi, Shillington, 12; Josh Yocum, West Lawn, 12; Brad Biehl, Hamburg, 10; Brad Binder, West Lawn, 10; Todd Roberts, Hamburg, 10; Shane Stacherski, West Lawn, 10.

■ **PITCHING** (minimum four decisions): Matt Bennecoff, Fleetwood, 4-0; Toby Ranck, Birdsboro, 4-0; Brett Vroman, West Lawn, 4-0; Brad Biehl, Hamburg, 5-1; Justin Konnick, Boyertown, 5-1; Brandon DeWald, Shillington, 3-1; Matt Fidler, West Lawn, 3-1; Daryl Miller, Reading, 3-1; Seth Hoffmann, Muhlenberg, 4-2.

■ **West Lawn 9, Topton 0:** At West Lawn, the Owls (14-2 West, 21-8) used six different pitchers to two-hit Topton in an interdivision game.

David Schultz led West Lawn, going 3-for-3 with two runs and an RBI. Brad Binder went 3-for-5 with two runs scored and an RBI and Regan Carroll was 2-for-4 with a run scored and an RBI.

■ **Brad Kemp went 3-for-4 for the Rams (2-14 East, 2-1)**

	R	H	E
Topton	0	0	0
West Lawn	3	2	1

W: Tony Cipola (1-0). L: Jason Werley (0-6).  
 2B: Andy Hohl (WL), Eric Pettit (WL), Brad Binder 2 (WL), Dave Schultz (WL). 3B: Josh Yocum (WL).

At  
5-6)  
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vi-

went 2-for-3 with three RBIs.

■ **West Lawn 16, Fleetwood 1:** At Owls Field, West Lawn (10-0, 15-3) scored 11 runs in the sixth to crush the Tigers (2-8, 2-8) in an interdivision game.

The Owls hit four of their five triples in the sixth. Josh Yocum hit one with the bases-loaded; Tony Cipolla, Shane Stacherski and Regan Carroll each had RBI triples. Cipolla went 3-for-3 with two runs and two RBIs. Carroll went 3-for-4, scoring three and knocking in two.

Eric Pettit went 3-for-4 with two runs and an RBI. Stacherski and

## BERKS LEGION

Brad Binder each had two hits for West Lawn.

Adam Schafer scored Fleetwood's only run in the first with a 420-foot home run to center.

■ **West Lawn 21, Gregg Post 5:** West Lawn overpowered the Keys (1-4, 1-5) with 14 runs in the fourth to win a Western Division game at Owls Field late Saturday night.

The Owls took advantage of seven errors, five walks and nine hits in the fourth. The Keys gave up 14 walks, eight errors and 12 hits in six innings. The game was called after 6½ due to the 15-run rule.

	R	H	E
Fleetwood	100	000	0-132
West Lawn	004	00(11)	1-16151
W: Brett Vroman (3-0), L: Josh Templin (1-3); 2B: Josh Templin (F), Regan Carroll (WL), Brad Binder (WL), 3B: Andy Hohl (WL), Josh Yocum (WL), Shane Stacherski (WL), Regan Carroll (WL), Tony Cipolla (WL), HR: Adam Schafer (F).			

SATURDAY'S GAME			R	H	E		
Gregg Post	000	0023	-	5	8	8	
West Lawn	430	140	x	-	21	12	2
W: Josh Yocum (2-0), L: Aaron Wentzel (0-							

2), 2B: Zack Focht (GP), Andy Hohl (WL), Josh Yocum 2 (WL), Regan Carroll (WL).

# FOCUS N:

## BRAD BINDER, WEST LAWN

By Darryl Grumling

*Eagle/Times*

From the time he was a fledgling baseball player, nearly 10 years ago, Brad Binder always had an appreciation for first basemen.

He grew up idolizing players such as Von Hayes and John Kruk of the Phillies, and tried to emulate other notable first-sackers such as Will Clark, Rafael Palmiero and Frank Thomas.

"I just tried to learn from watching all those guys and take a little bit from each one," said Binder, now a 17-year-old in his second year as a starter for West Lawn's Legion team.

Binder was also guided in the right direction by his father, Rick — a former standout basketball player at Reading High who coached Steel-High to the PIAA-AAA championship in March.

"I take a lot of pride in what he's accomplished," Brad said. "He's always been a big influence; he was a big part of me being interested in sports in the first place."

But while Rick made his name on the basketball court, Brad, a slick-fielding, sweet-swinging first baseman, has carved out an identity on the baseball field.

Through Tuesday, the left-handed hitting Binder was hitting .385 with one homer, four doubles, four triples and 25 RBIs for the Owls.

"There's no doubt when he goes up to the plate, you see that something in his eye," West Lawn coach Tony Matz III said. "He's just so focused. He looks like he's ready to hit at all times, and he's such a good, line-drive hitter."

Binder cracked the Owls lineup last season, when he was named a "Skills Day" selection to Berks County's Carpenter Cup team. He quickly earned a reputation as one of the league's most promising players.

A high school campaign this spring in which he hit a team-high .435 with eight doubles didn't do anything to dispute that notion.

"I like to be in the spotlight," Binder said. "When the stakes are high, I like to be in that situation, and hopefully more often than not I'm going to succeed and help the team win."

With the dangerous Josh Yocum batting directly ahead of him, Binder presents a big problem for opposing pitchers out of the cleanup hole, comprising a one-two punch Matz considers his top lefty power-hitting duo ever.

"I think it's advantageous to both of us," Binder said. "They can't pitch around Josh as much, and then when I come up he's usually on base anyway."

Brad is a quiet competitor, which is in stark contrast to the fiery demeanor his father displayed as a player and now as a coach.

"I think I take after my mom (Colleen) in that respect," Brad said. "I definitely take after the Flannery side of the family. I'm not going to be yelling and screaming or that kind of thing; I'm a lot more laid back than him."

But while Brad may have a different personality and is following a different sport than his father, there can be no denying they share a very familiar penchant for success.



## BASEBALL

# Owls' Vroman delivers as West Lawn, Exeter tie

■ Brett Vroman rallies the Owls in the ninth of a 3-3 contest which will be replayed in its entirety.

## BERKS LEGION

and Miller had two doubles for Exeter.

*From our news staff*

Brett Vroman singled in the tying run in the top of the ninth inning and escaped a bases-loaded, one-out jam in the bottom half Monday night as West Lawn salvaged a 3-3 Berks Legion League interdivision tie against Exeter in a game called due to darkness after nine innings at Reiffton.

The game, which was initially scheduled for June 16 but was rained out after two innings, will be replayed in its entirety Saturday, July 11, at Reiffton.

Western Division leader West Lawn (13-2 West, 20-8 overall) trailed 2-0 heading into the seventh, but tied it with single runs in the seventh and eighth.

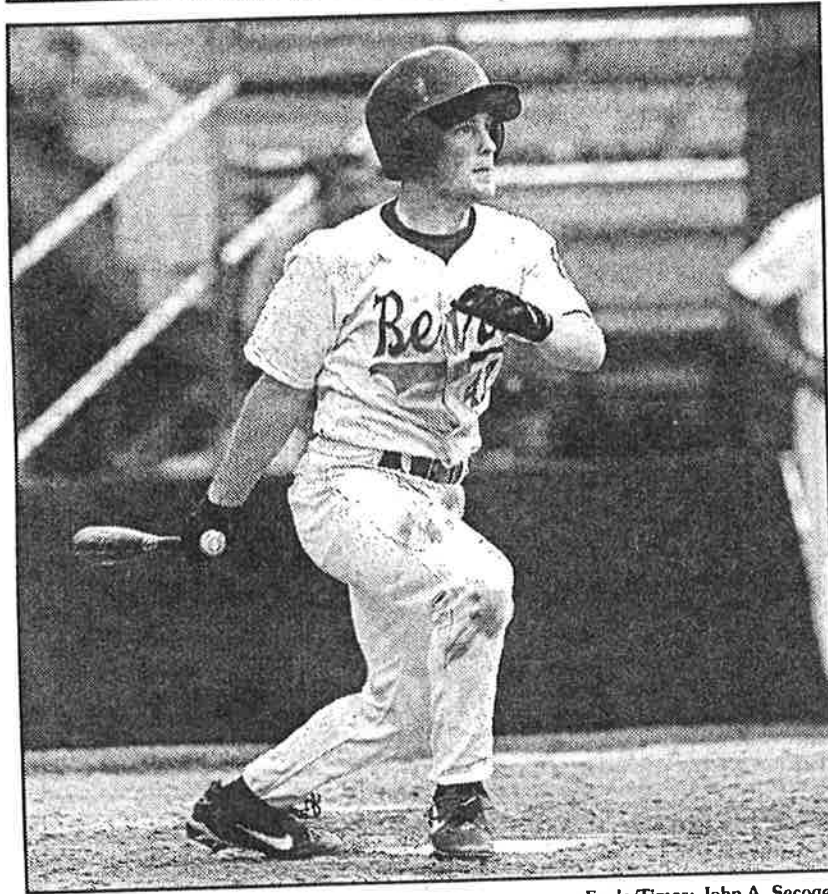
The Blue Jays (6-4 East, 12-6) answered with a run in their eighth on Jason Miller's RBI single to go up 3-2, but Vroman singled in Shane Stacherski with one out in the ninth to tie it.

In the bottom half, Cory Luft was hit by a pitch, Carson Steltz had a bunt single and Mike Gombar walked to load the bases with one out against Vroman. But the 18-year-old righty struck - in his longest stint of the season - struck out Chad Painter and got cleanup hitter Zach Taylor to hit into a force to get out of it.

Vroman struck out 12 and scattered 10 hits; Exeter lefty Pete Shollenberger went the route on a five-hitter and struck out seven.

Chad Zielinski hit a solo homer

BERKS LEGION



Eagle/Times: John A. Secoges

A.J. Bohn gets on base twice in the Bears' eight-run first inning.

# Bad start dooms West Lawn

■ Boyertown scores eight runs in the first and routs the Owls 13-3 in a Berks Legion League interdivision game.

By Darryl Grumling  
Eagle/Times

Tony Matz III has probably seen worse innings during his Legion baseball playing and coaching careers.

But in terms of frustration, futility and shock, the West Lawn coach will be hard-pressed to top the one his Owls endured Wednesday night at Boyertown's Bear Stadium.

West Lawn carried the Berks Legion League's best record into an interdivision showdown with Boyertown. But one frightful inning later, the Owls were down by eight, on their way to a 13-3 defeat, their first in league play.

"This is the epitome of what's happened to us down here in a lot

of past years," said Matz, whose team has beaten Boyertown just twice at Bear Stadium during his 11-year tenure. "It's the same old story, one bad inning."

Or in this case, one very bad inning.

It took 47 minutes and Matz could only look on helplessly as the Owls (10-1 Western Division, 15-4) committed two errors leading to seven unearned runs. Starter Josh Yocum lasted just two-thirds of an inning, sealing his fate with four walks, a hit batsman, a wild pitch and a balk.

"We never really expected this," said Boyertown leadoff man A.J. Bohn, who scored twice and singled in two more runs in the 13-batter first. "But whenever we get somebody down, we just want to hammer them. We want to get it done early."

West Lawn could have gotten out of the jam trailing 1-0, but with a runner at second and one out, Jared Trout reached on a strike-

out-wild pitch that was compounded when catcher Dave Schultz's throw to first hit Trout and allowed Steve Gabel to score.

Two more runs scored when center fielder Dennis Zimmerman dropped Mitch Shueck's two-out fly to shallow center. Then Bohn and Konnick each hit two-run singles to make it 8-0.

"Routine plays," said Matz, shaking his head. "We had three plays that turned it into a six-out inning. It wasn't anything difficult - just throwing the ball, catching the ball."

"And I know as well as anybody you can't do that and expect to win. Not here, not against anybody."

Konnick (3-1) and Chase Roth combined on a six-hitter and Bohn went 3-for-4 with three runs, three RBIs and two steals as the Bears (8-2 East, 17-4) moved within a half-game of idle East leader Shillington.

"We were a little disappointed

in the way we played against Birdsboro Monday (in a 4-1 loss) and we had a pretty lackluster effort against Schuylkill Valley (a 6-0 win) last night," Bears coach Rick Moatz said. "So it was real nice to come out like we did."

"We were prepared for a tough, crucial game, but they made some mistakes and gave us runs, and a lot of it was due to our baserunning."

Following a 43-minute lightning delay in the middle of the third inning, the Owls made it 10-2 on Brad Binder's RBI double and Shane Stacherski's sacrifice fly. But that was as close as it got as the Bears scored three in the fifth, highlighted by Bohn's run-scoring double.

"A lesson learned, hopefully," said Matz, who got two hits from Brett Vroman, two runs from Eric Pettit and two RBIs from Binder. "You take that first inning away, and it's a new game. But unfortunately, you don't get mulligans in baseball."

**Berks Legion**

East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Shillington Red Sox	7	0	1.000	-
Boyertown Bears	8	2	.800	1/2
Birdsboro Orioles	7	2	.778	1
Kutztown Cougars	5	3	.625	2 1/2
Exeter Blue Jays	4	3	.571	3
Oley Lynx	4	5	.444	4
Topton Rams	2	6	.250	5 1/2
Fleetwood Tigers	2	8	.200	6 1/2
West Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
West Lawn Owls	10	1	.909	-
Muhlenberg A's	6	2	.750	2 1/2
Reading White Sox	5	3	.625	3 1/2
Hamburg Hawks	4	3	.571	4
Gregg Post Keys	1	6	.143	7
Conrad Weiser Scouts	1	7	.125	7 1/2
Schuylkill Val. Marlins	1	8	.111	8
Wyomissing Bisons	0	8	.000	8 1/2

**WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS**

Muhlenberg 7, Exeter 6  
Kutztown 7, Gregg Post 1  
Reading 10, Schuylkill Valley 3  
Boyertown 13, West Lawn 3

WEST LAWN		BOYERTOWN	
ab	r	h	bl
Pettit lf	3	1	1
Hohl 2b	2	0	0
Yocum p	5	1	1
Binder 1b	5	0	1
Stacherski rf	4	0	0
Cipolla ss	5	0	0
Schultz c	3	0	0
Zimmerman cf	0	0	0
Vroman p	2	0	2
Rudisill p	1	0	1
Fidler rf	1	0	0
Carroll 3b	3	0	0
Hartline c	3	1	0
Schueck ss	4	1	0
Slak lf	3	2	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>

**Totals** 33 3 6 3 Totals 34 13 11 9

West Lawn .....002 000 001-3  
Boyertown .....820 030 000-13  
E: Schultz 2, Zimmerman, Gabel, Mason, Schueck 2. LOB: West Lawn 12, Boyertown 9.  
DP: West Lawn 2B: Binder, Bohn, Sheptock.  
SB: Bohn 2, Gabel 2, Konnick, Trout, Sheptock, Slak. SF: Stacherski, Slak. S: Pettit, Hohl, Schueck.

IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
West Lawn Owls					
Yocum L-2-1	2 2/3	3	8	1	4
Vroman	3 2/3	6	5	5	2
Rudisill	2 2/3	2	0	0	1
Stacherski	1	0	0	0	1
Boyertown Bears					
Konnick W, 3-1	7	5	2	2	4
Roth	2	1	1	0	1

HBP: by Konnick (Carroll), by Yocum (Bohn), by Rudisill (Gabel). WP: Vroman, Konnick 2. Balk: Yocum. PB: Hartline. Umpires: Ron Perry and Stan Backenstoss. T: 3:05. A: 303.

**LEAGUE LEADERS**

- (Wednesday's games not included)
- **DOUBLES:** Jake Kutz, Kutztown, 5; John Runkle, Birdsboro, 5; Josh Yocum, West Lawn, 5.
  - **TRIPLES:** Jason Reinhart, Muhlenberg, 5; Josh Yocum, West Lawn, 4.
  - **HOME RUNS:** Brad Manderbach, Birdsboro, 4; Jeremy Wunderlich, Birdsboro, 4; Vinnie Rinaldi, Shillington, 3; 12 tied with 2.
  - **EXTRA-BASE HITS:** Josh Yocum, West Lawn, 9; Vinnie Rinaldi, Shillington, 8; Brad Binder, West Lawn, 7; Jake Kutz, Kutztown, 7.
  - **PITCHING (minimum three decisions):** Matt Fidler, West Lawn, 3-0; J.J. Mout, Shillington, 3-0; Toby Franck, Birdsboro, 3-0; Brett Vroman, West Lawn, 3-0; Brad Biehl, Hamburg, 2-1; Brad Bower, Kutztown, 2-1; Seth Hoffmann, Muhlenberg, 2-1; Justin Konnick, Boyertown, 2-1; Brent Miller, Oley, 2-1; Jeff Soto, Reading, 2-1.



■ Birdsboro crushes West Lawn 11-2 as Toby Ranck is in command both on the mound and at the plate.

From our news staff

They say good pitching is even more important than good hitting. But it certainly helps when you get both.



**Toby Ranck**  
carries Birdsboro

Toby Ranck provided both for Birdsboro Saturday. Ranck went 4-for-4 with four RBIs and limited West Lawn to four hits and an unearned run in seven innings to lead defending champion Birdsboro to an 11-2 Berks Legion League interdivision win at Owls Field.

The Orioles (8-3 East, 10-3)

**BERKS LEGION**

wasted no time taking control, scoring five runs in the first.

Jeremy Wunderlich and Brad Manderbach each had RBI singles and Ranck hit a two-run single in the inning.

For the Western Division-leading Owls (10-2 West, 15-5), it was the second lopsided loss of the week to an Eastern Division contender.

West Lawn surrendered eight first-inning runs Wednesday in a 13-3 loss to Boyertown.

Birdsboro, which finished with 18 hits, scored two runs in the fourth and four in the sixth on the way to an 11-0 lead.

Manderbach went 3-for-4 with three runs scored and two RBIs, and Wunderlich went 3-for-5 with two runs and an RBI for Birdsboro.

Dave Schultz went 2-for-3 for the Owls.

	R	H	E
Birdsboro	500	204	000 - 11 18 2
West Lawn	000	000	011 - 2 4 1
W: Toby Ranck (4-0), L: Matt Fidler (3-1), 2B: Jeremy Wunderlich (B), Brad Manderbach (B), Chris Papst (B).			

# Berks Legion players eye state all-star spots

■ Wednesday is next workout for the 27 from 10 different Berks teams.

**By Darryl Grumling**

*Eagle/Times*

For 27 Berks Legion League players, the first step in the state's all-star selection process that culminates in the East-West game began Sunday at Muhlenberg.

The Berks all-stars who made Sunday's cut will advance to the Berks/Schuylkill/Bux-Mont all-star game and workout, to be held Wednesday at George Field.

Representing the league will be Hamburg's Brad Biehl, Tom Krick,

## NOTES

Chris Brennan, Bryan Wagner and Nick Evangelista; Exeter's Pete Shollenberger, Jason Miller, Zach Taylor and Chad Painter; Birdsboro's Brad Manderbach, Toby Ranck and Jeremy Wunderlich; Oley's Jarad Lydon, Derek Yerger and Phil Fry; West Lawn's Brad Binder, Josh Yocum and Dennis Zimmerman; Boyertown's Justin Konnick, A.J. Bohn and Steve Gabel; Shillington's J.J. Moul and Casey Long; Gregg Post's Aaron Wentzel and Kevin Heins; Kutztown's Jeff Harakal; and Muhlenberg's Jason Reinhart.

Beginning Wednesday, players advance by virtue of their performance in the games and workouts - where they are judged on their running, hitting and throwing abilities by a panel of scouts and college coaches.

The Berks/Schuylkill/Bux-Mont game is followed by the Region 2 final at Muhlenberg Saturday, June 27. The next step is the Region 2 vs. Region 5 game at Hazleton Monday, July 6, with the All-East game set for Wednesday, July 15 at Philadelphia's Veterans Stadium.

The East-West workout and dinner will be held Saturday, July 25, at Middletown, with the all-star game taking place Sunday, July 26, at Harrisburg's RiverSide Stadium at 6 p.m.

**■ West Lawn 15, Oley 11:** At Oley Youth Field, Josh Yocum went 3-for-3 with a homer, two doubles and three RBIs and Eric Pettit was 3-for-5 with two RBIs as the Owls (11-2 West, 16-5) beat the Lynx (5-8 East, 7-9) in interdivision play. Tony Cipolla was 2-for-4 with three RBIs and Dave Schultz was 2-for-2 with two RBIs for West Lawn. For Oley, Phil Fry stole six bases and was 2-for-3 with two RBIs. Teammates Jarad Lydon and Brent Miller were each 3-for-4 with two RBIs.

	R	H	E
West Lawn ...	300	302	061 - 15 14 1
Oley .....	100	100	351 - 11 14 3

W: Shane Stacherski (1-1). L: Tim Smith (0-3). 2B: Josh Yocum (WL) 2, Shane Stacherski (WL), Josh Oswald (O), Mike Travis (O). 3B: Eric Pettit (WL) 2, Tony Cipolla (WL). HR: Josh Yocum (WL).



■ **West Lawn 14, Kutztown 1:** At Owls Field, Shane Stacherski hit for the cycle, going 4-for-5, knocking in three runs and scoring three to lead the Owls (12-2 West, 17-5) past the Cougars (7-5 East, 7-5).

Brad Binder also hit a triple and a homer for West Lawn, going 3-for-5 with two runs and an RBI. Stacherski hit a solo home run in the fourth and Binder hit a solo homer in the sixth.

Winning pitcher Jon Rudisill allowed five hits and one run in eight innings and helped himself by going 3-for-5 with three RBIs.

Kutztown	.....010 000 000	RHE	1 5 0
West Lawn	...352 011 02x		14 15 1
W: Jon Rudisill (1-0). L: Joe Pieller (2-2). 2B: Jeff Haskal (K), Shane Stacherski (WL). 3B: Shane Stacherski, Brad Binder (WL). HR: Shane Stacherski, Brad Binder.			

# Owls pair steps up in big win

Shane Stacherski and Brett Vroman deliver in unfamiliar roles in West Lawn's 10-8 victory over Shillington.

**By Darryl Grumling**

*Eagle/Times*

Shane Stacherski doesn't consider himself a cleanup hitter.

Nor does Brett Vroman fancy himself a long reliever.

But Thursday night at Shillington, the two West Lawn Legion players came up huge in those unfamiliar roles.

And though Stacherski and Vroman don't get as much acclaim as some of their more high-profile teammates, Owls coach Tony Matz III couldn't have found a more valuable pair of players as West Lawn knocked off the Red Sox 10-8 in a battle of Berks League division leaders.

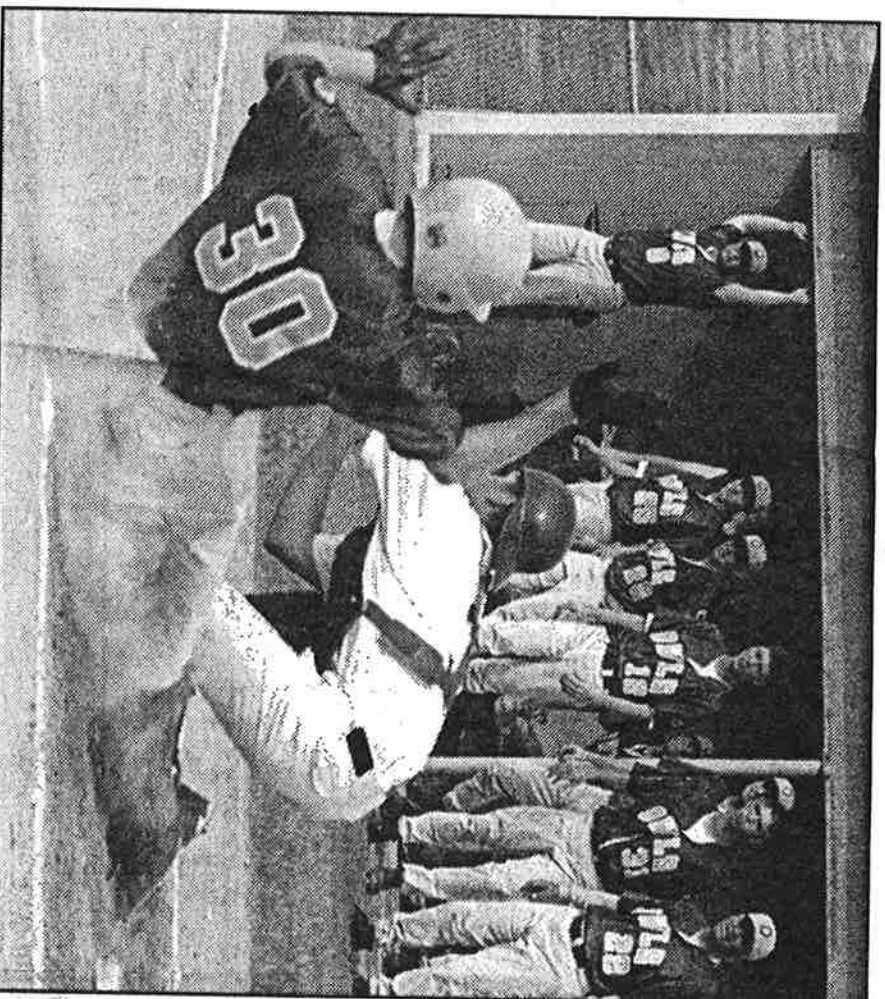
Stacherski went 3-for-3 with a grand slam and a double and Vroman pitched four innings of one-hit ball as the Owls (13-2 Western Division, 18-5 overall) moved a game ahead of the Red Sox (11-2 East, 18-3) in the battle for the league's regular season title and subsequent Region 2 berth.

"This was an important win for us," said Matz, whose team had been routed in its two previous games against East contenders, losing 13-3 to Boyertown and 11-2 to Birdsboro. "These guys (the Red Sox) are obviously the toast of the league."

But in the aftermath of their biggest victory, it was the Owls who Matz was toasting - particularly Stacherski and Vroman.

Stacherski, who normally hits fifth, was moved up to the cleanup spot prior to Wednesday night's game because of the illness of leadoff man Eric Pettit. He responded by hitting for the cycle in a 14-1 victory over Kutztown.

Against Shillington, he picked up right where he left off. After laying down a sacri-



West Lawn's Regan Carroll slides safely into home plate under Shillington catcher Pat Daly during the second inning of West Lawn's 10-8 win.

*Eagle/Times: Ron Romanick*

fice to set the table in a three-run first, Stacherski doubled in the third and drilled a back-breaking grand slam that made it 10-3 in the fourth.

"I don't consider myself a long-ball hitter," said Stacherski. "I think I'm more of a line-drive hitter and I've been kind of lucky lately. I guess this has just been my week."

"Shane goes up there swinging," said Matz. "He's just been in a real good groove the past two days."

Vroman (4-0), normally the Owls closer, also found himself in a groove as the game progressed.

After entering with nobody out in the fourth after a grand slam by Dan Batz (3-for-4, two homers, five RBIs) chased Matt Fidler, Vroman found himself facing a Shillington lineup that had 10 hits to that point.

"I was thinking, 'I hope this game gets

called by darkness,'" joked Vroman, the Owls' lone 18-year-old.

It eventually did, but not until Vroman had shut down Shillington. After walking his first two batters, the righty settled down and escaped by allowing one unearned run when Vinnie Rinaldi scored on Tony Cipolla's two-out throwing error to make it 10-8.

Vroman, who struck out four, allowed just a sixth-inning single by Batz the rest of the way, though Rinaldi launched a towering drive down the left-field line that a leaping Jon Rudsill caught at the fence.

"I thought it was gone when he hit it," said Vroman. "That was the only time I was really scared out there."

"Brett did a hell of a job," Matz said. "This is a hitters field, and no matter who's pitching a lead is never safe."

But this one was safe - thanks to a slug-ging performance from Stacherski and a game-saving relief effort from Vroman.

## WHAT'S INSIDE

### West Lawn beats Shillington

Owls edge Red Sox 10-8 behind efforts of Shane Stacherski and Brett Vroman, who step up in unfamiliar roles.

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*Eagle/Times: Ron Romanick*

Berks Legion			
East Division	W	L	Pct.
Shillington Red Sox	11	2	.846
Birdsboro Orioles	10	3	.769
Boyertown Bears	10	4	.714
Exeter Blue Jays	9	4	.680
Kutztown Cougars	7	8	.538
Oley Lynx	5	8	.385
Fleetwood Tigers	5	10	.286
Topcon Ravens	2	11	.154
West Lawn Owls	13	2	.867
Hamburg Hawks	8	4	.667
Reading Red Sox	8	5	.615
Gregg Post Keys	6	7	.462
Schuylkill Marlins	2	11	.154
Wyomissing Bluebirds	2	11	.154
Conrad Wing Eels	2	12	.07
THURSDAY'S RESULTS			
West Lawn 10, Shillington 8			
Muhlenberg 10, Kutztown 8			
Berkswood 20, Conrad Weiser 3			
Fleetwood 5, Reading 8			
Schuylkill 10, Oley 3			
Gregg Post 10, Exeter 5			
Wyomissing 10, Topcon 1			
WEST LAWN			
SHILLINGTON			
Binder 1b	2	2	1
Hohl 2b	2	2	1
Yocum cf	3	2	1
Stacherski rf	4	3	1
Cipolla ss	3	0	0
Schultz c	3	0	0
Fidler p	2	0	0
Vroman p	5	1	0
Rudsill lf	3	1	0
Carroll 3b	2	2	0
Totals	25	10	8
West Lawn	10	2	8
Shillington	8	2	10
Game called after seven innings, darkness E.			
Dawald, Long, Holland, Coppola, Anderson, DP:			
West Lawn 2, LOB: West Lawn 5, Shillington 6.			
2B: Faurst, Stacherski, 3B: Rinaldi, HR: Batz 2,			
Stacherski, SS: Schultz, Mount, Rinaldi, Ho-			
land, Rudsill, S: Stacherski, Hohl, Coppola.			
West Lawn Owls			
Shillington Red Sox			
Derwald (L-2-1)			
Fidler	3	10	7
Vroman (W-4-0)	4	1	0
Shillington Red Sox	4	5	3
Derwald (L-2-1)	2	3	3
Schultz	1	0	3
Gebhart	2	2	2
Mount	1	0	0
McInt	1	0	1
Derwald had one batter in the third. Fidler			
had four batters in the fourth. HR: By Derwald			
(Schultz), by Gebhart (Gardner), WP: Derwald,			
Gardner, 1: 2-30, A: 7-50.			



# West Lawn routs Reading to clinch berth in playoffs

■ Shane Stacherski drives in five runs and Matt Fidler strikes out eight in six innings in a 17-5 win. The Owls improve to 16-2 in the Western Division.

	R	H	E
West Lawn .....	301	028	311-17 14 1
Reading .....	300	000	200-5 5 6
W: Matt Fidler (4-1), L: Dave Vazquez (1-1)			
2B: Brad Binder (WL), Shane Stacherski (WL)			
Tony Cipolla (WL), Robert McIntosh (R), 3B			
Eric Pettit (WL), HR: Shane Stacherski (WL)			
Robert McIntosh (R)			

*From our news staff*

Shane Stacherski went 3-for-4 with a double, a home run and five RBIs and Matt Fidler pitched six strong innings Friday night as West Lawn clinched a Berks Legion League playoff spot with a 17-5 Western Division rout of Reading at George Field.

Stacherski hit a two-run homer in a six-run sixth that broke the game open for the West-leading Owls (16-2 Western Division, 23-8 overall). Regan Carroll went 3-for-6 with two RBIs and Brad Binder was 2-for-4 with four RBIs in a 14-hit West Lawn attack.

Fidler (4-1) struck out eight and allowed four hits and three runs in six innings.

For Reading (9-8, 10-9), Robert McIntosh was 3-for-4 with a double, a homer and three RBIs.

## BERKS LEGION

# Owls could be wise to regular season title

■ Surprisingly, youthful West Lawn is in position to finish with the best record in the league and the best league mark in team history.

When the first pitch of the Berks Legion League season was thrown six weeks ago, winning the league pennant may have seemed an ambitious goal for West Lawn.

With Shillington, Birdsboro and Boyertown heading a healthy list of contenders, the Owls seemed better suited to prepare themselves to be the hosts for the Pennsylvania State Tournament in August.

But as the regular season heads into the final weekend it is the Western Division-leading Owls (17-2 West, 24-8) who control their fate in the race for the best league record and the accompanying Region 2 Tournament berth.

And should West Lawn successfully negotiate a Western test against Muhlenberg tonight, an interdivision showdown with Exeter Saturday and defeat Conrad Weiser in a game that was postponed Wednesday, the Owls will finish with their best league mark ever.

Which isn't too bad for a team with just one 18-year-old.

"It's exciting," said coach Tony Matz, whose team has won eight straight league games. "I'd say we are about where we set our goals, although they may have been a little lofty."

Playing in the weaker West, many figured the Owls would have trouble when they played the best of the East, and one-sided losses to Boyertown (13-3) and Birdsboro (11-2) did little to change that notion. But West Lawn regrouped for a breakthrough 8-6 victory at Shillington that Matz said was the turning point.

Josh Yocum, Brad Binder and

Stacherski have led a line up averaging more than 13 runs in league play. On the mound, Yocum and Stacherski have provided quality depth behind Matt Fidler and Brett Vroman.

"Without really having an established rotation, our pitching staff has pieced something together each night," Matz said. "It's strange - we've never been like that - but hey, it's working."

West Lawn has made two previous Region 2 tourney appearances - in 1991 and 1992. The Owls have won the regular season title five times - the last in 1992 - and tied for first on two other occasions.

"Right now they seem very confident," Matz said of the Owls. "The one thing they've done over the course of the season has been take care of the teams that on

paper you feel you should take care of."

If the Owls can take care of three more of them, their lofty goal will become reality.

■ **Pitchin' attrition:** The league's already depleted supply of quality pitching took another big hit last week when several top pitchers went down for various reasons.

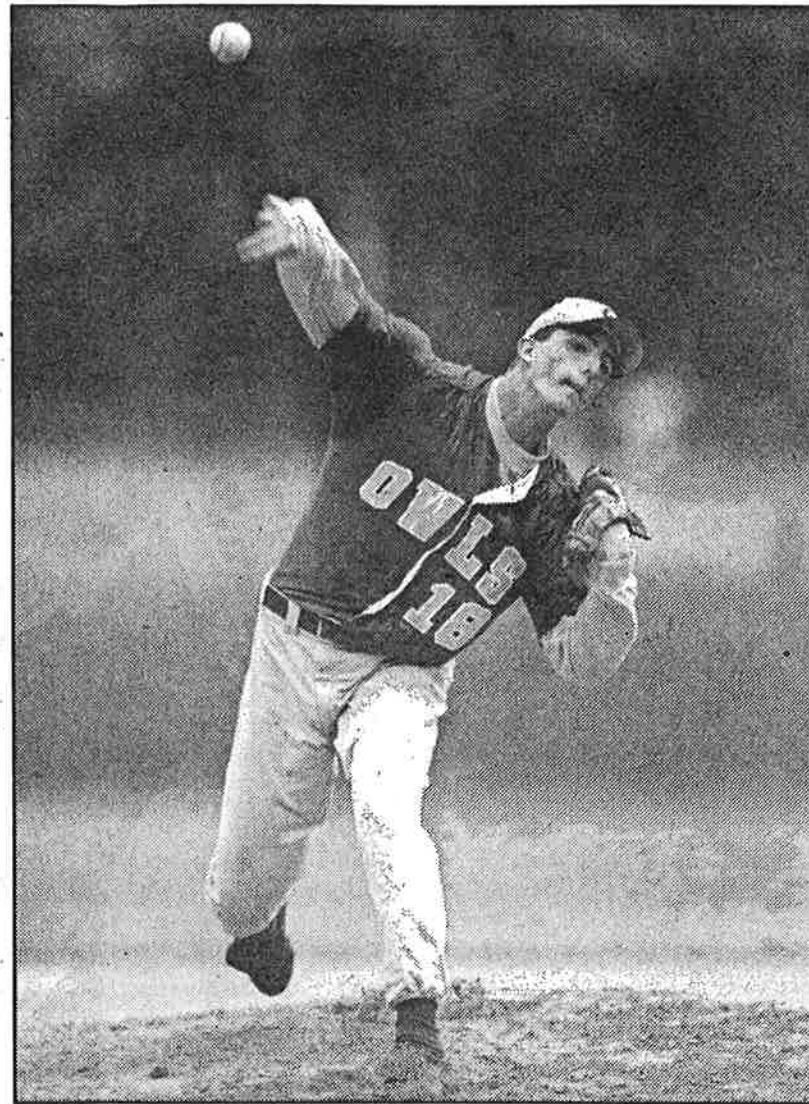
At Birdsboro, right-hander Jeremy Wunderlich may be shut down for the remainder of the season after suffering a partially torn rotator cuff in his throwing shoulder. Orioles coach Jerry Reitour is hopeful to have the lefty-swinging Wunderlich back as a position player by the end of the week.

Shillington's Brett Mack has missed several starts due to tendonitis, which, coupled with the mound unavailability of Frank Anderson, could be a big obstacle for the Red Sox to overcome. Anderson has a rotator cuff injury.

Exeter, which is finishing league play with 11 games in nine days, lost ace Chris Hunt when the *Eagle/Times* scholastic baseball Player of the Year quit the team last Wednesday over a dispute concerning playing time at shortstop.

■ **Tourney talk:** The eight-team, double-elimination Berks playoff

## DARRYL GRUMLING



Eagle/Times file photo: Diane Staskowski

West Lawn's Matt Fidler, who is 5-1, is one of the key reasons the Owls are the team to beat in the West Division.

tournament is scheduled to begin Thursday, July 16, at the sites of the better seeds. In the event of a two-way tie for first or eighth place, special playoffs would be held either Tuesday or Wednesday, according to league president Don Specht.

In the event of more than two teams tying for first, league bylaws dictate that the two top finishers in the tournament earn the league's two Region 2 berths.

■ **All-star game set:** The second annual Berks Senior Scholarship all-star doubleheader will be held Friday, July 24, at Owls Field in West Lawn. The league's two Region 2 qualifiers will face two teams of senior all-stars from the

other 14 Berks teams, with proceeds benefiting the league's scholarship fund.

■ **Around the league:** While most of the nearly 300 Berks Legion players are between 16 and 18 years old, both Gregg Post and Topton have each started 14-year-olds this season.

The Keys have used 5-foot, 100-pound Leon Adams - who is double-rostered with their Junior Legion team - at second base.

The Rams, who have no 18-year-olds and just two 17-year-olds on their 14-player roster, start Drew Schoenly at third base. Teammate Bill Keim, who turns 15 today, also starts in the infield and pitches.

# West Lawn's Yocum hits for the cycle

■ Josh Yocum goes 5-for-6 with four RBIs and scores five runs as West Lawn ends Gregg Post's winning streak.

*From our news staff*

Josh Yocum hit for the cycle Thursday night to help West Lawn snap Gregg Post's seven-game winning streak with a 21-2 Berks Legion League West Division victory at George Field.

Yocum doubled in the first, tripled in the fourth, hit a solo homer in the sixth and picked up two singles in a seven-run ninth for the division-leading Owls (15-2, 22-8). Yocum finished 5-for-6 with four RBIs and five runs scored.

Tony Cipolla went 4-for-6 with a triple and a double, and Regan Carroll went 4-for-7 with a double as West Lawn raked the Keys (9-8, 9-0) for 21 hits.

Kevin Heins went 3-for-4 with a triple for Gregg Post.

West Lawn .....204 204 207-21 212  
Gregg Post .....000 001 100-2 9 4  
W: Shane Stachurski (3-0), L: Zach Focht (2-  
3); 2B: Regan Carroll (WL), Josh Yocum (WL),  
Shane Stachurski (WL), Tony Cipolla (WL), Jon  
Rudisill (WL), Zach Focht (GP), Tim Clark  
(GP); 3B: Josh Yocum (WL), Tony Cipolla (WL),  
Kevin Heins (GP), HR: Josh Yocum (WL).

R H E



Bill went 4-for-5 with 3 RBIs.

■ **West Lawn 15, Schuylkill Valley 0:** At Owls Field, Matt Fidler pitched a three-hitter and went 3-for-5 with a triple, double and two RBIs to lead the first-place Owls (17-2, 24-8) past the Marlins (3-16, 3-16) in the West.

Eric Pettit went 4-for-5 with four RBIs and Brad Binder went 2-for-2 with three RBIs for the Owls.

	R	H	E
Schuylkill Valley	.000	000	0 - 0 3 3
West Lawn	.516	002	1 - 15 16 0

W: Matt Fidler (5-1), L: Brooks Miller (0-4).  
2B: Dan Weyandt (SV), Eric Pettit (WL), Matt Fidler (WL), Brett Vroman (WL). 3B: Mike Zlatko (SV), Brad Binder (WL), Shane Stach-  
erski (WL), Matt Fidler (WL).

2-for-4 with a home run.  
 ■ West Lawn 29, Conrad Weiser 2: At Owls Field, the Owls (18-2, 25-8) scored 19 runs in the first inning on the way to the Western Division rout over the Scouts (2-20, 2-27).

West Lawn has won five straight, outscoring its opponents 91-9.

For the Owls, Dennis Zimmerman went 5-for-6 with two triples, five runs and three RBIs; Brad Binder went 4-for-4 with seven RBIs and three runs; and Andy Hohl went 3-for-4 with four runs and two RBIs.

		R	H	E
Conrad Weiser	.000	0	0	2
West Lawn	.191	53	110	x-29 22 0

W: Jon Rudisill (2-0). L: Brian Grubb (0-4). 2B: Justin Sneeringer (CW), Brad Binder (W), Dave Schultz (W). 3B: Dennis Zimmerman 2 (W), Brad Binder 2 (W).



# Owls clinch league title

■ Shane Stacherski rebounds from a rough outing to pitch West Lawn past Muhlenberg to claim the Berks Legion League regular season title.

From our news staff

Shane Stacherski pitched an eight-hitter as West Lawn won the Berks Legion League's regular season championship with a 7-2 Western Division victory over Muhlenberg Sunday at Laureldale.

The victory earned the Owls (20-2 Western Division, 27-9 overall) one of the league's two berths into the Pennsylvania Region 2 Tournament which begins later this month at Allentown.

"This is outstanding," said West Lawn coach Tony Matz III, whose team won its final 10 league games. "When you look at our team, you think of our hitters first. But it's been the pitchers and our defense that have really been the keys."

Stacherski (4-0), who was taken out of Saturday's 15-7 victory over Exeter in the third inning, struck out eight and allowed single runs in the fourth and ninth.

The Owls broke open a 1-0 lead with two runs in the fourth on RBI singles by Regan Carroll and Eric Pettit. Dave Schultz singled home two more in the fifth to make it 5-1.

Pettit finished 3-for-4 and Stacherski, Carroll and Josh Yocum each had two hits for West Lawn, which will be the top seed in the eight-team Berks playoff tournament, which begins Thursday.

It was the sixth league pennant and first outright one since 1965 for the Owls, who will be making their third Region 2 appearance in team history.

"The chemistry of this team is great," Matz said. "Everybody's so compatible. They really seem to enjoy being around each other. They have fun together, and that's certainly been a big reason for our success."

For Muhlenberg (12-8, 15-11), Kraig Kemp and Joe Faller each went 2-for-4.

## BERKS LEGION

eter, which broke open a 1-1 game with a four-run fourth highlighted by Jason Miller's two-run double. Taylor had a two-run homer in the seventh and a three-run shot in a five-run ninth that sealed it.

The Blue Jays play Kutztown tonight in their league finale, with the winner earning a playoff berth and the loser tying Gregg Post for eighth place.

Losing pitcher Jeff Soto was 2-for-3 for the White Sox, who can create a three-way tie for eighth with a victory over Wyomissing in their league finale tonight.

■ Muhlenberg 6, Oley 1: At Laureldale, Dan Runkel threw a four-hitter as the A's (13-8 West, 16-11) beat the Lynx (7-15, 10-17) in inter-division play.

Matt Carl had a sacrifice fly and Matt Nye had a two-run single in a three-run fourth for Muhlenberg. Runkel struck out six and didn't allow an earned run.

For Oley, Phil Fry was 2-for-3.

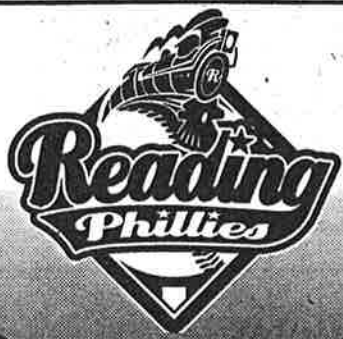
### Berks Legion

East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
y-Boyerstown Bears	18	4	.818	-
y-Shillington Red Sox	17	4	.810	1/2
y-Birdsboro Orioles	16	6	.727	2
Exeter Blue Jays	11	10	.524	6 1/2
Kutztown Cougars	11	10	.524	6 1/2
Fleetwood Tigers	8	14	.364	10
Oley Lynx	7	15	.318	11
Topton Rams	2	20	.091	16
West Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
x-West Lawn Owls	20	2	.909	-
y-Hamburg Hawks	18	3	.857	1 1/2
y-Muhlenberg A's	13	8	.619	6 1/2
Gregg Post Keys	11	11	.500	8 1/2
Reading White Sox	10	11	.476	9
Wyomissing Bisons	5	16	.238	14
Schuylkill Val. Marlins	3	18	.143	16
Conrad Weiser Scouts	2	20	.091	17 1/2

x-clinched division title  
y-clinched playoff berth  
SUNDAY'S RESULTS  
West Lawn 7, Muhlenberg 2  
Hamburg 17, Exeter 6  
Shillington 6, Birdsboro 2  
Muhlenberg 6, Oley 1  
Exeter 13, Reading 4

	R	H	E
West Lawn	100	221	010 - 7 12 0
Muhlenberg	000	100	001 - 2 8 3

W: Shane Stacherski (4-0), L: Jason Reinhart (0-1), 2B: Regan Carroll (WL), Josh Yocum (WL), Kraig Kemp (M).



Monday, July 13  
vs. Akron Aeros  
Gametime 7:05 pm, Gates 5:30





# Cipolla batters Exeter

■ West Lawn's Tony Cipolla has another good game against the Jays, going 3-for-4 with a HR, double and three RBIs.

By Darryl Grumling

Eagle/Times

Tony Cipolla doesn't quite know why, but Exeter always seems to bring out the best in him.

"I don't know what it is about them," said the West Lawn shortstop. "Even back in Junior Legion when I was 13, I remember hitting a bases-loaded triple in the last inning against them and scoring the winning run on a passed ball."

This year, Cipolla has done similar damage against Exeter.

During the scholastic season, his two-out, two-run single in the bottom of the seventh gave Wilson a dramatic victory over the Eagles.

Then earlier this month in Legion play, it was a clutch defensive play by Cipolla with two outs in the bottom of the ninth that thwarted what looked like an Exeter win and earned the Owls a nine-inning tie.

When the teams met again Saturday at Reiffton to replay that game in its entirety, Cipolla picked up right where he left off in leading West Lawn to a 15-7 Berks League interdivision victory.

Cipolla went 3-for-4 with a home run, double, three runs and three RBIs as the Owls (19-2 Western Division, 26-8) won their ninth straight league game to clinch at least a tie for the Western Division title and regular season league pennant.

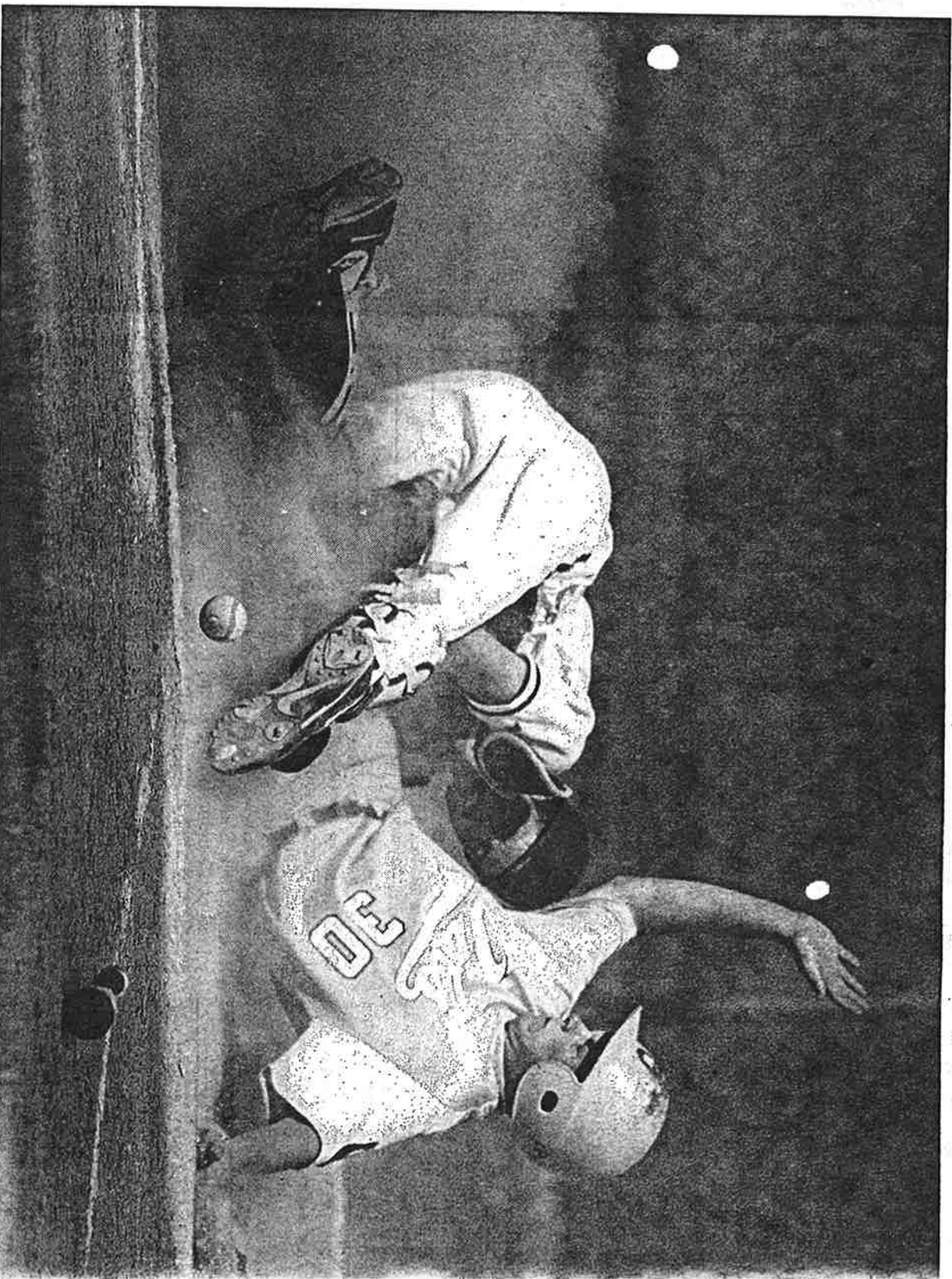
Should West Lawn beat division rival Muhlenberg today, the Owls will wrap up their first regular season title since 1992 and earn one of the league's two Region 2 berths.

"Every game the past couple of weeks has been a must-win game for us," West Lawn coach Tony Matz III said. "It's been a lot to ask of our kids to keep winning, but we've been getting the job done."

It was Cipolla that assured the job would get done against the Blue Jays (10-9 East, 17-13). He sparked a middle-inning outburst that turned an early deficit into yet another laugh. The Owls have outscored their league opposition by an average of nine runs a game.

With West Lawn trailing 2-1 in the fourth, Cipolla launched a two-run homer to left to put the Owls up to stay. In the fifth, he laced an RBI double to right-center and scored on an error to cap a seven-run inning that made it 10-2.

Several other Owls also stepped up, helping compensate for Josh



West Lawn's Regan Carroll scores as the ball bounces away from Exeter catcher Jason Dielenderfer in the fifth inning Saturday.

Eagle/Times: Tori Gallucci

Yocum and Brad Binder going a combined 1-for-8. Shane Stacherski went 2-for-4 with a triple, three runs and three RBIs, and Brett Vroman (5-0) picked up the win with seven strong innings of relief.

Vroman entered the game with the Jays threatening in the third. The 18-year-old right-hander, the team's only final-year player, got out of a bases-loaded, no-out situation and went the rest of the way.

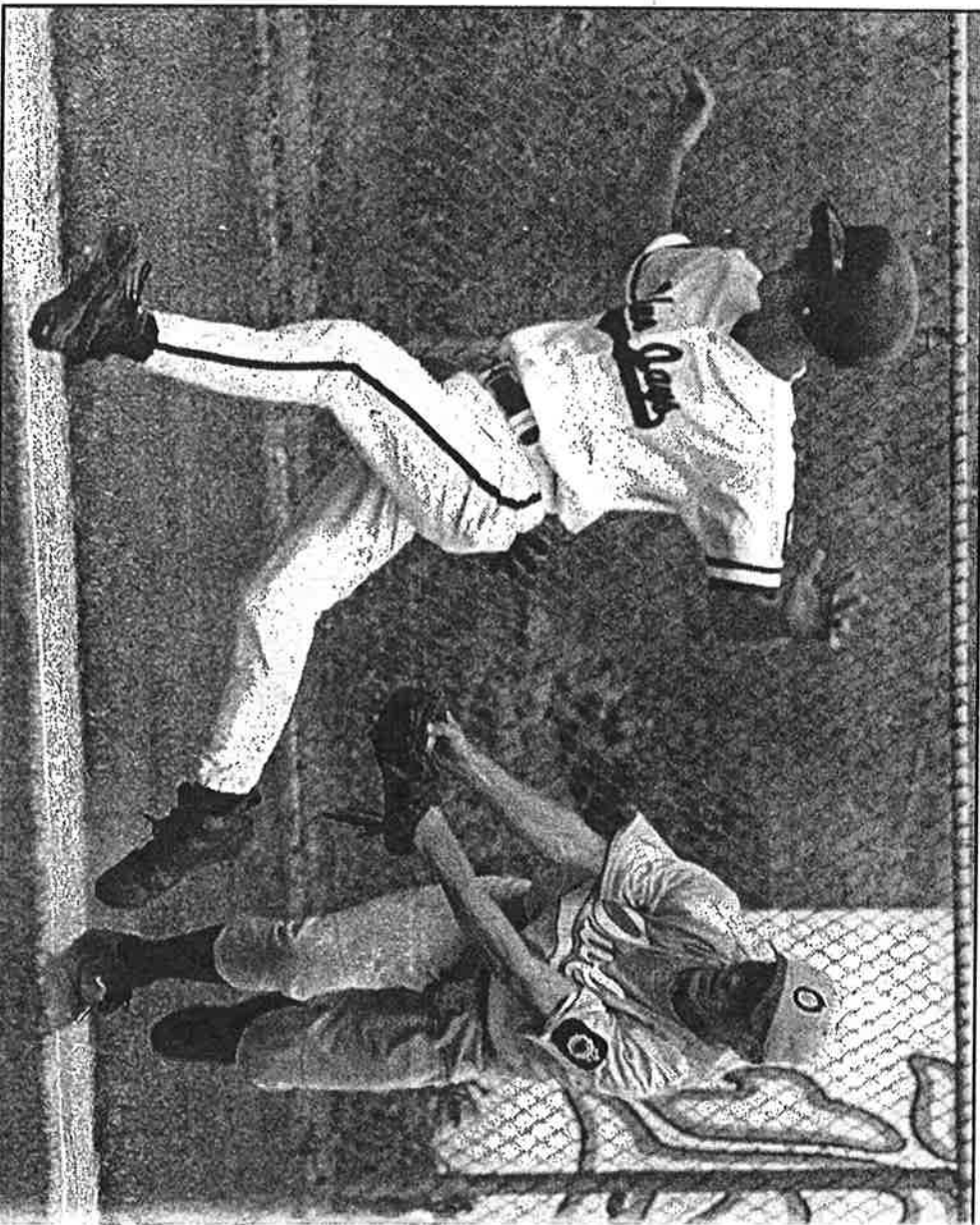
Vroman retired 12 in a row at one point and allowed just two hits until Exeter scored its final four runs on five straight two-out hits in the bottom of the ninth.

"Brett just did a yeoman's job," said Matz, who couldn't use ace Matt Fidler due to a sore arm. "We were initially looking to use him tomorrow, but he knew he was coming in if we needed him today."

Exeter, meanwhile, surely didn't expect to be fighting for its playoff life. But the Jays' backed-up schedule has forced them to finish league play with 11 games in nine days, including a day-night doubleheader with Hamburg and Reading today and a game against Kutztown Monday.

"If we can win two out of three, I think that will be enough for us to get a playoff spot," said Blue Jays coach Dan Resh. "I think this team can regroup for any game."

Unless, of course, Cipolla happens to be in the opposing dugout



West Lawn pitcher Brett Vroman tags out Exeter's Jason Miller to end a third-inning rundown.

Eagle/Times: Tori Gallucci

L	Pct	GB
4	.818	1
4	.800	1 1/2
5	.762	6 1/2
9	.526	6 1/2
10	.524	10
14	.364	10 1/2
14	.333	16
20	.091	16
L	Pct	GB
2	.905	1
3	.850	1 1/2
7	.632	6
11	.500	8 1/2
10	.500	8 1/2
16	.238	14
18	.143	16
20	.091	17 1/2

1, 10 Innings

EXETER		ab	r	h	bi	
Zogan	cf	4	1	3	0	
Gombor	2b	5	1	1	0	
Miller	ss	4	1	1	1	
Painter	lf	4	2	2	1	
Taylor	1b	4	0	1	1	
Fresh	3b	4	1	2	2	
Luft	p	2	0	0	0	
Bender	p	2	0	0	0	
Grenko	ss	1	0	0	0	
Zielinski	rf	4	1	1	0	
Dielenderfer	c	3	0	1	2	
Woram	ph	1	0	0	0	
Totals		38	7	12	7	
...	.001	270	005-15			
...	.020	010	004-7			
LOB: West Lawn 7, Exeter 10. 3B: Hohl, Stacherski, Cogin, Vroman, Painter.						
		H	R	ER	BB	SO
7		5	2	2	2	1
7		7	5	5	3	7
4 1/2		5	10	3	4	3
3 3/4		4	4	4	4	4
1		0	1	0	2	0

no batters in the third; Benders in the ninth. HBP: by Miller 3. Balk: Vroman, Bender, Cogin and Stan Backenstoss.



# Berks Legion

## Final standings

East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
y-Shillington Red Sox	18	4	.818	-
y-Boyetown Bears	18	4	.818	-
y-Birdsboro Orioles	16	6	.727	2
y-Kutztown Cougars	12	10	.545	6
Exeter Blue Jays	11	11	.500	7
Fleetwood Tigers	8	14	.364	10
Oley Lynx	7	15	.318	11
Topton Rams	2	20	.091	16
West Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
x-West Lawn Owls	20	2	.909	-
y-Hamburg Hawks	19	3	.864	1
y-Muhlenberg A's	13	9	.591	7
Gregg Post Keys	11	11	.500	9
Reading White Sox	11	11	.500	9
Wyomissing Bisons	5	17	.238	15
Schuylkill Val. Marlins	3	19	.143	17
Conrad Weiser Scouts	2	20	.091	18

x-clinched division title  
y-clinched playoff berth  
**MONDAY'S RESULTS**  
Hamburg 17, Schuylkill Valley 2  
Shillington 10, Muhlenberg 9  
Kutztown 8, Exeter 4  
Reading 10, Wyomissing 8

**R H E**  
Exeter . . . . .000 001 003 - 4 7 3  
Kutztown . . . . .010 320 02x - 8 12 4  
W: Brad Sechler (4-4). L: Pete Shollenberger (3-2). 2B: Jason Miller (E), Jeff Harakal (K), John Marsteller (K), Joe Pieller (K).

**R H E**  
Muhlenberg . . .100 034 001 - 9 13 1  
Shillington . . .000 031 222 - 10 12 3  
W: Matt Nufter (6-0). L: Seth Hoffmann (5-4). 2B: Vinnie Rinaldi (S), Justin Holland (S), Dan Batz (S), J.J. Moulit (S) 2, Casey Long (S), Craig Kemp (M). HR: Dan Batz (S), Jason Reinhart (M).

**R H E**  
Hamburg . . . . .620 001 044 - 17 22 1  
Schuylkill Valley 001 000 001 - 2 4 2  
W: Zane Kershner (5-1). L: Mike Zatko (2-6). 2B: Todd Roberts (H) 2, Zane Kershner (H). HR: Todd Roberts (H), D.J. Hoshauer (H), Nick Fillioe (SV).

**R H E**  
Wyomissing . .003 020 003 - 8 9 3  
Reading . . . . .000 260 20x - 10 15 3  
W: Daryl Miller (4-3). L: Bruce Anglin (1-7). 2B: Brady Kidd (W), Andy Bausher (W), Kerry Marshall (W), Rob McIntosh (R) 2, Jeff Solo (R), Jeremy Coleman (R).

## Legion non-league

Rockland, N.Y. 14, West Lawn 7  
**Highlights:** For the Owls (27-10), Tony Cipolla went 3-for-5 with three RBIs; Eric Pettit went 2-for-4 with three runs; and Josh Yocum went 2-for-5, including a double and a triple, with two RBIs and one run.

**Box Scores**

# Yocum, Binder form odd alliance for Owls

■ The introverted Josh Yocum and the extroverted Brad Binder, West Lawns' No. 3 and No. 4 hitters, give the Owls a potent combination.

By Darryl Grumling

Josh Yocum glides around the bases almost effortlessly. Brad Binder rumbles with all of the subtlety of an 18-wheeler on a country road.

Yocum is a quiet, almost shy presence in the dugout.

Binder is — as one teammate put it — “a chatterbox.”

Yocum hits the baseball on high, majestic arcs.

Binder prefers to spray line drives the other way.

“I guess you could say we have different approaches,” Binder said, “but similar results.”

The end result for the West Lawn Legion team is a lefty-hitting tandem few lineups can match and few pitchers can stop.

Yocum bats third for the Owls and is hitting .444 with eight homers, 22 doubles, 11 triples, 77 RBIs, 82

runs and an .864 slugging percentage.

Following him is Binder, hitting .415 with 18 doubles, nine triples, 75 RBIs and 59 runs.

“If one of us doesn't come through, the other one will,” Yocum said.

And when both come through, it usually trans-



Eagle/Times: Diane Staskowski  
Brad Binder is a line-drive hitter with a .415 average and 75 RBIs for West Lawn.

## PAST STATE LEGION CHAMPS

- 1997: Shillington
- 1996: Boyertown
- 1995: Yardley Western
- 1994: Boyertown
- 1993: Boyertown
- 1992: Boyertown
- 1991: Boyertown
- 1990: Levittown Western
- 1989: Boyertown
- 1988: Boyertown
- 1987: Boyertown
- 1986: Oley
- 1985: Loudenslager
- 1984: Boyertown
- 1983: Boyertown
- 1982: Boyertown
- 1981: Boyertown
- 1980: Shaler
- 1979: Shaler
- 1978: Boyertown
- 1977: Boyertown
- 1976: Boyertown
- 1975: Coplay
- 1974: Bethlehem
- 1973: Levittown Western
- 1972: Springdale
- 1971: Boyertown
- 1970: Bethlehem
- 1969: Boyertown
- 1968: Fallington
- 1967: Harrisburg
- 1966: South Scranton
- 1965: Lower Burrell
- 1964: Northeastern
- 1963: Hamburg
- 1962: West Lawn
- 1961: Ambridge
- 1960: Coplay
- 1959: Coplay
- 1958: Loudenslager
- 1957: Loudenslager
- 1956: Allentown
- 1955: Valley View
- 1954: Coplay
- 1953: Curtsville
- 1952: Gregg Post
- 1951: Pottstown
- 1950: Monongahela
- 1949: Curtsville
- 1948: Olyphant
- 1947: Gregg Post
- 1946: Coplay
- 1945: Coplay
- 1944: Gregg Post
- 1943: Curtsville
- 1942: Coplay
- 1941: Tarentum
- 1940: Gregg Post
- 1939: Curtsville
- 1938: Bethlehem
- 1937: Lebanon
- 1936: Gregg Post
- 1935: Plains
- 1934: York
- 1933: Gregg Post
- 1932: Gregg Post
- 1931: Swissvale
- 1930: Uniontown
- 1929: Uniontown
- 1928: Williamsport
- 1927: York
- 1926: York

## OWLS

Continued from Page D1

Yocum has improved each year since Matz put him in left field as a 15-

year-old in 1996.

“We stuck him out there because of his youth,” Matz said. “But didn't he

turn out to be about as good a left field-

er as we've ever had, right up there

with guys like Mike Whitney and Dan

Colletti. And he just kept getting better.

Some kids stay on the same plateau, but you look at Josh and it's like he's

climbing a mountain.”

That improvement has continued this year. Yocum has shown surprising

power, contributed important innings on the mound and also provided a

strong defensive presence in center and left.

“I remember when I was 15 watch-

ing guys like Steve Dallas and Jamie

Sands,” Yocum said. “I watched the

way they handled themselves, the way

they kept their composure, the way

they moved in the field, the way they hit the ball hard — and tried to pattern myself after that.

There's also some of the Yocum fam-

ily in him, according to Binder.

“My first cousin married Josh's first

cousin,” he explained. “So now we al-

ways call each other, Cousin. It's like a

running joke.”

But Binder and Yocum are connect-

ed by a lot more than just that.

They have been drawn to baseball,

despite having fathers who are promi-

nent coaches in another sport. Binder's

father, Rick, coached Steel-High's bas-

ketball team to the PIAA-AAA title in

March, and Yocum's father, John, has

enjoyed a highly successful run as foot-

ball coach at Muhlenberg.

They each share an uncanny pas-

sion for hitting — Yocum is known to

take hours of extra BF, while Binder is

an avid reader of any and all books on the subject.

And they both have an intense drive

to succeed and help the Owls reach

new heights while maintaining their

own personal battle of “Can You Top

This?”

“Sometimes we even tell each

other that we'll go to college together

as a package deal,” Binder said.

“Then we can still be competitive

with each other.”

For the moment, Yocum and Binder

will have to be content continuing their

assault on opposing pitchers in the state

tournament — and perhaps beyond.

## TODAY'S OPENERS

State College vs. Plymouth, 10:05 a.m.

Fayetteville vs. Mountaintop, to follow

Mount Lebanon vs. Millcreek, 5:05 p.m.

West Lawn vs. Cain, to follow

lates into success for Region 2 champion West Lawn

(36-13), which opens the Pennsylvania State Tourna-

ment against Region 3 champ Cain (28-8) at 8:05

tonight at Owls Field.

“They have the potential to hit the ball out of the

park each time they come to the plate,” West Lawn

coach Tony Matz III said. “There's not too many other

guys you can say that about. They're definitely a rare

breed.”

Yocum and Binder also are a rare pair of outs. In

last week's Region 2 tournament, they hit a com-

bined .510 with seven doubles, a triple, two homers,

22 runs, 29 RBIs and a .782 slugging percentage.

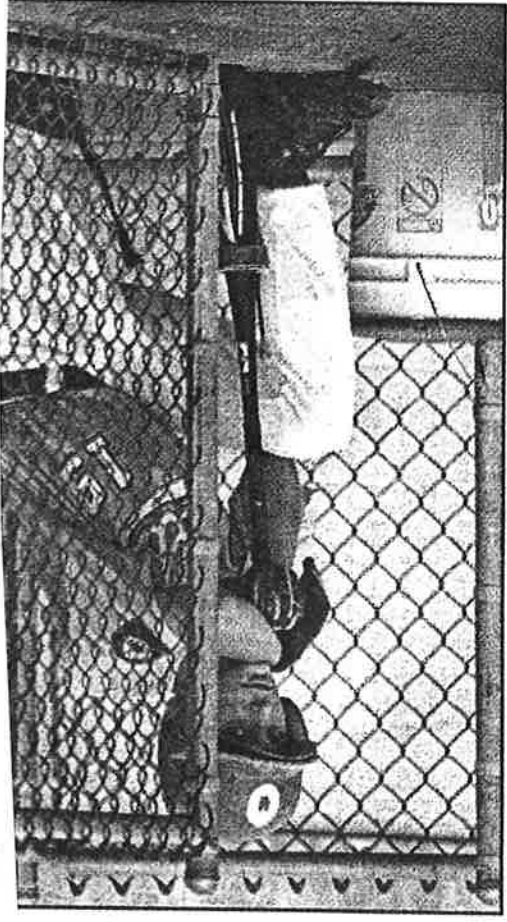
“Ever since last year in high school we've had a

little rivalry,” admitted Binder, who, like Yocum, is a

senior-to-be at Wilson. “It's like we're pushing our-

selves to try and make each other better.”

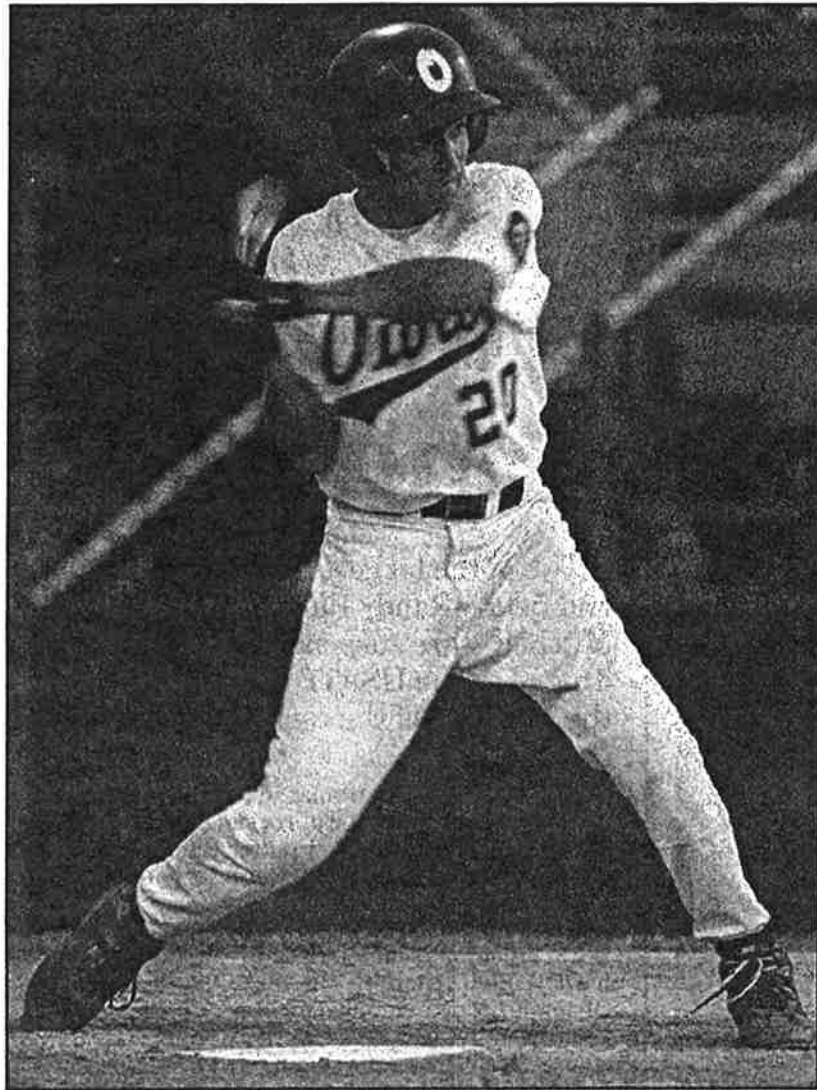
See Owls, Page D5



Josh Yocum is a power hitter with a .444 average, eight homers and 77 RBIs for West Lawn.



## BASEBALL



Eagle/Times: Chad A. DeShazo

Owls' Shane Stacherski: 58 RBIs, .696 slugging percentage.

# Swing the thing for Shane

■ For West Lawn's Shane Stacherski, it don't mean a thing if you ain't got the swing . . . and he's got it. Even though he isn't the biggest guy in the world.

By Darryl Grumling

Eagle/Times

Off the field or in the dugout, Shane Stacherski isn't the type of player who strikes fear in the hearts of the opposition.

Maybe it's because of his soft-spoken demeanor, or his 5-10, 150-pound frame.

Whatever the case, the 17-year-old is certainly not the most intimidating presence on West Lawn's Legion team.

Until he steps into the batter's box.

That's when Stacherski goes from passive to aggressive. From laid-back to lock-and-load. From Clark Kent to Superman.

"Shane likes to swing the bat, no doubt about it," West Lawn coach Tony Matz III said.

And the results have been damaging to opposing pitchers around the Berks Legion League this summer.

"What impressed me the most about him was how far he can hit the ball for not being a real big kid," said Shillington coach Bob Houck, who saw Stacherski go 6-for-7 with two homers, two doubles and eight RBIs in two victories over the Red Sox. "I was shocked, not just by how quick his bat was or how many hits he had - but also by how far he hit the ball."

Even Stacherski has come away shaking his head at his powerful production this summer -

## REGION 2 TOURNAMENT

TODAY'S GAMES At Bicentennial Park, Allentown

Quakertown vs. The Birches, 10:05 a.m.  
West Lawn vs. North Parkland, 1:05 p.m.  
Boyertown vs. Nazareth, 4:05 p.m.  
Minersville vs. Mountainville, 7:35 p.m.

.419 average with a team-high 62 hits, four homers, 58 RBIs and a .696 slugging percentage.

"I really don't know how to explain it," he said. "Prior to this year, I don't think I'd ever hit a home run out of a park. People say I have good bat speed. I just try to get up there and hit line drives and hit the ball hard, and get on."

Stacherski, who bats cleanup, credited much of his success to batting behind the Owls' marquee lefty-hitting duo of Josh Yocum and Brad Binder - a tandem that has provided him plenty of RBI opportunities.

"Without them, I wouldn't have this kind of season," Stacherski said. "Then you consider we have a great leadoff man in (Eric) Pettit and guys behind me like Tony (Cipolla) and Davey (Schultz), and it helps a lot, because I get a lot of pitches grooved to me."

Stacherski - whose uncle, the late John Spadafora, was a member of West Lawn's lone state championship team in 1962 - has been in an offensive groove much of the year. During the scholastic season at Wilson he hit .339 with six doubles, four triples and a team-high 24 RBIs.

"When most people think of us in terms of

hitters, they think of Yocum and Binder," Matz said. "But we've never put Shane very far behind them. We feel Shane is just as important to us as the other two."

Stacherski has been important in plenty of ways to the Berks League regular season champion Owls (31-12), who open the Pennsylvania Region 2 Tournament today against Lehigh Valley League playoff champ North Parkland at 1:05 p.m. at Allentown's Bicentennial Park.

Despite not pitching for five years, the righty has performed admirably since being pressed into mound duty early in the season - going 4-3 with a 3.34 ERA in 56<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings.

Defensively, Stacherski also has proved to be a valuable asset - shuttling from left field to right field and even third base, where he has filled in lately for injured starter Regan Carroll.

"Whatever I get called upon to do," he said, "I'll do, whether it's taking a pitch for the team, moving around in the field or going out and pitching."

Still, Stacherski is most dangerous when he steps to the plate and sets the tone for the Owls lineup.

"I wouldn't classify him as a hacker, because he knows the strike zone pretty well," Matz said. "And I don't want to classify him as strictly a streak hitter, because his slumps don't last very long. But when he goes on a hot streak, he can be very hot."

"When he's on, you can see it in that first at-bat. His hands get through the zone so quick."

And the opposition comes to the quick realization that, as far as Stacherski is concerned, looks can be very deceiving.

# No favorite puts playoffs up for grabs

■ Each of the eight qualifiers, including 35-5 Shillington, has "question marks" as the Berks Legion tournament opens play tonight.

## By Darryl Grumling

*Eagle/Times*

Their 35 wins are more than any of the other 420-plus Legion baseball teams has won this season in Pennsylvania.

They boast three Division I signees on their 18-player roster, which includes 12 returners from last year's state championship squad.

But as the Berks Legion League's double-elimination tournament begins today, the Shillington Red Sox aren't exactly clear favorites to win the county championship.

In fact, the Red Sox (35-5) might not even be the favorites at all in what could shape up to be one of the most interesting Berks tournaments since the league went to the double-elimination format in 1989.

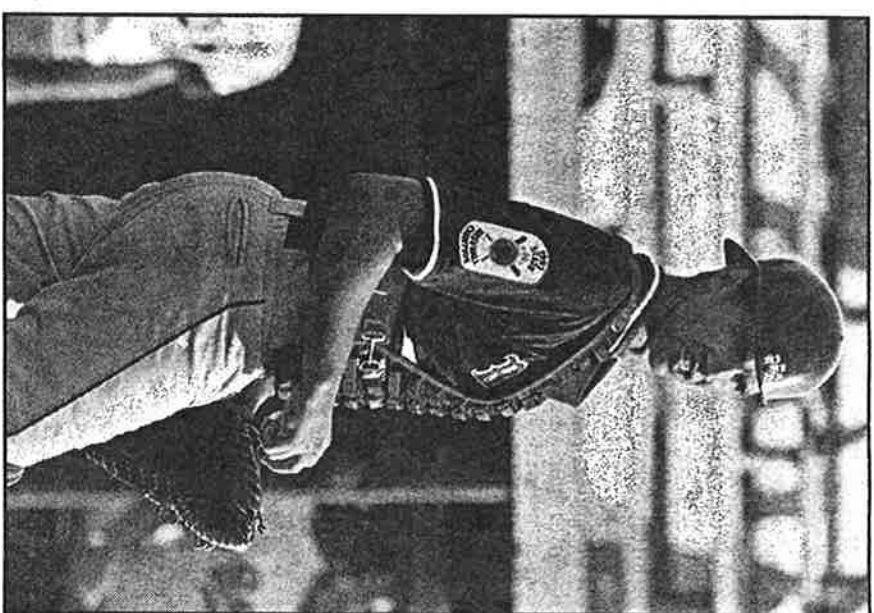
"Everybody has a lot of question marks," Shillington coach Bob Houck said, summing up the feelings of most coaches of the playoff qualifiers.

Including the Red Sox, who despite their impressive overall record and team-record 18 league wins have looked very ordinary over the past few weeks.

Shillington opened the league season by reeling off eight straight victories in which the Sox outscored their opposition 126-25. The Red Sox went on to win 15 of their first 16.

"At that point, I think a lot of coaches were banking on them rolling to the regular season title and winning the playoffs," Birdsboro coach Jerry Reithour said. "It was kind of like everybody was figuring on trying to get second place in the playoffs to get the other Region 2 berth."

That, however, was before Shillington lost three league games in an eight-day span to open the door for Western Division leader West Lawn, which won its final 10 games to earn the regular season title



*Eagle/Times* file photo: Tom Galluccio

**Pat Daly and his Shillington teammates have won more games than any team in the state, but are not assured of winning the Berks title.**

Four other teams - West Lawn (27-10), Hamburg (23-5), Boyertown (30-13) and Birdsboro (20-9) - have realistic title hopes, while Exeter (19-14) could be a dangerous team as the No. 8 seed. No. 6 seed Muhlenberg (17-12) and No. 7 seed Kutztown (12-10) are longshots.

The Owls owned the best league mark in Berks at 20-2. The Hawks, with 16 straight victories, are the hottest team in the county. The Bears have won the county title each of the four previous times they've hosted the tourney and the Orioles are the defending Berks champs.

Throw in an already depleted supply of pitching, coupled with the fact that several teams could be without key starters due to injuries, and some pretty interesting scenarios could develop over the next few days.

"It's pretty difficult to say what's going to hap-



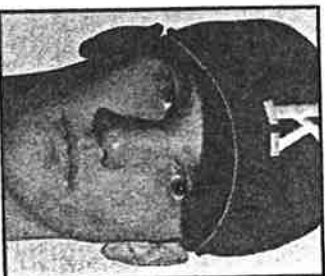
**Josh Yocum**  
West Lawn



**Todd Roberts**  
Hamburg



**Toby Ranck**  
Birdsboro



**Tim Moyer**  
Kutztown

- **When:** Today through Tuesday.
- **Where:** Sites of the better seeds today and Friday; Boyertown's Bear Stadium Saturday through the championship.
- **Format:** Eight teams, double-elimination.
- **Tonight's first-round matchups:** Muhlenberg at Shillington, 5; Kutztown at Hamburg, 7; Exeter at West Lawn, 7:05; Birdsboro at Boyertown, 7:05.
- **At stake:** The winner receives a berth into the Pennsylvania Region 2 Tournament to be held at Allentown's Bicentennial Park, beginning Tuesday, July 29. Should regular season champ West Lawn win the tournament, the runner-up will receive the regional berth.
- **Last year:** Birdsboro defeated Shillington 3-0 at Muhlenberg for its first Berks championship.

**THE TEAMS**

**WEST LAWN OWLS (27-9)**

- **Coach:** Tony Matz III, 12th season, 343-148.
- **Top hitters:** LF Eric Pettit (.435, 51 runs), RF Shane Stachurski (.433, 51 RBIs), CF Josh Yocum (.431, four HRs, 53 RBIs, 60 runs), 1B Brad Binder (.400, 55 RBIs).
- **Top pitchers:** RHPs Matt Fidler (5-1, 3.81), Brett Vroman (6-1, 2.85) and Shane Stachurski (4-1, 2.54).
- **Notable:** Have won four league titles, the last coming in 1991. . . . Won Western Division with 20-2 mark. . . . Ended league season with 10 wins in a row.

**HAMBURG HAWKS (23-5)**

- **Coach:** Jeff Seidel, fourth season, 63-48.
- **Top hitters:** C Todd Roberts (.408, eight HRs, 34 runs, 40 RBIs), 1B Brad Biehl (.407), RF Tom Krick (.397), OF D.J. Hoshauer (.367).
- **Top pitchers:** RHPs Brad Biehl (8-1, 2.95), Nick Evangelista (5-0) and Zane Kershner (5-1).
- **Notable:** Have won 16 straight since 7-5 start. . . . 23 wins are most since 28-11 season in 1989. . . . Won league championships in 1963 and 1993.

**SHILLINGTON RED SOX (35-5)**

- **Coach:** Bob Houck, sixth season, 221-64.
- **Top hitters:** LF Dan Batz (.496, six HRs, 67 RBIs), CF Vinnie Rinaldi (.476, six HRs, 50 RBIs), C Pat Daly (.441), 1B Justin Holland (.400), 2B Casey Long (.389, seven HRs, 34 RBIs).
- **Top pitchers:** LHPs J.J. Moutt (5-2, 2.89) and Brandon DeWald (7-1, 2.57); RHP Matt Nuffer (8-0, 3.94).
- **Notable:** Defending state champions have advanced to league championship in each of past five years. . . . Won titles in 1966, 1967, 1974 and 1996.

**BOYERTOWN BEARS (30-13)**

- **Coach:** Rick Moatz, 11th season, 527-125.
- **Top hitters:** CF A.J. Bohn (.402, 60 runs), LF Justin Konnick (.375, 53 RBIs), 3B Steve Gabel (.361, 52 runs, 45 SBs).
- **Top pitchers:** RHPs Justin Konnick (7-1, 3.31), Jared Trout (5-4) and Jon Eidle (4-0).
- **Notable:** Have won 23 league titles, 17 in past 23 years. . . . 136-43 in Berks playoffs, but have gone 1-2 in each of past two years. . . . Record 33rd straight county playoff appearance.

**BIRDSBORO ORIOLES (20-9)**

- **Coach:** Jerry Reitnour, sixth season, 109-91.

- **Top hitters:** 1B Toby Ranck (.462, six HRs, 53 RBIs), RF Chris Papst (.439, eight HRs, 40 RBIs), 2B Jeremy Wunderlich (.418, five HRs), 1B Jon Runke (.380).
- **Top pitchers:** RHPs Toby Ranck (7-0, 2.67, 69 Ks in 57.1 IP) and Gerry Werner (3-1); LHP Jon Runke (3-1).

- **Notable:** Defending Berks champs are making third straight playoff appearance and fifth in the 1990s. . . . Are 83-23 over past three years. . . . 23 homers in league play tied Hamburg for county best.

**MUHLENBERG A'S (17-12)**

- **Coach:** Dick Gochbauer, 29th season, 541-362.
- **Top hitters:** CF Jason Reinhart (.451, five HRs, 40 runs), SS Kraig Kemp (.447, 32 runs), RF Seth Hoffmann (.410), C Joe Fallor (.342).
- **Top pitchers:** RHPs Seth Hoffmann (7-5, 3.94), Dan Runkel (4-0) and Matt Carl (2-1).
- **Notable:** Making 12th straight Berks playoff appearance; won league championship in 1980. . . . Finished third in West with 13-9 record.

**KUTZTOWN COUGARS (12-10)**

- **Coach:** Joel Graf, third season, 29-40.
- **Top hitters:** 1B Brad Sechler (.444), RF Tim Moyer (.411, four HRs), IF Rory Dietrich (.400).
- **Top pitchers:** LHP Brad Sechler (4-4, 3.03); RHP Joe Pieller (4-2, 3.69).
- **Notable:** First playoff appearance since 1995 and fifth in 1990s. . . . Have never won Berks title, losing in final in 1967 and 1969. . . . Finished fourth in East to gain one of the two wild-card berths. . . . Won county championship during high school season.

**EXETER BLUE JAYS (19-15)**

- **Coach:** Dan Resh, second season, 42-29.
- **Top hitters:** LF Chad Painter (.415), CF Connor Cogan (.385), 1B Zach Taylor (six HRs, 33 RBIs), SS Jason Miller (.383, 33 RBIs), 3B Doug Resh (.345).
- **Top pitchers:** LHP Pete Shollenberger (3-2, 3.31); RHP Mike Gerhard (5-3, 2.04).
- **Notable:** Have never won Berks title. . . . Making fifth straight playoff appearance; have advanced to fourth day in each of past three years. . . . Defeated Reading 4-2 in eighth-place playoff Tuesday, their 17th game in 14 days.

— Compiled by Darryl Grumling



EXETER				WEST LAWN					
ab	r	h	bl	ab	r	h	bl		
Cogan cf	3	1	1	0	Carroll 3b	3	1	1	0
Gombar 2b	4	1	1	0	Peitli lf	4	0	1	0
Painter lf	3	0	1	0	Yocum cf	4	1	2	1
Taylor 1b	4	1	1	1	Binder 1b	5	0	1	1
Miller ss	4	0	1	2	Stacherski rf	5	0	0	0
Riesh 3b	3	0	2	0	Cipolla ss	3	2	1	0
Zielinski rf	2	0	0	0	Schultz c	3	2	3	0
Luft c	4	0	0	0	Vroman p	4	0	1	0
Gerhard p	3	0	0	0	Hohl 2b	3	1	1	0
Bender p	1	0	0	0					
<b>Totals</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>
Exeter Blue Jays	.200			000	010-3				
West Lawn Owls	.120			003	01x-7				
E: Vroman, Gerhard, Riesh, Gombar. DP: Exeter. LOB: Exeter 6, West Lawn 10. 2B: Miller, Yocum. 3B: Binder. SB: Cogan, Painter, Cipolla, Schultz. S: Zielinski, Hohl, Carroll.									
IP H R ER BB SO									
Exeter Blue Jays									
Gerhard L5-4	7	13	6	1	4	6			
Bender	1		1	1	1	0			
West Lawn Owls									
Vroman W,7-1	7	3	3	3	3	6			
HBP: by Gerhard (Cipolla). WP: Bender. PB: Luft. Umpires: Kurt Henry, Todd Mazurkiewicz, Dave Hertzog, Rick Mistler. T: 2:30. A: 575									

■ **West Lawn 7, Exeter 3:** At Owls Field, Brett Vroman threw a seven-hitter and struck out six as the Owls (28-10) advanced to tonight's winners bracket semifinal against Boyertown.

Exeter (17-13) took a 2-0 lead on Jason Miller's two-run double in the first inning, but West Lawn got one back in its half on Brad Binder's RBI triple and went up to stay in the second when Tony Cipolla and Dave Schultz (3-for-3, two runs) scored on a throwing error by losing pitcher Mike Gerhard.

Vroman, who struck out 19 in two previous appearances against Exeter, allowed three hits in the first inning, but didn't allow another hit until the seventh.

"He was dominating," Owls coach Tony Matz III said.

Josh Yocum was 2-for-4 and drove in a run for West Lawn, which put it away with three runs in the seventh.

Vroman and Gerhard, who struck out seven in six innings, were named game MVPs by the Reading Hot Stovers.

# West Lawn rebounds to eliminate Kutztown

■ The Owls come off a tough loss and show no ill effects, using a fast start to defeat the Cougars 10-3.

By Craig Kackenmeister

Eagle/Times

It was the kind of defeat that could've demoralized a team.

The haunting aftereffects could've lingered and led to another loss.

But none of that happened to West Lawn, which rebounded from a controversial loss Friday to eliminate Kutztown with a 10-3 victory Saturday in a Berks Legion League playoff game at Bear Stadium.

And the Owls (29-11) wasted no time against the Cougars, rallying from 2-0 deficit with five runs in the first inning off young starter Steve Rothermel and having little trouble the rest of the way.

West Lawn, which plays Hamburg today at Bear Stadium at 3:35 p.m., had plenty of trouble Friday.

In the ninth inning of the 8-6 loss to Boyertown, Brad Binder of the Owls hit a blast down the right-field line that would have been a game-tying two-run homer. But the umpire called it foul, leaving regular on champion West Lawn in the unexpected position of being a loss away from elimination.

The Cougars (13-12) were coming off an emotional game themselves. They defeated Muhlenberg 5-4 Friday in 10 innings behind ace Brad Sechler, who went the distance. And Kutztown coach Joel Graff had to start Rothermel.

"He said his arm bothered him," Cougars coach Joel Graff said. "This was his first time pitching in a big situation."

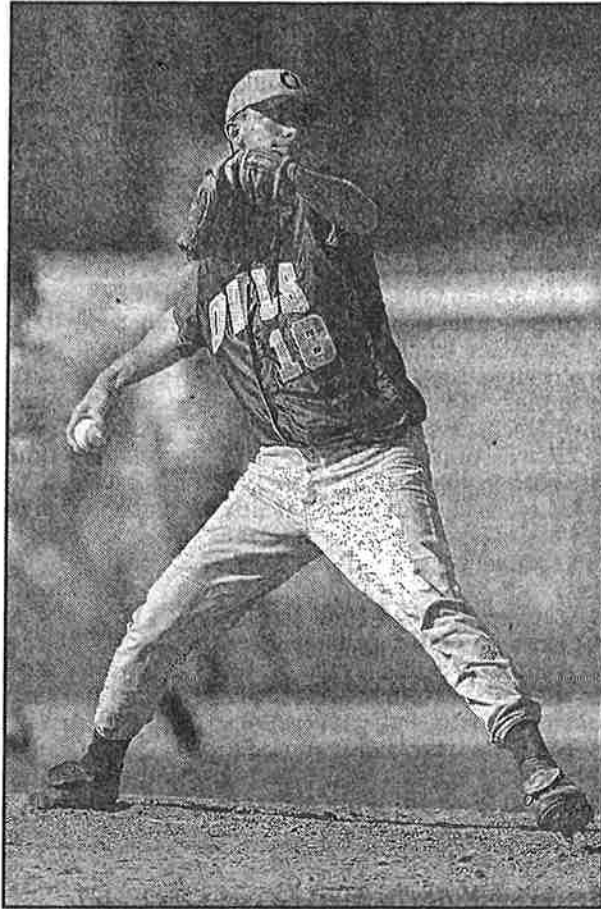
"I told the guys we could score more than two runs in the game," West Lawn coach Tony Matz said. "The guys took it to heart and scored five right away."

West Lawn starter Matt Fidler made his first appearance on the mound since suffering a rotator cuff injury.

"The first inning is usually the worst for me," said Fidler, who pitched eight innings. "I knew if I got through it I would cruise the rest of the way."

After the first, Fidler kept the Cougars off the board until the sixth. Jeremy Andre led off with a single and went to third on two wild pitches. Joe Pieller knocked in Andre with a sacrifice fly.

As the regular season champ, West Lawn already



Eagle/Times: Tim Leedy

West Lawn's Matt Fidler bears down during Saturday's victory over Kutztown.

has qualified for the Region 2 Tournament at Bicentennial Park in Allentown. The Owls also will be participating in the state tournament as the host team.

"The goal now for this team is to make it to the finals of the playoffs," Matz said. "To be successful in the upcoming tournaments, we have to learn how to play with one loss."

Even a loss as difficult as Friday's.

"Nothing is going to payback for what happened last night," Matz said. "It's going to take a while to forget about it."

KUTZTOWN		WEST LAWN	
ab	r	h	bb
Swartwood cf	4	1	1
Kutz 1b	3	1	0
Moyer lf	4	0	2
Harakal c	4	0	1
Sechler rf	1	0	0
Dietrich 2b	4	0	0
Pieller ss	3	0	0
Manstiller 3b	4	0	0
Rothermel p	0	0	0
Bower p	2	0	0
Andre lf	3	1	1
Bricker 2b	0	0	0
Kunkle rf	0	0	0
Jackson ph	1	0	0
Totals	33	3	5
Totals	33	10	12
Kutztown Cougars	200	001	000-3
West Lawn Owls	501	220	000-10
E: Harakal, Kutz, Cipolla, Dietrich. LOB: Kutztown 4, West Lawn 7. DP: Kutztown 2. 2B: Swartwood, Cipolla, Binder. SB: Yocum. SF: Pieller.			
Kutztown Cougars		West Lawn Owls	
IP	H	R	ER
Rothermel	2	3	5
Bower	5	5	5
Dietrich	3	7	4
West Lawn Owls	8	2	0
Fidler W.G-1	8	5	3
Frees	1	0	0



# West Lawn wears out Hamburg

■ Josh Yocum pitches four strong innings as the Owls end the Hawks' season with a lopsided victory.

By Heather A. Dinich  
Eagle/Times

When your second baseman sits down on the field between the fifth and sixth inning, you know it has been a long ballgame.

Hamburg's Terry Snyder took a break from the Hawks' 19-3 loss to West Lawn in Sunday's Berks Legion elimination game, sitting down right next to second base at Boyertown's Bear Stadium.

The rest of the Hawks stood with shoulders sagging and their heads bowed, while their fifth pitcher, Kevin Bennecoff, warmed up.

"They knew they were down and there was no tomorrow," Hamburg coach Jeff Seidel said. "Considering these guys have had .500 seasons their last three years in high school; an 18-game winning streak; and were able to do some of the things they've been able to accomplish, I'm disappointed. But I'm only disappointed in the way we went out."

West Lawn, the Berks regular-season champion, almost ended Hamburg's season with a shutout, but right fielder Tom Krick drilled a three-run homer in the sixth. After one more at-bat for the Hawks, the game was called because of the 15-run rule.

## TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

### LOSERS BRACKET FINAL

West Lawn vs. Shillington, tonight, 7:05, Bear Stadium

### CHAMPIONSHIP

Boyertown vs. West Lawn-Shillington winner, Tuesday night, 7:35, Bear Stadium

But Seidel said the Hawks felt it was over by the bottom of the fourth, when West Lawn scored eight runs on only five hits. The bases were loaded for most of the inning, with the help of four walks and two hit batters.

Although Hamburg went through five pitchers who combined for 12 walks and only three strikeouts, Seidel said the Hawks' shaky defense also contributed to the loss.

"All year, our defense has kept us in the game," Seidel said, "and when we break down defensively in the first two innings, it just sets the tone. It was the same thing that happened (Saturday). We threw the ball around in the first two innings and we just broke down in every aspect of the game."

It was the third time this season that West Lawn routed Hamburg, which gave the Hawks all the more motivation to win. It just didn't

happen.

Maybe it was because guys like West Lawn pitcher Josh Yocum refused to let it happen. Yocum held the Hawks scoreless for four innings, striking out four and walking one before leaving once the Owls built a large lead.

"We heard they said they could beat us, and we took that to heart," Yocum said. "We just went and handed it to them. I made good pitches and kept the ball down."

"It was a long game. When you get that many runs, you just think, 'All right let's get this game over with.' You don't want it to drag on."

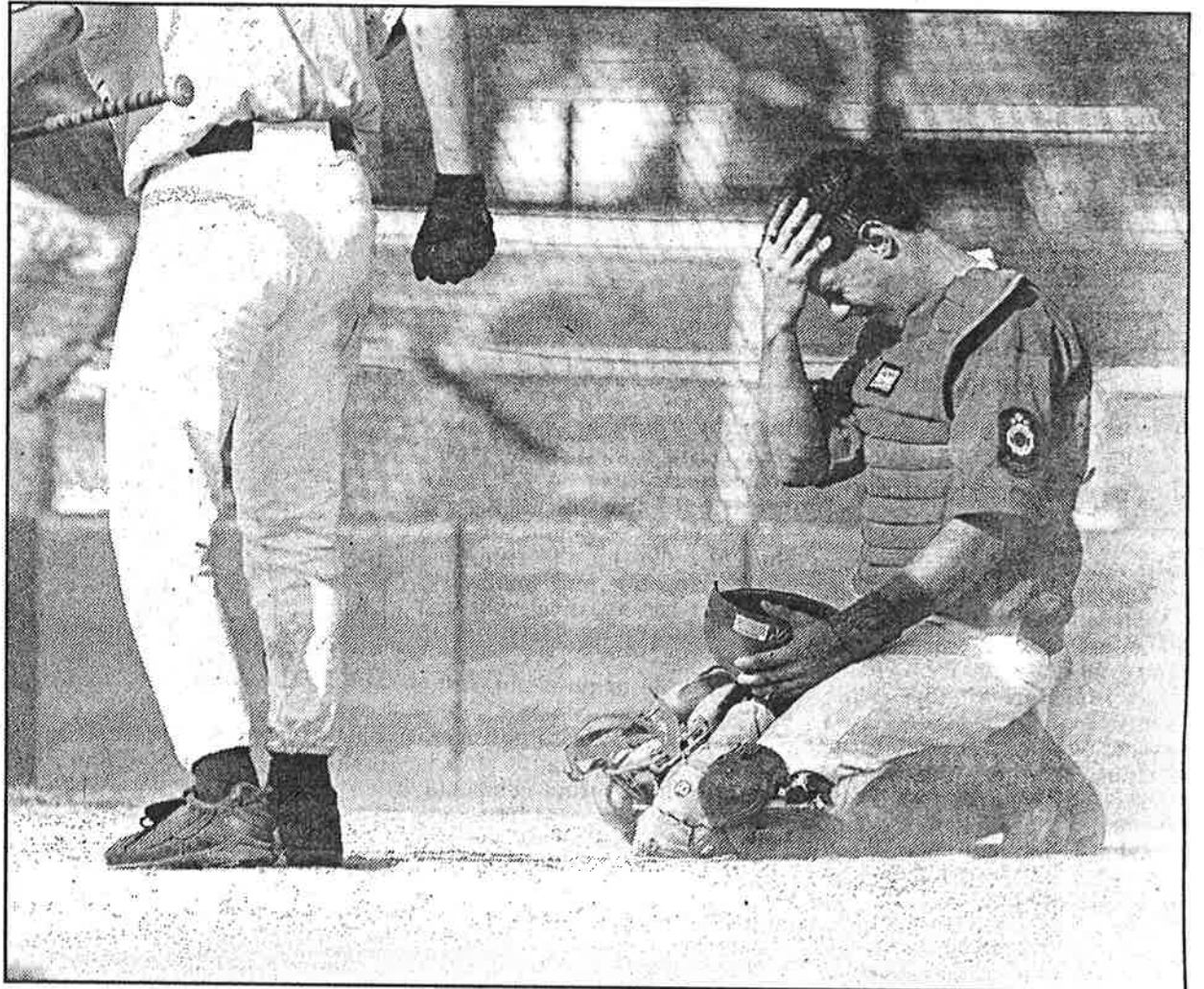
For Hamburg, that was inevitable. They trailed 15-0 before West Lawn's Regan Carroll started the bottom of the fifth with a single. Eric Pettit followed with a double and Yocum knocked them in with a homer.

"Our kids came out and took advantage of a tired pitching staff," said West Lawn coach Tony Matz III. "Our kids hit the ball very well today and were very disciplined and took advantage of everything from the walks to the defense."

"It was just a very good offensive showing. Our goal is to get back to the championship game and that's what we're working on."

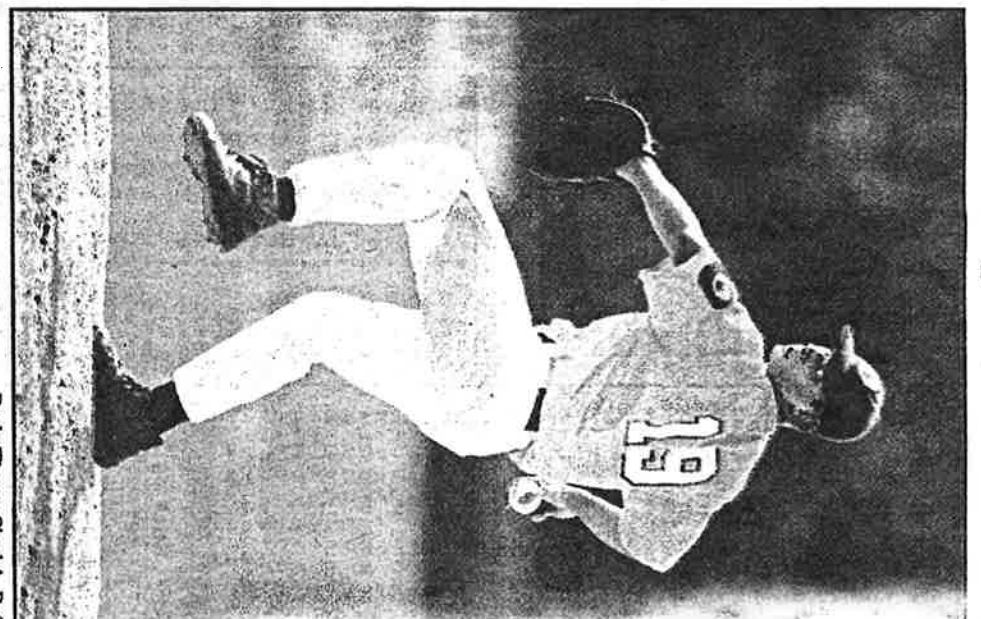
The Owls moved on to the losers bracket final against Shillington tonight at 7:05.

"We've had two good wins and we want to get two more," Yocum said. "We have a lot of confidence and hopefully that will carry us."



Eagle/Times: Chad A. DeShazo

Hamburg catcher Todd Roberts can't bear to watch as another run scores in the Hawks' 19-3 loss to West Lawn.



Eagle/Times: Chad A. DeS

West Lawn pitcher Josh Yocum pitches four strong innings as the Owls crush Hamburg 19-3 Sunday Story, Page D4.

West Lawn pounds Hamburg

Playoffs

SUNDAY'S RESULTS  
At Boyertown Bear Stadium  
Lose bracket: West Lawn 19, Hamburg 3 (Hamburg eliminated)  
Winners bracket final: Shillington 13, Boyertown 6

HAMBURG		WEST LAWN	
ab	r	h	b
Wagner/d	3	0	0
Carroll	3	0	0
Csman	3	0	0
Roberts/c	2	1	0
Blehl/p	3	1	0
Kick/r	2	1	2
Hoobauer	1	3	0
Engelstein	1	0	0
Hanson	1	0	0
Snyder	2	0	1
Reuter/d	1	0	0
Kerener	3	1	0
Kerener	3	1	0
Ortiz/p	1	0	0
Bennecoff/p	1	0	0
Schirer	2	0	0
Totals	26	3	7

HAMBURG		WEST LAWN	
ab	r	h	b
Wagner/d	3	0	0
Csman	3	0	0
Roberts/c	2	1	0
Blehl/p	3	1	0
Kick/r	2	1	2
Hoobauer	1	3	0
Engelstein	1	0	0
Hanson	1	0	0
Snyder	2	0	1
Reuter/d	1	0	0
Kerener	3	1	0
Kerener	3	1	0
Ortiz/p	1	0	0
Bennecoff/p	1	0	0
Schirer	2	0	0
Totals	26	3	7

Hamburg Hawks ... 000 003 0-3  
West Lawn Owls ... 142 840 x-19  
E. Snyder, H. Hanson, R. Regan, L. O'Brien, West Lawn  
12, Hamburg 4, D.P. Hoobauer, 2 RB, B. Kerener,  
Holt, Zimmerman, Pettit, St. Regan, Pettit 2,  
Kick, SB, Bender, Yocum, St. Regan, Pettit 2,  
H. R. H. R. ER, BB, SO

Hamburg Hawks 2 5 6 4 1 2  
Blehl L5-2  
Angress 2 3 6 6 0 4  
Kerener 1 3 3 3 0 3  
Ortiz 1 3 4 4 1 1  
O'Brien 1 3 0 0 1 2  
West Lawn Owls 1 2 0 0 4 1  
Yocum V6-2 3 5 3 3 1 0  
Rudski S1  
Holt, O'Brien, St. Regan, Pettit 1, O'Brien, Bender, Rudski, V.P. Bender, Engelstein.



# Owls fouled up by cool Konnick

■ Bears' ace Justin Konnick keeps calm and finishes off West Lawn, 8-6.

By Matt Malinowski

Eagle/Times

The scene was one of tension and anticipation — a delicious moment in which everyone is on the edge of their seats, and everyone from the guy in the batter's box to the spectator sitting from the furthest distance has sweaty palms.

It was Boyertown's ace pitcher Justin Konnick facing West Lawn's cleanup hitter Brad Binder, considered by many to be the clutch hitter in the Berks Legion League.

It was the ninth inning, two outs, a man on and the Owls down a pair of runs. Konnick, who worked a brilliant nine innings the night before, showed no signs of fatigue, getting ahead of Binder one ball and two strikes.

Binder, a power-hitting lefty, dug in a little deeper. He was sitting on an inside fastball, and he got it — belt high and at the exact spot he had hoped for.

And Binder nailed it ... boy did he nail it. Owls Field has a short porch in right, but this would have been an upper-decker in any major league ballpark in the country. It was hugging the line for the longest time, but it was called foul.

After some friendly discussion between Owls coach Tony Matz III and the umpires, Binder stepped back in the box. He ended up drawing a walk.

Konnick then got Shane Stachurski to fly out to center to give the Bears an 8-6 win Friday over the Owls in a Berks Legion League winner's bracket semifinal. The Bears will face Hamburg today in the winner's bracket final at Bear Stadium. West Lawn will face Krutztown in an elimination game at Bear Stadium at 4:05.

It wasn't a matter of Binder's shot leaving the park — his reaction said it all. He dropped the bat, took a few strides and began an abbrevi-

ated home run trot. But as the ball tailed the trot ended, and Binder's head turned around to the home plate umpire for the verdict.

"I knew I had it, it was just a matter of the umpire making the call," said Binder. "It was so high, it was a difficult call I guess. The way I saw it the ball was well fair, but it's not my call to make. It was called foul, and after that there's not much you can do about it."

In Binder's case no. But in Konnick's case yes. The Bears' leader, who went 3-for-4 with three RBIs, quickly regrouped. He didn't let the blast faze him, and he stepped back on the rubber with a clear head.

"Yeah, when it went off the bat I knew it would be gone," said Konnick. "But once it was called foul, it was just a long strike to me. That's how my attitude is. When I get out there, I just say to myself that no one can beat me. I just think that good things will happen. It was foul, it didn't matter. Then I just went back to work."

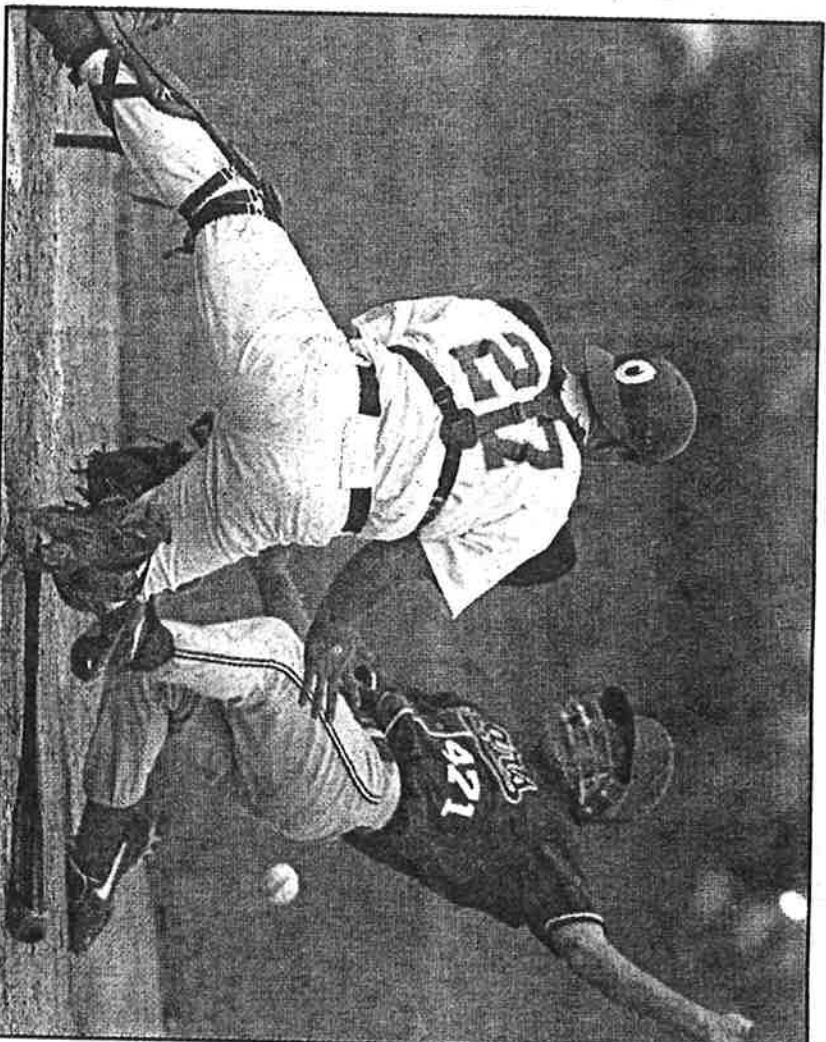
And he got the job done. Still, the game will always be tagged with a "what if." It was hard to tell where the ball even landed, let alone if it was fair. Naturally, it looked fair to every one of the West Lawn side, foul to everyone on the Boyertown side.

Regardless, the call doesn't account for another big what if — as in what if West Lawn wouldn't have self-destructed in the first two innings.

The Bears led 6-1 after two innings on just four hits. West Lawn committed three errors leading to five unearned runs. The Owls also made mistakes on the base paths, getting picked off twice.

"Even with the ball being called foul, it doesn't make up for the play in the first two innings," said Matz. "We started in a huge hole, and they are not easy to climb out of."

"The ball certainly looked fair from where I was standing. I asked Brad and he said it certainly was fair. But ..."



Eagle/Times: Tim Leedy and Tim Engelman. **Boyertown's Rob Galloway slides home before the ball reaches West Lawn catcher Dave Schultz during the Bears' 8-6 win Friday night. Story, Page D4.**

## Winners bracket

HAMBURG 12  
SHILLINGTON 10

BOYERTOWN 8  
WEST LAWN 6

BIRDSBORO 13  
EXETER 10

KUTZTOWN 5  
MUHLENBERG 4

## Losers bracket

✓ Complete coverage, Page D4

BOYERTOWN		WEST LAWN					
ab	r	h	bi	ab	r	h	bi
Bohn	4	2	2	Carroll	3	4	0
Gabel	4	2	3	Reilly	4	3	0
Konnick	4	2	3	Keckm	4	2	1
Troul	5	0	1	Binder	1	4	2
Rob	5	0	1	Stachurski	5	1	2
Bieber	2	0	0	Copala	5	1	2
Galloway	4	1	0	Schuck	3	0	1
Eddie	0	0	0	Schuck	2	1	1
Schuck	2	1	1	Zimmer	2	0	0
Mason	3	1	0	Vonman	0	0	0
Player pos.	3	1	0	Fielder	0	0	0
Totals	34	8	9	Totals	32	8	9

Boyertown Bears ... .330 002 000-8  
West Lawn Owls ... .100 100 220-6

E: Schuck, Bieber; Stachurski, Zimmermann, Cipolla, LOB: Boyertown 6, West Lawn 6. DP: Boyertown, 2B: Troul, Roth, 3B: Stachurski, HR: Yocum, SB: Konnick, Galloway, 2: Mason, Bohn, Gabel, SF: Roth, Konnick, S: Vomann, Schuck, Mason, Bieber.

IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Boyertown Bears	6 1/3	6	4	4	3
Troul, W	6-4				
Eddie	1 2/3	3	2	1	2
Konnick, S	1	0	0	0	1
West Lawn Owls					
Stachurski, L	4-2	9	9	8	3
HBP: by Troul (Reilly) 2. WP: Stachurski, Troul, Eddie, PE: Roth.					

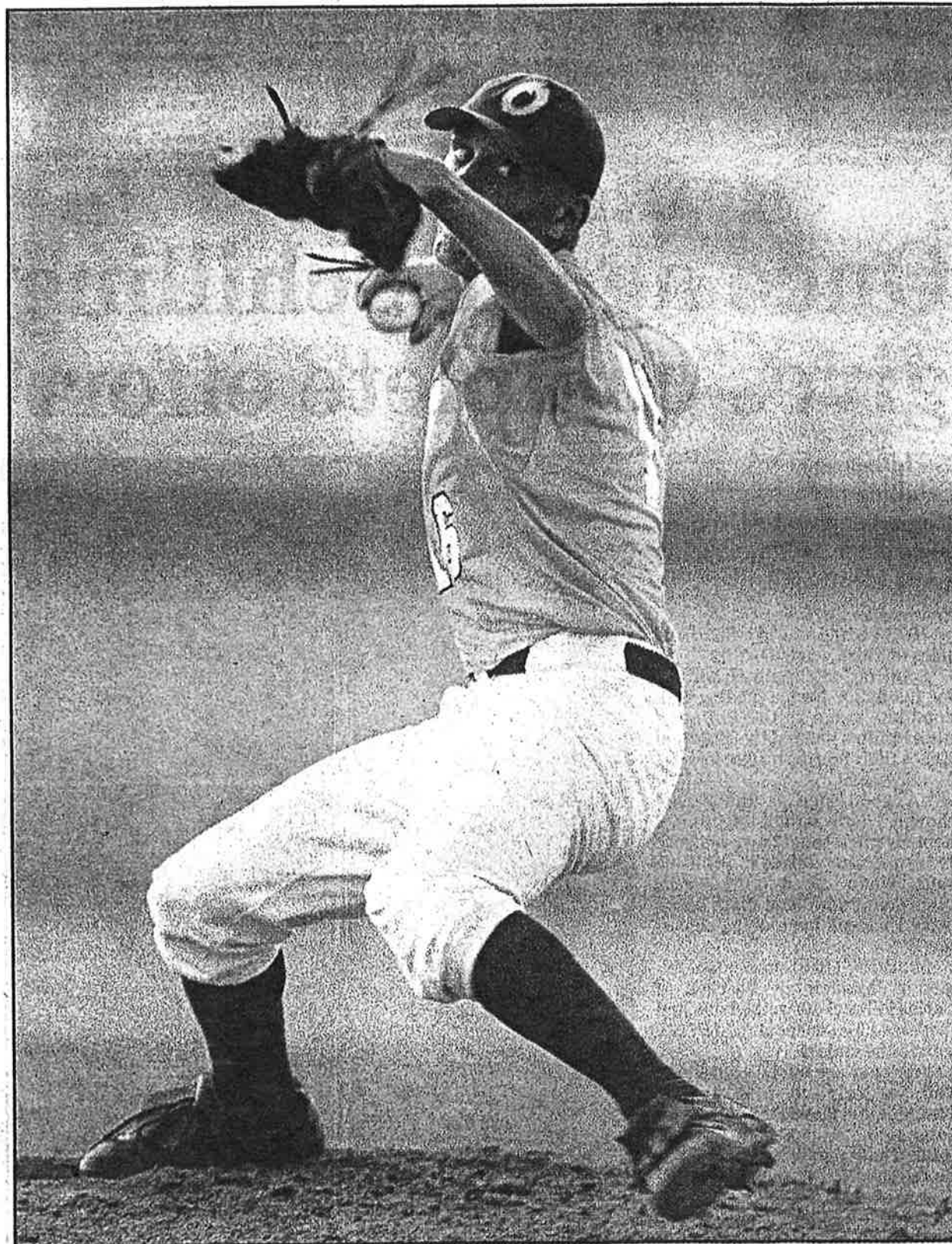


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 Sports editor: Mike Mlorelli, 371-5063

# SPORTS

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BUSINESS/D6



Eagle/Times: Matthew J. Sroka

West Lawn pitcher Brett Vroman hurls the Owls to a 6-0 win over Shillington. He is the first pitcher this season to shut out the Red Sox.

# Vroman, Owls shock Red Sox

■ Brett Vroman blanks Shillington on five hits and moves West Lawn into Berks League Tournament final against Boyertown.

By Darryl Grumling

Eagle/Times

Even after it was all over, Brett Vroman still didn't quite realize the magnitude of what he had just done.

On a steamy Monday night more suited to lounging around the pool than pitching a playoff game, Vroman achieved a feat that the last 62 other starting pitchers from American Legion teams in the county, state and beyond had failed to accomplish.

Not only did the 18-year-old righty go the route in a 6-0 victory over Shillington in a Berks League Tournament elimination game at Bear Stadium, he became the first pitcher to shut out the Red Sox this season.

Vroman's victory had plenty of ramifications: It earned the Owls (31-11) a spot in tonight's 7:05 Berks championship against Boyertown (33-14); handed the Bears the league's other Region 2 berth; and ended the season of the Red Sox (38-7), who will fail to defend their Region 2 and state titles.

"As good a pitching performance as I have ever seen," West Lawn coach Tony Matz III said.

Shillington coach Bob Houck, whose team failed to advance to the Berks final for the first time in his six-year tenure, echoed those sentiments.



Eagle/Times: Matthew J. Sroka

Shane Stacherski is congratulated by his West Lawn teammates after hitting a solo home run in the third inning.

### CHAMPIONSHIP GAME TONIGHT

West Lawn (31-11) vs. Boyertown (33-14), 7:05, Bear Stadium

"To do what he did against this lineup says a lot for him," Houck said after the Red Sox could manage just five hits against Vroman. "To shut these guys down, you have to have something on the ball."

Over the past month, Vroman has had plenty on the ball in assuming the role of the team's ace. Since earning the victory with four shutout innings of relief in a 10-8 regular season victory over Shillington June 25, he has been

virtually unbeatable.

"That was probably the game that got me going," said Vroman, the team's lone final-year player.

Vroman continued his roll with three strong performances over Exeter, including a complete game in Thursday's 7-3 first-round victory. But Monday's effort, in which he struck out six, was by far his most impressive.

See West Lawn, Page D3 ▶

# ► West Lawn

Continued from Page D1

"Brett's been pitching with a lot of confidence lately," said West Lawn pitching coach Steve Carroll. "He knows he can get guys out, and he knows he can get out of any situation."

Mixing a mid-80s fastball with a slider and changeup, Vroman (8-1) beat the Red Sox for the first time since Birdsboro's Buddy Hernandez went the route in last year's 3-0 county championship victory.

And he gave a pretty good indication it was going to be his night early, escaping trouble in the first inning after Shillington's Justin Holland laced a one-out triple down the right-field line.

"At that point I was thinking to just try to get out of it only down a run," admitted Vroman, who had the unenviable task of facing the dangerous duo of Vinnie Rinaldi and Dan Batz in succession.

He did a lot better than that - striking out Rinaldi (13-for-19 in the tourney to that point) and getting Batz to weakly pop back to the mound.

"That definitely started it all off," said Vroman, who started learning the game as a bathboy for Birdsboro and Exeter, where his father Skip coached.

The Owls hitters - led by cleanup hitter Shane Stacherski - succeeded where the Red Sox could not against Vroman. They scored three in the first to give Vroman all the support he would

need. Stacherski (3-for-4, four RBIs) hit a two-run double off the centerfield fence, then scored on a single by Dave Schultz (2-for-3).

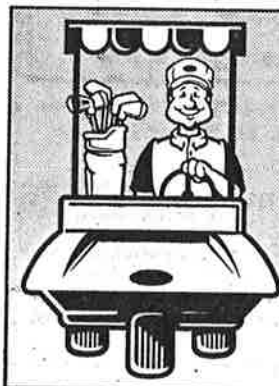
Stacherski launched a solo homer to left-center to make it 4-0 in the third, and, after Brad Binder doubled in another run in the sixth, hit an RBI single in the eighth for the final margin.

"We know we're already in in regionals (by winning the regular season) and states (by hosting the event)," Vroman said. "But we still want to prove to everybody we belong there, and we want to earn our way there."

Thanks in no small part to Vroman, the Owls have done exactly that.

"Brett can be a pretty funny guy in the dugout," Stacherski said. "But once he gets out to the mound, he's all business."

And Monday night, it was Vroman who gave Shillington the business as the Owls soared into tonight's Berks championship game.



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KIDS UNDER 16

## Berks Legion

Playoff semifinals  
At Bear Stadium  
West Lawn 6, Shillington 0

SHILLINGTON			WEST LAWN		
	ab	r h bi		ab	r h bi
Anderson ss	4	0 0 0	Pettit rf	3	2 2 0
Holland 1b	4	0 1 0	Binder 1b	4	1 1 1
Rinaldi cf	3	0 0 0	Yocum lf	3	1 1 0
Batz lf	3	0 2 0	Stacherski 3b	4	2 3 4
Moult p	4	0 0 0	Cipolla ss	2	0 0 0
Long 2b	3	0 0 0	Schultz c	3	0 2 1
Reed 3b	2	0 0 0	Hohl 2b	4	0 2 0
Daly c	4	0 2 0	Zimmerman cf	4	0 0 0
Miller rf	2	0 0 0	Vroman p	3	0 1 0
DeWald p	0	0 0 0			
Thomas ph	1	0 0 0			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>05 0</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>612 6</b>

Shillington 000 000 000-0 5 1  
West Lawn 301 001 01x-6 12 1  
E: Moult, Vroman. LOB: Shillington 10, West Lawn 13. DP: Shillington 1, West Lawn 1. 2B: Yocum, Stacherski. 2B: Binder. 3B: Holland. HR: Stacherski. SB: Long, Pettit, Hohl. S: Miller, Pettit, Yocum.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Shillington	7	10	5	5	9	2
Moult, L	1	2	1	1	0	1
DeWald						
West Lawn	9	5	0	0	5	7
Vroman, W						



BOYERTOWN				WEST LAWN					
ab	r	h	bl	ab	r	h	bl		
Bohn cf	6	3	2	1	Pettit rf	4	1	1	0
Gabel 3b	4	4	3	4	Binder 1b	3	0	2	1
Konnick p	6	1	1	1	Yocum lf	2	0	1	0
Sheptock lf	3	3	2	1	Stacherski p	4	0	1	0
Walsh lf	0	0	0	0	Cipolla ss	3	0	0	0
Trout rf	5	2	3	1	Schultz c	3	0	1	0
Eidle p	0	0	0	0	Hohl 2b	2	0	2	0
Roth c	4	0	1	1	Zimmerman cf	0	0	0	0
Bieber 1b	4	2	3	2	Fidler p	2	0	0	0
Schueck ss	5	2	1	0	Shipe rf	1	0	0	0
Mason 2b	3	1	1	1	Schaeffer p	0	0	0	0
Galloway 2b	1	0	0	0	Vroman 3b	2	0	0	0
					Frees 3b	1	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>

Boyertown Bears .....155 034 0-18  
West Lawn Owls .....001 000 0-1

E: Schueck, Hohl, Stacherski, Binder 2, Yocum, Vroman 2, Pettit. DP: Boyertown 1. LOB: Boyertown 9, West Lawn 9. 2B: Gabel 2, Bieber 2, Trout. 3B: Sheptock. HR: Gabel. SB: Bohn, Gabel, Sheptock, Trout. S: Gabel, Mason, Yocum.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
<b>Boyertown Bears</b>						
Konnick (W, 9-1)	6	7	1	0	3	5
Eidle	1	1	0	0	0	0
<b>West Lawn Owls</b>						
Stacherski (L, 4-3)	12 <sup>2</sup>	6	6	5	2	0
Fidler	11 <sup>3</sup>	4	5	2	1	2
Cipolla	2	3	3	3	2	0
Pettit	1	4	4	2	0	1
Schaeffer	1	0	0	0	0	0

WP: Konnick 2, Fidler. B: Fidler. T: 2:39. A: 1,117.

# FINAL BERKS LEGION LEADERS

## BATTING

Player, team	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	SB	AVG
Dan Batz, Shillington	82	34	44	5	35	2	.537
Toby Ranck, Birdsboro	83	30	39	6	38	5	.470
Regan Carroll, West Lawn	81	40	38	0	18	10	.469
Kraig Kemp, Muhlenberg	79	33	37	1	25	5	.468
Phil Fry, Oley	73	28	34	1	16	23	.466
Josh Yocum, West Lawn	71	45	33	2	34	3	.465
Shane Stachurski, West Lawn	62	25	28	2	25	5	.452
Pat Daly, Shillington	82	33	37	3	39	7	.451
Kevin Helms, Gregg Post	78	29	34	3	13	14	.447
Ben Leisawitz, Gregg Post	74	18	33	1	25	1	.446
Brad Sechler, Kutztown	63	11	28	3	16	0	.444
Jason Reinhart, Muhlenberg	91	35	40	4	27	14	.440
Justin Holland, Shillington	73	23	32	2	20	10	.438
Nat Harrison, Hamburg	47	13	20	0	15	3	.426
Chad Painter, Exeter	81	23	34	4	21	9	.420
Brad Binder, West Lawn	87	37	36	3	39	6	.414
Vinnie Rinaldi, Shillington	85	29	35	5	24	11	.412
Brady Kidd, Wyomissing	85	20	35	1	9	2	.412
Rob McIntosh, Reading	73	20	30	2	18	3	.411
Brad Biehl, Hamburg	78	30	32	2	29	3	.410
Eric Pettit, West Lawn	84	37	34	0	19	13	.405
Jason Miller, Exeter	100	22	40	2	27	1	.400
Dan Conte, Wyomissing	85	18	34	4	24	5	.400
A.J. Bohn, Boyertown	70	33	28	0	19	16	.400
Todd Roberts, Hamburg	96	32	38	8	35	8	.398
Zach Focht, Gregg Post	81	28	32	1	25	1	.395
Justin Templin, Fleetwood	84	18	33	0	16	0	.393
Steve Sheptock, Boyertown	61	19	24	1	21	12	.393
Steve Gabel, Boyertown	74	35	29	1	21	27	.392
Tim Moyer, Kutztown	59	18	23	4	15	3	.390
Casey Long, Shillington	72	25	28	5	25	4	.389
Connor Cogan, Exeter	98	26	38	0	9	10	.388
Chris Papst, Birdsboro	83	33	32	5	25	4	.386
Jeremy Wunderlich, Birdsboro	57	22	22	5	23	5	.386
Seth Hoffmann, Muhlenberg	81	29	31	0	15	13	.383
Tom Krick, Hamburg	76	25	29	5	23	1	.382
Ryan Negri, Fleetwood	85	18	36	6	12	1	.379
Rory Dietrich, Kutztown	77	18	29	0	14	0	.377
D.J. Hoshauer, Hamburg	80	23	30	4	16	2	.377
Chris Brennan, Hamburg	97	28	36	0	18	4	.375
Brian Helster, Gregg Post	83	14	31	1	27	3	.371
Doug Reeh, Exeter	97	18	38	3	22	2	.371
Jared Lydon, Oley	82	21	30	2	15	5	.368
Matt Link, Topton	41	9	15	0	5	4	.366
Matt Bennecoff, Fleetwood	55	17	20	2	11	0	.364
Aaron Wentzel, Gregg Post	92	22	33	0	15	3	.359
Zach Taylor, Exeter	104	25	37	6	29	2	.356
Steve Cotelliese, Oley	48	12	17	0	9	5	.354
Jeff Soto, Reading	51	17	18	2	11	4	.352
Steve Veich, Conrad Weiser	63	16	22	0	5	1	.349
Rich Pentz, Boyertown	43	15	15	0	5	9	.349
Daryl Miller, Exeter	66	6	23	0	7	1	.348
Dave Swartwood, Kutztown	75	18	26	1	12	5	.347
Dan Weyandt, Schuylkill Valley	58	8	20	0	6	0	.345
Tony Cipolla, West Lawn	93	28	32	2	27	4	.344
Adam Schafer, Fleetwood	73	18	25	6	27	1	.342
Josh Evans, Schuylkill Valley	71	15	24	0	5	10	.338

## PITCHING

Player, team	IP	W	L	S	BB	SO	ERA
Shawn Llewellyn, Boyertown	16.2	3	0	0	4	22	0.54
Kyle Fries, West Lawn	8.1	1	0	0	2	3	1.08
Matt Bennecoff, Fleetwood	42	5	0	0	22	60	2.14
Toby Ranck, Birdsboro	45.1	5	0	1	16	56	2.38
Shane Stachurski, West Lawn	31	4	0	1	12	17	2.61
Mike Stahler, Shillington	19.1	1	0	0	11	10	2.79
Jon Rudisill, West Lawn	20.2	2	0	0	7	7	3.05

## BERKS LEGION ALL-STARS

Player, team	Age	Pos.	SB	HR	RBI	Avg.
Dan Batz, Shillington	16	LF	5	35	2	.537
Brad Biehl, Hamburg	18	P-SS	2	29	3	.410
Brad Binder, West Lawn	17	1B	3	39	6	.414
A.J. Bohn, Boyertown	18	OF	0	19	16	.400
Phil Fry, Oley	18	OF	1	16	23	.466
Kraig Kemp, Muhlenberg	16	SS	1	25	5	.452
Justin Konnick, Boyertown	18	P-OF	3	31	9	.308
Chad Painter, Exeter	18	OF	4	21	9	.420
Chris Papst, Birdsboro	18	OF	5	25	4	.386
Toby Ranck, Birdsboro	18	P-OF	6	38	5	.470
Jason Reinhart, Muhlenberg	16	OF	4	27	14	.440
Vinnie Rinaldi, Shillington	17	OF	5	24	11	.412
Todd Roberts, Hamburg	18	C	8	35	8	.396
Adam Schafer, Fleetwood	18	C	6	27	1	.342
Brad Sechler, Kutztown	18	P-OF	3	16	0	.444
Josh Yocum, West Lawn	17	OF	2	34	3	.465

Most Valuable Player: Justin Konnick, Boyertown  
 Outstanding pitching award: Matt Bennecoff, Fleetwood  
 Team sportsmanship award: Topton

Matt Fidler, West Lawn	43	5	1	0	26	38	3.14
J.J. Moutt, Shillington	42	4	2	0	16	30	3.21
Brandon DeWald, Shillington	30.2	4	1	0	12	27	3.23
Matt Nuhter, Shillington	38	6	0	0	10	28	3.25
Brett Vroman, West Lawn	32.2	5	0	0	11	24	3.31
Brad Biehl, Hamburg	64.1	7	2	1	25	49	3.50
Jared Trout, Boyertown	36	3	1	0	19	33	3.50
Chase Roth, Boyertown	25.2	2	1	0	20	25	3.51
Mike Gerhard, Exeter	46	2	3	1	26	40	3.52

Justin Konnick, Boyertown	61	7	1	0	21	49	3.54
Jon Eidle, Boyertown	22.1	2	0	1	5	9	3.63
John Runko, Birdsboro	22	2	1	0	13	12	3.68
Steve Randolph, Reading	7.1	0	1	0	7	5	3.68
Pete Shollenberger, Exeter	61.1	3	2	0	18	50	3.82
Rob Morganti, Wyomissing	30.1	3	0	0	14	23	3.86
Steve Gebhart, Shillington	18.2	1	0	0	7	8	3.88
Adam Becker, Birdsboro	14	1	0	0	7	8	3.88
Kevin Bennecoff, Hamburg	9	1	0	1	6	6	4.00

**PARADE**  
 means color and excitement  
 Look for your copy  
 this Sunday in the **READING EAGLE**

## PENNSYLVANIA REGION 2 LEGION TOURNAMENT

**■ WHEN, WHERE:** Tuesday through Saturday, Allentown's Bicentennial Park.

**■ WHO:** Berks champion Boyertown and runner-up West Lawn, Northampton champion Nazareth and runner-up The Birches, Lehigh Valley champ Mountainville and runner-up North Parkland, Schuylkill champ Minersville, Bux-Mont champ Quakertown.

**■ FORMAT:** Eight teams, double elimination.

**■ AT STAKE:** The winner advances to next week's Pennsylvania State Tournament at West Lawn. Should the Owls win the tourney, the Region 2 runner-up would also advance to states.

**■ TUESDAY'S FIRST ROUND:** The Birches vs. Quakertown, 10:05 a.m.; West Lawn vs. North Parkland, 1:05 p.m.; Boyertown vs. Nazareth, 4:05; Mountainville vs. Minersville, 7:35.

**■ LAST YEAR:** Shillington defeated Nazareth 6-1 at Emmaus in the championship game.

### THE TEAMS

#### BOYERTOWN BEARS

**■ Coach:** Rick Moatz, 11th season.

**■ Record:** 35-14.

**■ Key hitters:** CF A.J. Bohn (.392, 70 runs), LF Justin Konnick (.387, four HRs, 62 RBIs), 3B Steve Gabel (.376, 63 runs, 54 SB), OF Steve Sheplock (.371).

**■ Key pitchers:** Righties Justin Konnick (9-1, 3-11), Jared Trout (6-4), Chase Roth (5-2) and Jon Eidle (4-0).

**■ Notable:** Defeated West Lawn 18-1 Tuesday for 24th Berks title and 18th in past 24 years. ... Have won a record 15 Region 2 titles, but none since 1994. ... 70-11 all-time record in 17 previous tourney appearances.

#### WEST LAWN OWLS

**■ Coach:** Tony Matz III, 12th season.

**■ Record:** 31-12.

**■ Key hitters:** CF Josh Yocum (.432, six HRs, 61 RBIs, 68 runs), RF Shane Stacherski (.419, 58 RBIs), LF Eric Pettit (.414, 59 runs), 1B Brad Binder (.403, 62 RBIs).

**■ Key pitchers:** Righties Brett Vroman (8-1, 2-47), Matt Fidler (6-1), Shane Stacherski (4-3) and Josh Yocum (4-2).

**■ Notable:** Making third Region 2 appearance and first since 1992, when Owls finished second to Boyertown. ... Will host Pennsylvania State Tournament next week. ... 6-4 all-time Region 2 record. ... Won Berks regular season championship with 20-2 record. ... Third baseman Regan Carroll may not play this week after suffering broken finger in last week's Berks playoffs.

#### NAZARETH

**■ Coach:** Frank Jurasts, 27th season.

**■ Record:** 28-3.

**■ Key hitters:** 2B Tom Bender (.400), SS Brian Jenson (.384), 1B Ryan Fry (.354, five HRs), 3B Ian Burley (.348), C Walter Mosteller (.333).

**■ Key pitchers:** Lefty Bret Remel (8-1); righties Ryan Fry (5-0), Brian Jenson (5-0) and Steve Rohn (2-1).

**■ Notable:** Second Region 2 appearance; lost to Shillington in final last year. ... Defeated The Birches 17-3 to sweep best-of-three series for Northampton League title.

#### THE BIRCHES

**■ Coach:** John Konwalk, 14th season.

**■ Record:** 21-9.

**■ Key hitters:** SS Jason Deppner (.480), 1B Corey Phillip (.432), 2B Zach Kozicki (.405), 3B-C Lou Skinner (.347), OF Roger Green (five HRs).

**■ Key pitchers:** Lefty Mike Boyger (7-2); righties Brian

Everett (4-1) and Jason Deppner (3-2).

**■ Notable:** Making fourth regional appearance and second in past three years. ... All-time tourney record of 6-6, with best finish being third place in 1986. ... Lost to Nazareth in two straight games in best-of-three Northampton championship series.

#### MOUNTAINVILLE MUD HENS

**■ Coach:** Mark Maron, fifth season.

**■ Record:** 23-5.

**■ Key hitters:** CF Josh Brey (.538, 14 HRs), OF-C Jon-michael Vito (.446), 2B Nick Bowen (.441, 8 HRs), RF Josh Ardelean (.364), LF Ruben Santos (.360).

**■ Key pitchers:** Righties Josh Ardelean (8-3), Josh Kappes (9-1), Jamie Miller (4-0) and Nick Bowen (2-1).

**■ Notable:** Won Lehigh Valley regular season title with 21-3 record. ... Making third Region 2 appearance and first since 1995, when Mud Hens lost two straight ... Brey, who made the East-West all-star game, is headed to Division I Liberty.

#### NORTH PARKLAND BUFFALOES

**■ Coach:** Terry Stoudt, 25th season.

**■ Record:** 27-10.

**■ Key hitters:** 1B Matt Kimmel (.423, 9 HRs, 39 RBIs), CF Brendan Witkowski (.392, 22 SB), RF Matt Phillips (.384), 3B Mike Mihalik (6 HRs, 31 RBIs).

**■ Key pitchers:** Righties Dan Dillon (6-3; 75 Ks in 58 IP), David Goldman (2-4), Mike Mihalik (6-1) and Peter Sherbrick (6-0).

**■ Notable:** Third straight Region 2 appearance for Buffaloes, who finished third last year. ... 9-10 alltime tourney record. ... Kimmel is headed to Division I George Washington. ... Won double-elimination Lehigh Valley Tournament, beating Lower Macungie 6-5 in championship game Thursday.

#### QUAKERTOWN

**■ Coach:** George Banas, second season.

**■ Record:** 20-17.

**■ Key hitters:** OF Matt Edwards (.415, six HRs, 42 RBIs), 3B Frank Sake (.411, six HRs), 1B Brad Mease (.391), OF Wynn Kiesel (.391), OF Todd Schubberger (.363), C George Honeywell (.360, five HRs).

**■ Key pitchers:** Righties Frank Sake (3-2), Matt Edwards (5-5) and Jason Pedrick (5-1); lefty Brad Mease (3-2).

**■ Notable:** Earned Bux-Mont title by defeating Silver Creek 12-3 Monday night in final of double-elimination tournament for first league title since 1988. ... 9-8 alltime Region 2 record, with last appearance coming in 1990. ... Won championship in 1984, one of just four years a non-Berks champion has been crowned. ... Have hit 32 homers this year.

#### MINERSVILLE

**■ Coach:** Joel Motuk, first season.

**■ Record:** 16-10.

**■ Key hitters:** 2B Jason Heffron (4 HRs), SS Keith Witkowski, CF Joe Bosack, LF Kris Paul, C Ian Brennan.

**■ Key pitchers:** Lefties Craig Stabinsky (5-4) and Kris Paul (7-0); righty Tom McGovern (2-1).

**■ Notable:** Won second straight Schuylkill title by beating Southern Area 10-7 Wednesday in finale of in best-of-three championship series. ... Third Region 2 appearance; went 0-2 last year. ... Seeking first regional win since 1975, the first year of the tourney.

*-Compiled by Darryl Grumling*

## REGION 2 CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES

1997: Shillington 6, Nazareth 1  
 1996: Northampton 3, Shillington 0  
 1995: Northampton 2, Boyertown 0  
 1994: Boyertown 3, Shillington 1  
 1993: Boyertown 6, Doylestown 4  
 1992: Boyertown 23, West Lawn 7  
 1991: Boyertown 10, Parkmansburg 1  
 1990: Boyertown 7, Freemansburg 3  
 1989: Boyertown 17, Freemansburg 0  
 1988: Boyertown 8, Emmaus 2  
 1987: Hamburg 9, Doylestown 8  
 1986: Oley 10, Salisbury 4

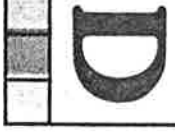
1985: Coplay 12, Boyertown 9  
 1984: Quakertown 10, Shillington 6  
 1983: Boyertown 8, Souderton 5  
 1982: Boyertown 16, Shillington 7  
 1981: Shillington 8, Souderton 5  
 1980: Boyertown 5, Temple 0  
 1979: Boyertown 6, Valley View 0  
 1978: Boyertown 6, Temple 3  
 1977: Boyertown 3, Bethlehem 0  
 1976: Boyertown 3, Southern Lehigh 1  
 1975: Boyertown 3, Whitehall 2



# SPORTS

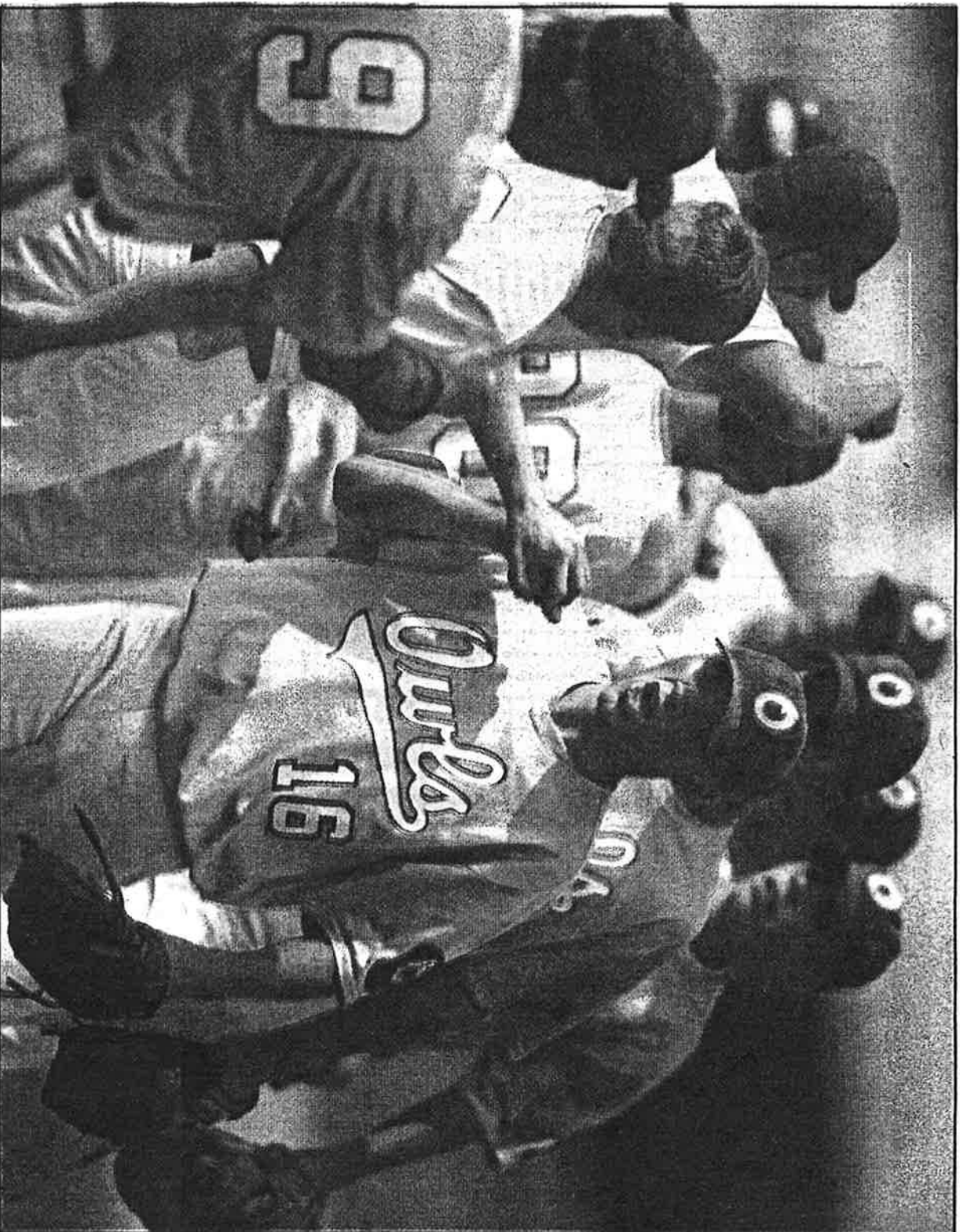
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COMICS/D8



## REGION 2 TOURNAMENT

# Unlikely hero lifts Owls



West Lawn winning pitcher Brett Wroman (16) celebrates with his teammates after 5-4 victory over North Parkland. Eagle/Times: Chad A. DeShazo

■ Dennis Zimmerman gets the game-winning hit in West Lawn's Region 2 Tournament victory.

By Darryl Grumling

Eagle/Times

ALLENTOWN - Dennis Zimmerman will be the first person to tell you he's come a long way this summer.

Heck, when West Lawn opened its Legion season in May, Zimmerman wasn't even a starter for the Owls.

And the way he was struggling at the plate, that didn't seem likely to change.

"I wasn't hitting the ball at all," Zimmerman admitted. "I wasn't concentrating at the plate, I wasn't hitting the ball hard, and most times I wasn't even putting it into play."

What a difference a couple months can make, though.

Tuesday afternoon, Zimmerman not only was in the starting lineup when the Owls opened the Pennsylvania Region 2 Tournament against North Parkland, but he also provided the game-winning hit in West Lawn's 5-4 victory over the Buffaloes at Bicentennial Park.

Zimmerman singled in Shane Stachurski with the go-ahead run as the Berks League regular season champion Owls (32-12) advanced to today's 4:05 p.m. winners bracket semifinal with Northampton League runner-up The Birches.

"Dennis has improved a great deal since the beginning of the year," West Lawn coach Tony Matz III said. "We keep stressing to our kids the importance of putting the ball into play. You keep doing that, and good things are going to happen."

A lot of good things have happened to Zimmerman's family on the athletic field through the years. His father, Dennis Sr., was a star football player at Albright; his older sisters, Susan, Allison, Jackie and Lora, each enjoyed stellar athletic careers at Wilson High.

Dennis took center stage against the Lehigh Valley League runner-up Buffaloes (27-11). He began to make something positive happen for West Lawn in the fifth inning, when he singled to right to score Dave Schultz and tie it 1-1.

But his most important at-bat was definitely his final one. Zimmerman found himself at the plate with the score 4-4, the bases

See West Lawn, Page D3 ▶

### TUESDAY'S OTHER SCORES

NAZARETH	7	THE BIRCHES	22
BOYERTOWN	3	QUAKERTOWN	16

MOUNTAINVILLE 19	■ Complete coverage, Page D3
MINERSVILLE 2	

### TODAY'S SCHEDULE

At Bicentennial Park, Allentown

Quakertown vs. North Parkland, 10:05 a.m.

Boyertown vs. Minersville, 1:05 p.m.

The Birches vs. West Lawn, 4:05 p.m.

Nazareth vs. Mountainville, 7:35 p.m.



Eagle/Times: Chad A. DeShazo

Boyertown catcher Chase Roth expresses his disappointment during the ninth inning of the Bears' 7-3 loss to Nazareth. Boyertown plays Minersville today in the double-elimination tournament. Story, Page D3.

## ► West Lawn

Continued from Page D1

loaded, and nobody out against reliever Dave Goldman.

"I knew all I had to do was get it in play," said Zimmerman (2-for-4, two RBIs). "I knew from watching the first game (The Birches' 22-16 victory over Quakertown) it was a hard field, so I figured I'd just try to let the ball do the work."

Zimmerman didn't exactly smoke the ball, but his Texas Leaguer found some open space between the drawn-in infield and centerfielder Brendan Witkowski. The Owls were up to stay.

Brett Vroman (9-1) worked a perfect ninth to close out a complete-game effort in which he struck out five and walked just one.

Josh Yocum went 2-for-3 with a monster, two-run homer to right-center and Stacherski also had two hits for West Lawn.

Dillon hit a three-run homer in a 13-hit attack for North Parkland, which faces Quakertown in an elimination game today at 10:05 a.m.

"We got a well-pitched game and a flawless defensive effort," said Matz, whose team didn't commit an error. "And those were major keys for us, especially on an offensive field like this."

Still, the Owls blew several opportunities to give themselves some breathing room.

The two teams were separated by more than one run for a period of just two outs.

In the first inning, Andy Hohl popped up a bunt attempt into a double play. In the fifth inning, Stacherski got nailed trying to go from first to third on a single, blunting another threat.

And later in the fifth, Zimmerman got thrown out at the plate, trying to score from second on an error by second baseman Matt Rohrbach.

"We couldn't seem to bunch many runs together," Matz said. "We made some baserunning mistakes that wound up costing us, but our pitching and defense bailed us out."

Along with some timely hitting from the heretofore unsung Zimmerman.



Eagle/Times: Chad A. DeShazo

West Lawn's Josh Yocum, right, is congratulated by Owls manager Tony Matz III after his home run.

# Green, Leone power The Birches, 22-16

From our news staff

ALLENTOWN - Roger Green and Lance Leone each had four hits Tuesday as The Birches out-slugged Quakertown 22-16 in a Pennsylvania American Legion Region 2 Tournament opener at Bicentennial Park.

The Birches (21-10), the Northampton League runner-up, scored in each of the final six innings in advancing to today's 4:05 p.m. winners bracket semifinal against West Lawn.

Leone went 4-for-6 with a grand slam, four runs and five RBIs and Green was 4-for-6 with three doubles, a triple and three runs in a 23-hit attack for the Birches, which also got three hits each from Zach Kozicki, Cory Philip and winning pitcher Jason Deppner.

The Birches, which went up to stay at 14-11 in a three-run sev-

## LEGION ROUNDUP

enth, collected 13 extra-base hits in a game that saw 39 total hits, 17 men left on base and 11 errors.

Tournament officials said it was the highest-scoring Region 2 contest in history.

Brad Mease was 3-for-5 with a grand slam, five RBI and three runs and Todd Schulberger was 4-for-6 for Bux-Mont champ Quakertown (20-18), which meets North Parkland today at 10:05 a.m. in an elimination game.

In a game that ended just before presstime, Mountainville defeated Minersville 19-2.

Mountainville faces Nazareth in tonight's 7:35 game; Boyertown will play Minersville in an elimination game at 1:05 p.m.

NORTH PARKLAND		WEST LAWN				
ab	r	h	bi			
Witkowski cf	5	0	2			
Phillips rf	5	1	2			
Krimmel lb	5	1	2			
Dillon p	3	1	3			
Mihalik 3b	4	0	2			
Boyer c	3	0	0			
Galagher lf	2	0	0			
Woroniak lf	1	0	0			
Marakovic ss	4	1	2			
Thompson 2b	2	0	1			
Rohrbach 2b	2	0	1			
Goldman p	0	0	0			
Totals	36	4	13			
North Parkland		001 002 100-4				
West Lawn		000 013 01x-5				
E: Rohrbach, Thompson, LOB: Burdiles 8, Ows 9, DP: Burdiles 2, Ows 1, 2B: Krimmel, Marakovic, Phillips, Pettit, Yocum, HR: Dillon, Yocum, SH: Galagher, Cipolla, Hohl, SF: Schultz, SB: Witkowski, Cipolla, CS: Phillips, Thompson.						
North Parkland	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Dillon	5	7	4	4	2	2
Krimmel, L-O	2	3	1	1	0	2
Goldman	1	1	0	0	1	1
West Lawn	9	13	4	4	1	5
Vroman						
T: 2:31, A: 351.						

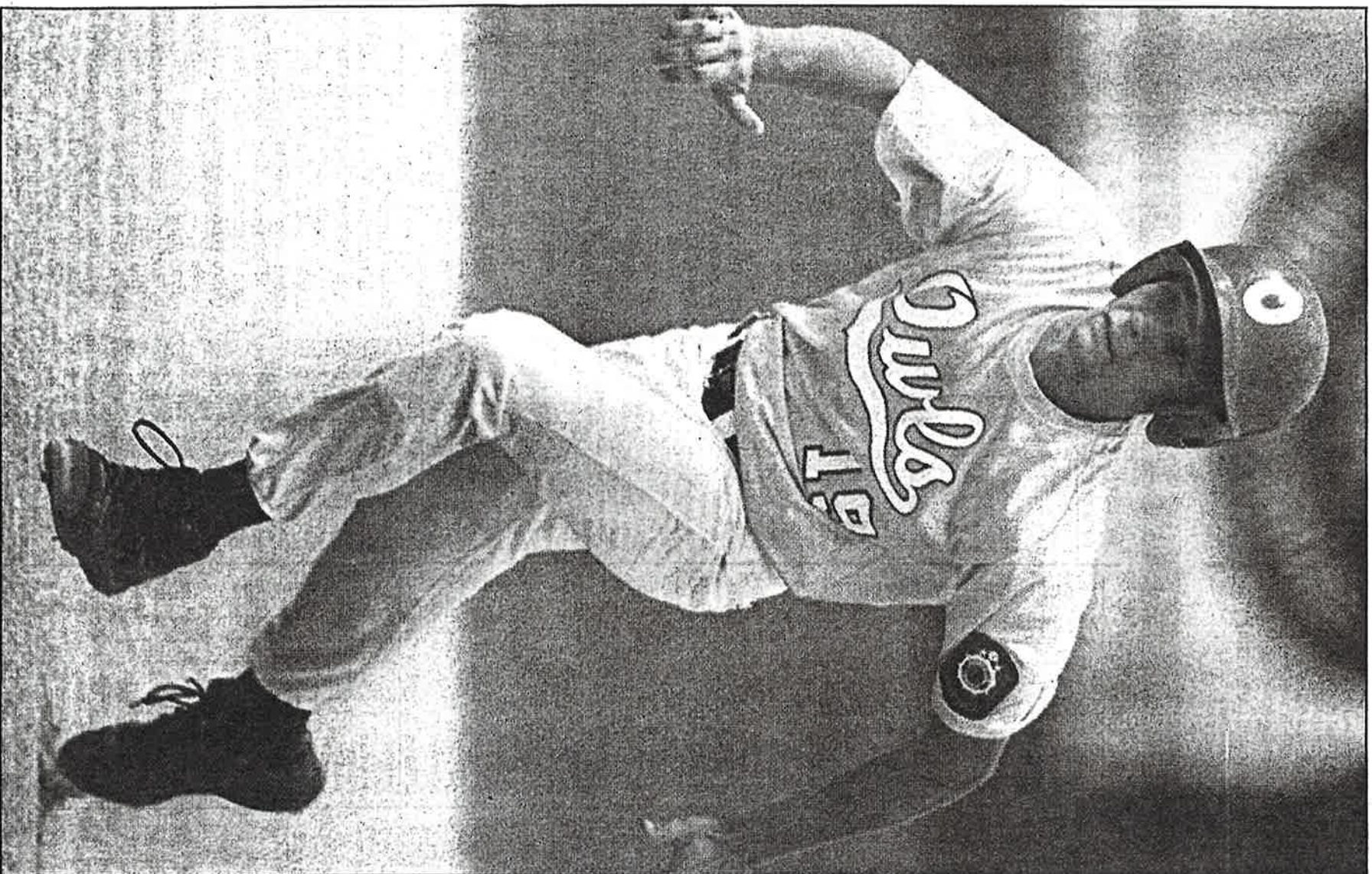


# SPORTS

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CLASSIFIED/C7

## REGION 2 TOURNAMENT



Eagle/Times: Diane Staskowski  
West Lawn's Josh Yocum is a familiar sight on the basepaths during the Owls' big win over The Birches. West Lawn plays tonight in the winners bracket final.

# Yocum, Owls rip Birches

■ Josh Yocum goes 5-for-5 with a triple, double, three singles and three RBIs as West Lawn registers a record-setting victory.

**By Darryl Grunling**

*Eagle/Times*

ALLENTOWN - During his still-improving baseball career, Josh Yocum has had success at plenty of different baseball fields.

Already this summer, Yocum has gone deep at Veterans Stadium, hit for the cycle at George Field and hit numerous balls out of his home park, West Lawn's Owls Field.

But those feats have paled in comparison to the display Yocum has put on at Bicentennial Park over the past two days in the Pennsylvania Region 2 Legion Tournament.

"I don't know what it is about this place," Yocum said Wednesday night, after leading West Lawn to a 27-5 winners bracket semifinal win over The Birches. "It's a hitters park, for the most part. The fences aren't real deep in some parts of the outfield. And the field is tremendously hard. You hit the ball hard it can easily go to the wall."

And lately, it seems Yocum has hit everything hard.

Against Northampton League runner-up The Birches, Yocum went 5-for-5 with a triple, double, three singles, six runs and three RBIs to help the Berks League regular season champion Owls (33-12) into tonight's 7:35 winners bracket

### WEDNESDAY'S OTHER SCORES

**BOYERTOWN** 15

**MINERSVILLE** 12

**QUAKERTOWN** 25

**N. PARKLAND** 6

**NAZARETH** LATE

**MOUNTAINVILLE** GAME

■ Complete coverage,  
Page C4

### TODAY'S SCHEDULE

At Bicentennial Park, Allentown

Quakertown vs.

Nazareth-Mountainville

loser, 1:05 p.m.

Boyertown vs.

The Birches, 4:05 p.m.

West Lawn vs.

Nazareth-Mountainville

winner, 7:35 p.m.

final against the Nazareth-Mountainville winner. Mountainville led 7-6 after seven innings when the game was suspended. It will resume at 11 this morning.

"Right now I feel so comfortable," said Yocum, 7-for-8 with a slugging percentage of 1.750 in two

See *West Lawn*, Page C4 ▶



## REGION 2 TOURNAMENT

# Bears ousted; Owls routed

■ The Birches score four runs in the final inning and knock the Bears out of the state regional. Also, West Lawn falls to Mountainville in the winners bracket final, but remains alive.

By Darryl Grumling

Eagle/Times

Steve Gabel called it a "helpless" feeling - the kind one might experience in a dreamlike sequence.

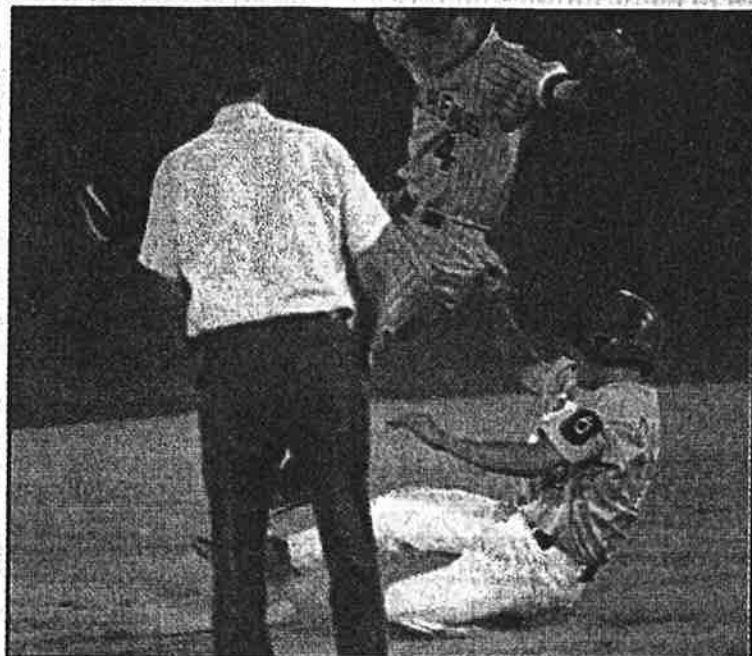
But what transpired to Gabel and his Boyertown Legion teammates Thursday night was more like something out of their worst nightmare.

One moment, the Berks champion Bears were one pitch away from a Pennsylvania Region 2 Tournament victory over The Birches. Practically the next, they were wondering where it all went wrong in a 9-7 loss that eliminated them from the double-elimination tournament.

Northampton League runner-up The Birches (23-10) scored four runs with two outs in the top of the ninth - going ahead on a two-out throwing error by shortstop Brandon Mason - to stun Boyertown (36-16) and advance to today's game against Mountainville.

"That just took the wind out of our sails," said Gabel.

Boyertown starter Jared Trout had been sailing along heading into the ninth, allowing just four



Eagle/Times: Tony Fiorini

West Lawn's Eric Pettit upends Mountainville's Nick Bowen at second base during the Mud Hens' 17-8 victory in the winners bracket final. Story, Page C4.

### THURSDAY'S OTHER SCORES

MOUNTAINVILLE 17	QUAKERTOWN 19	MOUNTAINVILLE 7
WEST LAWN 8	NAZARETH 17	NAZARETH 6

■ Tournament roundup, Page C3.

### TODAY'S SCHEDULE At Bicentennial Park, Allentown

Quakertown vs. West Lawn, 4:05 p.m.  
The Birches vs. Mountainville, 7:30 p.m.

See Bears, Page C4 ▶

## ► Bears

Continued from Page C1

hits through eight innings and three came in the first inning.

But with the Bears up 7-5, Lance Leone led off with a single and one out later moved to second when Trout issued a walk (his ninth) to leadoff man Jason Deppner. Moatz then summoned ace Justin Konnick from right field to try to close it out, and Konnick promptly got Zach Kozicki to hit into a force for the second out.

From there, though, things began to unravel for the Bears. A passed ball by catcher Chase Roth put runners on second and third, then Konnick hit Roger Green with an 0-2 pitch to load the bases. That set the stage for Corey Philip, who laced a two-run double to the left-center gap to tie it.

The next batter, Lou Skinner, then bounced a ball to deep short that Mason fielded cleanly. But the 15-year-old's throw was high, allowing both runners to score.

"I don't know what to say about it," said Boyertown coach Rick Moatz. "Troutie did a hell of a job of settling down after the first inning (when The Birches scored four runs), but when they put the tying run on, we thought it was time to make a move. Unfortunately, things just didn't work out."

The loss didn't end the season for Boyertown. The Bears host the Mid-Atlantic National Regional next month at Bear Stadium. But that was little consolation for the Bears. They had their earliest exit in 18 Region 2 appearances.

"In a way it's kind of embarrassing when you get there because you host it," said Gabel, who scored the tying run in a three-run fifth that put Boyertown up 5-4. "We'd rather get there on our own."

The Birches managed to get to the Region 2 Final Four despite a roster of just 11 players and despite being outhit 13-5. Philip drove in three runs, Green scored three and Deppner picked up the win with two innings of one-hit relief.

"At the beginning of the year, we would have been happy with a .500 season," admitted Birches coach John Konawalik, whose team's 27-5 loss to West Lawn Wednesday matched the worst Region 2 rout ever. "But, again, in baseball, you never know what's going to happen on a given night."

Chase Roth went 3-for-4 with three RBIs and Konnick had three hits and three runs for the Bears, whose two errors gave them 11 in three tourney games.

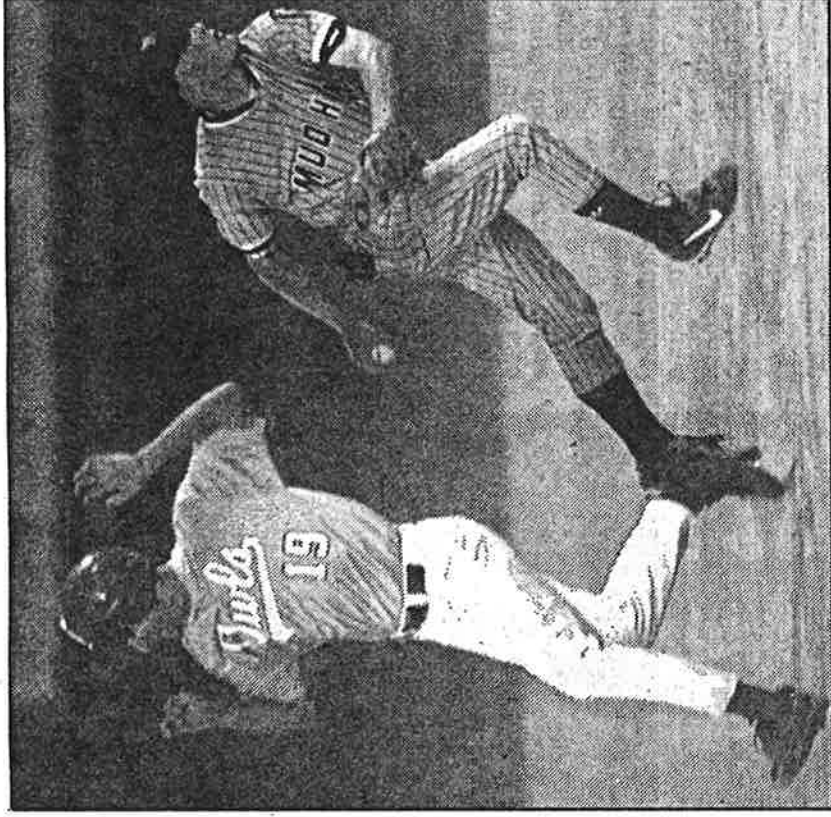
"We need to get back to the way we played last week (in the Berks County playoffs)," Moatz said. "We certainly didn't show many signs of that this week. We seemed to have letdowns in almost every part of the game."

None bigger, however, than the one that transpired Thursday.

### West Lawn loses

■ **Mountainville 17, West Lawn 8:** East Side Memorial's Legion team was supposed to host the Pennsylvania Region 2 Tournament this week at its home field of Allentown's Bicentennial Park.

Those plans, however, wound up being scrapped at midseason



Eagle/Times: Tony Fiorini

### West Lawn's Josh Yocum is tagged at second by Mountainville's Nick Bowen during the first inning.

when the organization couldn't field enough volunteers to put on the event. The fact that East Side had won just four times in 24 games didn't help matters any, either.

But East Side's loss wound up being Mountainville's gain when it was decided that the Lehigh Valley League regular-season championship would host the eight-team, double-elimination event.

And when the Mud Hens wrapped up the Lehigh Valley title two weeks ago, they ensured they would enjoy a considerable home-field advantage during the regional - since all of Mountainville's players live within walking distance of Bicentennial Park.

So it hasn't really come as a big surprise to anyone that, after Thursday night's 17-8 victory over West Lawn in the winners bracket final, the Mud Hens are the tournament's lone unbeaten.

Jon Michael Vito went 4-for-5 with three RBIs and Nick Bowen was 3-for-4 with four runs and three RBIs as Mountainville (26-5) earned a berth in the Region 2 final for the first time in team history.

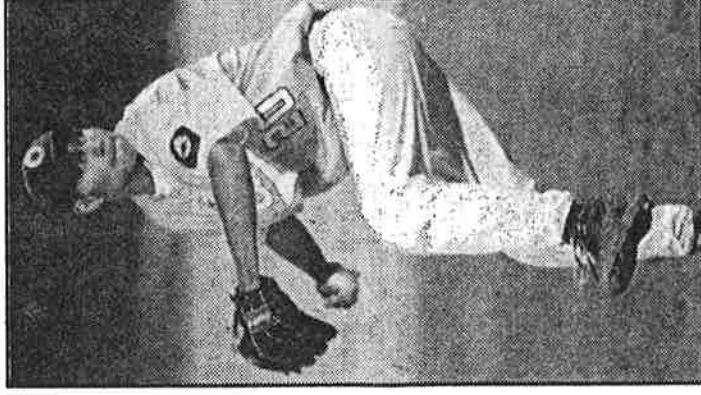
The Mud Hens, who meet Northampton League runner-up The Birches (23-10) tonight at 7:30, are assured a spot in Saturday's championship game, either at 1:05 or 4:05.

Berks regular-season champion West Lawn (33-13), which is hosting next week's Pennsylvania State Tournament, faces Bux-Mont Champ Quakertown (22-18) in an elimination game today at 4:05.

Mountainville, which held off favorite Nazareth 7-6 Thursday in the completion of winners bracket semifinal, went up to stay in a five-run fourth.

Trailing 7-4, the Mud Hens loaded the bases with one out when second baseman Andy Hohl booted Jared Kollar's potential double-play ball to score Jamie Miller.

Nick Bowen followed with a three-run double to put Mountainville up to stay, and scored when third baseman Regan Car-



Eagle/Times: Tony Fiorini

### Owls starter Shane Stacherski delivers pitch.

roll threw the cutoff into center field trying to get Bowen at second.

The Mud Hens put it away in the seventh when Vito doubled in one run, Miller tripled in two and Al Rosati singled in another to make it 13-7.

Josh Ardelean (10-3) got the win with six innings of four-hit ball in relief before his pitching eligibility ran out.

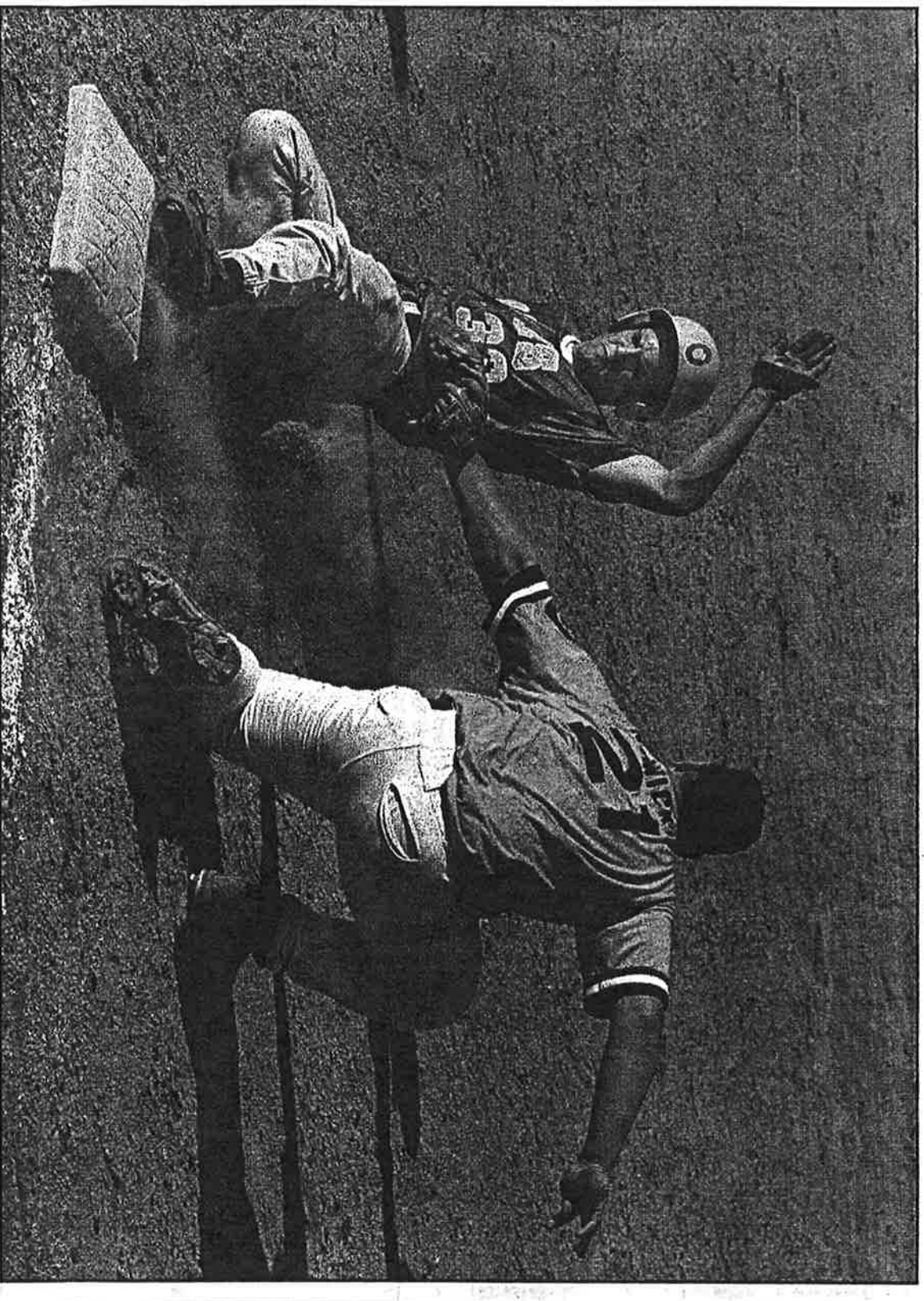
West Lawn took the early lead in the top of the first on an RBI single by Josh Yocum, but Mountainville answered with two in its second on Ruben Santos' two-run double.

The Owls went back up 4-2 in the third with three unearned runs, when Dennis Zimmerman scored on an error and Brad Binder and Dave Schultz each singled in a run. Mountainville, though, drew even in its half on Vito's two-run double.

West Lawn took its final lead in the fourth, when Yocum launched a three-run homer - his second of the tournament - to make it 7-4.



## REGION 2 TOURNAMENT



Eagle/Times: Tony Forini  
West Lawn's Brad Binder, who goes 4-for-4 Friday, slides into third as Quakertown's Dave Nowicki attempts to make the tag.

# Cipolla, Owls oust Quakertown

■ Tony Cipolla and Brett Vroman combine to cool off hot-hitting Quakertown to lift West Lawn into the championship round with unbeaten Mountaineville.

By Darryl Grumling

Eagle/Times

The mission for Tony Cipolla - should he choose to accept it - was not quite impossible.

Then again, what West Lawn Legion coach Tony Matz III asked of the 16-year-old righty Friday afternoon was pretty ambitious, to say the least.

Take the mound against a

### FRIDAY'S OTHER SCORES

WEST LAWN	10
QUAKERTOWN	3

MOUNTAINVILLE	8
THE BIRCHES	6

■ Mountaineville beats The Birches, will face Owls. Page D4

### TODAY'S SCHEDULE

At Bicentennial Park, Allentown  
Mountainville vs. West Lawn, 1:05 p.m.  
H West Lawn wins, championship to follow.

Quakertown team that had scored an average of 20 runs a game in its three previous Pennsylvania Region 2 Tournament games.

Shut down a lineup that had been hitting better than .400,

slugging better than .700 and given new meaning to the term "powerball" during the double-elimination tournament.

And somehow hold down the fort long enough for the Owls

lineup to try and produce enough runs to advance to the tourney's final day.

"In all seriousness," said Matz, "the plan was to try and get six innings out of Tony and three out of (ace Brett) Vroman."

And thanks to a strong starting effort from Cipolla, the Owls got nearly exactly that in a 10-3 elimination victory over the Bux-Mont League champions at Allentown's Bicentennial Park.

In easily his most important start of the season, Cipolla went 5½ innings and combined with Vroman on a nine-hitter as the Berks runner-up Owls (34-13) advanced to today's 1:05 p.m. championship round game against

See Owls, Page D4 ▶



# ► Owls

Continued from Page D1

Mountainville, which defeated The Birches 8-6, in Friday's nightcap.

West Lawn, which is already assured a spot in next week's Pennsylvania State Tournament by virtue of it hosting the event, needs to beat Lehigh Valley champ Mountainville twice to earn its first Region 2 crown.

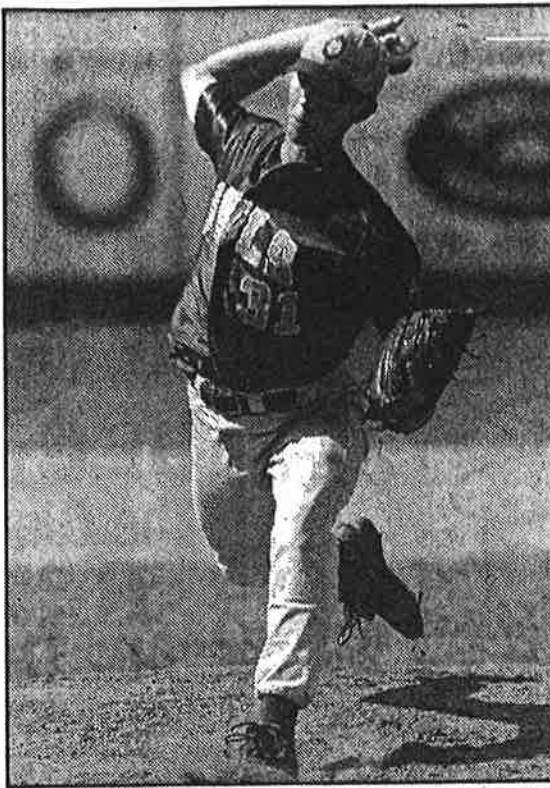
In order for that to happen, the Owls will have to get another performance on the mound like Cipolla (4-2) provided. He struck out five and allowed seven hits and two runs before turning it over to Vroman, who allowed just two hits and one unearned run in closing it out.

"I just wanted to throw strikes, hit the corners and keep them off-balance," said Cipolla, normally the starting shortstop. "Before the game, (pitching coach) Steve (Carroll) told me I absolutely had to get in front of their hitters. I knew if I got behind those guys they would have pounded me."

That's exactly what happened in the second inning, when Cipolla grooved a 2-0 fastball to Frank Sake that wound over the fence in left to put Quakertown up 1-0. But Cipolla settled down to strike out the next two batters, continued to mix in his change and curve and allowed just an RBI triple to Brad Mease in the fifth.

"We didn't really come into today in a panic or anything, because we knew it had rained overnight and the wind was blowing in pretty good," Matz said. "We felt if Tony could pitch a solid game and we could get another good defensive effort, we'd be in good shape. And for a fourth-day pitcher, you couldn't ask for much more."

Matz couldn't have asked much more from the Owls' lineup, which took a lot of the pressure off Cipolla and Vroman. Brad Binder went 4-for-4 with three doubles, three runs



Eagle/Times: Tony Florini

Wilson pitcher Tony Cipolla says of his five-plus inning performance: "I just wanted to throw strikes and keep them off-balance. Before the game, (pitching coach) Steve Carroll told me I absolutely had to get in front of their hitters."

Cipolla does his job and the Owls move into today's championship round against Mountainville.

and three RBIs to lead a 15-hit attack, while Josh Yocum continued his torrid tourney by going 2-for-5 with two RBIs and two runs.

Cipolla helped himself with two hits and two runs. No. 9 hitter Regan Carroll, playing for the second straight game with a broken finger, went 2-for-4 with a double and RBI.

West Lawn broke a 2-2 tie with four runs in the fifth, going ahead to stay on an RBI single by Yocum, who is 11-for-18 with 11 RBIs and 10 runs in four regional games. Binder followed with a two-run double and Andy Hohl squeezed another run home to make it 6-2.

That would prove to be enough against Quakertown (22-19), which chased Cipolla in the sixth when George Honeywell doubled and Eric Gamuer drew a walk. Matz then summoned Vroman, who got back-to-back strikeouts to end

Quakertown's last real threat of the game.

"Both guys pitched very well," said Owls catcher Dave Schultz, who went 2-for-4 with two doubles. "Tony really hit his spots, worked the outside corner well and got up on a lot of their hitters. And then Brett just came in and overpowered them."

To close out a task not many thought possible against the tourney's hottest lineup.



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**Region 2 Totals**  
 At Bicentennial Park, Allentown  
**FRIDAY'S RESULTS**  
 West Lawn 10, Quakertown 3 (Quakertown eliminated)  
 Mountainville 8, The Birches 6 (The Birches eliminated)

QUAKERTOWN		WEST LAWN	
ab	r	h	b
Kiesel rf	5	0	0
Mease 1b	5	0	1
Edwards cf	5	0	0
Schubert lf	5	0	0
Sake 3b	5	1	2
Honeywell c	4	0	2
Gamuer 2b	3	0	2
Nowicki p	3	0	1
Swartley ph	1	0	0
Pedrick ss	2	1	0
Grawe lf	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>

QUAKERTOWN		WEST LAWN	
IP	H	R	ER
Nowicki	4	8	6
Sake	3	6	3
Swartley	1	1	1
West Lawn	5 1/2	7	2
Cipolla W, 4-2	3 2/3	2	1
Vroman	3 2/3	2	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>10</b>

MOUNTAINVILLE		WEST LAWN	
ab	r	h	b
Pettit rf	3	2	1
Cipolla ss	2	2	0
Yocum lf	5	1	2
Binder 1b	5	0	2
Stachurski p	4	0	1
Schultz c	4	0	1
Hohl 2b	4	0	0
Zimmerman cf	4	1	1
Schaeffer p	0	0	0
Carroll 3b	2	2	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>

MOUNTAINVILLE		WEST LAWN	
IP	H	R	ER
Stachurski	4	4	4
Schaeffer	1	4	4
Brey	2 2/3	3	4
Ardelean W, 9-3	6	4	4
Miller	1/3	1	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>10</b>

West Lawn Owls  
 Stachurski L, 4-4  
 Schaeffer  
 Mountainville Mud Hens  
 Brey  
 Ardelean W, 9-3  
 Miller  
 WP: Stachurski 2, HBP: by Brey (Carroll). BK: Stachurski. T: 3:05.

The Birches .....012 120 00-6 11 2  
 Mountainville...201 400 010-6 11 1  
 W: Nick Bowen (4-1), L: Brian Everett (4-3)  
 2B: Roger Green (TB), Mike Berger (TB)  
 Lance Leone (TB), JonMichael Vito (M), AJ  
 Rossall (M) 2, 3B: Zach Kozick (TB), Lance  
 Leone (TB).



## REGION 2 TOURNAMENT



The West Lawn players and coaches celebrate the Region 2 championship Saturday after the Owls battled through the losers bracket to win their first regional title.

Eagle/Times: Ron Romanski

# Owls ride 'Rudy' to the title

■ 16-year-old Jon Rudisill provides the pitching performance of his career as West Lawn routs Mountainville for its first Pennsylvania Region 2 Tournament championship.

By Darryl Grumling

*Eagle/Times*

Notre Dame had its "Rudy" immortalized on the big screen — undersized, underdog Rudy Ruettiger, who defied the odds to make the Fighting Irish football team.

And after Saturday, West Lawn's Legion team will have its own "Rudy" entrenched in the Owls' baseball history.

Jon "Rudy" Rudisill, a 16-year-old who was a longshot to make West Lawn's team at the beginning of the season, provided the pitching performance of his young career as the Owls earned their first Pennsylvania Region 2 Tournament championship with a 13-3 victory over Mountainville at Allentown's Bicentennial Park.

Earlier in the day, Josh Yocum threw eight innings of four-hit ball to key a 17-3 rout of the Lehigh Valley League champion Mud Hens and set up a winner-take-all Game 15 of the double-elimination tournament.

### SATURDAY'S SCORES

West Lawn	17
Mountainville	3

West Lawn	13
Mountainville	3

West Lawn wins Region 2 championship.

Both teams advance to the Pennsylvania State American Legion Tournament, which opens Tuesday at West Lawn.

"I could have never imagined this," said Rudisill, a right-hander who wasn't even on Wilson High's varsity team this spring. "I never expected to be on the mound in a game like this."

But because West Lawn (36-13) and Mountainville (27-7) had both already assured spots in next week's Pennsylvania State Tournament and neither wanted to waste any front-line pitching to jeopardize its chances in Tuesday's opener, Rudisill's wildest dream became a reality.

And Rudisill (5-2) responded by holding the dangerous lineup of the Mud Hens — who had routed West Lawn 17-8 in Thursday's

See West Lawn, Page D6 ▶



## BASEBALL

## ► West Lawn

Continued from Page D1

winners bracket final - to three runs over 7½ innings before giving way to Kyle Frees, who finished up.

"Rudy gave us everything we wanted and then some," West Lawn coach Tony Matz III said. "We just figured we'd send him out and see how far he could go."

Rudisill, who also earned the win in Wednesday's 27-5 rout of The Birches, has come a long way since the beginning of the season, when Owls pitching coach Steve Carroll called him the team's "No. 6" pitcher.

"I saw him at a JV game this year and was impressed with the way he threw strikes and used his curve," Matz said. "So I figured, 'Let's bring him out (for Legion) and have him on the team to at least give us some innings.'"

And with top returning pitcher Brad Impink quitting the team early in the season and early-season ace Matt Fidler developing arm trouble, Rudisill's role has gradually become more important.

"I thought I'd be mainly used in relief," admitted Rudisill, who struck out four and scattered 11 hits. "Today when I found out I was starting I guess I was both excited and nervous at the same time. I know I'm not the most overpowering pitcher, but I just tried to go out and do my best to throw strikes and hit spots with my curve."

West Lawn's lineup made things a little easier by providing plenty of support, with Shane Stacherski hitting an RBI triple and Tony Cipolla following with a run-scoring single in a two-run second, and Stacherski singling in two more in the third to make it 4-1.

Stacherski wound up 3-for-4 with three RBIs in a 12-hit attack, while Dave Schultz was 2-for-5 with three RBIs and Josh Yocum scored twice and drove in two runs.

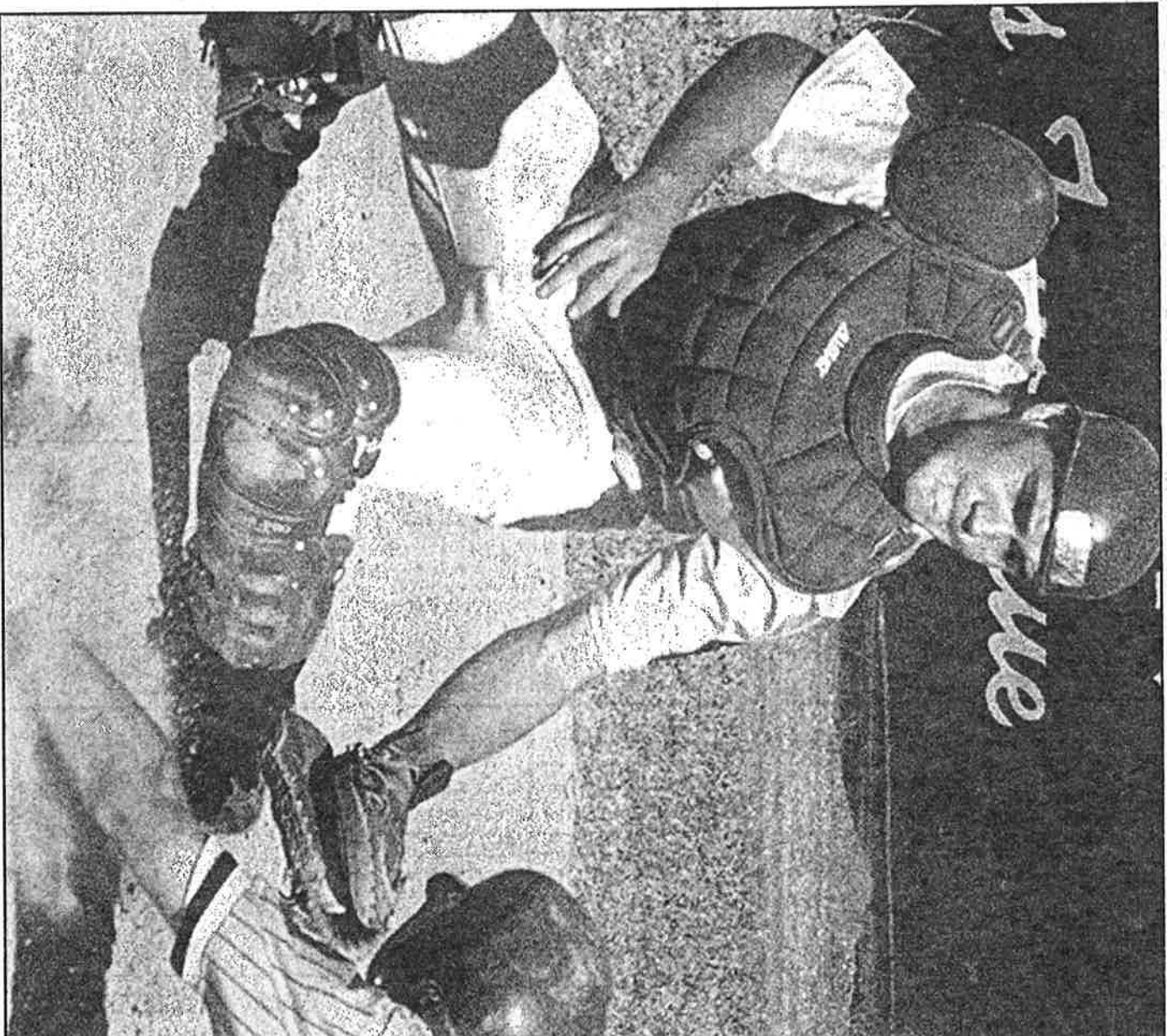
"This just feels great," said Stacherski, who went 6-for-11 with five runs and five RBIs on the day. "We knew we were already in states as the hosts, but this just proves we were good enough to play our way in anyway."

West Lawn will open states Tuesday at Owls Field with an 8:05 p.m. game against the Region 3 champion - the winner of today's Calhoun-Norchester game.

In the first game, the Owls pounded out 16 hits and settled matters early with a nine-run fourth that broke open a 2-1 lead.

Mountainville, which meets Region 4 champ Fayetteville Tuesday at Owls Field 1:05 p.m., took the early lead on a monster solo homer by Nick Bowen in the first inning.

But the Owls tied it in their second when Regan Carroll drew a bases-loaded walk, then went up to stay with another in the third on Stacherski's RBI single. West Lawn sent 13 men to the plate in the fourth, the big blows being Carroll's two-run double and Brad Binder's two-run single by Brad Binder.



West Lawn catcher Dave Schultz tags out Mountainville's Nick Bowen in Saturday's second game.

## Smoking bats set tone for Legion tourney

By Darryl Grumling

Eagle/Times

The most symbolic moment of this week's Pennsylvania Region 2 Tournament occurred during Friday night's Game 13 between Mountainville and The Birches.

In the third inning of the Mud Hens' eventual 8-6 victory, the scoreboard control panel in the Bicentennial Park pressbox suddenly began to smoke.

Which seemed pretty appropriate, given the outrageous offensive explosion that highlighted the double-elimination tournament.

The field crew wound up shutting down the scoreboard for the remainder of the game, but that did little to halt the highest-scoring Region 2 Tournament in its 24-year history.

The tone was set from the first game, when The Birches outslugged Quakertown 22-16 in the highest scoring game in tournament history.

### CORRECTION

Mountainville won in the Region 2 Tournament Friday and clinched a berth in the Pennsylvania Legion Tournament this week at West Lawn.

An incorrect headline appeared in Saturday's editions.

"When we got here the first day, it was already ridiculous," West Lawn's Shane Stacherski said. "We realized early on that if you want to win, you have to score a lot of runs."

Suffice to say things didn't get much better for pitchers the rest of the way.

By the time West Lawn defeated Mountainville 13-3 for the Region 2 title Saturday, no less than four major scoring records were set.

■ The 321 total runs shattered the previous mark of 263 set last year.

■ West Lawn set a record for most runs in a game with a 27-5 rout of The Birches Wednesday, a score that also matched the largest margin of victory in tourney history.

■ And when West Lawn's Andy Hohl launched a two-run homer in the ninth inning, the Owls had their 80th run of the tourney, breaking the previous mark of 79 set by Boyertown's 1990 team.

"I don't know if I'd blame the pitching as much as the fact that this place was simply a hitters paradise," Owls coach Tony Matz III said. "You have short porches all over the place, a rock-hard infield that everything just accelerates through, and on top of that it's practically impossible to foul out because there's almost no room out of play."

Which all added up to an average score of 15-7.

And you thought football was still a couple months away.

# Big I in As

■ Randy Johnson 1 his first start today. Houston, where the players say they hit the lottery.

From our news services

Getting Randy Johnson big deal for the Houston one bigger than they dream could make.

The Astros wrapped up day of wheeling and major league teams the 45 players in 13 trades beating the Friday midline to steal the Big biggest prize of all - from the Mariners for two players to be determined. "There are a lot of winners in the NL right now," Moises Alou said.

There may be a few Pittsburgh, when John's first NL appearance pitching for Montreal. Astros tentatively plan him Monday at Marchose to stay on his n day rotation by pitching Johnson, who is 9-10 ERA in 23 starts this leads the American League 213 strikeouts, has lost starts since pitching shutouts. He last pitched "Nothing like this happened here before," baseman Jeff Bagwell's never picked up a guy fiber for the stretch run everyone is so excited.

Some. "The New York Yankees Indians were expected 6-10 Johnson, who was because the Mariners r him to free agency in the But the medium-man were longshots - even manager Gerry Hunsicker until they put together of prospects enticing steal arguably the most ing pitcher in baseball.

Derek Bell and I saw hit the Powerball, we pay Randy Johnson's Bagwell said. "We did Powerball, but we still tery."

The Central Division Astros admittedly price, one that may their ability to contend seasons. They gave up young pitching prospect Garcia, and power-hitter prospect Carlos Guillen were playing New Orleans.

"We've sacrificed ou



# Legion

## Regional Tournaments

### Region 2

West Lawn 17, Mountainville 3  
 Championship: West Lawn 13, Mountainville 3

**First game**

WEST LAWN				MOUNTAINVILLE					
	ab	r	h	bl		ab	r	h	bl
Pettit lf	5	3	0	0	Brey cf	5	0	2	2
Cipolla ss	5	2	2	0	Kollar 1b	5	0	1	0
Yocum p	7	2	3	3	Bowen 2b	4	1	1	1
Binder 1b	4	1	2	4	Vito c	2	0	0	0
Stacherski rf	7	3	3	2	Kurutz ph	1	0	0	0
Schultz c	4	1	2	0	Kappes 1b	0	0	0	0
Shipe ph	1	0	0	0	Ardelean rf	4	0	0	0
Schaeffer p	0	0	0	0	Santos lf	1	0	0	0
Hohl 2b	3	1	2	2	Williams c	2	0	0	0
Zimmermn cf	4	1	1	1	Miller 3b	3	1	0	0
Carroll 3b	3	3	1	3	Rosati ss	2	0	0	0
					Diaz ss	2	0	1	0
					Harvest p	1	0	0	0
					Schaeffer p	1	0	0	0
					Nyemack 2b	2	1	1	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>

West Lawn Owls . . . . .011 910 032-17  
 Mountainville . . . . .100 000 011-3

E: Cipolla 2, Diaz, Rosati, 2. LOB: Owls 15, Mud Hens 8. DP: Mud Hens 1, 2B: Carroll, Stacherski 2, Yocum 2, Zimmerman, Brey, 2. HR: Bowen. SB: Binder, Carroll 2, Pettit, Schultz 2, Brey, Kollar. SF: Zimmerman.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
<b>West Lawn</b>						
Yocum W, 6-3	6	4	2	2	2	5
Schaeffer	1	2	1	1	1	2
<b>Mountainville</b>						
Harvest L, 0-2	3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>3</sub>	6	6	6	7	0
Schaeffer	1 <sup>2</sup> / <sub>3</sub>	5	6	4	0	0
Kollar	4	5	5	5	4	3

WP: Yocum 2, Harvest, Kollar, Schaeffer, R. HBP: by Schaeffer, R. (Binder), by Schaeffer, R. (Hohl), by Kollar (Binder), by Kollar (Pettit). BK: Yocum. T: 3:28.

**Second game**

WEST LAWN				MOUNTAINVILLE					
	ab	r	h	bl		ab	r	h	bl
Carroll 3b	3	2	0	0	Brey cf	4	0	2	1
Pettit lf	4	2	2	0	Kollar 1b	4	0	0	0
Yocum cf	4	2	1	2	Kappes ph	1	0	0	0
Binder 1b	3	1	1	1	Bowen 2b	5	0	1	0
Stacherski rf	4	2	3	3	Vito rf	5	1	2	0
Cipolla ss	2	2	1	2	Ardelean p	3	1	2	0
Schultz c	5	1	2	3	Santos lf	4	0	0	1
Hohl 2b	5	1	1	2	Miller 3b	3	0	2	1
Rudisill p	4	0	1	0	Rosati ss	0	0	0	0
Frees p	1	0	0	0	Diaz ph	4	1	1	0
					Williams c	1	0	0	0
					Nyemack ph	3	0	1	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>

West Lawn Owls . . . . .022 031 203-13  
 Mountainville . . . . .010 000 110-3

E: Carroll, Rosati, Williams 2. LOB: Owls 5, Mud Hens 10. DP: Owls 1, 2B: Rudisill, Schultz, Stacherski, Ardelean, Bowen, Diaz, Miller. 3B: Schultz, Stach-

erski, Vito. HR: Hohl. SB: Carroll, Cipolla, Pettit, Ardelean. CS: Pettit, Schultz. SF: Cipolla.

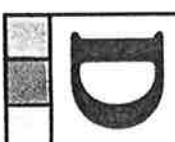
	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
<b>West Lawn</b>						
Rudisill W, 5-2	7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>3</sub>	11	3	3	1	4
Frees	1 <sup>2</sup> / <sub>3</sub>	0	0	0	1	3
<b>Mountainville</b>						
Ardelean L, 10-4	4	5	5	3	2	1
Bowen	0	1	2	2	1	0
Miller	5	6	6	6	3	3

WP: Frees 2, Rudisill, Miller. HBP: by Miller (Binder), by Rudisill (Miller). PB: Williams. T: 2:49.

# SPORTS

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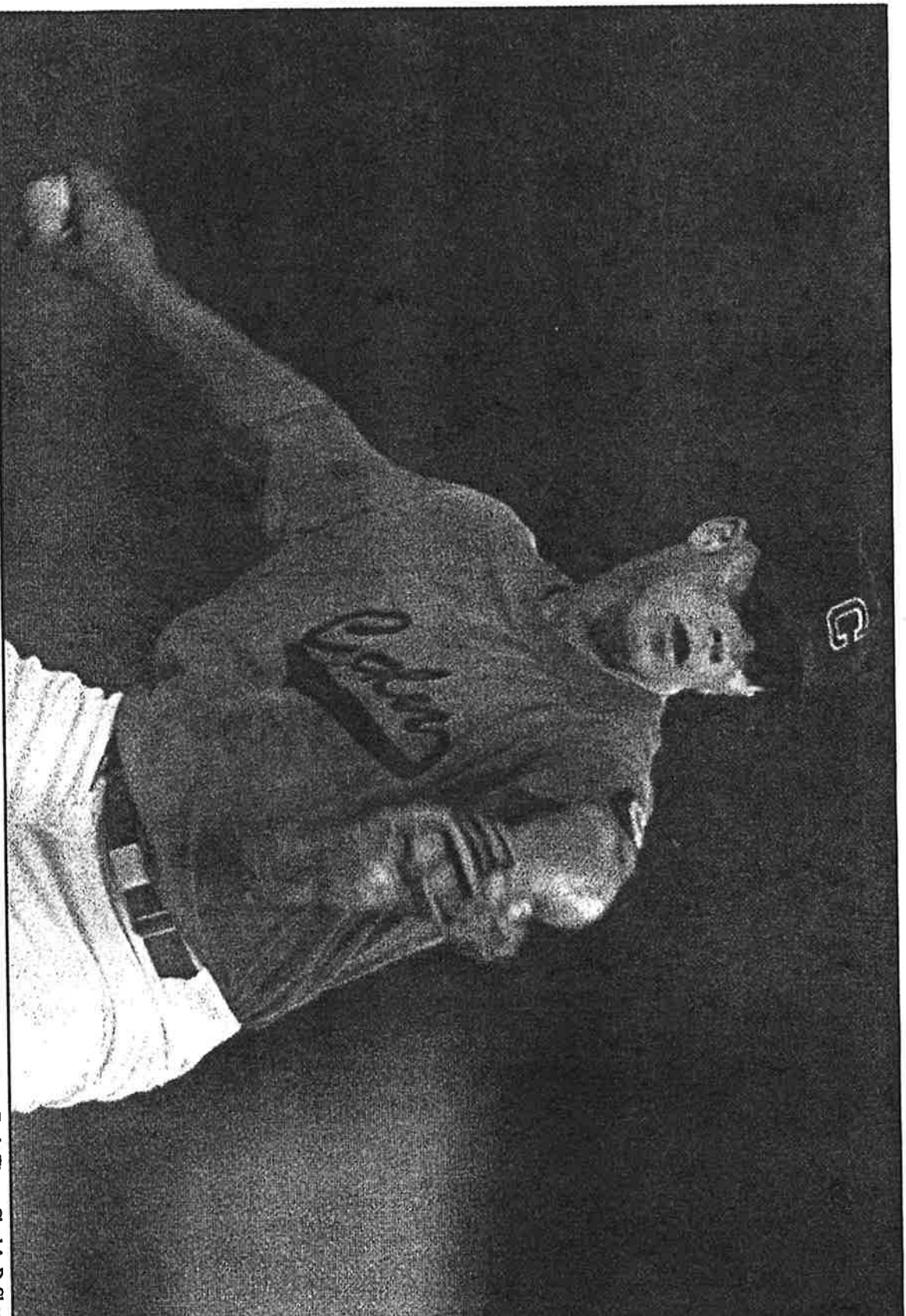
BUSINESS/D8



Y 5050

## STATE LEGION TOURNAMENT

# Bats go silent for Owls



Eagle/Times: Chad A. Deshazo

Dan Newton was too much for West Lawn in its opening game of the Pennsylvania State Tournament. He gives up two hits and strikes out 11 in 8 1/3 innings and combines with Dan D'Amato to pitch Caln to the 4-1 win at Owls Field.

## West Lawn manages just two hits in loss to Caln

By Darryl Grumling

Eagle/Times

A week ago, West Lawn feasted on what could diplomatically be called suspect pitching - scoring a tournament record 80 runs en route to the Pennsylvania Region 2 title.

Tuesday night, however, the Owls ran into a much tougher mound assignment in their Pennsylvania State Tournament opener.

And the Caln combination of Dan Newton and Dan D'Amato proved to be too much for the Owls lineup to handle as they shut down West Lawn on a combined two-hitter in a 4-1 victory at Owls Field.

Newton, a 17-year-old righty, struck out 11 over 8 1/3 innings before giving way to 18-year-old ace lefty D'Amato, who got the final two outs for the save.

Region 3 champ Caln (29-8) advances to today's winners bracket semifinal against Region 8 champ Millcreek (33-17) - a 3-1

winner over Mount Lebanon - at 1:05 p.m.

The Owls (36-14) face Region 6 champ Mount Lebanon (38-5) in an elimination game at 8:05. By virtue of being the host team, West Lawn has the option of playing the late game in the second round.

"Newton absolutely dominated us," said West Lawn coach Tony Matz III, whose team hit .381 in the Region 2 tourney. "Whatever he threw - fastball, curve or change - it was for a strike. We couldn't get any opportunities against him. He flat out threw it by us."

Caln, comprised mainly of players from Coatesville High's PIAA Class AAA runner-up squad, scored an unearned run in the first inning when leadoff man Marc Laquintano legged out an infield Marc Laquintano legged out an infield single, moved to second and third on passed balls by Dave Schultz and scored on D'Amato's single to right.

The Region 3 champs then made it 4-0 in the eighth, getting RBI singles by

D'Amato and John Yearsley and a run-scoring double by Tim Duff.

That would be plenty for Newton (6-0) and D'Amato. Newton took a one-hit shutout into the ninth before Regan Carroll drew a one-out walk to snap a streak of 15 straight batters retired. Eric Pettit then beat out an infield hit and Caln coach Hal Ziegler didn't hesitate to summon the North Carolina State-bound D'Amato.

D'Amato quickly ended the threat, getting Yocum on a sacrifice fly to left and Brad Binder on a groundout to end it.

"(Newton) was as good as anyone we've seen," said Yocum, whose fourth-inning double was the Owls' lone hit over the first eight innings. "He just threw the ball around the plate and we fell behind in a lot of counts and just never could hit the ball hard. Our bats were cold."

Owls ace Brett Yroman (9-2) didn't pitch badly in defeat, striking out seven

and allowing one walk. Though Caln did touch him for 13 hits, three were of the infield variety and three more were either bloopers or Texas Leaguers.

"Brett didn't catch a whole lot of breaks," Matz said.

D'Amato finished 3-for-4 with two RBIs and Laquintano was 3-for-5 with two runs for Caln, which had to win three games Saturday and Sunday to make states - qualifying with a 4-3 victory over Norchester Sunday on Newton's two-out RBI single in the bottom of the 10th.

"Our pitching kept it rolling again today," Ziegler said.

The Owls, meanwhile, must hope their pitching can help them bounce back and stave off elimination tonight.

"The last two weeks they've shown they can win with one loss (in a double-elimination setting)," Matz said. "Now, we just have to go a little bit farther with one loss."

Fourth game		WEST LAWN	
(Lesha) Pg. Leola			
Warren ss	4	0	0
Woodard cf	4	0	0
Owens lf	4	0	0
Ziegler 1b	4	0	0
Newton 2b	4	0	0
Yearsley c	4	0	0
Binder 3b	4	0	0
Yocum cf	4	0	0
Duff 1b	4	0	0
D'Amato 1b	4	0	0
Pettit lf	4	0	0
Carroll 3c	4	0	0
Laquintano lf	4	0	0
Newton lf	4	0	0
Yearsley c	4	0	0
Woodard cf	4	0	0
Warren ss	4	0	0
Totals	37	1	2
Pitches	57	4	4
Time	1:27	A: 6:53	

WEST LAWN		CALN	
Warren ss	4	0	0
Woodard cf	4	0	0
Owens lf	4	0	0
Ziegler 1b	4	0	0
Newton 2b	4	0	0
Yearsley c	4	0	0
Binder 3b	4	0	0
Yocum cf	4	0	0
Duff 1b	4	0	0
D'Amato 1b	4	0	0
Pettit lf	4	0	0
Carroll 3c	4	0	0
Laquintano lf	4	0	0
Newton lf	4	0	0
Yearsley c	4	0	0
Woodard cf	4	0	0
Warren ss	4	0	0
Totals	37	1	2



# SPORTS

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ENTERTAINMENT/C7  
CLASSIFIED/C10

SECTION

C

Losers bracket		WEST LAWN	
ab	r	h	bi
Dacosta cf	6	3	4
Kelly 1b	2	3	2
Wilson ss	2	3	2
Smith ph	1	0	0
King 3b	3	1	1
Fallert ph	2	1	2
Gallina rf	4	1	2
Alex ph	2	0	1
Carlin 2b	5	0	0
Ferris p	3	1	2
McMahon lf	5	0	1
Czaikowski c	5	1	1
Rudisill p	1	0	0
Hohl 2b	1	0	0
Frees p	1	0	0
Totals	44	13	18
Totals 44131813 Totals 28 1 5 0			
West Lawn .....021 304 021-13			
E-King 2, Carroll 2, Rudisill, DP, Mt Lebanon 4,			
West Lawn 3, LCB, Mt Lebanon 11, West Lawn			
4, ZB, Dacosta, Fallert, McMahon, Wilson, SB;			
Dacosta, Wilson, Pettit, SF, Carlin.			
Mount Lebanon		WEST LAWN	
ab	r	h	bi
Ferris p	9	5	1
West Lawn 12-1	9	5	1
West Lawn	4	6	3
Rudisill	3	4	3
Frees	2	5	2
WP: Ferris 3, Rudisill 1, 2:31.			

To report information: 371-5064  
Sports fax: 371-5096  
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Sports editor: Mike Miorelli, 371-5063

## STATE LEGION TOURNAMENT

# Ferris a big wheel vs. Owls

The Mount Lebanon pitcher shuts down the Owls, eliminating them from the state Legion tournament.

By Darryl Grumling

Eagle/Times

West Lawn might be the host team for this week's Pennsylvania American Legion State Tournament, but the Owls sure didn't get any breaks schedule-wise in the eight-team, double-elimination tourney.

MOUNT LEBANON	13
WEST LAWN	1

After suffering a loss in Tuesday's first round to Caln - a team made up of players from Coatesville's PIAA Class AAA runners-up - you would think West Lawn might've caught a weaker team in the losers bracket.

Think again. The Owls' opponent Wednesday just happened to be Mount Lebanon. Its high school team won the PIAA AA title two months ago.

Exactly the kind of double play West Lawn coach Tony Matz III was looking for this week.

Especially after the Region 6 champions eliminated West Lawn 13-1 at Owls Field.

For the second straight night, the Owls fell prey to a hot pitcher. Mount Lebanon's Kevin Ferris went the distance on a five-hitter to end West Lawn's season at 36-15.

Ferris (12-1) was backed by an 18-attack and a defense that turned four double plays. Mount Lebanon (39 5) advanced to today's 5:05 p.m. elimination game against Region 4 champ Fayetteville (25-4).

"There was no easy direction for us," said Matz, whose team was two-hit by Caln's Dan Newton and Dan D'Amato in Tuesday's 4-1 loss. "But hey, when you're at the state tournament, you're going to see teams like this."

The Owls took an early lead in the first when Eric Pettit drew a one-out walk, stole second, moved to third on a passed ball and scored on a wild pitch.

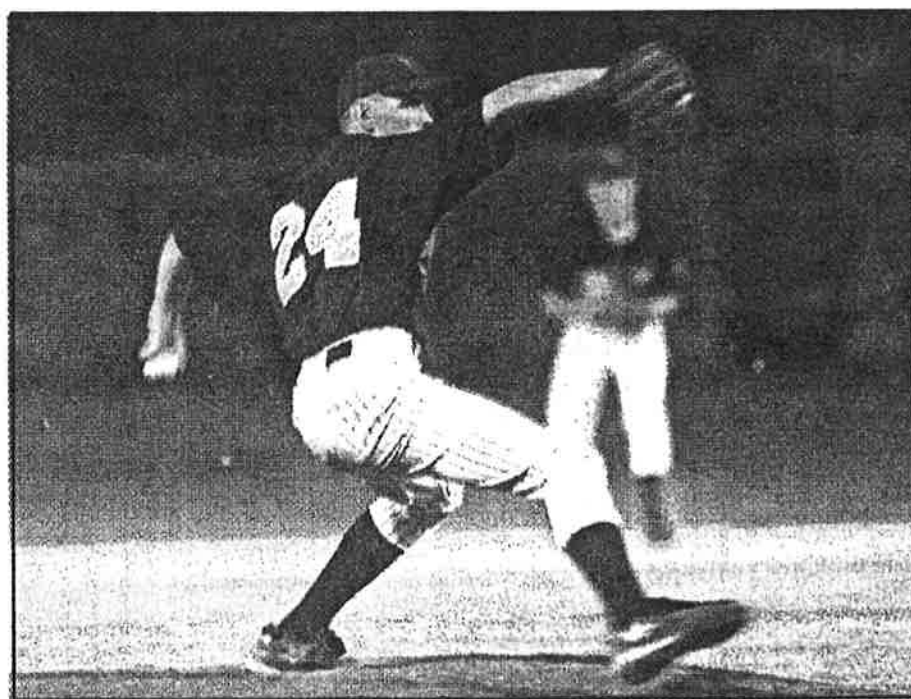
But Ferris escaped, trailing just 1-0, when Brad Binder was thrown out at the plate by left-fielder Matt McMahon. He was trying to score on Shane Stacherski's single.

Mount Lebanon answered with two runs in the second, getting an RBI double from McMahon and a run-scoring groundout from Josh Czaikowski to take the lead for good at 2-1.

Andy Gallina drove in another run on a third-inning fielder's choice and singled in two more in a three-run fourth that made it 6-1. Then blue-chip prospect Josh Wilson doubled in two more in a four-run sixth that put it away.

Ferris, an 18-year-old lefty, struck out six as Mount Lebanon won its first state tournament game.

See West Lawn, Page C3



Eagle/Times: Tony Florini

Mount Lebanon pitcher Kevin Ferris hurls a five-hit complete game as West Lawn's season ends with a 13-1 loss.

### WEDNESDAY'S OTHER SCORES

CALN	9
MILLCREEK	3
STATE COLLEGE	5
FAYETTEVILLE	3
PLYMOUTH	13
MOUNTAINVILLE	1

Roundup, Page C3

### TODAY'S SCHEDULE

Millcreek vs. Plymouth, 1:05 p.m.  
Mount Lebanon vs. Fayetteville, 5:05 p.m.  
Caln vs. State College, 8:05 p.m.

Leadoff man Jason Dacosta was 4-for-6 with three runs, each had two hits and two RBIs.  
West Lawn returns its entire team, except for ace Brett Vroman, and should have a very good opportunity to defend its Region 2 crown and return to states, because the Owls will host the Region 2 tourney in 1999.  
"This obviously wasn't the way we wrote the script for anybody - even ourselves - thought we could do what we wound up doing this year. These guys have nothing to be ashamed about."

Kevin's been our ace the past three years," Mount Lebanon coach Al Liberti said. "He just goes out and wins." "Ferris wasn't dominating like Newton was," Matz said. "But we just didn't hit the ball well off him. He wasn't overpowering, but our guys didn't wait and look to take the ball up the middle."  
Mount Lebanon's lineup took the ball all over the park against West Lawn's trio of Stacherski (4-5), Jon Rudisill and Kyle Frees.

Continued from Page C1

### West Lawn

West Lawn third baseman Regan Carroll dives but can't come up with ground ball Wednesday during the Owls' 13-1 loss to Mount Lebanon at Owls Field.

Eagle/Times: Tony Florini

