

# West Lawn starts fast, beats Bath in laughter

By Darryl Grumling

*Eagle/Times*

Any concerns West Lawn coach Tony Matz III had about his team's ability to bounce back from last week's Berks Legion title blowout loss to Boyertown were answered quickly Tuesday night.

Jeff Kramer's leadoff triple ignited an aggressive Owls attack that turned a Pennsylvania Region 2 Tournament opener with Bath into a laughter.

A real laughter. West Lawn scored in each of first five innings en route to a 16-3 rout that capped a long day of long scores that ultimately extended into early this morning.

The Berks runner-up Owls (36-8), the tournament hosts, advance to tonight's winners bracket meeting with Mountainville, a 19-8 winner over Pennridge, at 8:05.

## FAST FACTS

■ **SCORE:** West Lawn 16, Bath 3.

■ **DECIDING FACTOR:** West Lawn scored in each of the first five innings in building a 13-0 lead.

■ **STARS OF THE GAME:** West Lawn No. 9 hitter Nate Shultz drove in a career-high four runs, while starter Jeff Kramer limited Bath to one hit in five innings.

■ **NET RESULT:** West Lawn advances tonight's winners bracket matchup with Mountainville.

**Northampton champ Bath (21-5)** drops into the losers bracket and will face Bux-Mont titlist Pennridge this afternoon at 1:05.

In their first appearance at George Field since winning last year's Berks title, the Owls wasted no time in taking control.

One out after Kramer's triple to right-center, Chad Ruth scored him with a single just inside the third-base line.

In the second, No. 9 hitter Nate Shultz (career-high four RBIs) squeezed in Dan Coletti, and Scott Kramer smoked a two-run single to make it 4-0.

"We got out the way we needed to do," said Matz, whose team had to go 11 innings in winning their Region 2 opener a year ago. "It was very impressive."

The 15-hit effort was more than enough for ace righty Jeff Kramer (8-2), who cruised

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## ▶ West Lawn

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through five innings, allowing only a first-inning single to Jon Spinosa. He struck out seven and walked three.

Eric Dameron picked up the save with four innings of five-hit ball, allowing all three runs.

Nearly as important as the victory had to be the hard-charging manner in which the Owls manufactured their offense.

Showing no ill effects from Thursday's 24-8 loss to Boyertown, West Lawn ran the bases with abandon, legging out five infield hits, recording five steals and taking extra bases at every opportunity.

"We played the way we were capable of playing," Matz said.

"We showed what we were capable of."

Shultz's two-run single highlighted a three-run third that pushed it to 7-0. He drew a bases-loaded walk the next inning, which Jeff Kramer closed out with a two-run single to make it 11-0.

After Scott Kramer scored on a fifth-inning error, 6-3, 225-pound Chad "Moose" Whitmoyer came across on the back end of a double steal to bring the count to 13-0.

Nate Snoke's two-run single in the seventh finally erased the goose egg for Bath, then Snoke scored on a wild pitch.

But two Bath errors — the team booted seven overall — led to three more for West Lawn in the eighth.

And finally finished a frenzied first round of thrashings.

# Kramer keys Owls' victory

By Matt Malinowski  
*EagleTimes*

West Lawn pitcher Jeff Kramer knew Lower Macungie was scoring a lot of runs in the Pennsylvania Legion Region 2 Tournament. He wasn't sure how many, though.

When he was told they scored 38 runs over their first three games, Kramer seemed somewhat surprised. But once he took the mound in Friday's elimination game at George Field, the runs stopped as quickly as his fastball reaches the plate.

Kramer gave up just two hits and struck out 11 in seven innings, leading the Owls to an easy 7-1 victory and eliminating Lower Macungie.

West Lawn advances to the final day of competition and will play Boyertown today at 1:05 p.m. at George Field. The Owls also reached the state tournament for the first time since 1962, when they won the tournament.

The Owls (38-9) bounced back from a heartbreaking loss to arch-rival Boyertown Thursday night, when they blew a five-run lead late in the game en route to a 7-5 defeat. That loss didn't appear to bother them as they stayed

## FAST FACTS

■ **SCORE:** West Lawn 7, Lower Macungie 1

■ **DECIDING FACTOR:** West Lawn opened the game with a four-run fifth, highlighted by a two-run double by Dan Coletti and RBI singles by Chad Whitmoyer and Nate Shultz.

■ **STAR OF THE GAME:** West Lawn's Jeff Kramer pitched seven innings of two-hit, 11-strikeout ball.

## INSIDE

■ Boyertown defeats Mountaintownville. — Page D3

focused to the task at hand.

"I didn't fear our attitude coming into the game mainly because of who we had pitching," said West Lawn coach Tony Matz III. "I thought if we could get on top, then that would be a big key."

"We knew we had to come out tonight and win," said Kramer. "I think that loss (to Boyertown) put a drive in us to keep winning and keep the season going. We're shooting for states, and beyond."

Kramer set the tone early, striking out Lower Macungie lead-



*EagleTimes*: Ron Romanek

West Lawn's Dustin Sands slides in safely at home past Lower Macungie catcher Jeff Powl Friday.

off batter Brian Barnes and then No. 3 hitter Glenn Kushma. It was the first of four multiple-strikeout innings for Kramer, who struck

out two in the second and fifth, and the side in the seventh.

"I had pretty much my best stuff today," said Kramer. "I was

pitching with a sore back, but I had to shut out the pain and throw

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## ▶ Kramer

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my best. I think I pitched pretty good."

The Owls provided all the support Kramer would need in the third. Brian Dallas hit a liner to left that left fielder Jamie Folger dove for but missed, allowing Dallas to cruise into third with a triple. Chad Ruth followed with a sacrifice fly that scored Dallas for

a 1-0 lead.

The lead got a little more comfortable in the fourth. Chad Whitmoyer started the inning with a single. Dan Coletti followed with a sacrifice bunt, which was bobbed by third baseman John Buckwalter, allowing Coletti to be safe at first.

After Whitmoyer and Coletti advanced on a sacrifice bunt by Dustin Sands (3-for-4), Jeff Kramer hit an infield single to deep short. Whitmoyer scored eas-

ily, but Coletti used some aggressive base running and scored from second on the shortstop's throw to first for a 3-0 lead.

West Lawn then put the game away with a four-run fifth. Chad Ruth led off the inning with a double and advanced to third on Scott Kramer's sacrifice. After a walk to Chad Harbach, Ruth scored on a bloop single by Whitmoyer. Coletti capped the inning with a two-run double, scoring Harbach and Whitmoyer.

# Boyertown rebounds to take Region 2 title

By Darryl Grumling

Eagle/Times

After four days of living dangerously in the Pennsylvania Region 2 Tournament, the Boyertown Bears showed everyone why they are considered the most dangerous team around in Saturday's championship game with West Lawn.

In the season's seventh meeting of the two archrivals, Boyertown bounced back from an afternoon loss to the Owls by bringing home its fifth straight region title with a 23-7 rout.

Both teams continue their seasons in next week's eight-team Pennsylvania Tournament, which Boyertown is hosting at Bear Stadium.

The Berks champion Bears (49-8) open with the Region 8 champ — the winner of today's Wesleyville-Erie title game — Tuesday at 8:05 at Bear Stadium.

## FAST FACTS

■ **SCORES:** Boyertown 23, West Lawn 7 (final); West Lawn 10, Boyertown 9 (first game).

■ **DECIDING FACTOR:** Boyertown broke open the final with an 11-run sixth.

■ **STAR OF GAME:** Jake Brensinger went 4-for-5 to pace a 17-hit attack as the Bears rebounded from their lone loss in the tourney.

■ **NET RESULT:** Boyertown wins fifth straight state Region 2 title.

At 1:05, West Lawn (39-10) meets the Region 6 champ. The Owls earned the Region 2 berth by reaching the finals.

"We had a long talk between games," said Boyertown coach Rick Moatz, referring to the 10-9 loss in the opener. "We said we weren't going to come out here and jump around, holler and get

all fired up, but we wanted to come out in the second game and play solid — and I think we did that."

The Bears had needed three incredible rallies in besting Lower Macungie (10-9), West Lawn (7-5) and Mountainville (11-6 in 13 innings) Wednesday through Friday, but no such drama was necessary in Saturday's nightcap.

"It was important to get out on top," said Boyertown third baseman Jake Brensinger, who fronted a 17-hit barrage on a 4-for-5 night. "We were kind of down, and we came out slow in the first game, so it was important to get the ball rolling and finish them off."

Which the Bears had no trouble doing against a patchwork West Lawn pitching staff. Already up 9-4, they ended any doubt about the outcome with an 11-run sixth in

See Boyertown, Page D11 ▶



West Lawn teammates greet Eric Dameron (11) after he scored winning run in Saturday's first game.

Eagle/Times: Dennis R. Bender

## BASEBALL



Eagle/Times: Dennis R. Bender

West Lawn's Chad Harbach scores ahead of tag by Boyertown's Randy Yerger in fifth inning of opener.

## ► Boyertown

Continued from Page D1

which Brensinger collected an RBI single, double and two runs scored.

"They told us we could either roll over and die, or keep our heads in the game," said Brensinger, whose 13th-inning RBI double gave the Bears for good Friday night. "It's all a mental game, and we just had to go out and prove ourselves."

The Bears got to starter Rhett Stauffer (6-2), who went six innings in the first game, for three second-inning runs on an RBI single by Brensinger and a bases-loaded ground-rule double by Jason Benyo (3-for-4, three RBIs). Benyo finished the tourney 13-for-27 with 13 runs scored.

Owls coach Tony Matz III tried to stop the bleeding with No. 5 starter Brian Dallas, but the righty was ineffective and walked five batters in 2½ innings.

By the time Matz brought reserve Joe Eshelman in the 13-batter sixth, he had already run up the white flag.

Dallas was the Owls' lone bright spot in the second game. He had a monster 5-for-5, three-run, two-RBI effort capped by a towering solo homer in the eighth. West Lawn had just eight hits.

Derek Witman (7-2) tossed seven innings of seven-hit, seven-strikeout and seven-walk ball for the decision.

"We went after them the best we could without taking out the pitching staff with us," said Matz, who didn't use eligible pitchers Jeff Kramer and Chad Ruth in either game. "The trouble is, they can hit. We didn't throw much at them, but they destroy that stuff, and we don't hit enough against the guys they throw."

"They just feasted on us. I knew we had to score double figures to win the second game. I didn't want it to be that bad, but it was."

Steve Mest went 2-for-6 with

five RBIs, Tony Saportio went 2-for-4 with three RBIs and Brandon Mohr went 2-for-5 with two RBIs for an attack in which each starter had either a hit or RBI.

"Both teams came in here today knowing the situation before the day started," said Moatz, whose team's win over Mountainville Friday clinched a state berth for the Owls. "And both coaches had in mind the fact that they weren't going to spoil anything for next week as far as pitching goes."

In a wild first game that featured five lead changes, nine errors, 16 walks and 23 hits, the Owls pulled it out with two in the ninth.

Dustin Sands scored on reliever Steve Mest's wild pitch, then Dallas drove in Eric Dameron with the deciding run on a sacrifice fly.

Scott Kramer (9-2), who struck out four in three innings of relief of Rhett Stauffer, closed it out with a 1-2-3 ninth.

Boyertown had taken a 9-8 in the bottom of the eighth on RBI singles by Sellers and Saportio.

# Bears, Owls thinking about state tourney

By Darryl Grumling

Eagle/Times

It was, in a word, anticlimatic. Boyertown's 23-7 rout of West Lawn for the Pennsylvania Region 2 championship Saturday at George Field was by far the least exciting of the seven games between the two archrivals — nearly all of which have been thrilling, heart-stopping affairs.

However, even including West Lawn's 10-9 win earlier in the day that set up the title showdown, the day's final outcome lacked something.

Maybe it was the fact that each team had already qualified for next week's state tournament at Boyertown and neither Bears coach Rick Moatz or Owls coach Tony Matz III wanted to use any of their eligible aces to jeopardize their chances in Tuesday's openers.

Maybe it was the fact that both teams' pitching staffs were exhausted after five straight days of work — which would dictate a slugfest where Boyertown's intimidating offensive lineup would be heavily favored against the hot-and-cold hitting Owls.

Or maybe it was simply impossible to keep topping the previous games in a series that has raged on for more than two months.

And one that that still may not be over.

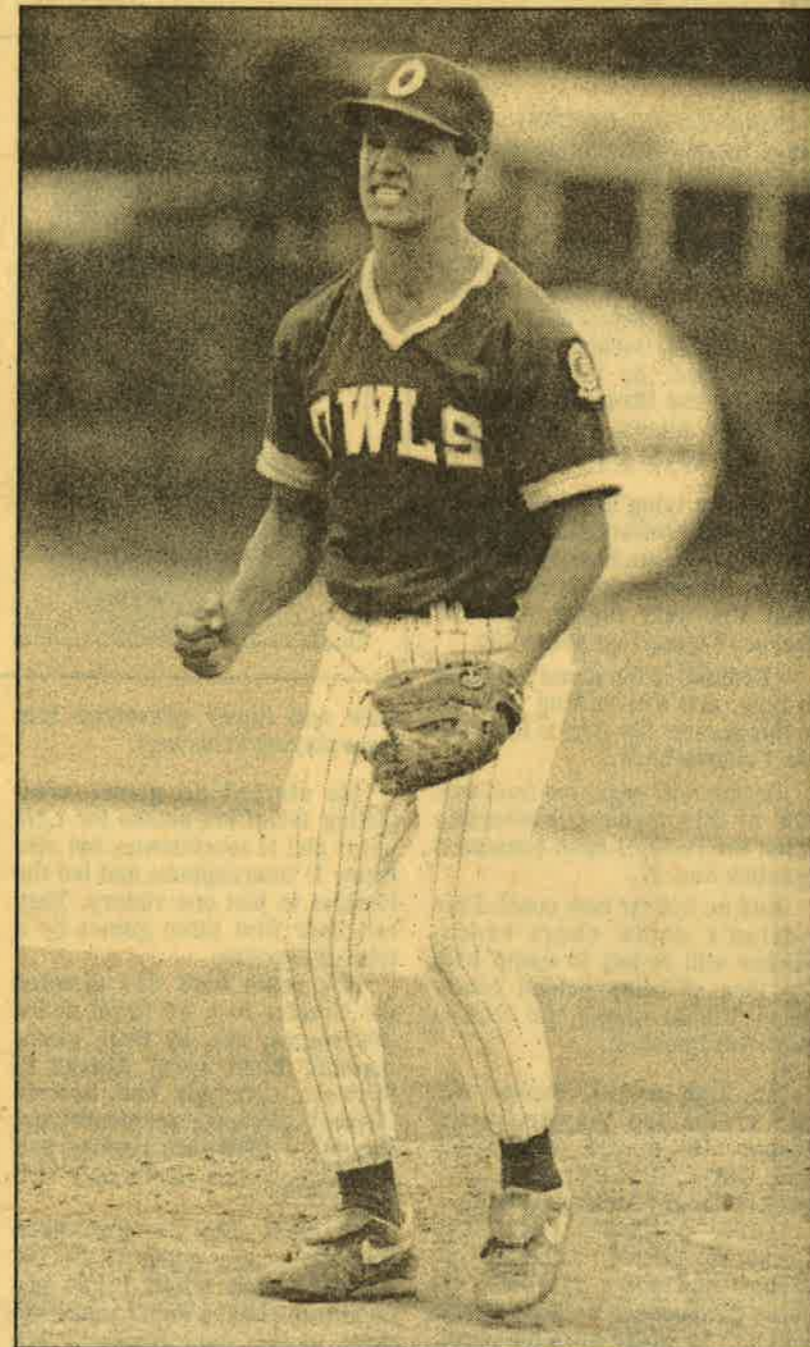
"We weren't exactly fired up and ready to go when we came out here," admitted Moatz. "This wasn't like a championship contest. From the start, it didn't look like either team was ready to play."

That was a sharp contrast from the team's previous meetings.

June 21 at Owls Field, Jeff Kramer tossed a complete-game five-hitter, striking out 13 and getting out of a bases-loaded, one-out jam in the eighth to preserve the win.

Three weeks later at Bear Stadium, West Lawn took a 3-1 lead into the sixth, only to see it disappear as the Bears scratched for single runs in the sixth, seventh and eighth — Brandon Mohr's clutch two-out RBI single driving in the deciding run in a 4-3 win.

The third meeting was in the



Eagle/Times: Dennis R. Bender

West Lawn pitcher Scott Kramer celebrates last out of opener.

runs to tie it, then won it when Kevin McCaffrey scored on a wild pitch in the 10th. West Lawn had blown a potential game-winning squeeze in the bottom of the ninth.

Boyertown blew out the Owls 24-8 in the Berks title game, but West Lawn returned to take a 5-0 lead into the seventh in Thursday's Region 2 winners bracket final. Lo and behold, the Bears rallied for seven in the seventh for a stunning 7-5 win.

post a 10-9 victory, but then found themselves on the short end of a long championship score.

Will Saturday's title contest be the final meeting between the two familiar but bitter rivals? Or will they lock horns yet again sometime next week?

"I think we both have the potential to get to the winners bracket final," said Boyertown's Jake Brensinger, whose 4-for-5 performance led a 17-hit attack in

To report information: 371-5064  
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Sports editor: Michael C. Ziellinski, 371-5063

# SPORTS

Entertainment / D9

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## West Lawn win is worth the wait

### Owls top Robinson, 8-7, after 5-hour rain delay

By Matt Malinowski  
*Eagle/Times*

West Lawn waited 30 years to make it back to the Pennsylvania State Legion Tournament. Robinson endured 27 years of waiting before reaching its first state tournament.

#### STATE LEGION

Then both teams had to wait even more, a typhoon-like rainstorm delaying Tuesday's first-round game over five hours.

So it seemed only fitting that West Lawn waited to the last moment to pull out a victory, Chad Whitmoyer's bases-loaded single in the ninth giving the Region 2 runner-up Owls an 8-7 win over Region 6 runner-up Robinson at Boyertown's Bear Stadium.

The win advanced the Owls (40-10) to a winners bracket game against Spring City (30-7), a 15-7 winner over Montoursville, today at 5:05 p.m.

With the score tied 7-7, Chad Ruth led off the ninth with a single. Scott Kramer then was hit by a pitch and Chad Harbach walked. After looking a two straight fastballs for strikes, Whitmoyer smoked a curve into left to score Ruth with the game-winner.

"He got a curve in on me and I just got the bat around on it," said Whitmoyer, who went 3-for-5. "All I wanted to do was get the run home."

#### FAST FACTS

■ **SCORE:** West Lawn 8, Robinson 7.

■ **DECIDING FACTOR:** West Lawn's Chad Whitmoyer hit a bases-loaded single in the bottom of the ninth to break a 7-7 tie and give the Owls the victory.

■ **STAR OF THE GAME:** West Lawn's Chad Whitmoyer went 3-for-5 with two RBIs, including the game-winner.

■ **NET RESULT:** West Lawn advances to a second-round game against Spring City tonight at 5:05 at Bear Stadium.

#### TODAY'S SCHEDULE

■ **State College vs. Hershey, 10:05 a.m.**

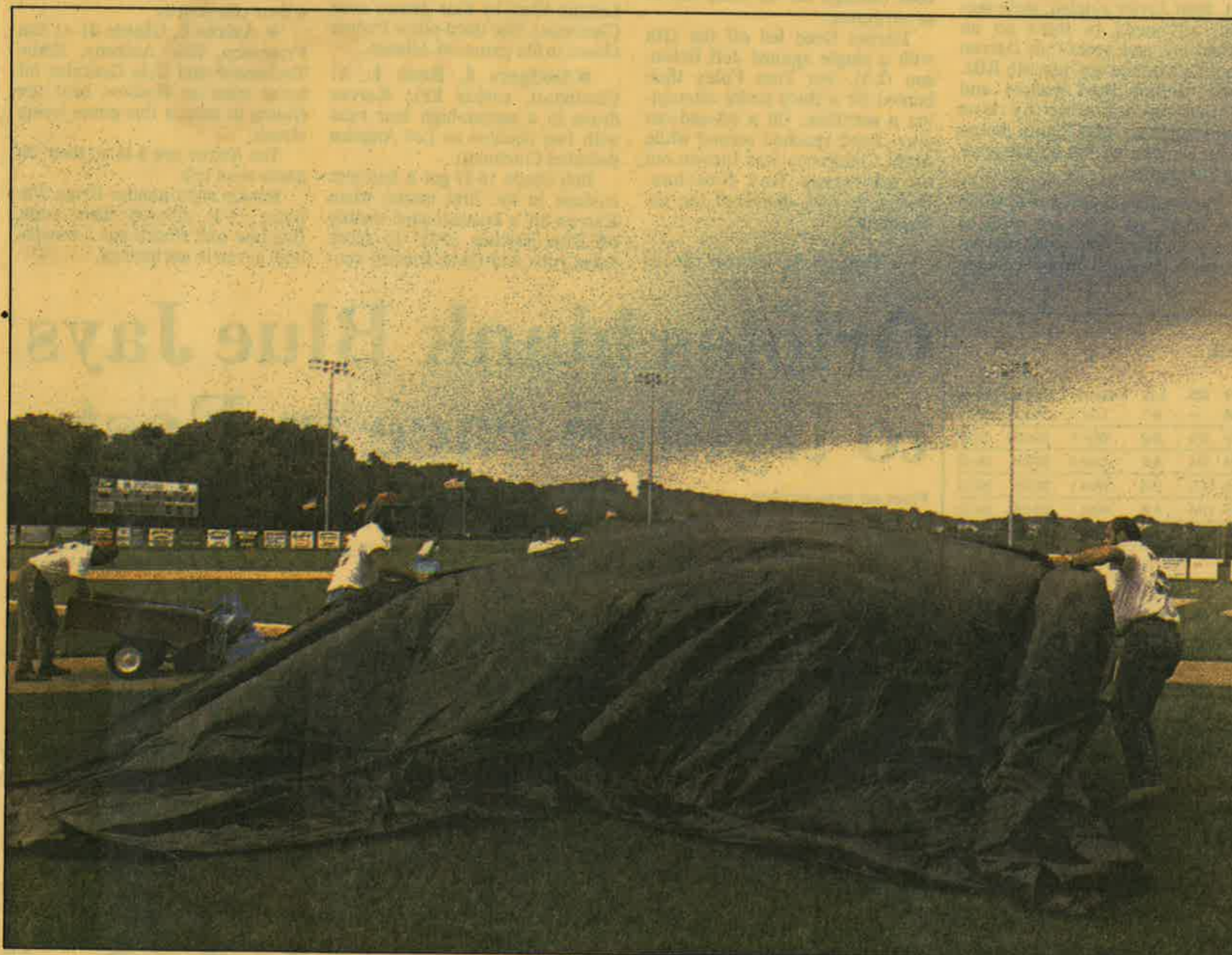
■ **Montoursville vs. Robinson, 10:05 a.m.**

*(Boyertown JV field)*

■ **State College-Hershey loser vs. Erie, 1:05.**

■ **Spring City vs. West Lawn, 5:05.**

■ **State College-Hershey winner vs. Boyertown, 8:05.**



Eagle/Times: Chad A. DeShazo

Grounds crew members get the tarp on the field Tuesday at Bear Stadium on a wet opening day of the Pennsylvania Legion Tournament.

bases. After striking out Yokley, Ruth walked Bill Olivani to force in Schmidt and tie the game.



Eagle/Times: Chad A. DeShazo

Grounds crew members get the tarp on the field Tuesday at Bear Stadium on a wet opening day of the Pennsylvania Legion Tournament.

# Bears hold off Erie, 4-3

## Johnson weaves magic in game that ends at 2:25 this morning

By Darryl Grumling  
EagleTimes

Midnight Madness hit Bear Stadium late Tuesday night as Boyertown opened defense of its state title in bizarre fashion.

In a game that nearly took until the witching hour to get underway and didn't end until 2:25 this morning, the Berks and Region 2 champ Bears held off Erie 4-3 in their Pennsylvania Legion Tournament opener.

Ace righty Jed Johnson was the main reason Boyertown was able to survive the specter of upsets past, striking out 10 on a six-hit complete game to send the Bears (50-8) into tonight's winners bracket contest at 8:05.

Boyertown will face the winner of today's 10:05 a.m. opening-round matchup between Region 4 champion Hershey (21-6) and Region 7 champ State College (35-11) — the only opener that had to be re-scheduled due to Tuesday's rain.

Region 8 titlist Erie (28-5) dropped to the losers bracket and

### FAST FACTS

■ **SCORE:** Boyertown 4, Erie 3.

■ **STARS OF THE GAME:** Boyertown's Jed Johnson struck out 10 on a six-hitter, while teammate Jamie Sellers went 3-for-5.

■ **NET RESULT:** Defending state champ Boyertown moves into tonight's winners bracket game with today's State College-Hershey winner.

was scheduled to face the Hershey-State College loser at 1:05 p.m. today.

"In regards to our play," said Boyertown coach Rick Moatz, whose team committed four errors, left 14 men on base and mustered just nine singles — four of them of the infield variety, "I guess the fact that we won and we didn't really execute effectively and use all our weapons, we were pretty happy coming out of this situation the way we did."

Which they were able to do

thanks to Johnson (12-0), who dominated early and got out of trouble late in giving the Bears the strong mound performance they'd been lacking of late.

"I felt great tonight," said Johnson, who allowed just one earned run in his first outing since going the distance in last Thursday's 7-5 Region 2 winners bracket final win over West Lawn. "I felt like I was throwing hard all night. After the first couple innings, I had a little control problem, but I got through it. Today was the first game in a while we've won without scoring a lot of runs."

Johnson drew a bases-loaded walk in the third to get Boyertown on the board, then Steve Mest scored when first baseman Jeff Dalton booted a grounder by hot-hitting Jamie Sellers (3-for-5) the following inning to make it 2-0.

Dave Claudio scored on Jeremy Young's double-play groundout to get Erie within a run in the sixth, but Brandon Mohr hit a sacrifice fly and Sellers scored on second baseman Young's

throwing error to put Boyertown up 4-1.

But Erie, making its first state appearance since 1981, wasn't done.

In the eighth, two runs scored with two outs when Bears third baseman Jake Brensinger kicked a grounder by Dave Schmidt, who then took second on Jason Benyo's throwing error.

Johnson got pitch-hitter Dave Roach on a comebacker to the mound to end the threat. The following inning, Kris Puskar led off with a double and reached third with one out, but Johnson blew away tough No. 3 hitter Claudio and got cleanup man Mike Urso to bounce to Brensinger to end it.

"Early in the game, Jed had control of all of his pitches," Moatz said. "He was throwing hard, getting ahead of people. At the end, he was basically mixing them up a lot better; using his curve ball more effectively.

"Jed's always been a clutch performer for us the last couple of games."

**STATE LEGION** its first state tournament.

Then both teams had to wait even more, a typhoon-like rainstorm delaying Tuesday's first-round game over five hours.

So it seemed only fitting that West Lawn waited to the last moment to pull out a victory, Chad Whitmoyer's bases-loaded single in the ninth giving the Region 2 runner-up Owls an 8-7 win over Region 6 runner-up Robinson at Boyertown's Bear Stadium.

The win advanced the Owls (40-10) to a winners bracket game against Spring City (30-7), a 15-7 winner over Montoursville, today at 5:05 p.m.

With the score tied 7-7, Chad Ruth led off the ninth with a single. Scott Kramer then was hit by a pitch and Chad Harbach walked. After looking a two straight fast-balls for strikes, Whitmoyer smoked a curve into left to score Ruth with the game-winner.

"He got a curve in on me and I just got the bat around on it," said Whitmoyer, who went 3-for-5. "All I wanted to do was get the run home."

The game started calmly enough, going two scoreless innings before a fierce thunderstorm delayed action. When the game resumed, Robinson put together a whirlwind of its own.

After two quick outs in the third, Robinson got five straight hits off Owls starter Jeff Kramer. Rick Satchko provided the key hit, a two-run double off the right-field fence to make it 4-0.

But the Owls bounced back in the fourth, sending 11 batters to the plate while scoring seven runs. After walks to Brian Dallas and Ruth, Whitmoyer hit an infield single scoring Dallas. Dan Coletti followed with a single that slipped under left fielder Andy Dennison's glove, allowing Harbach to score.

Robinson pitcher Ernie Yokely then made consecutive throwing errors on bunts, allowing four more runs to score for a 7-4 lead.

Things slowed down a bit in the fifth and sixth, but picked up in the seventh. With the bases loaded, Robinson's D.J. Baron hit into a groundout, which scored Dennison. Dan Michelangelo followed with an RBI single to make it 7-6. With runners at the corners, Kramer struck out Yokely to end the inning.

Ruth replaced Kramer in the ninth for West Lawn and quickly found himself in trouble. Chris Schmidt and Satchko led off with singles. After a fielder's choice, Michelangelo walked to load the

Lawn's Chad Whitmoyer hit a bases-loaded single in the bottom of the ninth to break a 7-7 tie and give the Owls the victory.

■ **STAR OF THE GAME:** West Lawn's Chad Whitmoyer went 3-for-5 with two RBIs, including the game-winner.

■ **NET RESULT:** West Lawn advances to a second-round game against Spring City tonight at 5:05 at Bear Stadium.

### TODAY'S SCHEDULE

■ **State College vs. Hershey,** 10:05 a.m.

■ **Montoursville vs. Robinson,** 10:05 a.m.  
(Boyertown JV field)

■ **State College-Hershey loser vs. Erie,** 1:05.

■ **Spring City vs. West Lawn,** 5:05.

■ **State College-Hershey winner vs. Boyertown,** 8:05.

bases. After striking out Yokley, Ruth walked Bill Olivani to force in Schmidt and tie the game.

"It's a real big win," said West Lawn coach Tony Matz III. "The first one is always big. I tried to remain positive when we went down."

"We had to come back," said Whitmoyer. "I think we wanted to come out with a good, solid game. It was nice that we could bounce back."

In the first game Tuesday, Spring City continued its story-book season by rallying from a seven-run deficit to stun Montoursville.

The Red Sox (30-7), who rallied by winning four straight losers bracket games to win last week's Region 3 Tournament, exploded for an eight-run third and seven-run fourth to shock the Region 5 champs.

Mike Heffernan, who got the win with 6½ innings of two-hit shutout relief, tied it at 7-7 with a two-run single in the third. Jamie Scheck then tacked on a run-scoring single to give Spring City the lead for good.

The Sox poured it on with a seven-spot the following inning, highlighted by Mike Gancasz's two-run homer to left.

"We just wanted to score two or three," said a good-humored Sox coach Rod Johnson. "But, I'll tell you what. If you would have taken bets on us coming back, not a whole lot of people up there (in the Spring City section) would have taken it."

# Owls beat Spring City

## Scott Kramer whiffs 18 in West Lawn's victory

By Brian Smith  
*Eagle/Times*

Despite getting 18 strikeouts from Scott Kramer, playing errorless defense and stroking 11 hits, West Lawn needed a little luck to put away Spring City 6-2 Wednesday in the Pennsylvania Legion Tournament at Boyertown's Bear Stadium.

### STATE LEGION

West Lawn (41-10) plays Boyertown tonight at 7:35 in the winners bracket final. Spring City (30-8) plays Erie in an elimination game at 4:05.

"We're thrilled, we're so excited," Kramer said. "We want this so much."

The turning point occurred with West Lawn batting in the fifth inning and the score 2-2.

With one out, Chad Ruth singled and Kramer walked. Chad Harbach popped out for the second out.

Chad Whitmoyer then hit a grounder to shortstop. Ruth, who was on second, stopped in front of shortstop Brett Tillman and then hurdled the ball. Tillman bobbled it, enabling Ruth to score after a collision at the plate. Tillman and Spring City coach Rod Johnson argued that the ball hit Ruth. If so, Ruth would be out and the inning would be over.

"I don't think there's a question," Johnson said. "There's no question to what happened there."

"I thought it hit his foot. And I screamed right away it hit him in the foot."

"I didn't see it," West Lawn coach Tony Matz III said.

The Owls scored another run in the inning on another error by Tillman to make it 4-2.

The game was then in the hands — or, actually the right arm — of Kramer. He gave up two runs on five hits and eight walks while reaching a career high in strikeouts and throwing 185 pitches.

"That was phenomenal," Matz said. "I can't even think of the adjectives to give it. It was a phenomenal effort."

"It was probably one of his best performances ever."

West Lawn took a 1-0 lead in the first on Kramer's RBI single and made it 2-0 in the third on Harbach's RBI single.

Kramer got out of a bases-loaded jam in the second, but

### FAST FACTS

■ **SCORE:** West Lawn 6, Spring City 2.

■ **KEY PLAY:** Chad Ruth scores the go-ahead run in the fifth for West Lawn on shortstop Brett Tillman's error.

■ **STAR OF THE GAME:** West Lawn's Scott Kramer pitches an 18-strikeout five-hitter and also goes 1-for-3 with an RBI.

■ **NET RESULT:** West Lawn advances to tonight's winners bracket final.

### WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

■ Hershey 4, State College 2

■ Montoursville 7, Robinson 5

■ Erie 7, State College 2

■ West Lawn 6, Spring City 2

■ Boyertown 6, Hershey 4

### TODAY'S GAMES

■ Montoursville vs. Hershey, 12:05.

■ Erie vs. Spring City, 4:05.

■ West Lawn vs. Boyertown, 7:35.

### INSIDE

■ **Performance speaks for Boyertown's Jed Johnson.** — Page D4

couldn't escape trouble in the third.

He walked Jamie Scheck and Scott Loose to lead off the inning. Bob Wineberg then singled to load the bases. After Mike Gancasz struck out, Bryan Uba doubled to right for two runs.

The inning ended with Kramer striking out Dru Sweinhart and Eric Olinick.

"I didn't have much of a curveball," said Kramer. "I was working my fastball a lot, in and out. I had to just keep coming. That's probably the most pop I've had on my fastball in a long time."

Kramer's fastball was clocked at 83 mph.

The Owls scored two insurance runs in the ninth on an error and Dan Coletti's single.

"I think we took advantage of what was given to us," Matz said.

"But I truly believe we should have hit a little more. We shouldn't have to scratch and claw to get runs."

# Bears, Owls can't get enough of each other

By Darryl Grumling

Eagle/Times

When the Berks Legion League season kicked off, most observers expected defending league champ West Lawn and defending state champ Boyertown to wage a heated war for control of the county and beyond.

What many didn't realize, though, was just exactly how long the battle would rage on.

Entering Thursday night's Pennsylvania Legion Tournament winners bracket final, the teams had already met seven times, most of them thrilling, tense affairs.

Which hasn't exactly surprised Boyertown coach Rick Moatz or West Lawn coach Tony Matz III.

"I don't think there was any doubt that we would play quite a few times this year," said Moatz, whose team won five of the first seven. "We saw what talent they had. They're a good ballclub."

## STATE LEGION NOTEBOOK

West Lawn displayed that, defeating Boyertown 2-1 in the first meeting as Jeff Kramer struck out 13 in a five-hitter.

Boyertown rebounded three weeks later at Bear Stadium, Brandon Mohr's clutch two-out single in the eighth giving the Bears a 4-3 win.

"Going back to the beginning of the year, Rick (Moatz) and Dave (Specht, Boyertown's business manager) talked to me and pretty much told me they expected to play us a lot," Matz said. "I believed it, because they've been down this road before."

"The thing that made me realize we have a chance was watching the Legion World Series last year at Boyertown. Watching those eight teams, I didn't think

anyone was that superior in comparison with Boyertown and us. I don't know what I expected, but nobody floored me."

The third — and perhaps most exciting — meeting took place in the winner's bracket final of the Berks playoff tournament, with Boyertown rallying to win 6-5 in 10 innings.

If Game 3 was the most exciting, Game 4 had to be the most shocking, as Boyertown broke loose for eight first-inning runs to turn the Berks title game into a 24-8 rout.

The archrivals were far from finished, meeting in the winner's bracket final of the Pennsylvania Region 2 Tournament at George Field. The Owls took a 5-0 lead into the seventh, only to watch the

Bears answer with a stunning seven-run seventh to win it 7-5.

West Lawn gained a rematch in the championship round and won 10-9, but Boyertown answered with a 23-7 shellacking in the title game.

The magnet-like attraction between the foes brought them together for the eighth time late Thursday at Bear Stadium, with a national regional berth on the line.

The last time two Berks teams went at it with so much at stake was 1986, when Boyertown and Oley locked horns seven times.

### NON-LEAGUE

West Lawn 3, Manheim Township 2  
Highlights: Nathan Shultz went 2-for-2 with two doubles and an RBI and Chad Harbach went 1-for-3 with an RBI double for West Lawn.

Lawn Optimist



To report information: 371-5064  
 To get scores and results: 376-6000, category 5050  
 Sports editor: Michael C. Zielinski, 371-5063

# SPORTS

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Comics / C8

Classified / C9

## Bears blunt West Lawn, 4-3

By Darryl Grumling

Eagle/Times

Eight might have been enough in deciding Boyertown's summer-long war with West Lawn early today at Bear Stadium.

In the eighth — and perhaps final — meeting of the Berks Legion League archrivals, the defending state champion Bears got a big lift from their much-maligned defense of late in holding off the Owls 4-3 in front of 1,147 in the winners bracket final of the Pennsylvania Tournament.

The win earned Boyertown a berth in one of next week's national regionals: either the Mid-Atlantic at Binghamton, N.Y., or the Great Lakes at Steubenville, Ohio. The state champ advances to Mid-Atlantics, with the runner-up heading to the Great Lakes.

The Berks and Region 2 champ

### THURSDAY'S RESULTS

- Hershey 10, Montoursville 8
- Spring City 11, Erie 5
- Boyertown 4, West Lawn 3

### TODAY'S GAMES

- West Lawn vs. Hershey, 1:30 p.m.
- Boyertown vs. Spring City, 7:30 p.m.

### INSIDE

- Owls, Bears can't get enough of each other.

— Page C3

Bears (52-8), who gained Saturday's championship round with the win, face Region 3 champ Spring City (31-8) tonight at 7:35 at Bear Stadium.

West Lawn (41-11) was sched-

uled to face Region 4 champ Hershey (23-7) at 1:35 p.m. in an elimination contest. Should the Owls and Bears both win, West Lawn would clinch the state's other national regional berth.

"I think this win is going to take some of the pressure off," Bears coach Rick Moatz said. "Instead of just going out there and playing to win, the next day or two we're going to go out there and look to do some things to improve ourselves for next week."

West Lawn never has beaten the Bears at Boyertown in the 10-year history of Bear Stadium, and Thursday's showdown — which was played in a steady rain and didn't end until 1 a.m. this morning — was no different.

Randy Yerger's two-run double to right-center broke a 1-1 tie and gave the Bears the lead for good in a three-run fifth. After a wild pitch, Steve Mest scored Yerger with a groundout to make it 4-1.

The Owls got one back on Chad Whitmoyer's run-scoring flare single in the sixth, but Jed

Johnson came on to toss three innings of one-hit relief for starter Derek Witman (8-2) to get the save.

West Lawn's Whitmoyer, who went 2-for-4 to up his state tournament-leading average to .481, crushed a monster solo homer with one out in the ninth to cut it to 4-3. But Johnson got Dan Coletti to ground to short and then struck out Dustin Sands to finish it.

"I'd like to think it's a piece of cake, but it's not," said Yerger, who finished 3-for-4 with three RBIs and a run scored.

The Boyertown defense, which had made an uncharacteristic 27 errors in the past week and a half, came up with some clutch glove-work on a night more conducive to slick conditions than slick fielding.

In the third, Sands led off with a triple, but was erased on Nate

Shultz's grounder when Jamie Sellers came home and catcher Yerger ran Sands down going back to third.

Boyertown got on the board in the first when Benyo (2-for-4, two runs scored) led off with a double, took third on Josh Hartline's sacrifice, and scored on Yerger's RBI single.

The Owls got it back in the fourth when Chad Harbach doubled in Scott Kramer, who had reached on a two-out single.

"I think both teams played an amazing game when you consider the first game (in which Spring City and Erie combined to commit nine errors)," said West Lawn coach Tony Matz III, "and then when you realize that our conditions were a lot worse and both teams made just one error."

## SPORTS

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# West Lawn lets game slip away

By Matt Malinowski  
*Eagle/Times*

Sometimes it's not so much the fact that you lost, but the way you lost which haunts you. Especially if the game seemed to be yours to win.

Unfortunately for the West Lawn Owls, the way they lost their elimination game in the Pennsylvania Legion Tournament at Boyertown's Bear Stadium Friday will probably keep them awake for many nights to come.

The Owls (41-11) failed to take advantage of early scoring chances for starting pitcher Jeff Kramer and committed several costly errors in a 6-3 loss to Hershey in 10 innings.

The loss ends West Lawn's season. A win would have kept the Owls' hopes alive for a national regional tournament berth.

It didn't take long for West Lawn to miss an opportunity to take early command. The Owls loaded the bases with one out in the first, but failed to score when Chad Whitmoyer grounded out to second to end the inning.

But the Owls didn't appear shaken and came right back in the second. Dan Coletti led off with a single and advanced to second on Dustin Sands' sacrifice. Kramer helped himself with a triple off the fence scoring Coletti. Brian Dallas singled home Kramer for a 2-0 lead.

Hershey (23-7-1) rallied with a run in the third. Joe Nocera led off with a double and went to third on Jason Garver's groundout. Nocera scored on Jose Carabello's groundout.

That looked to be all Hershey would get against Kramer. The hard-throwing righty allowed just one hit through the first six innings and there was only one fly out.

## FAST FACTS

- **SCORE:** Hershey 6, West Lawn 3 (10 innings)
- **KEY HIT:** Tim Manwiler's double in the top of the 10th inning scored Joe Nocera with the eventual game-winner.
- **STARS OF THE GAME:** For Hershey, Tim Manwiler struck out four in 2½ innings of scoreless relief and also had the game-winning hit. For West Lawn, Jeff Kramer pitched all 10 innings and struck out 13.
- **NET RESULT:** West Lawn is eliminated from the tournament and loses a chance to qualify for the national regional.

With the Owls leading 3-1 entering the seventh, the game looked to be theirs.

At that point, however, the plays became anything but routine for West Lawn, the Hershey bats produced some timely hits and — despite Kramer's dominating pitching — the game began to slip away.

Hershey's Kevin Keim drew a two-out walk on a borderline curve to open the seventh. Josh Norris followed with a routine grounder to third which went under the glove of Dallas. Derek Rogers followed with a single scoring Keim to make it 3-2.

Hershey continued to make the most of its few opportunities in the eighth. Garver led off the inning with a walk after a close call on a full count. Chris Hersey came in to pinch-run and went to second on a passed ball. Mike Terhune hit a two-out single scoring Hersey to make it 3-3.

"I honestly thought on two, the maybe three of their runs, the



West Lawn's Scott Kramer tries to avoid Hershey's Joe Nocera on his stolen base in the eighth inning. Eagle/Times: Diane Staakowald

guys struck out before they ever got on base," said West Lawn coach Tony Matz III. "I had trouble with their (the umpires) strike zone all series long.

"I think they were consistent with it, but it was tough to get anything around the belt."

Once again, the Owls lost a chance to score a run in the bottom half of the eighth inning. With two out, Coletti singled and stole

second. Coletti stole third, but his foot slid past the bag and he was tagged out to end the inning.

After a scoreless ninth, Hershey's Nocera led off the 10th with a single. He stole second and one out later Tim Manwiler doubled in Nocera to make it 4-3.

With two outs, Terhune was intentionally walked. Nate Paukovits hit what looked to be the final out of the inning, but third base-

man Dallas' throw went wide of first, allowing Manwiler and Terhune to score for a 6-3 lead.

Hershey pitcher Manwiler, who struck out four in 2½ innings of scoreless relief, gave up a hit to Dallas in the 10th before retiring the side to end the game.

"It's going to be very disappointing for a while," said Matz. "We were one win away from going where we wanted to go."