anil bis zapanowi Berks Legion

Non-league

West Lawn's runs.

West Lawn's Bristol 2

Highlights: At Owis Field, Ben Reifsnyder picked up the win with six innings of eighthit, two-run piching as the Owis (1-0) won their opener. Reifsnyder's two-run double in the second and Joe Blackburn's RBI single in the third provided West Lawn's runs.

Legion

Non-league
West Lawn 4, Conestoga Valley 2
Highlight: James Geosits went 1-for-2 with a double and two RBis for the Owls.

Non-league

West Lawn 6, Downingtown 2

Highlights: Ben Walter picked up the win with six innings of work, allowing only four hits, striking out four and walking two for West Lawn. Rick Ziska went 3-for-5 with one run and 2 RBIs, while Jensil Langumas was 1-for-3 with one run and one RBI.

Berks Legion Non-league

West Lawn 14, Exeter 10 Oley 7, Pottstown Pals 4

Berks Legion related as and

Non-League
Shillington 13, New Holland 1
Hamburg 8, Middleport 3
Exeter 4, Norchester 2
West Lawn Owls 9, Back Mountain Post 1
Perklomen 5, Muhlenberg 3
Richland 3, Schuylkill Valley 0

Local

Legion non-league

West Lawn 8, Lower South 2
Muhlenberg 8, Southern Area 4

Highlights: Joe Blackburn went 3-for-3
with two doubles and Matt Miller went 2-for-3
for West Lawn. . . . Dru Darkis had an RBI double and Aaron Kopetsky had two hits for the A's
(1-1).

Indiana of the season

West Lawn Owls

■ Coach: Tony Matz III, 17th season, 464-198.

■ Last year: 12-10 league, 18-15; Berks playoff qualifier.

Reifsnyder, 3B Zach Williams, OF Matt Bainbridge, C Joe Blackburn, 1B Jake Shipe, SS Jim Shipe, 2B-P Rick Ziska, P-1B Mark Hampson, P-OF Ben Walter, 3B-C Drew Barnett, P Ryan Brobst.

Others to watch: 3B-P Kevin Owles, IF Jensil Langumas, C Tyler Aarons, OF Andy Ernesto, OF James Geosits, 2B Scott Hettinger, 1B-C Matt Miller.

Outlook: Wealth of pitching will keep Owls in division title hunt.

■ West Lawn 4, Gregg Post 1: At Gregg Post, Matt Miller went 3-for 4 with two RBIs to lead West Lawn. Ben Reifsnyder pitched an eight-hitter to earn the win. Kris Fana went 2-for 4 and Craig Lavigna went 2-for 4 with one RBI for Gregg Post.

West Lawn 14, Conrad Weiser 2 (7 innings): At Owls Field, the Owls (2-0, 8-0) scored six runs in the sixth to force the 12-run mercy rule as they routed the Scouts (1-1, 2-4) in a Western Division game.

Ben Walter (1-0) went the full seven innings for the win, allowing an earned run on six hits and no walks. He struck out nine. Also for West Lawn, Ricky Ziska went 4-for-4 with four runs, Jim Shipe went 3-for-5 with four runs and two RBIs and Joe Blackburn went 2-for-3 with a run and three RBIs.

Chad Balisteri had a two-run single for Conrad Weiser.

Conrad Weiser...002 000 0—2 6 5
West Lawn......30 206 x—14 12 2
W: Ben Walter (1-0), L: Jarred Hatt (0-1), 2B: |
Kyle Kern (CW), Joe Blackburn (WL), Ben Reifsnyder (WL), Ben Walter (WL).

■West Lawn 19, Wyomissing 0: At Wyomissing, Jensil Langumas and Matt Miller each homered as the Owls (3-0, 9-0) remained unbeaten with the seven-inning Western Division win over the Angels (0-2, 0-3).

The Owls led 10-0 after one inning. West Lawn had six players with two hits and 12 players with at least one hit.

West Lawn (10)02 223 0 — 19
Wyomissing 000 000 0 0 — 0
W: Ryan Brobst (1-0). L: Billy Lodek (0-1). HR:
Jensil Langumas (WL), Matt Miller (WL).

■West Lawn 8, Schuylkill Valley 2: At Leesport, the Owls scored six runs in the fourth inning with the help of four walks, two hit batters and an error and went on to down the Marlins (0-3, 0-5).

Schuylkill Valley (0-3 West, 0-5) committed a total of five errors and walked nine batters.

Rick Ziska worked eight innings for the win and also had a triple, and Joe Blackburn homered for West Lawn (4-0 West, 1-0). Andy Gilmer had a pair of doubles for Schuylkill Valley.

Numbers add up for Owls' Ziska

The West Lawn second baseman continues to impress, whether it's on the baseball diamond, the football field, the soccer field or the classroom.

By Darryl Grumling Reading Eagle

Ricky Ziska has always been a numbers guy.

The 720 he put up on the mathematics portion of the SAT is evidence of that.

Then, again, Ziska has to be a math whiz to keep track of his own uniform numbers.

No. 1 is for football, where he was an All-Berks kicker for Wilson.

No. 6 is for soccer, where he was also an All-Berks performer and helped the Bulldogs reach the District 3-AAA title game, and for baseball, where he hit .393 and scored a teamhigh 21 runs for Wilson and was an all-division selection.

And No. 4 is for West Lawn's Legion team, where Ziska has been sizzling so far this season.

Ziska, a second baseman who hits leadoff, has been a catalyst for the Owls (4-0 Western Division, 10-0), who are off to one of the best starts in the 49-year history of the franchise.

The 5-7, 155-pounder is hitting .395 with 10 runs and has posted a 1-0 record on the mound with one save and a 1.57 ERA in 11 innings.

"I need to get on base and get things going," Ziska said. "I try to be a spark plug."

"He makes you smile every time he's on the field," West Lawn coach Tony Matz III said. "He knows his baseball. Few kids know the game like he does. He's a guy you want around when it's time to compete."

Ziska will compete on the gridiron in the fall, where he will kick for Lafayette College. But he's not exactly slacking off this summer.

Last Saturday, he graduated from Wilson with a class rank of 20 out of 352 and a 95.7 average.

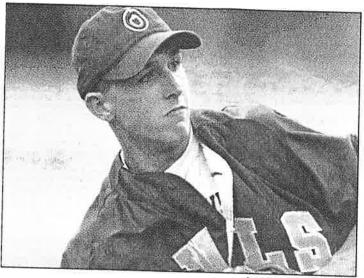
Sunday afternoon, he headed to Manheim to compete in the Tri-County All-Star Foot-

Sunday night, he went 4-for 4 in West Lawn's 14-2 victory over Conrad Weiser.

Monday, he was 2-for-3 in a 19-0 rout of Wyomissing.

Tuesday, Ziska again did double duty. He played on Berks County's all-star team in the Carpenter Cup and singled in his first appearance at Veterans Stadium.

Later that night, he threw eight strong innings to help the



"I guess you could say I'm always busy with something. I'm not sitting at home much at all."

West Lawn second baseman Ricky Ziska

Owls beat Schuylkill Valley 8-2.

Wednesday, Ziska got a chance to rest — if you can call it that - working eight hours for the borough of Sinking Spring and heading to Legion practice.

Thursday, he collected two hits in the first inning, scored a run and drove in two before the rains came and washed out West Lawn's game against Muhl-

Friday, he headed to Lafayette for orientation.

"I guess you could say I'm always busy with something," Ziska said. "I'm not sitting at home much at all."

Off the playing field, Ziska is rarely idle, either. He was recently chosen as Berks County's top business student in the Reading Eagle Company's Berks' Best scholarship project.

If that isn't enough, he also delivers the newspaper part-time.

And lately, the little guy who stood just 4-10 as a freshman, has delivered in a big way for the Owls.

"He's a great guy to have in the leadoff hole," Matz said. "He can hit with any count, take pitches or hit the first pitch if he has to. And, defensively, he picks up the ball as well as any second baseman I've had. He does any number of things for us."

Too numerous to count.

Contact Darryl Grumling at 610-371 5072 or dgrumling@readingeagle.com.

West Lawn 5, Reading 0: At Owls Field, Ricky Ziska went 2-for-4, stole three bases and scored three runs to lead the Owls to a Western Division victory over the White Sox.

Matt Miller went 2-for 4 with an RBI and Joe Blackburn was 2-for 3 for the Owls.

West Lawn 11, Fleetwood 1: At Fleetwood, Joe Blackburn hit a three-run homer in a fiverun fifth inning to help the Owls (6-0 Western Division, 12-

Owls (6-0 Western Division, 12-0) down the Tigers (3-3 Eastern Division, 3-4) in an interdivision game for their second win of the day.

Ryan Brobst allowed only a first-inning run in seven innings to earn the win.

Blackburn went 2-for-4 with four RBIs, Ben Reifsnyder went 3-for-5 with two RBIs and Andrew Ernesto went 2-for-3 for the Owls. For Fleetwood, Matt Cicale went 3-for-4 and Josh Santos went 2-for-4.

Rec leagues Berks Legion and and arrived and

W: Ben Reifenwier (2)	000 000 000 — 0 3 3 101 100 20x — 5 9 0 -0). L: Geoffrey Nagle (0- 6 (1). 2B: Joseph Black-
-----------------------	--

West Lawn 19, Kutztown 7:
At Community Park, Joe
Blackburn went 4-for-5 with
three doubles and a home run
and drove in five runs, and
James Geosits went 3-for-3
with a triple and two RBIs to
lead the Owls (7-0 West, 13-0)
over the Cougars (1-5 East, 15) in an interdivison game
halted by the 12-run rule after

seven innings.

Winning pitcher Ricky Ziska was 2-for-3 with a double.

S MINIS DERENIEL

Dave Yoder was 3-for 4 with a home runs and two RBIs for Kutztown, and Adam Fleisher and Joe Rice each had two hits and drove in two runs.

West Lawn......221 545 0 — 19 17 1
Kutztown005 002 0 — 7 13 5
W: Ricky Ziska (2-0) L: Abe Yeakel (0-2) 28: Ziska
(WL), koe Blackburn 3 (WL), Matt Miller (WL), James
Geosits (WL), Adam Fleisher (K), 3B: Geosits (WL)
HR: Blackburn (WL); Dave Yoder (K),



Michael Ziemak Boyertown



Jensil Langumas
West Lawn

Berks Legion all-stars

The 26 players selected to advance to the Berks-Schuylkill-Bux/Mont all-star game and workout Thursday at Coplay at 4 p.m.

and workout Thursday at Coplay at 4 p.m.
Outfielders: Matt Rowley, Exeter; Eric
Miksitz, Oley; Nik Beitler, Kutztown; James
Geosits, West Lawn; Andrew Kopicz,
Schuylkill Valley; Andy Ernesto, West Lawn;
Chad Mackey, Boyertown; Marc Schroeder, Hamburg; Matt Levan, Wyomissing.

Catchers: Abe Yeakel, Kutztown; Adam Ruffner, Birdsboro.

First basemen: Rick Stewart, Muhlenberg; Brian Emerich, Topton.

Second basemen: Jensil Langumas, West Lawn; Mike Ziemak, Boyertown; Kyle Wenrich, Reading.

Shortstops: Aaron Warchal, Exeter; Edwin Tavarez, Gregg Post.

Third basemen: Jon Moyer, Oley; Ryan Arcadia, Boyertown; Jose Rosa, Reading; Andy Gilmer, Schuylkill Valley.

Pitchers: Brad Baker, Schuylkill Valley; Kyle Breidenstine, Hamburg; Kurt Houck, Boyertown; Kevin Morganti, Muhlenberg.

West Lawn remains undefeated

From our news staff

Andrew Ernesto went 2-for 4 with a double, three runs scored and an RBI, and Ben Reifsnyder went 2-for 5 with a triple, two runs scored and two RBIs to lead unbeaten West Lawn to a 9-2 Berks Legion interdivision win over Exeter Monday at Owls Field.

Reifsnyder and Ernesto each singled and scored in a threerun first inning. In the second, Reifsnyder had a two-run triple and Ernesto a run-scoring double as the Owls (8-0 West 14.0) second for

Owls (8-0 West, 14-0) scored four more times for a 7-1 lead. Benjamin Walter went seven innings, giving up six hits and one run, for the win.

Matt Daniels and Dillon Eppenstein each had two hits for Exeter (2-5 East, 10-9).

■ West Lawn 15, Oley 10: At Owls Field, West Lawn built a 12-0 lead through six innings, then held on for the interdivision win after the Lynx scored eight runs in the seventh inning.

The Owls (9-0 West, 15-0) scored two runs in the first inning on an inside-the-park home run by Joe Blackburn and got seven more runs in the sixth, including a two-run single by Blackburn.

Kevin Lundquist had an RBI triple and RBI single and John Pisker had a two-run single in the eight-run rally by the Lynx (3-4 East, 5-5), who also scored two runs in the top of the ninth after West Lawn had extended the lead back to seven runs with a three-run eighth.

Ricky Ziska went 3-for-4 and drove in four runs and Drew Bennett was 3-for-4 with a triple for West Lawn. Blackburn, Ben Reifsnyder, Matt Miler and Matt Bainbridge each had two

hits for the Owls.

Lundquist and Zach Lydon each went 3-for-5 for Oley. Brad Fidler, Eric Miksitz and Jon Moyer each had two hits. Standings

Thursday's games not included EASTERN DIVISION

D	10		1 000		
Boyertown	10	0	1.000		
Shillington	8	1	.889	11/2	
Fleetwood Park 1	6	4	.600	4	
Oley acres a series	4	4	.500	5	
Exeter on a sist of	. 3	5	.375	. 6	ŀ
Birdsboro	2	6	.250	7	,
Kutztown	. 2	6	.250	7	Ŷ,
Topton	1	6	.143	71/2	
WESTERN DIVISION	Acti		1.557	07.00	ě.
West Lawn OI 2001	9	0	1.000		
Muhlenberg 32 33 23	5 :	2	.714	3	
Gregg Post	1. 14.	2	.666	31/2	
Hamburg The State	2	4	.333	51/2	ŀ
Reading .	2	5	.286	6	
Schuylkill Valley	3	7	.300	61/2	
Conrad Weiser	1 01	4	200	6	3
Wyomissing 1215	11	7	.125	71/2	4

showdowns looming next week with undefeated Boyertown (Tuesday) and defending Berks champ Shillington (Thursday). both at Owls Field.

West Lawn went 16-0 in league play in 1961, when the Owls defeated Shillington 1-0 for the league championship.

■ Owls hooting: West Lawn, at 9-0 in the Western Division and 15-0 overall heading into Thursday's action, is off to one of the best starts in its 49-year history.

Lefty Ben Reifsnyder (3-0 league) and righties Ryan Brobst (2-0), Ben Walter (2-0) and the Owls, who have a couple of

Rick Ziska (2-0) have all pitched in for a staff that has allowed two runs or fewer in all but three games.

Penn State-bound catcher Joe Blackburn homered four times in a six-game stretch for

iteen in Region 2 final

From our news staff

Fifteen Berks Legion League players advanced from Thursday's Berks/Schuylkill/Bux-Mont all-star game and workout at Coplay.

Players who moved on to Saturday's Region 2 final Berks at George Field are: Legion Boyertown's Ryan Arcadia, Chad Mack-

ey, Mike Ziemak and Kurt Houck; West Lawn's James Geosits, Andy Ernesto and Jensil Langumas; Oley Valley's Eric Miksitz and Jon Moyer; Kutztown's Abe Yeakel and Nik Beitler; Exeter's Matt Rowley:

Topton's Brian Emerich; Muhlenberg's Kevin Morganti; and Reading's Jose Rosa.

Saturday's all-star game and workout begins at approximately 12:45 p.m., with players requested to report at 11:30 a.m.

West Lawn remains unbeaten

The Owls, behind Ryan Brobst and Zach Williams, need only seven innings to take care of Topton.

From our news staff

Ryan Brobst threw six shutout innings and Zach Williams went 4-for 4 with three RBIs as West Lawn remained unbeaten with a 13-0 Berks Legion League interdivision victory over Topton Saturday at Owls Field.

Berks moved from Topton to
Legion Owls Field due to field
conditions, was halted by
the 12-run rule after seven innings.

Joe Blackburn had an RBI triple, Matt Miller (3-for 4) had an RBI double and Williams had an RBI single in a three-run first. Andy Ernesto, Miller and Williams all had RBI singles in a four-run second that made it 7-0.

Brobst (3-0) struck out five and allowed four hits and Blackburn scored four runs for the Owls (10-0 Western Division, 16-0 overall).

Jon Gentile-Bales was 2-for-4 for the Rams (1-7 East, 1-7).



Ryan Brobst West Lawn

West Lawn 340 240 0 — 13 16 0
Topton 000 000 0 — 0 6 6
W: Ryan Brobst (3-0), L: Jon Gentile-Bales (01), 2B: Matt Miller (WL), Joe Blackburn (WL), Zach
Williams (WL), Drew Barnett (WL), 3B: Joe Blackburn (WL).

■ West Lawn 22, Hamburg 5 (7): At Hamburg Community Park, the Owls (11-0, 17-0) scored 10 runs in a fourth inning highlighted by Joe Blackburn's two-run double to beat the Reds (2-7, 4-7) in a Western Division game.

The game was called after seven innings due to the mercy

Blackburn went 3-for-3 with

four RBIs and Drew Barnett added three hits and three RBIs for West Lawn.

Joel Shappell went 2-for-3 with two RBIs for Hamburg.

MWest Lawn 10, Muhlenberg 4:
At Owls Field, Zach Williams
went 4-for-5 with a run and an
RBI and Joe Blackburn went 3for-3 with three runs and two
RBIs to lead the Owls over the
A's for the Western Division win.
West Lawn (12-0, 18-0) scored
three runs in the fifth, two in the
sixth and four in the eighth to

jump on Muhlenberg (5.6.47)

Muhlenberg.....001 000 003 — 4 12 2

West Lawn.....001 032 04x — 10 17 1

W:Marc Hampson (1-0) L. Josh Shade (0-1)
2B: Ben Reifsnyder (WL), Matt Miller (WL), Joe

Blackburn (WL); Jensil Langumas (WL). HR: Andrew Ernesto (WL).

Rec Berks Le	nic	15)				1,70	37
			54	1991		100	
EASTERN DIV	ISION	1	W	L	Pct.	GB	
Boyertown			12	0	1,000		
Shillington	- 200		12	1	.923	1,	12
Fleetwood	320	11.30	9	4	.692	31,	12
Kutztown	Serie II	3.	6	6	.500	6	1
Oley Exeter			6	6	.500		
Birdsboro			5	5	.500		
Topton	175	10	1	7	.300		2
WESTERN DIV	ISION	i i	ŵ.	i	Pct.	GB	d
West Lawn	686	32	12	ĩ.	.923	GD	1
Muhlenberg	0.8	-1117	6	6	.500	51/	4
Gregg Post	-50	141	5	5	.500	51/	•
Hamburg	men.	man a	4	7	.364	7	T.
Reading	See	34	3	7	.300	171/	
Schuylkill Valley	CHI	53	3	9	.250	81/	
Conrad Weiser Wyomissing	167	TX	1	7	.125	81/	2
wyonnssing	The A	16	13	8	1111	9	18
BOYERTOWN	val i	W	EST	LAW	N	937	ď
Mackey If 4		Ы,	U.	al	r	h bi	3
Mackey If 4 (Arcadia 3b 4 1		U Ln	gma	s ss 4		3 1	9
Hessler 3b 1 C		O CL	itsno	rp 2	200	0 0	٧.
Tsakonas 1h4 2	4	U 3N	ipe 1 nesto	0 1	Fall Control	0.0	3
Lightcap ph 1 0		O RI	iesto.	ocf 3		2 0	2
Kern p 0 0	0	M C	ller 1	b 3		0.1	
Ernst cf 4 3	3	l Aa	rons	rf 1		0 0	Ε,
Unger p 3 3	3	2 Wil	liam	s 3b	40	0 0	\$
Cotellese rf 5 4	4 6	Ba Ba	rnett	2b 4	0	0 0	
Kalejta ss -4 2		Ge	osits	rf 3	-1 -	1-0	-
Dierolf c 4 0	2 2	Bn.	bidge	elf 2	0	0 0	
Eddinger c 1 0 Ziemak 2b 4 0	0.0						
Ziemak 2b 4 0 Totals 39 15			S			100	
Boyertown	005	125		30 2—		2	N.
West Lawn	100	000				7 2	4
E: Blackburn 2	. Kale	ita.	DP: F	Rover	town	Wort	
awn. LUB: Boy	ertov	vn 6	. We	et I s	mun '	7 20.	
rnst, Isakonas.	Diero	If. G	ensit	c 37	. Cat	olloea	1
, Langumas, Er	nst. B	rack	Durn	HR.	Coto	lloco	
SB: Tsakonas, Ka	lejta,	Erns	t, Un	ger. S	F: Ur	ger.	
	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	
Boyertown							
Inger W, 2-0 Vern	6	4	1	1	3	5	
Yest Lawn	2	3	2	1	0	2	
toot LOWII	52/3	14	11	10		2311	G
		14	11	10	- 4	1	
teifsnyder L, 3-1			A		35.79	100	- 6
Reifsnyder L, 3-1 Geosits HBP: by Unger	21/3	6	4	4	1	1	3

Berks Legion Standings Through games of June 26 EASTERN DIVISION dald double WESTERN DIVISION West Lawn Muhlenberg Hamburg Schuylkill Valley 71/2 91/2 Wyomissing 1 10 Bertoldi cf 4 2 2 Grauel c 4 2 2 1 Lngmas ss 3 2 Reifsndr If 3 Grauel c Zeigler 2b Ernesto cf 3 0 Blackbrn c 3 0 Savage rf. 3 Lutz 3b Koestel 3b 0 0 Gerber p 4 Maier p 1 Heckler 1b 3 Pick ss 4 Dnklbrgr ss 1 1 Ja.Shipe 1b 1 0 Kraft If 38 16 18 13 13 13 22 0 1 0 Totals 38 16 18 13 22 00 00 16 18 1 West Lawn041 029 000 16 18 1 West Lawn000 000 000 00 1 2 E: Konnick; Barnett, Reifnsyder. DP: Shillington 1, West Lawn 1, LOB: Shillington 8, West Lawn 9, 2B: Gerber, Bertoldi, Savage, Lutz, Zei-Maier ... West Lawn 1 4 3 3 3 Brobst faced six batters in the sixth. HBP: by Brobst (Grauel); by Gerber (Langumas, Reifsnyder, Barnett), by Hampson (Caltagirone). WP: Brobst 2. PB: Grauel.

T: 2:23, A: 300.

2005 state Legion tourney to be played at Owls Field

From our news staff

The West Lawn Owls have been flying high this Berks Legion season, which they opened with 18 straight victories before their first loss.

The Owls also have plenty to hoot about as far as the future.

West Lawn has been awarded the opportunity to host the 2005 Pennsylvania American Legion State Baseball Tournament.

It will mark the second time the state tournament will be held at Owls Field, the site of the 1998 state tourney.

work our volunteers do," said Owls Sports Club president Jay

Vaughan. "This is a great chance to showcase our field and organization to people around the state.

"We're definitely looking forward to it, and having a chance to be a good representative of the Berks County League."

West Lawn won the 1962 state tournament at Coplay and also qualified for the state tourney in 1992 (at Boyertown) and 1999 (at St. Mary's) in addition to being the tourney host in 1998.

Also, the 2004 Berks Legion League Tournament and 2004 "We're very proud of all the Junior Legion Eastern Regional Tournament both will be played at Owls Field.

■ Holiday happenings: Boyertown will travel to Binghamton, N.Y., July 1-6 for the prestigious World Youth Classic. The Bears have games with Binghamton July 2; China and Guyanabo, P.R., July 2; Severna Park, Md., July 3; and Adrian, N.Y., July 4. Quarterfinals are set for July 5, with the semifinal and championship taking place July 6.

West Lawn will be spending

the July 4 holiday in Pittsburgh. The Owls will take in the July 3 game between the Pirates and Reds at PNC Park before playing two non-league games Friday, two more Saturday and one Sunday at Plum. Of 6 26 30 alaise

Muhlenberg will take part in the four-team Dallastown Holiday Tournament July 5-6.

■ Contact Darryl Grumling at 610-371-5072 or dgrumling@readingeagle.com. SorteMarting States Service May be a first of the All Services of

West Lawn 19, Wyomissing 2 (7): At Owls Field, the Owls (13-2, 20-2) scored 13 runs in the first two innings in blowing out the Angels (2-11, 2-11) in a Western Division game stopped after seven due to the mercy rule.

Jensig Langumas led the hit parade, going 5-for-5 with five RBIs, two runs and two doubles. The price of the price of

RHE
Wyomissing010 010 0— 2 6 4
West Lawn674 101 x — 19 18 0
W: Scott Hettinger (1-0), L: Jason Loomis (0-4), 2B: Jensil Langumas (WL) 2, James Geosits (WL), Jim Shipe (WL), 3B: Matt Miller (WL), HR: Matt Miller (WL). 1111 n Allivar geninbert

■ West Lawn 7, Reading 2: At George Field, Zach Williams hit a two-run single and Jake Shipe followed with an RBI double in a four-run fourth inning as the Owls (14-3, 21-3) clinched a playoff berth with a win over the White Sox (4-10, 4-10) in a Western Division game.

Shipe and Rick Ziska were each 2-for-3 and Joe Blackburn 2-for-4 with a double and two runs scored for West Lawn.

For Reading, Pepe Montalvo was 4-for-5 with a home run and double.

Birdsboro 2, West Lawn 1: At Optimist Field, Jake Moss pitched a five-hitter through six innings as the Orioles (6-10 East, 8-11) defeated the Owls (13-3 West, 20-3) in an interdivision game.

Tim Brewer went 2-for-2, including a double and a triple, with one RBI and one run

scored for Birdsboro.

Ben Reifsnyder went 2-for-4 and scored West Lawn's only run on a double by Joe Blackburn in the fifth inning.

West Lawn.......000 010 000 —1 10 0 Birdsboro......001 000 010 — 2 6 0 W. Jacob Moss (1-0) L: Ben Reifsnyder (3-2), 2B: Ben Reifsnyder (WL), Joe Blackburn (WL), Joel Wunderlich 2 (B), Tim Brewer (B), Kevin Lengyeh (B). 3B: Tim Brewer (B).

■ West Lawn 13, Hamburg 0 (7): At Owls Field, Ryan Brobst fired a three-hitter as the Owls (15-3, 22-3) cruised past the

in the meditor and man

due to the mercy rule.

Brobst walked two and struck out five to improve to 4-1. Also for West Lawn, Ricky Ziska went 4-for-5 with a run and an RBI, Zach Williams went 3-for-5 with three RBIs, two doubles and two runs, Reds (9-8, 11-8) in a Western Di- Drew Barnett went 2-for-2 with vision game called after seven two runs and Andy Ernesto

went 2-for-4 with two runs and two RBIs.

NON-LEAGUE
Plum 8, West Lawn 7
West Lawn 8, Lower Burrell 4
Shillington 13, Hamilton Township (N.J.) 7
In Highlights: At Plum, Drew Barnett went
3-for-3 with two runs, Andy Ernesto was 3-for-4
with a double and one run and Joe Blackburn
was 2-for-4 with a double, triple, two runs and
four RBIs for the Owls in the first game. In the
second game, Marc Hampson threw a complete
game, James Geosits went 3-for-4 with a triple
and two runs and Ernesto was 3-for-4 with one
run for West Lawn (23-4). ... At Shillington,
Zach Lutz was 4-for-4 with two home runs and
Steve Savage was 3-for-4 with three home runs
and six RBIs for the Red Sox (21-1).

NON-LEAGUE West Lawn 7, Penn Hills 2 Uniontown 8, West Lawn 7

West Lawn clinches Western crown

A five-run fourth inning puts away Gregg Post as the Owls win their first division title in three years.

From our news staff

Ben Reifsnyder threw a complete game and Drew Barnett delivered a two-run single in a decisive five-run fourth as West Lawn clinched the Berks Legion League's Western Division crown by defeating Gregg Post 12-1 Monday night at Owls Field.

It was the fifth Western Division title since 1996 and first since 2000 for the Owls (16-3 West, 25-5 overall).

Berks
Legion

West Lawn built upon a 2-1 lead
in the fourth, when James
Geosits had an RBI single
and later scored on a
passed ball and Reifsny-

der scored Barnett with a sacrifice fly.

Reifsnyder (4-2), a lefty, scattered 12 hits, struck out six and walked three.

Leadoff man Rick Ziska and Geosits each had two hits and two runs and Barnett and Matt Bainbridge each had two hits and two RBIs for the Owls.

Matt Whiteley and Craig Lavigna each went 2-for 4 for the Keys (12-7, 12-7), whose lone run came in the third on Tyler Pennepacker's sacrifice fly.



Drew Barnett
 West Lawn

Gregg Post001 000 000 — 1 12 3 West Lawn020 512 02x — 12 13 0 W: Ben Reifsnyder (4-2). L: Art Gehret (2-3). 28: James Geosits (WL), Jensil Langumas (WL), Wander Rameriz (GP).

• West Lawn 15, Conrad Weiser 0 (7): At Robesonia, Rick Ziska struck out five and walked one as he went the distance for the Owls (17-3, 26-5) en route to a Western Division win over the Scouts (3-17, 4-18).

The game was called after seven innings because of the mercy rule. The Owls scored 10 runs in the first three innings.

> West Lawn......343 230 0 — 15 19 1 Conrad Weiser..000 000 0 — 0 4 8 W: Rick Zsika (4-0). L: Dan Morris (0-4), 2B: Andy Ernesto 2 (WL).

Legion non-league

West Lawn 4, Spring City 1
Highlights: At Spring City, Marc Hampson
pitched a seven-inning, complete-game sevenhitter, striking out three and walking three to lead
the Owls (27-6). Matt Miller drove in two runs
for West Lawn.

■West Lawn 16, Schuylkill Valley 2: At Owls Field, James Geosits went 3-for-4 with a double and two RBIs and Rick Ziska went 3-for-5 with two runs scored to lead the Owls (18-3, 28-5) past the Marlins (6-15, 5-18) in a Western Division game called after seven innings due to the 12-run rule.

The Owls scored five runs in the first inning and seven in the second to take a 12-0 lead.

Sch. Valley 000 200 0 — 2 5 7 West Lawn 570 310 x — 16 13 1 W: Ryan Brobst (5-1). L: Andy Kopicz (1-2). 28: James Geosits (WL), Andy Ernesto (WL).

Non-league

Downingtown 11, West Lawn 0. Highlights: The Owls (28-6) managed only five hits and were blanked by Downingtown, which collected 14 hits off three West Lawn pitchers. Jensil Langunas led the Owls with two hits. Brian Riggins led Downingtown with a homer and three RBIs.

A'S surprise West

Muhlenberg ties Fleetwood and Kutztown for the final berth, forcing two extra playoff games.

From our news staff

Reliever Ryan Figard escaped a bases-loaded situation in the ninth inning as Muhlenberg held on for a 5-2 Berks Legion League Western Division victory over West Lawn Saturday night at Gochnauer Field that created a three-way tie for the final playoff spot.

The A's (10-12 Western Division, 12-15 overall) wound up tying Eastern Division teams Fleetwood (10-12, 10-13) and Kutztown (10-12, 10-13) for the eighth position, forcing two playoff games for the final berth.

Muhlenberg will play Fleetwood tonight at 7 at Shillington. the winner facing Kutztown which drew a bye on tiebreak-ing criteria — Monday, site and time to be determined, for the eighth seed.

The league's eight-team, double-elimination postseason tournament begins Thursday at the sites of the higher seeds.

The A's got an RBI single in the first inning from Rick Stewart, an RBI single in the fifth from Adam Reckley, an RBI single in the sixth from Matt Hracho and a two-run triple from Dru Darkis in the eighth to build a 5-0 lead.

Stewart took a six-hit shutout into the ninth before the Owls (18-4, 28-7) got a two-out, two-run RBI single from Rick Ziska and loaded the bases. But Hracho struck out Andy Ernesto to end it.

Hracho went 3-for-4 for Muhlenberg. Matt Miller was 2-for-4 for West Lawn, which will be the third seed and will open against sixth seed Hamburg.

West Lawn.......000 000 002 — 2 10 2

Muhlenberg.....100 011 02x — 5 12 0

W: Rick Stewart (2-4). L: Ben Reifsnyder (4-3). S: Ryan Figard (1). 2B: Matt Bainbridge (WL), Matt Hracho (M). 3B: Dru Darkis (M).

I	The second secon		٠,
١	Berks Legion	BN	
۱	EASTERN DIVISION		
ı	x-Boyertown	_	
ı	y-Shillington	3	24
1	y-Exeter	. 8	
I	y-Birdsboro	10	in.
1	z-Fleetwood	12	
۱	z-Kutztown	12	16
1	Oley	14	
١	Topton	17	115
١	WESTERN DIVISION	345	8
١	x-West Lawn	-	
۱	y-Gregg Post14 8 .636	4	
ł	y-Hamburg	6	
١	z-Muhlenberg 10 12 .455	- 8	
H	Reading	10	
l	Schuylkill Valley	12	
9	Wyomissing	13	
	Conrad Weiser	15	
d	x: clinched division title.		
١	y, clinched playoff berth		
1	z: tied for eighth place		

Legion non-league

Legion non-league

West Lawn 2, Quarryville 1

Boyertown 15, Frederick, Md., 14 (Sunday)

Rockland, N.Y. 9, Boyertown 4 (Sunday)

■ Highlights: At Owls Field, Rick Ziska scored both runs and Joe Blackburn and Andy Ernesto each had RBI singles for West Lawn (29-8). Marc Hampson allowed five hits over five innings for the win, and Jensil Langumas escaped a second-and-third jam in the ninth for the save. . . Matt Cotellese's two-run single in the bottom of the eighth inning gave the Bears the win against Frederick. Cotellese also had a two-run homer.

Berks Legion playoff tournament

What: Berks Legion League playoff tournament.

When: Today through Monday — or, if needed, Tuesday.

Where: Today and Friday, at home fields of higher seeds; Saturday through Monday (or Tuesday), at Bear Stadium, Boyertown.

Format: Eight teams, double-elimination.

Who's competing: Boyertown, Shillington, West Lawn, Gregg Post, Exeter, Hamburg, Birdsboro and Fleetwood.

At stake: Winner advances to Pennsylvania Region 2 Tournament at Pottsville.

Today's first-round matchups: Boyertown vs. Fleetwood, Bear Stadium, Boyertown, 7; Shillington vs. Birdsboro, Rulon Griffith Field, Shillington, 7; West Lawn vs. Hamburg, Owls Field, West Lawn, 7:05; Exeter vs. Gregg Post, George Field, Reading, 7.

Last year: Shillington beat Boyertown 8-7 in 12 innings in title game.

The teams

Boyertown Bears (35-3)

■ Coach: Rick Moatz, 16th season, 728-195.

■ Top hitters: RF Matt Cotellese (.462, 7 HRs, 44 RBIs), CF Brian Ernst (.484, 4 HRs, 33 RBIs), 3B Ryan Arcadia (.481, 37 RBIs), LF Chad Mackey (.357).

■ Top pitchers: RHPs Kurt Houck (5-0), Brad Unger (4-1), Chad Lightcap (7-1) and Gary Hessler (7-1).

■ Playoff history: Record 38th straight Berks playoff appearance.... Have won 25 league titles, including 19 in last 28 years.... Last won title in 2000, beating Shillington 7-2.

■ Notable: Won Eastern Division with 22-0 record, team's first unbeaten league season since 1982. Fifteen of wins were by double-digit runs. . . Losses were to Severna Park, Md. (6-4); Guaynabo, P.R. (6-2); and Rockland, N.Y. (9-4).

Shillington Red Sox (24-5)

■ Coach: Steve Murray, third season, 80-24.

■ Top hitters: RF Steve Savage (.481 league, 6 HRs, 36 runs, 45 RBls), 2B Jason Zeigler (.420, 40 runs, 25 RBls), 3B Zach Lutz (.471, 5 HRs, 41 RBls), CF Aaron Bertoldi (.353, 27 runs).

Top pitchers: RHPs Ryan Gerber (4-1 league, one save, 1.35; 69 Ks in 40 IP), Zach Lutz (5-1, 0.20) and Jason Zeigler (5-0, 2.23).

■ Notable: Finished second in Eastern Division at 19-3.... Two of three league losses came against Boyertown (4-1 and 6-4 in 10 innings).... 4-4 since 21-1 start, including 9-6 loss to Birdsboro.

West Lawn Owls (29-8)

■ Coach: Tony Matz III, 17th season, 493-202.

■ Top hitters: C Joe Blackburn (.519, 4 HRs, 43 runs, 48 RBIs), 18 Matt Miller (.402, 33 RBIs), CF Andy Ernesto (.374, 43 runs, 16 SB), 28 Rick Ziska (.371), IF Drew Barnett (.367).

Top pitchers: LHPs Ben Reifsnyder (6-3, 4.10) and Marc Hampson (4-0, 3.24); RHPs Ryan Brobst (9-1, 3.03) and Rick Ziska (4-0, 4.11).

■ Playoff history: Second straight appearance. . . . Have reached final six times since league went to double-elimination tourney in 1989. . . Won Berks titles in 1960, 1961, 1962, 1991 and 1999.

■ Notable: Won Western Division at 18-4. . . . Started 18-0, but are 11-8 since.

Gregg Post Keys (14-8)

■ Coach: Charlie Flannery; 21st season, 237-267.

Top hitters: OF Kris Fana (.423, 20 RBIs), OF Chris Bigos (.394), 1B Craig Lavigna (.352), 1B-C Tyler Pennepacker (.329, 2 HRs, 20 RBIs, 15 runs).

■ Top pitchers: RHPs Tyler Pennepacker (6-2, 2.76; 71 Ks in 62 IP), Art Gehret (2-3) and Edwin Tavarez (3-0, 1.55).

Playoff history: Third straight
Berks appearance. . . . Seeking first
playoff win since 1989, streak of 11
games . . . Have won record 27 Berks
titles, last coming in 1973. . . . Last
reached final in 1975, losing 3-2 to
Boyertown in final of best-of-three series.

■ Notable: Finished second in Western Division at 14-8.... 8-2 since 6-6 start.



Matt Cotellese Boyertown



Zach Lutz Shillington



Joe Blackburn West Lawn



Chris Bigos Gregg Post



Aaron Warchal Exeter



Marc Schroeder Hamburg



Brewer Birdsboro



Matt Keller Fleetwood

Exeter Blue Jays (25-14)

■ Coach: Phil Raccuglia, second season, 54-26.

Top hitters: SS Aaron Warchal (.451, 44 runs, 39 RBIs), OF Matt Rowley (.418, 42 runs, 27 SB), OF Tommy Rivas (.391, 4 HRs, 34 RBIs), 1B Matt Daniels (.361, 4 HRs), IF Dillon Eppenstein (.358).

■ Top pitchers: RHPs Phil Rummel (6-3, 3.62), Tommy Rivas (4-2, 3.66) and Bill Hartranft (5-2).

■ Playoff history: 10th straight league playoff appearance. . . . Have never won Berks title or reached final, but are 8-8 in tourney play in last four years.

■ Notable: Finished third in Eastern Division at 14-8, . . . 25 wins are second-most in team history, to last year's

Hamburg Reds (14-10)

■ Coach: Jeff Seidel, ninth season, 135-108.

■ Top hitters: CF Marc Schroeder (.419, 22 runs), 1B Josh Krick (.368); SS Kyle Breidenstine (.313, 15 RBIs).

■ Top pitchers: RHPs Kyle Breidenstine (3-2), Jordan Boyer (4-1) and Travis Fritz (4-0).

■ Playoff history: Fifth tourney appearance in eight years, first since 2000. . . . Won Berks titles in 1963 and 1993. . . . Have lost six straight playoff games.

■ Notable: Finished third in Western Division at 12-10. . . . Went 10-3 in league play after 2-7 start.

Birdsboro Orioles (14-12)

■ Coach: Jeff Pinder, first season, 14-12.

■ Top hitters: 1B Ty Brewer (.463, 10 doubles, 2 HRs, 24 runs, 23 RBIs), 2B Kevin Lengyel (.442), SS Eric Everhart (.386, 23 runs), OF Jake Moss (.361), C Adam Ruffner (.360), 3B Jay Richter (.347).

■ Top pitchers: RHPs Drew Noecker (5-2), Eric Everhart (3-3, one save) and Joel Wunderlich (2-3, two saves).

■ Playoff history: Eighth straight playoff appearance.... Won playoff titles in 1997 and 2001; reached final in 1991.

■ Notable: Went 12-10 in East to earn wild-card berth. . . . Came on strong late, winning final six league games. . . . Opened league season 1-6 before winning 11-of-15.

Fleetwood Tigers (12-13)

■ Coach: Jason Koehler, first season, 12-13.

Top hitters: SS Matt Keller (.410), IF Seth Heffner (.400), OF Joe Cardell (.370, 18 RBIs), OF Glen Ottinger (21 runs), 1B Matt Gardner (18 RBIs).

■ Top pitchers: RHPs Matt Gardner (5-3), Matt Keller (3-1) and Ryan Kemmerer (2-4).

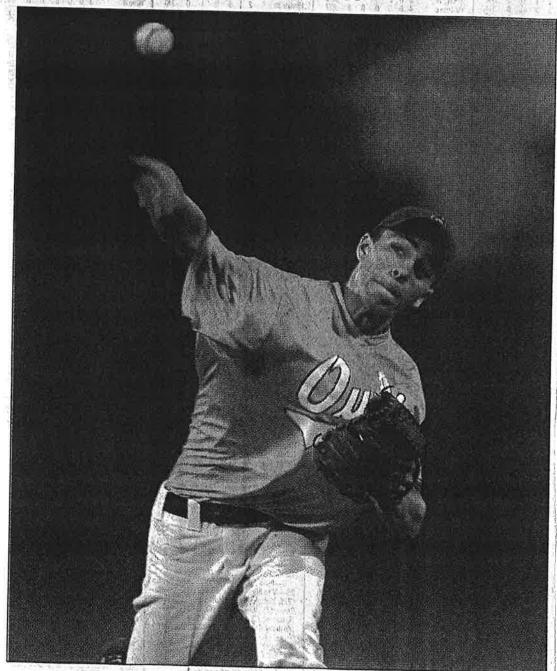
■ Playoff history: First Berks playoff appearance in franchise's 10-year history.

■ Notable: Went 10-12 in Eastern Division to finish in three-way tie for final playoff berth; beat Muhlenberg 12-1 and Kutztown 8-3 to qualify. . . . Started league play 9-4, then lost seven straight before winning 3-of-4.

- Compiled by Darryl Grumling

BERKS LEGION PLAYOFFS

Boyertown 13, Fleetwood 1 | Shillington 14, Birdsboro 1 West Lawn 12, Hamburg 4 | Exeter 10, Gregg Post 0



West Lawn's Ryan Brobst pitches during the Owls' win over Hamburg. For details, see Page D3.

Early struggle, but Owls finish with big victory

Ryan Brobst is a big relief and starter Ben Reifsnyder gets a big hit in West Lawn's openinground win over Hamburg.

WEST LAW

By Don Stewart Reading Eagle

After watching lefty Ben Reifsnyder lumber through three and a third against Hamburg, West Lawn coach Tony Matz III decided he'd seen enough.

He admitted it was a tough

H R ER 88

Hamburg Breidenstine West Lawn Reifsnyder

West Lawn 12 his starter so Hamburg 4 early into the

Reifsnyder 31/3 10 4 4 2 3
Brobst W, 10-1 57/3 6 0 0 2 3
HBP: Fritz by Brobst, Brobst by Breidenstine.
WP: Brobst 2; Breidenstine.

first game of an eight-team, double-elimination tournament. But the 10 hits and two walks Reifsnyder allowed were just too many, too soon.

Reifsnyder made the move a little tougher on Matz, though, when he told his coach he wasn't coming out. The senior might have been playing his last game at Owls Field.

"After four years," he said. "I didn't wanna give up the ball."

Reifsnyder eventually handed the ball to Matz, then jogged

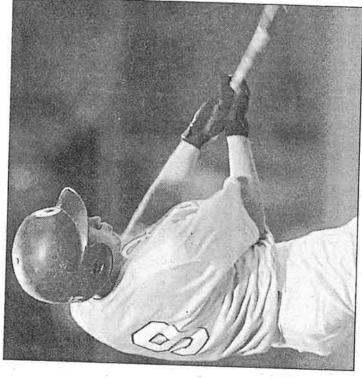
out to left to give way to Ryan Brobst. Though Matz had taken away his arm, Reifsnyder managed to give Brobst a hand at the plate the following inning.

With two out, one on and the Owls up by one, he bashed a fastball to the right-field fence, where it eventually was picked up, bobbled and thrown to the plate far too late to catch Reifsnyder, who hit the first in-thepark homer of his Berks Legion career.

West Lawn was never threatened after that en route to a 12-4 first-round win against Hamburg Thursday night at Owls Field. The Owls travel to Shillington for a winners bracket semifinal at 7 tonight. Hamburg plays host to Birdsboro in an elimination game, same time.

"It was a big lift," Matz said of Reifsnyder's homer. "Not only for us, but for Ben."

Brobst (10-1) also gave West



Reading Eagle: Diane Starkowsk West Lawn's Ben Reifsnyder belts a fifth-inning home run during Thursday's playoff win over Hamburg.

Lawn (30-8) a lift with his solid relief work. He kept the Reds scoreless for the final 52/8 innings, allowing six hits, two walks and hitting a batter. He struck out three and kept Matz from going deeper into his bullpen.

The Reds (14-11) trickled 16 hits, but failed to capitalize most of the night. But their Achilles' heel was their fielding.

ing.

Hamburg's five errors included a drop of a routine fly that scored a run to tie it 4-4, and two errors in the eighth

that enabled the Owls score

five runs to seal it.

The miscues spoiled a spirited effort by starter Kyle Breidenstine (3-3), who threw 157 pitches to notch the complete game.

"You just can't do that in the playoffs," Reds coach Jeff Seidel said of the poor fielding. "We start one senior, though. We started out 2-7 and we ended up 12-3: It's important that we get one playoff win with a young team."

■ Contact Don Stewart at 610.371-5064 or dstewart@readingeagle.com.

Savage, Red Sox slam West Lawn

Steve Savage comes up with three hits and four RBIs in Shillington's lopsided win over West Lawn.

By Darryl Grumling 19 10 TOW Reading Eagle 113 (1910) charges

The thunderstorm that ripped through Shillington's Rulon Griffith Field Friday night was pretty savage.

Then again, so was the effort from the Red Sox's lineup — led by Steve Savage.

Savage continued his hot Berks Legion League Tournament tear,

Shillington 13 stroking three hits and driving in four runs — including the game-ending BBI single that gave Shillington a 12

RBI single that gave Shillington a 13-1 winners bracket semifinal win over West Lawn halted in the bottom of the seventh by the 12-run rule.

Second seed Shillington (26-5) advances to tonight's winners bracket final, set for Bear Stadium at 7, against the winner of this morning's Boyertown-Exeter game. Third seed West Lawn (30-9) meets the winner of this morning's Fleetwood-Gregg Post game in an elimination contest at noon at Bear Stadium.

"The whole team's turned it up a notch lately," said Savage, who had a homer and four RBIs in a 14-1 firstround win over Birdsboro.

Shillington jumped on top early, scoring three runs in the first when Savage laced a two-run double to right-center and scored when winning pitcher Zach Lutz reached on an error.

"I'll tell you what," Shillington coach Steve Murray said. "Steve's been hitting the ball like that all year. He's been on a roll, and he's fun to watch up there."

Then the Red Sox tacked on four

more runs — all unearned — in the second, when West Lawn committed two errors.

Jason Zeigler had an RBI single, Lutz had an RBI double and Ryan Gerber blooped a two-run single down the right-field line to make it 7-0.

West Lawn finally got on the board on Andy Ernesto's fifth-inning RBI single, and had a runner on first with one out in the top of the sixth when the game was halted by lightning.

The lightning was followed by a heavy downpour for approximately a half-hour, resulting in a two-hour rain delay.

Shillington's Rob Beckey wound up relieving Lutz, and got Ben Reifsnyder to ground hard into a force that wound up being a double play when Reifsnyder tried to take second after an errant pivot throw and was nailed in a rundown.

"We were a little fortunate to get that double play," Murray said. "It (the pitching change) wound up working out for us."

Rick Ziska, who had retired 10 in a row before the delay, got the first out before the Red Sox struck for three more runs. Aaron Bertoldi scored on Zeigler's fielder's choice grounder and Savage and Lutz each singled in runs to make it 10-1.

In the seventh, Jake Grauel's tworun single set the stage for Savage, who capped his night by roping a single to left-center.

Bertoldi went 3-for-4 and Grauel and Zeigler scored three runs in a 15hit attack attack for the Red Sox. Lutz (6-1) scattered seven hits and struck out two.

Leadoff man Ziska went 3-for-3 and reached base all four times for the Owls.

■ Contact Darryl Grumling at 610-371-5072 or dgrumling@readingeagle.com.

Beckey 12/2 2 0 0 0 0 Umpires: Mike Cogan, Dave Cummings, Ron

Perry and Steve Hart, T: 1:47. A: 500.

Confident Keys eliminate Owls

Gregg Post gets strong pitching from Edwin Tavarez and a timely hit from Wander Ramirez to defeat West Lawn.

By Darryl Grumling Reading Eagle

Edwin Tavarez and Wander

Gregg Post 5
West Lawn 1
Ramirez aren't related, but the Gregg Post

est Lawn 1 Gregg Post teammates consider them-

selves brothers on the baseball diamond.

Each came to Reading via the Domincan Republic over the past two years, and both are skillful middle infielders for the Keys.

Saturday afternoon at Boyertown's Bear Stadium, Tavarez and Ramirez teamed up to help Gregg Post defeat West Lawn 5-1 in a Berks Legion League playoff tournament elimination game.

Tavarez, normally the shortstop, took the mound and threw a complete game. Ramirez went 4-for-5 and delivered the go-ahead, two-run double in a five-run eighth as the fourthseeded Keys (16-9) avenged two regular season losses to the third-seeded Owls (30-10).

After going 14 years without a playoff victory, Gregg Post—which defeated Fleetwood 9-1 earlier Saturday at George Field in the conclusion of Friday's suspended game—notched two of them in a matter of hours.

"The curse is over," joked veteran Keys coach Charlie Flannery.

Against Owls lefty Marc Hampson, though, the Keys seemed snake bitten most of the first seven innings.

They saw a hit-and-run attempt turn into an inning-ending double-play lineout in the third, then strung together three straight hits in the fourth but couldn't get a runner to second. Two runners got picked off and the other got nailed trying to stretch a single into a double. And in the seventh, Gregg Post loaded the bases with one out

and still couldn't push a run across.

West Lawn wasn't having much luck either. The Owls had a runner thrown out at the plate in the fifth and stranded runners on second and third with one out in the seventh.

"You just had that feeling that whoever scored first was going to have a good opportunity to open the floodgates," Owls coach Tony Matz III said.

That wound up being the Keys in the eighth, which started when Tim Swavely and Tyler Pennepacker hit back-to-back, one-out singles. Ramirez then smoked a drive to deep left-center that barely glanced off the top of center fielder Andy Ernesto's glove to finally break the scoreless deadlock.

Ramirez scored on a two-out throwing error when Kris Fana reached on a third strike in the dirt, and Craig Lavigna made West Lawn pay for the mistake by launching a two-run homer off the light pole beyond the left-field fence.

Swavely and Pennepacker each went 3-for-5 and Lavigna was 2-for-3 in a 14-hit attack for the Keys, who have won 10-of-13 since a 6-6 start.

"Earlier in the season we didn't play hard," said Tavarez (4-0), who struck out seven and scattered nine hits. "But we regrouped and now we're more like a family."

Jensil Langumas went 3-for-4 and scored the lone run for West Lawn on Matt Miller's eighth-inning single.

"Beating Fleetwood gave them confidence," Flannery said. "It made believers out of them, and they also felt they owed West Lawn something. They really wanted to win this one."

■ Contact Darryl Grumling at 610-371-5072 or dgrumling@readingeagle.com.

Gregg Post Tavarez W, 4-0 9 9 1 1 1 7 West Lawn Hampson L, 4-1 9 14 5 2 2 2 WP: Hampson, Tavarez. T: 1:50. A: 253.

Legion season a late letdown for Berks' best

The Berks Legion season had its share of great moments, especially from champion Boyertown. But the postseason proved disappointing to league powers.

By Darryl Grumling

with great promise for the RBIs. Berks Legion League, but one that ended all too soon for the league's pow-**Berks Legion**

wrap-up first time in 13 years, only one team — champion Boyertown — advanced to the Region 2 Tournament.

And despite taking a gaudy 48-4 record into the state tournament, the Bears failed to win a state title or play their way into national regionals for the seventh straight year.

Here's a look back at the Berks Legion season, by the numbers:

1: Player on Boyertown's 18man roster not eligible to return next year: 19-year-old shortstop Jon Kalejta.

2: Berks players to advance to the Pennsylvania East-West all-star game: Boyertown's duo of Ryan Arcadia and Kurt Houck. Arcadia went 2-for-2 with four stolen bases and was named game MVP, and Houck picked up the win in relief.

2: Three-homer games by Berks playoffs. Shillington's Steve Savage, who accomplished the feat in a 13-4 victory over Hamburg

Matt Cotellese in a 15-3 victory over West Lawn. Cotellese went It was a summer that began 4-for-5 with four runs and six

5: Times Boyertown and Shillington played each other this season, with the Bears winning four of the games. The For the Bears and Red Sox have met 11 times over the past two seasons - and 44 times over the past 11 years. Five of those meetings have been for the Berks championship.

8: RBIs by Birdsboro's Jay Richter in a 19-11 Berks playoff victory over Hamburg. Richter went 5-for-6 with three homers r: Region 2 champion and four runs scored.

Rivas in a 17-1 rout of Conrad Weiser. Rivas also homered 6 victory. three times, scored five runs and picked up the win.

Shillington's Zach Lutz also drove in nine runs in a 22-2 win over Exeter. Lutz was 3-for-3 with a grand slam and four runs.

12: Franchise-record amount of victories for Fleetwood, which defeated Muhlenberg and Kutztown in a special playoff to earn its first trip to the The Bears outscored their op-

14: Years Gregg Post went between playoff victories before a T.J. Chrusch in a 7-0 victory 9-1 Berks tournament eliminaand in a 13-7 victory over tion win over Fleetwood. The 3: Triples hit by Boyertown's Lawn and were within three

Final standings Eastern Division

	reague	Overall
dxbr-Boyertown	22-0	49-6
x-Shillington	19-3	28-7
x-Exeter	14-8	27-16
x-Birdsboro	12-10	15-14
x-Fleetwood	10-12	12-15
Kutztown =	10-12	10-15
Oley	8-14	11-17
Topton	5-17	5-17
Western Division		
dx-West Lawn	18-4	30-10
x-Gregg Post	14-8	16-10
x-Hamburg	12-10	14-12
Muhlenberg	10-12	12-16
Reading	8-14	8-14
Schuylkill Valley	6-16	6-18
Wyomissing	5-17	5-17
Conrad Weiser	3-19	4-22
x: playoff qualifier		
d: division champion		
b: Berks champlon)	
ri Dagion 2 champion		

before the Bears rallied for a 7-

tory over Gregg Post.

16: Strikeouts by Gregg Post's Boyertown will only lose one player off this year's championship team, shortstop Jon Kalelta, shown Art Gehret over 10 innings in here turning a double play against Shillington. the Keys' 5-4, 11-inning win over

16: Record number of Region 2 titles won by Boyertown, which defeated The Birches 5-1 in this year's final at Pottsville. position 52-9 in five games.

18: Strikeouts for Topton's over Wyomissing.

Keys then eliminated West open the season for West Lawn, ry over Shillington at Bear against the Western Division which wound up going 18-4 to Stadium. The Red Sox tied it teams.

9: RBIs by Exeter's Tommy outs of eliminating Boyertown

15: Strikeouts by Shillington's Jason Zeigler in a 6-4 vic-

> crown. But a rash of injuries at midseason depleted the Owls' lineup and pitching depth, and they wound up going 12-10 in their final 22 games and were eliminated in three games in the Berks playoffs.

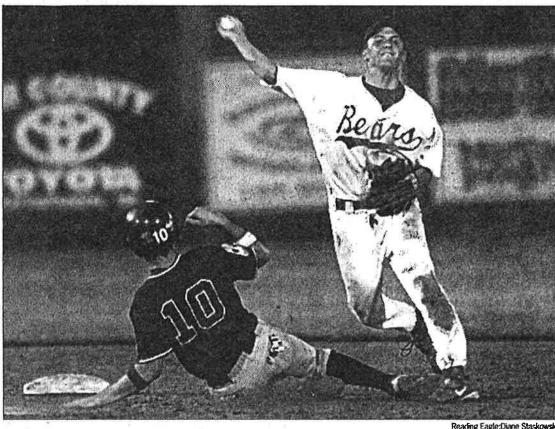
26: Number of Berks championships for Boyertown after 18: Consecutive victories to this year's 4-3 title-game victo- of Eastern Division teams Boyertown's .828 (82-17).

win the Western Division at 3-3 with two runs in the top go-ahead run on two passed balls. Reliever Kurt Houck re-slugging percentage. tired all five batters he faced, including the final four by ning percentage for Berks strikeout.

.509: Overall batting average of the eighth, but Boyertown's of West Lawn catcher Joe Adam Tsakonas drew a walk, Blackburn (59-for-116), who also stole second and scored the had 15 doubles, seven triples and four homers for an .845 .722: Aggregate all-time win-

teams in the Region 2 Tourna-44-20: Interdivision record ment (a 171-66 record), led by

Contact Darryl Grumling at 610-371-



Berks Legion all-star team

The 2003 All-Berks Legion team, as selected by the league coaches:

Ryan Arcadia, Boyertown

Arcadia, a speedy 17-year-old third baseman, was a spark at the plate and on the bases for the Bears. He hit .461, scored 33runs and stole 19 bases while also solidifying the infield.

Ty Brewer, Birdsboro

The 19-year-old first baseman — last year's league MVP — had three homers, 11 doubles and three triples while driving in a team-high 27 RBIs and scoring a team-high 28 runs for the Orioles.

Joe Blackburn, West Lawn

Penn State-bound Blackburn, an 18-year-old catcher, hit .554 and slugged .969 for the Owls. He had four homers, 11 dou-

bles, two triples, 35 runs and 35 RBIs.

Matt Cotellese, Boyertown
The 17-year-old Cotellese went on several tears this summer, hitting .494 with six homers, four triples, seven doubles and 47 RBIs. He also scored 35 runs, stole 19 bases, slugged .922 and displayed a strong arm in right field.

Brian Ernst, Boyertown

Ernst, an 18-year-old switch-hitter, batted .452 with three homers, nine doubles; 17 stolen bases, 35 runs and 34 RBIs out of the cleanup hole for the Bears. In the Region 2 Tourna-



Jason Zeigler Shillington



Ryan Gerber Shillington



Joe Blackburn West Lawn

Berks Legion League awards

Most Valuable Player: Jason Zeigler, Shillington, Most Valuable Pitcher: Ryan Gerber, Shillington. League batting title: Joe Blackburn, West Lawn. Jack Hemmig Team Sportsmanship Award: Exeter.

ment, the Penn State-bound center fielder hit .444 with eight RBIs and nine runs to lead the Bears to their record 16th state

regional title.

Kris Fana, Gregg Post

Fana, a 17-year-old center fielder, hit .423 with nine doubles and 20 RBIs for the Keys, who earned their first playoff victory in 14 seasons. His RBI single in the bottom of the 11th was the gamewinner in a 5-4 victory over Oley.

Ryan Gerber, Shillington

Gerber, an 18-year-old right-hander, went 4-1 with one save, 69 strikeouts and 1.34 ERA in 40 innings in his fourth and final season for the Red Sox. He also hit ,333.

Jon Kalejta, Boyertown

Kalejta, the Bears' lone final-year player, had a stellar defensive season at shortstop. He also hit .407 with seven doubles, 12 stolen bases and 34 runs to help the Bears claim their 26th

Zach Lutz, Shillington

The 17-year-old Lutz was a force at the plate, on the mound and at third base for the Red Sox. He hit .471 with five homers, 11 doubles, 25 runs and 41 RBIs, driving in nine runs in a victory over Exeter. The right-hander also was 5-1 with a 0.20 ERA over 41 innings.

Eric Miksitz, Oley

Miksitz, a lefty-swinging outfielder, hit .383 with five homers, eight doubles and 21 runs for the Lynx. The final-year player also was 1-3 with two saves and 3.66 ERA over a team-high 492/3 innings.

Tyler Pennepacker, Grett Post

Pennepacker, the Keys' 18-year-old ace righty, posted a 6-2 record with 71 strikeouts over 62 innings. He struck out seven in six innings of two-hit ball in a 9-1 victory over Fleetwood that snapped Gregg Post's 12-game, 14-year playoff victory drought. Pennepacker also hit .329 with two homers and 20 RBIs.

Steve Savage, Shillington

Savage batted .481 with six homers and 45 RBIs for the Red Sox. The 18-year-old, switch-hitting right fielder had four triples and 10 doubles for a .937 slugging percentage and scored 36 runs. He had two three-homer games.

Aaron Warchal, Exeter

Warchal, a final-year player, batted .451 with two homers, a team-high 28 RBIs and 25 runs and was also a strong defensive presence at shortstop for the Blue Jays, In a 13-3 victory over playoff qualifier Fleetwood, he went 4-for-6 with five RBIs.

Jason Zeigler, Shillington

The versatile Zeigler hit .420 with two homers; 25 RBIs and 40 runs for the Red Sox. Defensively, the 18-year-old played several positions, most notably second base. The right-hander also posted a 5-0 record with a 2.23 ERA and 46 strikeouts in 32 2/3 innings, including a 15-strikeout game against Gregg Post.

West Lawn's Rick Ziska was omitted from the 2003 All-Berks Legion team, selected by the league coaches, in Wednesday's edition of the Reading Eagle:

Rick Ziska, West Lawn

A 17-year-old leadoff hitter and second baseman, Ziska batted .429, stole eight bases and scored 27 runs for the Owls. He also pitched in with a 4-0 record and one save over 31 innings.

West Lawn Owls 2003 League Hitting Stats

H RBI 6 35 9 2 8 28 0 15 7 19 0 13 0 14 9 5 8 10	2B 11 3 6 3 5 4 2 2	3B 2 0 1 0 0 0 1	HR 4 0 2 0 0 1 1 1 0	5 6 5 3 5 7 6	19 5 11 17 16 15 4 2	\$AC 4 0 5 4 2 6 1	5 0 1 8 0 11 3	0.554 0.474 0.437 0.429 0.375 0.370 0.370
2 8 28 0 15 7 19 0 13 0 14 9 5	3 6 3 5 4 2	0 1 0 0 0	0 2 0 0 1 1	6 5 3 5 7	5 11 17 16 15 4	0 5 4 2	0 1 8 0 11	0.474 0.437 0.429 0.375 0.370
8 28 0 15 7 19 0 13 0 14 9 5	6 3 3 5 4 2	1 0 0 0	2 0 0 1 1	5 3 5 7	11 17 16 15 4	5 4 2	1 8 0 11	0.437 0.429 0.375 0.370
0 15 7 19 0 13 0 14 9 5	3 3 5 4 2	0 0 1	0 0 1 1	3 5 7	17 16 15 4	4	0 11	0.429 0.375 0.370
7 19 0 13 0 14 9 5	3 5 4 2	0 0 1	0 1 1	5 7	16 15 4	2	0 11	0.375 0.370
0 13 0 14 9 5	5 4 2	0	1	7	15 4	_	11	0.370
0 14	4	1	1 1 0	7 6 1	4	6 1		
9 5	2	1	1 0	6 1	-	1	3	0.370
	_	0	0	1	2			
8 10	2				_	1	0	0.360
9 10	_	7	0	6	10	5	0	0.346
8 16	5	1	1	8	10	3	4	0.341
3 1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0.333
2 11	7	0	0	1	7	2	4	0.319
7 6	1	1	0	5	2	1	4	0.318
4 3	2	0	0	1	2	1	0	0.308
1 3	1	0	0	5	7	2	2	0.282
3 3	0	0	0	2	2	2	1	0.250
	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0.182
2 2			_					0.378
	3 3	3 3 0	3 3 0 0 2 2 0 0	3 3 0 0 0 2 2 0 0 0	3 3 0 0 0 2	3 3 0 0 0 2 2	3 3 0 0 0 2 2 2 2 2 0 0 0 1 1 1	3 3 0 0 0 2 2 2 1

West Lawn Owls 2003 League Pitching Stats

Name	G	W	L	S	Starts	Comp	INN	Runs	ER	AB	Н	SO	BB	HP	ERA
Andy Ernesto	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	8	2	3	0	0	0.00
Ben Reifsnyder	7	4	3	0	7	3	48.1	26	25	206	62	27	23	2	4.66
Ben Walter	3	2	0	0	2	1	16	3	2	62	12	10	2	1	1.09
Jake Shipe	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0.00
James Geosits	4	0	0	0	0	0	6.1	4	4	28	7	1	2	0	5.69
Jensil Langumas	5	1	0	2	1	0	6.2	2	2	22	3	4	6	0	2.70
Marc Hampson	6	2	0	0	2	0	23.2	11	8	106	34	10	6	2	3.04
Rick Ziska	6	4	0	1	4	2	31	16	15	119	33	19	5	2	4.29
Ryan Brobst	6	5	1	0	6	2	36	16	15	146	35	25	11	1	3.70
Scott Hettinger	3	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	1	17	5	1	3	0	2.25
Team	22	18	4	3	22	8	175	79	72	717	193	101	58	8	3.69

West Lawn Owls 2003 Overall Hitting Stats

=	Name	G	AB	R	Н	RBI	2B	3B	HR	SO	BB	SAC	SB	AVG		 	
	Joe Blackburn	38	116	44	59	51	15	7	4	8	24	4	6	0.509			-
	Rick Ziska	35	127	38	50	23	6	0	0	6	24	7	12	0.394			
	Matt Miller	39	113	22	43	35	10	1	2	13	13	5	1	0.381			
	Andy Ernesto	39	134	46	49	22	8	1	¹⁰	8	26	8	17	0.366			
	Ryan Brobst	16	28	6	10	3	3	0	0	10	8	3	1	0.357			
	Jensil Langumas	32	87	18	30	17	5	1	1	9	8	1	7	0.345			
	James Geosits	37	118	26	40	18	10	1	0	8	8	5	5	0.339			
	Drew Barnett	38	86	19	29	13	2	1	0	8	20	7	0	0.337			
	Zack Williams	39	115	29	38	23	3	0	0	11	28	4	1	0.330			
	Jake Shipe	28	48	13	15	8	4	0	0	2	4	1	1	0.312	5.00		
	Ben Walter	13	24	9	7	3	3	0	0	1	5	1	0	0.292			
	Ben Reifsnyder	40	127	39	37	25	7	1	2	15	19	4	10	0.291			
	Jim Shipe	12	40	14	11	9	1	2	0	7	5	1	4	0.275			
	Tyler Aaron	20	20	4	5	4	1	0	0	1	8	0	1	0.250			
	Matt Bainbridge	34	57	8	13	5	1	0	0	11	10	2	4	0.228			
	Scott Hettinger	23	34	5	7	9	1	0	0	6	5	2	1	0.206			
	Marc Hampson	21	21	3	4	2	0	0	0	6	4	4	0	0.190			
	Kevin Owles	6	6	2	1	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0.167			
	Team	40	1301	345	448	270	80	15	10	132	221	59	71	0.344			

West Lawn Owls 2003 Overall Pitching Stats

Name	G	W	L	S	Starts	Comp	INN	Runs	ER	AB	Н	SO	BB	HP	ERA	
Andy Ernesto	3	0	1.	0	0	0	40								FIIO.	
Ben Reifsnyder	10	6	3	0	10	•	4.2	5	3	25	9	6	0	1	5.79	
Ben Walter	6	4	0	0		3	62.2	33	31	272	85	34	28	2	4.45	
Jake Shipe	4	1	1	0	4	1	31	7 🥱	2	116	21	20	5	2	0.57	
James Geosits	7	Ó	•	-	3	0	15	12	8	73	19	5	7	1	4.66	
Jensil Langumas	10	1	1	0	0	0	12.1	11	9	57	18	4	4	2	6.57	
Jim Shipe	2	,	0	4	1	0	14.2	7	6	55	12	12	9	0	3.68	
Kevin Owles	3	0	0	1	0	0	1.2	0	0	8	3	0	0	0	0.00	
Marc Hampson	-	0	0	1	0	0	4	0	0	14	2	1	1	1	0.00	
Rick Ziska	12	4	1	0	6	3	53	24	18	229	74	16	11	3	3.03	
Ryan Brobst	10	4	1	2	6	2	44.2	29	26	174	47	31	11	3	5.24	
-	11	10	1	0	9	3	64.2	22	20	258	63	48	13	3	2.78	
Scott Hettinger	8	0	1	0	1	0	13	16	15	69	25	6	7	6		
Team	40	30	10	8	40	12	321.1	166	138	1350	378	183	96	24	10.03 3.87	