

WEST LAWN OWLS

■ **Coach:** Tony Matz III, 14th year, 395-161.

■ **Last year:** 20-2 West, 43-7; Berks champion, Region 2 champion; Pennsylvania Tournament qualifier.

■ **Key returnees:** SS Tony Cipolla, C Eric Pettit, P Mike Schaeffer, P Jon Rudisill, OF Eric Shipe; P Kyle Frees.

■ **Others to watch:** C Jon Zeigler, OF Travis Yocum, IF Michael Dietrich.

■ **Outlook:** Will be in thick of division and league championship hunt.

■ **West Lawn 9, Hamburg 3:** At Owls Field, Mike Schaeffer went the route on a five-hitter as the Owls won their Western Division opener.

Schaeffer, who struck out five, shut out the Hawks (0-1, 4-3) until the seventh inning.

Travis Yocum went 3-for-3 with two runs and Eric Shipe scored two runs for West Lawn, which took command with a four-run first keyed by Schaeffer's two-run single.

■ **Schuylkill Valley** scored in the bottom of the ninth to tie it 8-8 after West Lawn had scored twice in the top of the inning to take the lead. The game was called because of darkness after a scoreless 10th.

Berks Legion

	R	H	E
West Lawn	210	000	212 0 - 8 10 3
Schuylkill Valley	005	010	011 0 - 8 7 5

2B: Bret Krotee (WL), Tony Cipolla (WL). HR: Josh Boltz (S).

■ **West Lawn 1, Exeter 1 (suspended):** At Reiffton, the Owls and the Blue Jays played to a tie in an interdivision game that was suspended after 11 innings because of darkness.

Eric Pettit scored on a sacrifice fly by Tony Cipolla to put West Lawn ahead in the first.

Exeter tied it in the fourth on Justin Knabb's RBI single.

The game will be finished at a date and time to be determined.

Legion non-league

West Lawn 10, Pottsville 4
Highlights: For the Owls (2-0-2), Greg Labe was 4-for-4 and scored three runs and teammate Mike Dietrich was 1-for-2 with two RBIs. Pitcher Mike Aynardi improved to 1-0 with three strikeouts.

■ **West Lawn beat visiting Wyomissing 16-5.**
West Lawn's Travis Yocum was 3-for-4 with three runs scored.

	R	H	E
Wyomissing.....	100	301	000-5 9 5
West Lawn.....	134	204	20x-16 14 3

W: Mark Elliott (1-0); L: Eric Ludwig; S: Mike Aynardi (1); 2B: Tony Cipolla (WL); 3B: Josh Kramer (W).

Reading's Bonet fires blanks at West Lawn

■ Right-hander Eli Bonet shuts out West Lawn, helping Reading stay perfect in Berks Legion League play.

From our news staff

Eli Bonet threw a five-hit shutout as Reading remained unbeaten in Berks Legion League play with a 3-0 Western Division victory over defending county champ West Lawn Saturday night at George Field.

Bonet (2-0), a 17-year-old right-hander, struck out four and walked two for Reading (4-0 Western Division, 4-0 overall). Daryl Miller went 3-for-4 and Jamie Montalvo and Jose Hernandez each were 2-for-4.

The White Sox scored in the first inning when Miller doubled and scored on an error, then made it 2-0 in the second on Bonet's fielder's choice RBI. Bonet squeezed in Hernandez in the eighth for the final margin.

For the Owls (2-1, 4-1), losing pitcher Kyle Frees went 2-for-3.

■ **Boyetown 13, Exeter 3:** At Reiffon, Nick Allen struck out 12 and gave up just five hits over eight innings as the Bears (6-0, 10-0) defeated the Blue Jays (1-3, 3-3) in a battle of Eastern Division contenders.

Boyetown used a five-run second inning and four-run sixth inning to back Allen's dominating effort. A three-run, sixth inning home run by the Bears' Drew Hoffman and a 2-for-4 game by Lyle Loeb backed Allen's effort.

Exeter had the hitting star in Tony Riegel, who went 3-for-4 with

BERKS LEGION

two RBIs. Among his hits were a double and a two-run, fifth-inning homer to draw the Blue Jays to within 6-3.

■ **Shillington 19, Fleetwood 9:** At Fleetwood, Dan Batz had two homers - including a grand slam - and two doubles as the Red Sox (4-1, 7-2) beat the Tigers (2-4, 2-4) in the Eastern Division.

Jesse Berger also homered twice and drove in four runs and Dan Weber, Justin Holland and Ben Arndt each homered in an 18-hit Shillington attack.

Tim Gombar struck out seven in six innings for the win.

For Fleetwood, Kyle Harra went 3-for-4 and Matt Gardner was 3-for-5 with three RBIs.

■ **Birdsboro 17, Tipton 9:** At Tipton, Chad Rightmyer went 3-for-6 and Ty Brewer, Jim Everhart and Dan Wolfgang each homered for the Orioles (4-1, 7-3) in an Eastern Division win over the Rams (1-5, 1-5).

Birdsboro got on the board on Brewer's two-run blast in the first, then broke it open with an eight-run fourth.

Kevin Walbert allowed seven hits and one earned run over six innings for the win.

For Tipton, Zach Meck went 3-for-5 with three RBIs and Bill Keim homered.

■ **West Lawn 2, Conrad Weiser 0:** At Robesonia, Ryan Pettit and Mike Schaeffer combined on a six-hit shutout for the Owls in their Western Division win.

Pettit (1-0) held the Scouts scoreless over the first seven in-

nings and Schaeffer picked up the save by preserving the shutout over the final two innings.

The first Owls run came in the second on a walk to Eric Pettit, a steal and an RBI single by Schaeffer. An Owls insurance run scored in the eighth when Greg Labe doubled, went to third on a failed pickoff try and, after Tony Cipolla walked, scored as the Scouts turned a double play.

Kenny Beidler and Tom Wenrich each had two hits for the Scouts.

Berks Legion

Eastern Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Boyetown	6	0	1.000	-
Birdsboro	4	1	.800	1 1/2
Shillington	4	1	.800	1 1/2
Kutztown	2	2	.500	3
Oley	2	4	.333	4
Fleetwood	2	3	.250	4
Exeter	1	5	.167	5

Western Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Reading	4	0	1.000	-
Hamburg	2	1	.667	1 1/2
West Lawn	2	1	.667	1 1/2
Muhlenberg	0	0	.000	2
Schuylkill Valley	0	1	.000	2 1/2
Wyomissing	1	3	.250	3
Gregg Post	0	2	.000	3
Conrad Weiser	1	6	.143	4 1/2

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

Boyetown 13, Exeter 3
Shillington 19, Fleetwood 9
Birdsboro 17, Tipton 9
West Lawn 2, Conrad Weiser 0
Reading 3, West Lawn 0
Kutztown 9, Oley 3
Wyomissing 10, Conrad Weiser 9
Hamburg 16, Gregg Post 5

West Lawn R H E
010 000 010 - 2 5 0
Conrad Weiser 000 000 000 - 0 6 1
W: Ryan Peitt (1-0), L: Brad Buzek (0-1), 2B: Mark Brubaker (CW), Mike Moore (WL), Greg Labe (WL), Jonathan Zeigler (WL).

Boyetown R H E
050 014 003 - 13 8 1
Exeter 100 020 000 - 3 5 3
W: Nick Allan (1-0), L: Zach Groh (1-1), 2B: Jordan Walsh (B), Tony Riegel (E), Zach Taylor (E), HR: Drew Hoffman (B), Tony Riegel (E).

Birdsboro R H E
210 800 213 - 17 13 0
Tipton 000 011 304 - 9 13 0
W: Kevin Walbert (2-0), L: Gary Firdinger (0-3), 2B: George Kressley (T), Zach Meck (T), HR: Ty Brewer (B), Jim Everhart (B), Dan Wolfgang (B), Bill Keim (T).

Oley R H E
000 030 000 - 3 4 3
Kutztown 000 031 23x - 9 9 4
W: Andrew Miller (1-1), L: Eric Miskisz (1-1), 2B: Sean Jones (K), Andrew Miller (K), Zack Boyer (K), HR: Dave Yoder (K).

Shillington R H E
023 134 015 - 19 19 3
Fleetwood 000 120 601 - 10 17 1
W: Tim Gombar (1-1), L: Josh Templin (1-1), 2B: Dan Batz (S), Dan Weber (S), 3B: Matt Folk (F), HR: Dan Batz (S), Jesse Berger (S), Justin Holland (S), Dan Weber (S), Ben Arndt (S).

Gregg Post R H E
020 002 010 - 5 6 1
Hamburg 020 026 42x - 16 17 1
W: Nick Evangelista (1-1), L: Leon Adams (0-1), 2B: Mike Gillis (GP), Rich Shappell (H), Seth Grassly (H), Rob Roll (H).

West Lawn R H E
000 000 000 - 0 5 4
Reading 110 000 01x - 3 9 1
W: Eli Bonet (2-0), L: Kyle Frees (0-1), 2B: Daryl Miller (R), Jamie Montalvo (R).

■ **West Lawn 11, Schuylkill Valley 8:** At Owls Field, Tony Cipolla went 4-for-5, drove in two runs and scored four times to lead the Owls (3-1, 5-1) to a Western Division win over the Marlins (0-2, 0-2).

Mike Moore went 3-for-3 and winning pitcher Travis Yocum and Kyle Frees each had two hits for the Owls, who broke a 5-5 tie with a run in the fifth inning and three more in the sixth.

Jeff Harner went 3-for-4 with two RBIs, Shawn McMurtry was 3-for-4 with an RBI and Adam Keppley was 2-for-5 with two RBIs for the Marlins.

	R	H	E
Schuylkill Valley.....	400	100	003 - 8 12 2
West Lawn.....	041	013	02x - 11 16 5
W: Travis Yocum (1-0) L: Josh Boltz (0-1) 2B: Shawn McMurtry (SV) 3B: Nate Bailey (SV), Travis Yocum (WL), Tony Cipolla (WL), Mike Moore (WL).			

■ **West Lawn-Schuylkill Valley suspended:** With the score even at 3-3, darkness prevailed as West Lawn's Western Division game at Schuylkill Valley was called after six innings. No makeup date has been set.

Schuylkill Valley jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the second behind back-to-back home runs by Jeff Harner and Josh Boltz. West Lawn rallied with a three-run fourth inning, but the Marlins scored in the bottom of the fourth to tie the score.

Chris Stamm pitched all six innings for Schuylkill Valley, surrendering five hits. Outfielders Eric Shipe and Travis Yochum doubled for the Owls.

Oh, what a relief! Frees lifts the Owls to victory

■ Right-hander Kyle Frees hits and pitches West Lawn to a 7-6 win over Shillington on Wednesday in a Berks Legion interdivision game.

By Darryl Grumling
Eagle/Times

Coming into this year, Kyle Frees knew his role would be an important one for West Lawn's Legion team.

West Lawn 7 have become even more **Shillington 6** valuable.

One batter into the fourth inning of West Lawn's Berks League interdivision game against Shillington, Owls' ace right-hander Mike Schaeffer was hit on his pitching arm by a line drive and didn't return.

He was taken to Reading Hospital, where an x-ray revealed he suffered no broken bones, only a contusion.

"Mike's our ace, but more important than that he's my best friend," said the 16-year-old Frees. "At that point, I knew I had to do it for him more than everybody."

What Frees did was start a go-ahead rally, score the tie-breaking run and earn the win with two innings of scoreless relief as the visiting Owls held off the Red Sox 7-6 in a game called after five innings due to darkness.

Frees, who struck out four, got cleanup hit-

ter Dan Weber to fly to right-center to escape a two-out, bases-loaded situation in the bottom of the fifth.

"We need Kyle to pitch to his potential," West Lawn coach Tony Matz III said. "And we feel his potential is pretty high."

With Wilson scholastic standout lefty Brent Speck opting not to play Legion ball and experienced righty Jon Rudisill leaving the team after the first game, Frees became an even more important part of the Owls' rotation.

And when Dan Batz led off the fourth with a rocket off Schaeffer, Matz didn't have to think twice about going with Frees, a 6-4, 185-pound right-hander.

After Weber's sacrifice, Frees allowed a towering RBI triple to Jesse Berger that tied the game at 6-6. But he escaped by striking out Brett Sweigart and Brandon DeWald.

In the West Lawn fifth, Frees ripped a one-out single to left and scored three batters later when Travis Yocum punched a single down the left-field line to put West Lawn (4-1 Western Division, 6-1) up to stay.

"After Mike went out, they could have dropped their heads and thought the worst," Matz said. "But they didn't do that."

Still, things got pretty scary for the Owls in the bottom half, when two walks helped the Red Sox (4-2 East, 7-3) put runners on first and third with two outs.

After Matz decided to intentionally walk the dangerous Dan Batz, Frees opened up with Weber by throwing his ninth straight ball. But after finding the plate on the second pitch, he got Weber to fly to Mike Moore to end it.

"I got myself into it, so I knew it was up to me to get out of it," Frees said. "I just had to get my curveball over because I knew they were all sitting fastball."

West Lawn took the early lead with a three-run first capped by Michael Dietrich's two-run double, but the Red Sox answered with a three-spot in their half a Justin Holland's solo homer and Sweigart's two-run single.

Shillington got two more in the second before the Owls rallied for three in their fourth — Tony Cipolla's two-run homer putting West Lawn back up 6-5.

"Our pitchers put their leadoff hitters on, we left 10 guys on base, and we couldn't get bunts down," Shillington coach Bob Houck said. "You can't survive in this league doing stupid things like that."

Eric Shiye went 3-for-4 with three runs for West Lawn, which remained a half-game behind first-place Reading in the West.

"We needed a game like this against one of the elite teams," Matz said. "As did Frees."

WEST LAWN		SHILLINGTON					
ab	r	h	bi	ab	r	h	bi
Yocum if	3	1	1	Holland 1b	3	2	1
Shiye cf	4	2	3	Nufler p	2	0	0
Peltit c	1	1	0	Bishop pr	2	0	0
Cipolla ss	2	1	2	Batz ss	1	2	1
Dietrich 3b	3	0	1	Weber c	2	1	1
Labo 3b	0	0	0	Berger 3b	3	0	1
Schaeffer p	2	0	0	Smith pr	0	0	0
Moore if	1	0	0	Gerber p	0	0	0
Frees 1b	3	1	0	Sweigart if	3	0	1
Krotke 2b	2	0	1	Wilson if	0	0	0
Zaigler rf	1	0	0	DeWald rf	3	0	1
Koyzis 1b	1	0	0	Arndt cf	0	0	0
				Snyder 2b	1	0	0
				Gombar ph	1	0	0
Totals	23	7	9	Totals	19	6	5
West Lawn	..... 300 31-7			Shillington	..... 320 10-6		

Game called after five innings, darkness.

E: Zaigler, Frees, Weber, Berger, LOB: West Lawn 7; Shillington 10. 2B: Dietrich, Shiye. 3B: Berger, HR: Cipolla, Holland. SB: Arndt 2, Snyder. SF: Peltit, Batz. S: Cipolla, Arndt, Weber.

West Lawn	Owls	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Schaeffer		3	5	6	5	4	3
Frees W, 1-1		2	1	0	0	3	4
Shillington	Red Sox	4	6	6	4	4	3
Nufler		1	3	1	1	0	1
Gerber L, 0-1		1	3	1	1	0	1

Schaeffer faced one batter in the fourth. HBP: by Schaeffer (Nufler). WP: Frees, Nufler. PB: Weber. Umpires: Stan Backenstoss and Roy Underhill. T: 1:59. A: 250.

■ **400 club:** West Lawn coach Tony Matz III picked up his 400th career victory in the Owls' 11-8 victory over Schuylkill Valley Sunday. Matz, in his 14th year, has a career record of 401-163.

■ **West Lawn 15, Schuylkill Valley 1:** At Leesport, Travis Yocum was 2-for-5 with two RBIs as the Owls (5-1 West, 6-1) used an 11-hit attack to rout the Marlins in a Western Division game.

Kyle Frees struck out seven batters against one walk in six inning of work to earn the victory. Tony Cipolla hit a solo home run in the eighth inning for the Owls.

Jeff Harner drove in the lone run for the Marlins with a first inning single.

	R	H	E
West Lawn	024	001	017 - 15 11 1
Schuylkill Valley	100	000	000 - 1 7 2
W: Kyle Frees (2-1), L: Derek James (0-1)			
2B: Kyle Frees (WL), Mike Schaeffer (WL), Jon Zeigler (WL), 3B: L.T. DeJesus (SV), HR: Tony Cipolla (WL)			

■ **West Lawn 20, Kutztown 5:** At West Lawn, Travis Yocum was 3-for-4 with three runs scored and four RBIs to lead the 20-hit attack for the Owls (7-1 West, 8-1) in their interdivision win.

West Lawn's Tony Cipolla was 3-for-4 with a run and three RBIs and Bret Krotee was 3-for-3 with four runs and an RBI.

For the Cougars (3-5 East, 3-5), Andrew Miller, Sean Jones, Matt Barrell and Zack Boyer each had two hits.

	R	H	E
Kutztown	140	000	00-5 10 6
West Lawn	142	136	12-20 20 2
W: Ryan Pettit (2-0), L: Austin McGrath (0-2), 2B: Dave Yoder (K), Larry Fricker (K), 3B: Zack			

■ **The Orioles rally in the seventh inning to beat West Lawn in a Berks Legion interdivision game Tuesday.**

From our news staff

Pete Colon's three-run home run in the top of the seventh inning lifted Birdsboro to a 6-4 Berks Legion interdivision win over West Lawn Tuesday at Owls Field.

Colon's blast made a winning pitcher out of Steve Olshenske, who pitched six innings to earn the victory. Colon was 2-for-5 with a run and three RBIs for the Orioles (6-3 East, 9-5).

Mike Owens earned the save with three innings of two-hit scoreless relief. Chad Rightmyer and Eric Everhart were both 3-for-5 for the Orioles.

BERKS LEGION

Eric Pettit and Tony Cipolla each went 2-for-4 for the Owls (7-2 West, 8-2).

	R	H	E
Birdsboro	000	030	300-6 10 3
West Lawn	210	010	000-4 7 3
W: Steve Olshenske (2-1), L: Mike Schaeffer (1-1), 2B: Chad Rightmyer (B), Mike Dietrich (W), Bret Krotee (W), 3B: Tony Cipolla (W), HR: Pete Colon (B).			

■ **West Lawn 4, Gregg Post 2:** At George Field, Mark Elliott threw a four-hitter and Travis Yocum doubled twice as the first-place Owls (8-2, 9-2) beat the Keys (1-7, 1-7) in a Western Division game called in the seventh by rain.

Tony Cipolla had an RBI single in a two-run first for West Lawn, and Elliott (2-for-2) singled in another run in the second to make it 3-1.

For Gregg Post, Leon Adams scattered seven hits over six innings.

Berks Legion

Eastern Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Boyetown	13	0	1.000	-
Birdsboro	7	3	.700	4 1/2
Exeter	7	3	.700	4 1/2
Shillington	8	4	.667	4 1/2
Kutztown	5	5	.375	6 1/2
Oley	3	6	.286	8
Fleetwood	3	7	.300	8 1/2
Topton	2	7	.222	9
Western Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
West Lawn	8	2	.800	-
Reading	6	3	.667	1 1/2
Hamburg	5	3	.625	2
Muhlenberg	4	3	.571	2 1/2
Schuykill Valley	2	6	.286	5
Gregg Post	1	7	.125	6
Wyomissing	1	7	.125	6
Conrad Weiser	1	11	.083	8

TUESDAY'S RESULTS

Exeter 10, Shillington 8
Birdsboro 8, Wyomissing 3
Muhlenberg 4, Reading 1
West Lawn 4, Gregg Post 2
Fleetwood 18, Conrad Weiser 3
Kutztown 15, Topton 7

	R	H	E
Wyomissing	000	000	201 - 3 7 1
Birdsboro	202	004	00x - 8 12 2
W: Justin Shustack (2-0). L: Jack Schaik (1-1). 2B: Pete Colon (B), Dan Wolfgang (B). 3B: Pete Colon (B).			

	R	H	E
Conrad Weiser	201	000	00 - 3 7 2
Fleetwood	018	106	02 - 18 18 1
W: Jared Treichler (1-0). L: Al Groff (0-3). 2B: Matt Keller (F), Brian Battler (F), Andre Folk (F) 2. Josh Templin (F), Jared Treichler (F). 3B: Mark Brubaker (CW), Mike Mortimer (F). HR: Mark Brubaker (CW).			

	R	H	E
Exeter	700	120	0 - 10 10 1
Shillington	100	016	0 - 8 13 3
W: Tom Fochowicz (1-0). L: Brandon DeWald (4-1). 2B: Tony Fiegel (E) 2, Seth Guida (E) 2, Dan Batz (S), Jesse Berger (S). 3B: Seth Guida (E). HR: Justin Holland (S).			

	R	H	E
Topton	022	102	00 - 7 14 2
Kutztown	010	045	5x - 15 13 1
W: Steve Rothermel (4-1). L: Brian Miller (0-1). 2B: Sean Jones (K) 3, Zack Meck (T) 2, Seth Graff (K), Brad Kemp (T), Dave Yoder (K). HR: George Kressley (T).			

	R	H	E
West Lawn	210	010	- 4 7 2
Gregg Post	110	000	- 2 4 2
W: Mark Elliott (2-0). L: Leon Adams (0-3). 2B: Travis Yocum (WL) 2, Mark Elliott (WL), Dave Seitzer (GP).			

	R	H	E
Reading	100	000	- 1 3 3
Muhlenberg	121	00x	- 4 5 1
W: Jeremy Kondisko (2-0). L: Eli Bonet (3-1). 3B: Jason Reinhart (M).			

■ **West Lawn 15, Oley Valley 3:** At Oley Youth Field, winning pitcher Kyle Frees went 3-for-6 with two doubles and two RBIs to lead the Owls (9-2 West, 10-2) to an interdivision win over the Lynx (3-7 East, 3-8). Frees allowed three hits and one run over seven innings in a game that was called after eight innings due to darkness.

Eric Pettit went 3-for-5 with two RBIs, John Zeigler went 2-for-4 with two RBIs and Mike Deitrich went 2-for-4 to lead West Lawn's 20-hit attack. Chris Miksitz was 2-for-4 for Oley.

Berks Legion

Eastern Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Boyerstown	13	1	.929	-
Shillington	9	4	.692	3 1/2
Birdsboro	7	4	.636	4 1/2
Exeter	7	4	.636	4 1/2
Kutztown	5	5	.500	6
Fleetwood	4	7	.367	7 1/2
Oley	3	9	.250	8
Topton	2	8	.200	9
Western Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
West Lawn	9	2	.818	-
Reading	7	3	.700	1 1/2
Hamburg	6	3	.667	2
Muhlenberg	5	3	.625	2 1/2
Schuylkill Valley	2	7	.222	6
Gregg Post	2	7	.222	6
Wyomissing	1	8	.111	7
Conrad Weiser	1	11	.083	8 1/2

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

West Lawn 15, Oley 3
 Fleetwood 18, Wyomissing 3
 Shillington 15, Schuylkill Valley 4
 Reading 9, Topton 6
 Muhlenberg 11, Birdsboro 6
 Hamburg 7, Boyerstown 6
 Gregg Post 14, Exeter 13

	R	H	E
West Lawn.....	320	122	14-15 20 5
Oley.....	000	100	02-3 4 6

W: Kyle Frees (3-1), L: Steve Collesse (0-1).
 2B: Kyle Frees (WL) 2, Eric Shippe (WL), Ryan Pettit (WL), 3B: Mike Dietrich (WL).

Non-league

Yardley 3, West Lawn 2
Boyertown 13, North Parkland 6
Boyertown 15, New Castle 3
West Lawn 10, North Parkland 7

Highlights: At Bear Stadium, **Travis Yocum** went 2-for-3 in the Owls' loss to Yardley. **Mike Bruno** had an RBI double for West Lawn. . . . At Bear Stadium, **Drew Hoffman** went 2-for-2, scored twice and drove in a run in the Bears' win over North Parkland. . . . At Bear Stadium, **Kyle Hoffman** had two hits, three runs and three RBIs and **Kyle Fisherowski** went 4-for-4 and scored three runs as Boyertown beat New Castle. . . . At Owls Field, **Mark Elliott** had two hits and drove in three runs as the Owls (11-3) beat North Parkland. **Mike Moore** scored three runs and drove in one for West Lawn.

■ **West Lawn 13, Conrad Weiser 8:** At Owls Field, the Owls (10-2, 12-3) made the number 13 a lucky one by getting that amount in runs, hits and stolen bases in beating the Scouts (3-14, 5-19) in the West.

Eric Pettit stole three bases for West Lawn, and **Tony Cipolla**, **Mike Dietrich**, **Eric Shipe** and **Brett Krotee** had two each. **Jonathan Ziegler** and **Mark Elliot** also stole one base each.

Dietrich was 1-for-3 with two runs and two RBIs, **Ziegler** was 2-for-4 with an RBI and **Krotee** was 1-for-2 with an RBI.

Gil Kim and **Mark Brubaker** were each 2-for-5 with an RBI for the Scouts.

R H E
Conrad Weiser 000 002 033 - 8 9 4
West Lawn022 402 21x - 13 13 5
W: Mike Schaeffer (2-1), L: Ben Grace (0-1).
2B: Mike Schaeffer (WL), 3B: Mike Dietrich (WL), Mike Moore (WL), Mark Brubaker (CW),
Kenny Beldler (CW).

■ **West Lawn 15, Wyomissing 10:**
At Wyomissing, Eric Pettit went 4-

for-6 and drove in two runs to help the first-place Owls (11-2, 13-3) hold off the last-place Bisons (1-13, 1-13) in a Western Division game.

West Lawn built a 9-1 lead through three innings before Wyomissing rallied to pull within 10-7 after a five-run sixth. But West Lawn broke the game open with five runs in the top of the ninth.

Mike Schaeffer, who had an RBI double in the ninth, drove in three runs with two doubles and Eric Shipe had three RBIs for West Lawn.

Andy Bausher went 4-for-5 with a double and three RBIs to lead the Bisons.

	R	H	E
West Lawn	351	010	005-15 19 2
Wyomissing	100	105	003-10 14 2
W: Ryan Pettit (3-0), L: Eric Ludwig (0-5), S: Mark Elliott, 2B: Mike Schaeffer 2 (WL), Travis Yocum (WL), Mike Dietrich (WL), Andy Bausher (W), Kerry Marshall (W), Jordan Hottenstein (W), Nick Wojciechowski (W).			

BERKS LEGION

■ **West Lawn 5, Exeter 4:** At Reiffton, right-hander Kyle Frees pitched a six-hitter as the West-leading Owls (12-2 West, 14-3) held on for the interdivision win over the Blue Jays (8-7 East, 10-7).

Frees (4-1), who struck out seven, surrendered two runs in the bottom of the ninth.

Trailing 5-2, Exeter got one run on a Mark Stufflet fielder's choice and another when Tony Riegel reached on an error. But Frees got John Woram to ground to first with the bases loaded to end it.

Eric Pettit went 2-for-5 with three runs and Mike Moore went 2-for-4 for West Lawn, which increased its division lead to 3 1/2 games.

	R	H	E
West Lawn	002	010	002 - 5 6 4
Exeter	010	010	002 - 4 6 3
W: Kyle Frees (4-1), L: Brian Hayes (1-2), 2B: Eric Pettit (WL), Mike Schaeffer (WL), Eric Shipe (WL).			

Owls' Schaeffer slays the Bears

■ West Lawn pitcher Mike Schaeffer tosses a two-hitter as the Owls notch a critical 6-1 win at Boyertown.

By Darryl Grumling
Eagle/Times

For most Berks Legion League pitchers, Boyertown's Bear Stadium has been a virtual graveyard.

In their home lair, the Bears have made a practice of burying opposing hurlers with a relentless barrage of batting, bunting and baserunning.

You'll sooner see Tiger Woods four-putt than see someone shut down the Bears' lineup on their own turf.

Especially in his first mound appearance at the storied 18-year-old facility.

But Friday night, that's exactly what West Lawn's Mike Schaeffer accomplished as the visiting Owls defeated the Bears 6-1 in an interdivision showdown.

Schaeffer fired a two-hitter and struck out nine for Western Division-leading West Lawn (13-2, 15-3), which drew even in the loss column with the Bears (18-2 East, 27-4) in the race for the regular season crown and resultant Region 2 Tournament berth.

"Stepping on to this field just gives you an exciting feeling," said Schaeffer. "Everyone wants to get a chance to play on this field, and tonight was my chance."

Schaeffer, a 17-year-old right-hander, made the most of it. He didn't allow a hit until Brandon Mason's infield single with two outs in the fifth inning, and allowed only an unearned run in the eighth on Lyle Loeb's RBI groundout.

"For somebody to come down here and shut them down like that is pretty rare," West Lawn coach Tony Matz III said. "What can you say?"

Schaeffer had beaten the Bears in a relief stint in last year's Berks play-offs. Friday, he also showed he could outlast Boyertown's feared attack.

"He threw real well," Bears coach Rick Moatz said, "but we needed to put a lot more pressure on him."

Tony Cipolla helped take some pressure off Schaeffer by hitting a three-run double in the third inning. Two more runs scored on a botched pickoff to third with the bases loaded in the fourth, and Kyle Frees plated another with an RBI groundout in the fifth that made it 6-0.

Which was plenty for Schaeffer, who didn't let any of his five walks, the three Owls errors or the five Bears stolen bases affect his composure.

"When Mike's on, he's tough to beat," said the Siena-bound Cipolla, who went 3-for-4 with a double. "And tonight he was definitely on."

"The key for me was keeping the ball low and getting them to hit as many balls on the ground as possible," Schaeffer said. "Against Boyertown, you have to do the little things, or they will pick you apart and make you pay for mistakes."

On this night, though, it was the Bears — they had one runner picked off and another thrown out at the plate — who paid for their mistakes.

"We didn't help ourselves with our defense and we ran ourself out of a couple innings," said Moatz, whose team leaves today for a five-game weekend series at Waldorf, Md. "What's really disappointing about tonight was the fact that we had the opportunity to wrap it (the regular season crown) up, and blew it."

Defending Berks champion West Lawn now controls its own destiny, but will likely have to win all seven remaining league contests to capture the pennant, since the East champion Bears have only league games against Topton and Exeter remaining.

"We've gotten a lot better," Matz said, "but there's still some room for improvement in certain areas."

It will be hard, however, for Schaeffer to improve upon his effort against the Bears.

"We knew he was a good pitcher," Moatz said. "But the question was, 'Could he go all nine innings against us?'"

Friday night, Schaeffer provided a pretty strong answer in a dominating debut.

WEST LAWN				BOYERTOWN					
	ab	r	h	bl	ab	r	h	bl	
Yocum lf	5	1	1	0	Mason ss	5	0	1	0
Ziegler rf	5	0	0	0	Fisherowski lf	5	0	0	0
Moore cf	0	0	0	0	Trout p	3	1	0	0
Pettit c	3	1	0	0	D. Hoffman c	2	0	0	0
Cipolla ss	4	1	3	3	K. Hoffman rf	4	0	1	0
Dietrich 3b	3	0	1	0	Loeb 1b	4	0	1	0
Schaeffer p	3	0	0	0	Allen 3b	3	0	0	0
Frees 1b	2	0	0	1	A. Hoffman cf	0	0	0	0
Shipe cf	4	1	1	0	Katejta 3b	0	0	0	0
Kroloe 2b	4	2	1	0	Stapleton ph	0	0	0	0
					Cotellese p	0	0	0	0
					Schueck 2b	3	0	0	0
Totals	33	6	7	4	Totals	30	1	2	1
West Lawn	.....003			210	000-6	7	3		
Boyertown	.....000			000	010-1	2	2		
E: Cipolla, Schaeffer, Shipe, Mason, Allen. LOB: West Lawn 6, Boyertown 10. DP: Boyertown 1. 2B: Cipolla. SB: Dietrich, Mason, Allen, Fisherowski, Trout. 2. S: Frees, Kroloe, Schueck.									
	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO			
West Lawn Owls									
Schaeffer W, 3-1	9	2	1	0	5	9			
Boyertown Bears									
out L, 3-1	4	5	5	4	3	5			
len	4	2	1	1	1	3			
otellese	1	0	0	0	0	0			
BP: by Schaeffer (Allen, Stapleton), by Allen (till).									
:2:30. A: 956.									

Hawks get hot in the sixth, stun first-place West Lawn

■ Hamburg's seven-run inning completes a comeback upset of the Owls.

From our news staff

Hamburg's Legion team has had plenty of ups and downs this summer.

According to coach Jeff Seidel, however, rallies have been few and far between for the Hawks.

Until Saturday night, that is.

Travis Hartman went 3-for-3 with a homer and picked up the victory in relief as the Hawks used a seven-run sixth inning to upset first-place West Lawn in a Berks League Western Division game at Hamburg Community Park.

"This was real good for us," said Seidel, whose team stormed back from a six-run deficit. "We've had so many highs and lows, but hadn't really come from behind all year."

West Lawn (13-3 Western Division, 15-4 overall) took an 8-2 lead with a three-run sixth when Michael Dietrich, Eric Shipe and Kyle Frees each drew bases-loaded walks.

But the second-place Hawks (10-5, 15-8) sent 11 batters to the plate in their half. Hamburg got five straight two-out singles, including a game-tying RBI single by D.J. Hoshauer and a go-ahead RBI single by Zane Kershner.

Right-hander Nick Evangelista struck out four in two hitless innings - including striking out the side in the eighth - for the save.

Tony Cipolla went 2-for-3 with four RBIs for West Lawn, which is now a game behind East-leading Boyertown in the loss column in the race for the regular season pennant.

Berks Legion

EASTERN DIVISION				W	L	Pct.	GB
x-Boyertown	18	2	.900	-			
Blrdeboro	14	4	.759	3			
Shillington	11	5	.688	5			
Exeter	9	7	.563	7			
Kutztown	9	7	.563	7			
Fleetwood	6	10	.375	10			
Oley	4	12	.250	12			
Topton	3	11	.214	12			
WESTERN DIVISION				W	L	Pct.	GB
West Lawn	13	3	.813	-			
Hamburg	10	5	.667	2½			
Muhlenberg	7	5	.583	4			
Reading	9	7	.529	4			
Gregg Post	7	9	.471	6			
Schuylkill Valley	3	11	.214	9			
Conrad Weiser	3	15	.167	11			
Wyomissing	1	15	.063	12			

x-clinched division title

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

Hamburg 9, West Lawn 8
 Gregg Post 10, Reading 7
 Topton 15, Oley 9

	R	H	E
Topton	.910	400	101 - 16 15 7
Oley	.102	402	000 - 9 15 4

W: Gary Fridinger (1-5), L: Nate Leck (0-3),
 2B: Rob Lozenski (T), Gary Fridinger (T),
 George Kressley (T), 3B: Jarad Lydon (O).

	R	H	E
West Lawn	.003	203	000 - 8 9 1
Hamburg	.001	107	00x - 9 12 1

W: Travis Hartman (1-0), L: Jason Colon (0-1),
 S: Nick Evangelista, 2B: Nick Evangelista (H),
 HR: Travis Hartman (H).

A's hit a double, beat Owls, Bison

■ Muhlenberg defeats West Lawn 6-3, then rolls past Wyomissing 19-4.

From our news services

Muhlenberg's scored five runs in the eighth and ninth innings to hand Western Division leader West Lawn a 6-3 setback, the Owls second loss in as many days.

The A's kept the offense rolling later in the day, posting a 19-4 victory over Wyomissing.

In the first game, the A's (9-5, 9-5) broke a 1-1 tie in the eighth when winning pitcher Tim Heinly tripled home a run and scored on Tony Morganti's ground out.

West Lawn cut the lead to 3-2 in the bottom of the eighth on Greg Labe's RBI single, but the A's put the game out of reach with a three-run ninth that included an RBI single by Julian Pellegrini and a two-run single by Nate Guers.

The A's made it a clean sweep Sunday with a 20-hit attack against Western Division-foe Wyomissing that included a 10-run fifth inning.

Jason Reinhart was 4-for-5 with two triples and two RBIs for Muhlenberg while winning pitcher Jeremy Kondisko was 4-for-4 with two RBIs.

Dan Stoltzfus was 2-for-3 with an RBI for the Bison (1-16, 1-16).

■ **West Lawn 16, Gregg Post 2:** At Owls Field, the Owls (14-4, 16-5) bounced back from their loss to Muhlenberg earlier in the day by clobbering the Keys (7-10, 7-10) in

BERKS LEGION

a Western Division matchup.

Offensively, the Owls saw big production from Jon Ziegler (4-for-5, four runs, two RBIs), Tony Cipolla (3-for-4 with three runs), Travis Yochum (2-for-4 with four runs) and Michael Dietrich (2-for-4, three RBIs, two runs).

Ryan Pettit gave up one earned run on seven hits and three walks to earn his fourth win. The Keys' Matt Mattiuz was 3-for-5 with a RBI.

Local

Berks Legion

Muhlenberg..... R H E
000 010 023 - 6 14 0
West Lawn..... R H E
000 001 011 - 3 11 0
W: Tim Healy (3-0). L: Kyle Fries (4-2). 2B: Jason Reinhart (M), Anthony Cipolla (WL). 3B: Mike Palangio (M), Tim Healy (M), Jonathan Ziegler (WL).

Kutztown..... R H E
001 030 402 - 10 11 1
Topton..... R H E
101 211 000 - 6 10 5
W: Steve Rotheimer (5-1). L: Zach Meek (0-2). 2B: Steve Rotheimer (K), Andrew Miller (K), Andrew Roth (T). 3B: Andrew Roth (T), HR: David Yoder (K).

Exeter..... R H E
310 105 000 - 11 16 2
Fleetwood..... R H E
000 000 000 - 0 7 1
W: Matt Burkhardt (2-2). L: Josh Tempin (1-3). 2B: Andre Folk (F), Zach Taylor 2 (E), HR: Dave Demko (E), Tony Riegel (E).

Hamburg..... R H E
004 441 602 - 21 15 9
Reading..... R H E
039 222 42x - 24 26 6
W: Matt Bailey (1-0). L: D.J. Butz (0-2). 2B: Nick Evangelista (H), D.J. Hoshauer (H), Zane Kerschner (H), Jose Hernandez 2 (R), Steve Malsick (F), Matt Bailey (F). 3B: Nick Evangelista (H), Zane Kerschner (H), HR: Robert Ash (R).

Wyomissing..... R H E
000 130 0 - 4 6 3
Muhlenberg..... R H E
222 2(10) x - 19 20 2
W: Jeremy Kondisko (3-1). L: Jordan Hollenstein (0-2). 2B: Jason Reinhart (M), Jeremy Kondisko (M), Zac Schneider (M), Iroy Morganti (M), Mike Palangio (M). 3B: Jason Reinhart 2 (M).

Gregg Post..... R H E
000 010 100 - 2 6 0
West Lawn..... R H E
205 003 42x - 16 15 1
W: Ryan Pettit (4-0). L: Terry Lipovsky (2-4). 2B: Jon Ziegler (W), Michael Dietrich (W), Greg Labe (W).

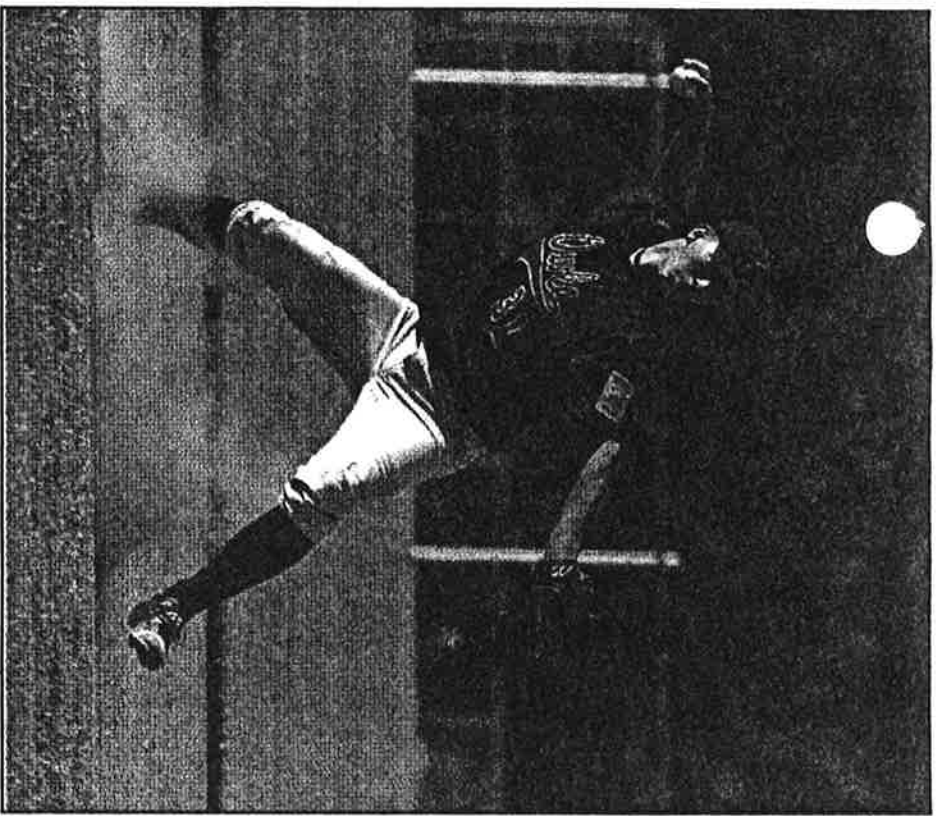
■ **West Lawn 16, Topton 1:** At Owls Field, Travis Yocum went 3-for-3 with three runs and also picked up the win as the Owls (15-4 West, 17-5) routed the Rams (3-13 East, 3-13) in a game halted by the 15-run rule.

Mark Elliott, Yocum and Mike Aynardi combined on a five-hitter and didn't allow an earned run.

Eric Shipe went 3-for-4 with four RBIs, Eric Pettit was 2-for-3 with four RBIs and Tony Cipolla was 2-for-4 with four runs for the Owls.

		R	H	E
Topton	001 000 0 -	1	5	4
West Lawn	302 430 4 -	16	12	2
W: Travis Yocum (2-0). L: Brian Miller (0-2).				
2B: Andy Schoenly (T). 3B: Tony Cipolla (WL).				

Cipolla leads Owls over Reinhart, Muhlenberg



Eagle/Times: Ryan McFadden

West Lawn's Tony Cipolla goes 2-for-4 with three runs and two RBI as the Owls beat Muhlenberg 8-6.

■ Tony Cipolla goes 2-for-4 and escapes a bases-loaded jam in the ninth as West Lawn beats Jason Reinhart and the A's.

By Darryl Grumling

Eagle/Times

One is a slugging shortstop, the other a super-quick center fielder. And for the past three years, West Lawn's Tony Cipolla and Muhlenberg's Jason Reinhart have displayed their uncanny skills numerous times.

Each was a record-setting performer in football: Cipolla a quarterback for Wilson and Reinhart a running back for Muhlenberg.

But the feature sport of both the one each will play in college — happens to be baseball.

Wednesday night at Laureldale, the two met one more time as West Lawn took on Muhlenberg in a

■ Berks Legion roundup. See Page C5.

Berks Legion League Western Division game.

"We all pretty much figured whoever would win this game," said the Siena-bound Cipolla, "would win the West."

Everyone also had to figure that Cipolla and Reinhart would play key roles as well, and the dynamic duo didn't disappoint.

Cipolla went 2-for-4 with three runs as West Lawn held on for an 8-6 victory to clinch at least a tie for the West title.

The Owls (16-4 West, 18-5), who avenged a 6-3 loss to the A's at Owls Field Sunday, lead second-place Muhlenberg (11-6, 11-6) by 3½ games heading into the season's final five days.

"There's a lot of mutual respect between us," said Reinhart, who went 2-for-5 with a double, triple and three RBIs. "We won a few

days ago, and tonight, he won the battle."

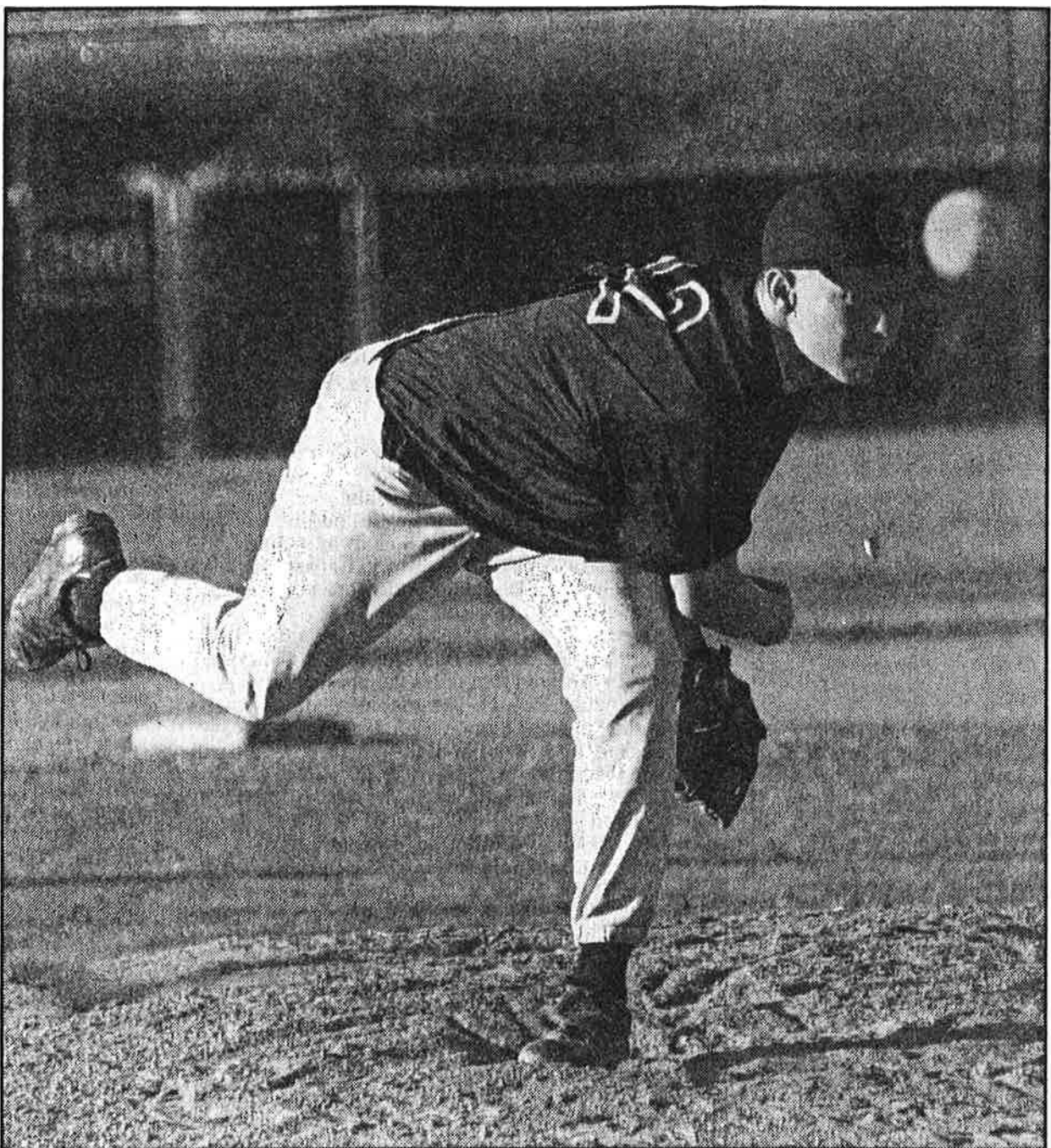
The final battle came in the ninth inning, when, with the A's trailing 8-3, Reinhart came up with two runners on and nobody out against Cipolla, who had relieved ace Mike Schaeffer (4-1) one batter into the inning.

Cipolla came out on top by getting Reinhart to fly to left, and three batters later appeared to get the final out on a bases-loaded tap-per to short.

But a dropped throw gave the A's new life, and when Lee Moschak singled in two runs, things suddenly got very interesting. But Cipolla escaped a bases-loaded jam by striking out Zac Schneider.

"Tony always seems to rise to the occasion," said Schaeffer, who threw eight-plus innings of four-hit ball and struck out nine. "He definitely comes through when we need him."

See West Lawn, Page C5 ▶



Eagle/Times: Ryan McFadden

West Lawn starter Mike Schaeffer strikes out nine and allows four hits in 8-plus innings.

► West Lawn

Continued from Page C1

So does Reinhart, who got the A's on the board first by punching an RBI triple down the line in right in the third inning.

Cipolla helped the Owls draw even in the fourth when his towering pop-up dropped between three fielders for a double. He eventually scored on Eric Shipe's sacrifice fly to make it 1-1.

But Cipolla's most important contribution came in the fifth inning, when the A's elected to go after him with two outs and runners on second and third. When

starter Moschak tried to sneak a fastball by him, Cipolla laced a tie-breaking two-run single to left-center to spark a four-run rally.

"That one hurt," Muhlenberg coach Dick Gochnauer said. "We weren't sure whether we should pitch around him or not, and he made us pay. He's a heck of a ballplayer."

Reinhart — he is hitting .500 and slugging 1.122 — fired back with a salvo of his own in the A's half, lacing a two-run triple down the left-field line to cut it to 5-3.

The Owls, though, got three more very important runs for Schaeffer on a steal of home by Shipe in the eighth and a two-run single by Eric Pettit in the ninth.

Schaeffer struck out nine and Shipe and Pettit (three stolen bases) each were 2-for-4 for defending Berks champ West Lawn.

"If Schaeffer throws his best and we can beat them, then we're one up," said Reinhart, who will play at Division III power Rowan next year. "But he's a tough pitcher, and we didn't do a good enough job against him tonight."

Mike Palangio went 2-for-4 with two runs and Moschak struck out seven in 8 ²/₃ innings for the A's, who will finish with five league games over the next five days.

"Lee did a nice job tonight," Gochnauer said. "We just played like it was a circus in that fifth inning."

WEST LAWN		MUHLENBERG	
ab	r h bi	ab	r h bi
Zeigler rf	5 1 0 0	Reinhart cf	5 0 2 3
Yocum lf	3 1 1 0	Pellegrini ss	4 1 1 0
Cipolla ss	4 3 2 2	Guers 1b	4 0 0 0
Dietrich 3b	3 1 1 0	Rozzi lf	5 0 0 0
Pettit c	4 0 2 2	Moschak p	5 0 1 2
Shipe cf	4 1 2 1	Heinly rf	3 0 1 0
Schaeffer p	4 0 0 0	Schneider 3b	4 1 0 0
Frees 1b	4 0 0 0	Morganli c	2 1 0 0
Elliott 2b	2 1 0 0	Zenyuch pr	0 1 0 0
Krotee 2b	1 0 0 0	Palangio 2b	4 2 2 0
Totals	34 8 8 5	Totals	36 6 7 5
West Lawn	.....000 140 012-8 8 0		
Muhlenberg	.....001 020 003-6 7 3		

E: Schneider, Moschak 2. LOB: West Lawn 8, Muhlenberg 10. 2B: Cipolla, Reinhart, 3B: Reinhart. SB: Elliott, Pettit 3, Dietrich, Pellegrini, Heinly, Shipe, Zeigler, Cipolla. S: Dietrich. SF: Shipe.

West Lawn	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Schaeffer W, 4-1	8	4	4	3	6	9
Cipolla	1	3	2	0	1	2
Muhlenberg						
Moschak L, 2-1	8 ² / ₃	8	8	5	5	7
Rozzi	1 ¹ / ₃	0	0	0	0	1

Schaeffer faced one batter in the ninth.
HBP: by Moschak (Pettit). WP: Moschak 2, Schaeffer. BK: Moschak. T: 2:50. Umpires: Jim Brizek and Kurt Henry.
T: 2:50. A: 350

Frees, Owls put big chill on White Sox

■ Behind the one-hit pitching of Kyle Frees, West Lawn beats Reading 15-0 and clinches the Western Division title.

Reading 000 000 00 - 0 1 1
 West Lawn 000 320 37 - 15 14 1
 W: Kyle Frees (5-2), L: Eli Bonet (4-3), 2B:

Jon Zeigler (WL), Michael Dietrich (WL), 3B:
 Tony Cipolla (WL) 2, Greg Labe (WL), Mike
 Bruno (WL), Eric Shipe (WL).

From our news staff

Kyle Frees fired a one-hit shutout Thursday night as West Lawn clinched the Berks Legion League's Western Division title with a 15-0 victory over Reading at Owls Field.

Frees (5-2), a 17-year-old right-hander, struck out 11 for the defending Berks champion Owls (17-4 Western Division, 19-5 overall).

West Lawn broke a scoreless tie with a three-run fourth. The big hit was Greg Labe's two-run triple.

Tony Cipolla had an RBI triple and Michael Dietrich had an RBI double in a three-run seventh which made it 8-0, and Mike Bruno had a three-run triple and Eric Shipe a two-run triple in a seven-run eighth that ended the game by the 15-run rule.

Cipolla was 2-for-3 with two runs and Dietrich and Travis Yocum each scored three runs for the Owls.

Jon Baez's third-inning single was the lone hit for the White Sox (10-8, 10-8).

BERKS LEGION

■ West Lawn 14, Fleetwood 4. At Owls Field, Mark Elliott went 3-for-4 with two triples and three RBIs and Michael Dietrich and Eric Shipe had three hits apiece as the Owls (18-4 West, 20-5) closed out league play with an interdivision victory over the Tigers (7-14 East, 7-14).

Defending Berks champ West Lawn, which will be the second seed in next week's league playoffs, scored in each of the first four innings in building an 8-0 lead, then put it away with a six-run sixth that made it 14-1.

Eric Pettit went 2-for-3 with three runs and two RBIs and Tony Cipolla was 2-for-5 with two runs and two RBIs for the Owls. Ryan Pettit improved to 5-0 with the victory.

For Fleetwood, Andre Folk was 3-for-5 with three RBIs.

R H E
 Fleetwood 000 010 300 - 4 11 3
 West Lawn 212 305 00x - 14 16 2
 W: Ryan Pettit (5-0), L: Jared Treischer (1-2),
 2B: Andre Folk (F), Tony Cipolla (WL), Mike
 Bruno (WL), 3B: Mark Elliott (WL), 2, Michael Dietrich (WL),
 Greg Labe (WL).

NON-LEAGUE

Muhlenberg 5, Lock Haven 3
Lock Haven 10, West Lawn 9

Legion non-league

West Lawn 11, Rockland (N.Y.) 8
Boyertown 10, Rockland (N.Y.) 2

Highlights: At West Lawn, Mark Elliott was 2-for-4 with three runs and an RBI for the Owls. Mike Dietrich was 3-for-5 with three RBIs and a run, and Tony Cipolla hit a three-run homer in the third inning. He finished with two runs and four RBIs for West Lawn. . . . For Boyertown (34-7), Drew Hoffman was 3-for-4 with a home run, triple and two RBIs.

Legion non-league

West Lawn 22, Roslyn 7

Highlights: At Owls Field, Mark Elliott went 3-for-4 with three runs and three RBIs, Bret

Krotee went 3-for-3 with two runs and Greg Labe went 2-for-4 with two runs and three RBIs for the Owls (22-6).

Legion playoffs are set

From our news staff

Exeter's 9-1 victory over Oley Tuesday night finalized the Berks Legion League playoff picture.

The league's eight-team, double-elimination tournament begins Thursday with four first-round games.

Eastern Division champion Boyertown (34-7), the regular season champion, meets eighth seed Kutztown (12-10) at Bear Stadium at 7:05 p.m.

Western Division champion West Lawn (22-6), the second seed, faces seventh seed Hamburg (18-12) at Owls Field at 7:05.

Third seed Shillington (23-8) plays host to sixth seed Exeter (15-11) at 5 p.m.

Fourth seed Muhlenberg (18-7) meets fifth seed Birdsboro (21-12) at Laureldale at 7:05.

The playoffs continue Friday with two winners bracket semifinals and two elimination games, both at the site of the higher seed.

The tournament shifts Saturday to Reading's George Field, where it will continue for its duration.

Three games are on tap Saturday, with elimination games at noon and 3:35 p.m., and the winners bracket final at 7:05.

Sunday, games will be held at 3:35 p.m. and 7:05.

The championship round is Monday at 7:05, with another game, if necessary, Tuesday at 7:05.

The playoff champion will receive one of league's two berths to the Region 2 Tournament at Coplay later this month.

Berks Legion

EASTERN DIVISION	W	L	Pct.	GB
x-Boyertown	20	2	.909	-
y-Shillington	16	6	.727	4
y-Birdsboro	16	6	.727	4
y-Exeter	13	9	.591	7
y-Kutztown	12	10	.545	8
Fleetwood	8	14	.364	12
Oley	7	15	.314	13
Topton	3	19	.136	17

WESTERN DIVISION	W	L	Pct.	GB
x-West Lawn	18	4	.818	-
y-Muhlenberg	16	6	.727	2
y-Hamburg	13	9	.591	5
Reading	11	11	.500	7
Gregg Post	9	13	.409	9
Conrad Weiser	5	17	.227	13
Schuylkill Valley	5	17	.227	13
Wyomissing	4	18	.182	14

x-clinched division title
y-clinched playoff berth

TUESDAY'S RESULTS

Exeter 9, Oley 1
Schuylkill Valley 4, Wyomissing 2



Drew Hoffman
Boyertown



Tony Cipolla
West Lawn



Dan Batz
Shillington



Nate Guers
Muhlenberg



Pete Colon
Birdsboro



Zach Taylor
Exeter



Nick Evangelista
Hamburg



Sean Jones
Kutztown

■ **When:** Today through Tuesday.

■ **Where:** Sites of the higher seeds today and Friday, then all games from Saturday on will be played at Reading's George Field.

■ **Who:** Eastern Division champion Boyertown, Western Division champion West Lawn, Shillington, Muhlenberg, Birdsboro, Exeter, Hamburg and Kutztown.

■ **Tonight's openers:** Boyertown vs. Kutztown, at Bear Stadium, 7:05; West Lawn vs. Hamburg, at Owls Field, 7:05; Shillington vs. Exeter, at Shillington, 5; Muhlenberg vs. Birdsboro, at Laureldale, 7:05.

■ **At stake:** The winner advances to the Pennsylvania Region 2 Tournament at Coplay July 25-29. Should Boyertown win the Berks championship, the playoff runner-up would advance to regionals.

■ **Hot stovers awards:** In each of the four first-round games, the Reading Hot Stovers will present MVP awards to a player from each team.

■ **Last year:** West Lawn defeated Muhlenberg 11-1 at Owls Field for its fifth Berks crown.

BOYERTOWN BEARS

■ **Coach:** Rick Moatz, 13th season, 602-150.

■ **Record:** 34-7.

■ **Top hitters:** C Drew Hoffman (.432, 7 HRs, 33 RBIs), 1B Kyle Hoffman (.394, 34 RBIs), OF Jared Trout (.383, 5 HRs, 48 runs), LF Jordan Walsh (.382).

■ **Top pitchers:** Righties Nick Allen (5-1, 2.26), Jared Trout (4-2, 3.55), Drew Hoffman (3-0, 0.00) and Jordan Walsh (4-1, 3.03).

■ **Notable:** Have won 24 league titles, and 18 in past 25 years. . . . Record 35th straight county playoff appearance. . . . 143-46 all-time Berks playoff record. . . . Have stolen 165 bases, including 35 by SS Brandon Mason.

WEST LAWN OWLS

■ **Coach:** Tony Matz III, 14th season, 417-167.

■ **Record:** 22-6.

■ **Top hitters:** SS Tony Cipolla (.472, 4 HRs, 36 RBIs), CF Travis Yocum (.400, 38 runs), 3B Michael Dietrich (.359), 2B Bret Krotee (.382), C Eric Pettit (.341), CF Eric Shipe (.339).

■ **Top pitchers:** Starting Mike Schaeffer (4-1, 2.70), Kyle Frees (6-2, 1.40), and Ryan Pettit (5-1, 3.38).

■ **Notable:** Defending Berks champs. . . . Also won Berks crowns in 1960, 1961, 1962 and 1991. . . . Won Western crown with 18-4 record. . . . Have reached final six times since league went to double-elimination format in 1989.

SHILLINGTON RED SOX

■ **Coach:** Bob Houck, eighth season, 273-79.

■ **Record:** 23-8.

■ **Top hitters:** IF Dan Batz (.470, 4 HRs, 35 RBIs), C Dan Weber (.459), 3B Jesse Berger (.432, 8 HRs, 40 RBIs), 1B Justin Holland (.418, 8 HRs, 23 RBIs).

■ **Top pitchers:** Lefty Brandon DeWald (5-1, 3.43); righties Tim Gombel (3-3, 2.54) and Matt Nuhfer (3-0).

■ **Notable:** Won Berks titles in 1966, 1967, 1974 and 1996. . . . Finished 16-6 in Eastern Division, tying Birdsboro for second place. . . . Houck has been to title game in 5-of-7 years.

MUHLENBERG A'S

■ **Coach:** Dick Gochnauer, 31st season, 584-384.

■ **Record:** 18-7.

■ **Top hitters:** CF Jason Reinhard (.500, 13 HRs, 57 RBIs, 44 runs)

1B Nate Guers (.407), SS Julian Pellegrini (.406, 38 runs, 26 SB), LF Andy Rozzi (.376).

■ **Top pitchers:** Righties Tim Heinly (4-0, 3.77) and Lee Moschak (3-1, 3.73); lefties Jeremy Kondisko (4-1, 3.47) and Nate Guers (2-2, 4.70).

■ **Notable:** Reached final last year before losing to West Lawn 11-1. . . . Won lone Berks title in 1980, defeating Boyertown in best-of-three title series. . . . Making 14th straight Berks playoff appearance.

BIRDSBORO ORIOLES

■ **Coach:** Chris Drowne, second season, 41-27.

■ **Record:** 21-12.

■ **Top hitters:** 1B Pete Colon (.395, 7 HRs, 34 RBIs), 3B Chad Rightmyer (.389, 6 HRs, 45 runs), LF Ty Brewer (.374, 10 HRs, 43 RBIs), SS Eric Everhart (.352).

■ **Top pitchers:** Righties Kevin Walbert (6-3, 3.90), Pete Colon (1-1) and Charlie Werner (3-1); lefty Steve Olshenske (4-2, 4.47).

■ **Notable:** Making fifth straight appearance. . . . Won lone Berks title in 1997; reached final in 1991. . . . Have hit 29 homers. . . . Went 16-6 in Eastern Division, tying Shillington for second.

EXETER BLUE JAYS

■ **Coach:** Del Mintz, first season, 15-11.

■ **Record:** 15-11.

■ **Top hitters:** 3B Zach Taylor (.443), 1B John Woram (.356), IF Matt Burkhart (.354), SS Tony Riegel (.349), C Seth Guida (.340, 5 HRs).

■ **Top pitchers:** Righties Zach Groh (5-1, 2.97), Matt Burkhart (4-2, 2.94) and Zach Taylor (four saves).

■ **Notable:** Have never won Berks title or advanced to final. . . . Making seventh straight Berks playoff appearance. . . . Went 13-9 in league play to receive one of the league's two at-large berths. . . . Woram has a 20-game hitting streak.

HAMBURG HAWKS

■ **Coach:** Jeff Seidel, sixth season, 98-76.

■ **Record:** 18-12.

■ **Top hitters:** SS Nick Evangelista (.541, 4 HRs, 37 runs, 30 RBIs), OF D.J. Hoshauer (.371, 33 runs, 30 RBIs), OF Zane Kershner (.359), C Rob Roll (.364).

■ **Top pitchers:** Righties Nick Evangelista (5-2, 1.85), Mike Hase-nauer (4-1, 4.09) and Zane Kershner (4-2, 3.24).

■ **Notable:** Fourth straight Berks appearance. . . . Won Berks crowns in 1963 and 1993. . . . Finished third in Western Division with 13-9 mark. . . . Evangelista, an 18-year-old righty, has 77 Ks in 48 $\frac{1}{2}$ innings.

KUTZTOWN COUGARS

■ **Coach:** Joel Graff, fifth season, 48-68.

■ **Record:** 12-10.

■ **Top hitters:** C Sean Jones (.444, 21 RBIs), 3B Matt Barrell (.354), OF Andrew Miller (.333), 1B Dave Yoder (.313, 8 HRs, 26 RBIs).

■ **Top pitchers:** Lefty Steve Rothermel (5-2, 4.58); righties Andrew Miller (4-1, 4.06) and Seth Graff (1-2).

■ **Notable:** Went 12-10 in East to earn wild-card berth. . . . Have lost 3-of-4 heading into playoffs. . . . Lost right-handed ace Mike Bergstrom to a knee injury six games into season, and have been without LF Austin McGrath due to injury. . . . Making second playoff appearance in past five seasons. . . . Have never won Berks title, reaching final in 1967 and 1969.

Owls outduel Hawks

■ Mike Schaeffer and Nick Evangelista each turn in quality pitching performances, but it's Schaeffer and West Lawn who come out on top in a Berks Legion League playoff opener.

By Darryl Grumling

Eagle/Times

In a summer of slugfests and shootouts in the Berks Legion League, pitching duels have been few and far between.

Which made Thursday's Berks playoff opener between West Lawn and Hamburg as refreshing as the cool summer breeze prevalent at Owls Field.

On the hill for West Lawn was ace Mike Schaeffer, a guy most people consider the league's top arm.

Hamburg countered with veteran Nick Evangelista, probably the most underrated hurler in the county.

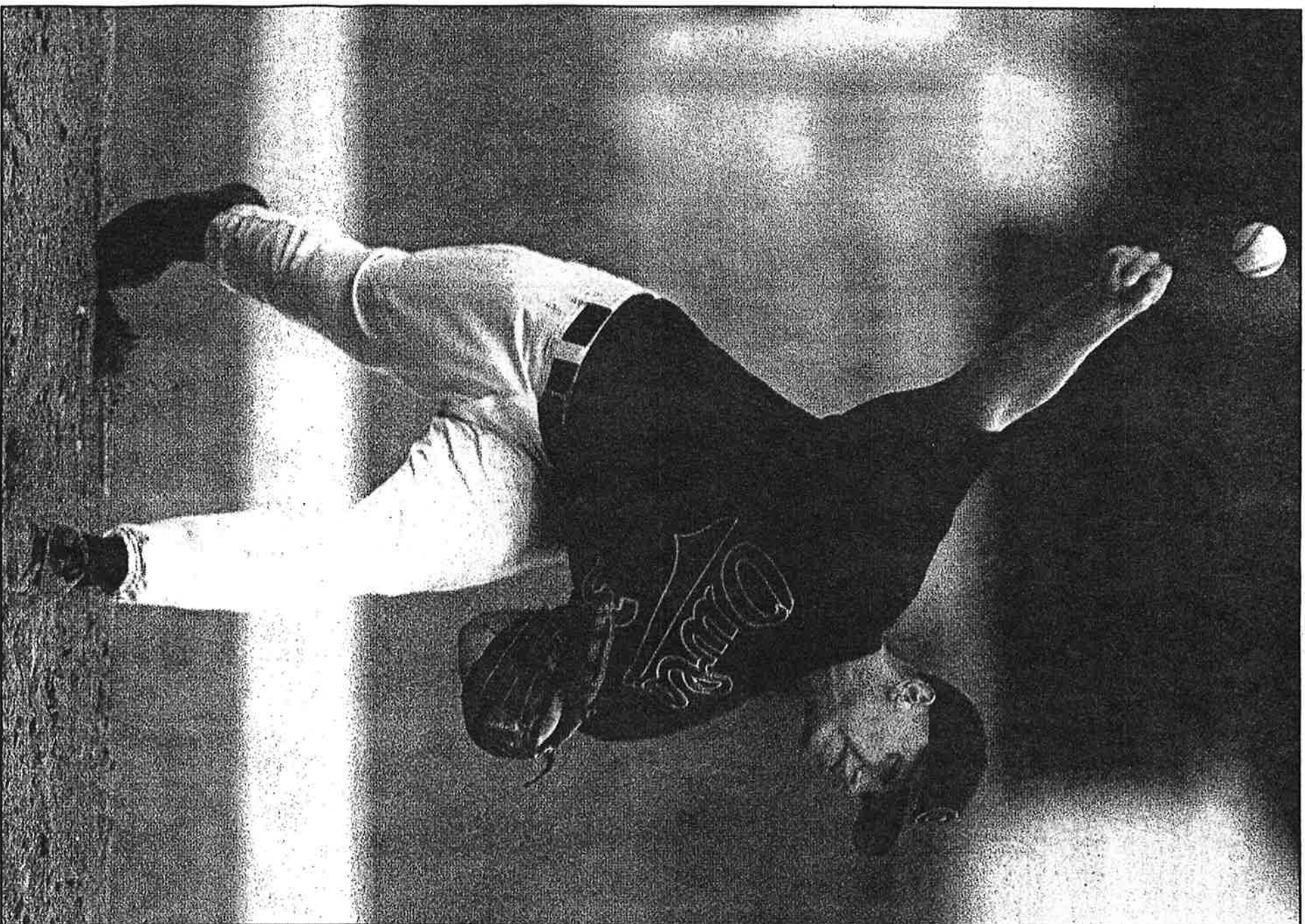
And each turned in a performance that was plenty postseason-worthy.

"I think we got to see the matchup we all expected," Owls coach Tony Matz III said.

Matz also got to see defending county champ West Lawn hold on for a 6-4 victory to advance to tonight's winners bracket semifinal in the double-elimination tournament.

The Western Division champion Owls (23-6), the second seed, face third seeded Shillington (24-8) at Owls Field at 7:05.

See *Owls*, Page C4 ▶



Eagle/Times: Tim Leedy
West Lawn's Mike Schaeffer strikes out 11 in the Owls' win over Hamburg in Berks Legion playoff action.

BERKS LEGION LEAGUE PLAYOFFS

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

Boyetown	13	Muhlenberg	8
Kutztown	0	Birdsboro	4
Shillington	22	West Lawn	6
Exeter	10	Hamburg	4

FRIDAY'S GAMES

Muhlenberg at Boyetown, 7:05 p.m.
Shillington at West Lawn, 7:05 p.m.
Kutztown at Birdsboro, 5 p.m.
Hamburg at Exeter, 5p.m.

Brewer leads Orioles past West Lawn

■ Ty Brewer goes 4-for-6 as Birdsboro eliminates the Owls from the Berks Legion League playoffs.

By Darryl Grumling
Eagle/Times

Ty Brewer provides probably the best personification of Birdsboro's Legion team.

Lots of raw talent and energy.

Young and brash — yet still inexperienced and perhaps a bit immature.

And most importantly, full of the kind of potential that has Orioles coach Chris Drowne very optimistic about the future.

Saturday afternoon, Brewer



Ty Brewer
knocks in 4 runs

and his teammates gave a glimpse of that future with a 15-9 victory over defending county champion West Lawn in a Berks playoff tournament elimination game at George Field.

Brewer, Birdsboro's powerful 16-year-old first basemen, went 4-for-6 with four RBIs and four runs as the Orioles (22-13) remained alive in the double-elimination tournament. Birdsboro, which starts just one final-year player, faces Boyertown at 7:05 tonight at George Field.

"Every inning, there's still something to be taught to these guys," Drowne said.

Judging by their performance down the stretch, the Orioles are doing a decent job of learning

those lessons.

"If these guys stick it out and stay together, they're going to be a heck of a team," said Chad Rightmyer, the team's lone 18-year-old starter.

This year's edition isn't too shabby, either. Saturday's victory was Birdsboro's second in two tries against the Western Division champion Owls (23-8), who sealed their fate by committing five errors which led to eight unearned runs.

Rightmyer went 3-for-5 with two doubles and two runs, Dan Wolfgang went 3-for-4 with a double and three RBIs, and Charlie Werner went 2-for-4 with three runs in a 16-hit barrage for Birdsboro, which got five solid innings of relief from righty Kevin Walbert (7-3).

But the 6-3, 200-pound Brewer

did the most damage. After reaching on an error to open a four-run second, he hit a towering triple to center and scored on Werner's double in a two-run third that put the Orioles up 6-3.

Brewer had a run-scoring fielder's choice in a four-run sixth, singled in two more in the seventh and doubled in another in the eighth.

"I've been on and off this year with my hitting," said Brewer, who hit .374 with team-highs of 10 homers and 43 RBIs in the regular season. "Sometimes I go up there and don't think anybody can get me out, but other times I just struggle to even hit the ball."

"When he gets his head together, he's a hell of a player." Rightmyer said. "He just needs to focus a little more."

West Lawn, which was coming

off a heartbreaking 7-5, 12-inning winners bracket semifinal loss to Shillington Friday, seemed to have trouble focusing.

The Owls also played without star shortstop Tony Cipolla, who was benched by coach Tony Matz III, who refused to discuss the benching.

Eric Shipe went 3-for-4 with three runs and two RBIs and Bret Krotee was 2-for-3 with three runs for the Owls.

"We obviously had trouble stopping Birdsboro from scoring," said Matz. "But more than that we just played bad in the field. Last night was a great game. But win or lose, you have to accept it. We just looked really sloppy defensively."

Which, coupled with a hot Birdsboro lineup, helped brew up a big win for the Orioles.

Berks Legion

Playoffs

Birdsboro 15, West Lawn 9
Muhlenberg 8, Exeter 7
Boyertown 12, Shillington 5

BIRDSBORO				WEST LAWN					
	ab	r	h	bi	ab	r	h	bi	
Rightmyer 3b	5	2	3	1	Elliott 2b	3	0	1	0
E. Everhart ss	3	2	1	0	Yocum lf	5	0	1	0
P. Colon 1b	4	1	1	2	Dietrich 3b	4	2	1	0
J. Everhart c	5	1	1	0	E. Pettit c	4	1	1	0
Brewer lf	6	4	4	4	Krotee ss	3	3	2	1
Warner cf	4	3	2	2	Shipe cf	4	3	3	2
Wolfgang 2b	4	1	3	3	Frees 1b	3	0	1	1
Campogiani rf	2	0	1	0	J. Colon p	0	0	0	0
Olshenska p	2	0	0	1	Schaeffer 2b	1	0	1	0
Walbert p	2	0	0	0	Moore rf	4	0	0	0
Shustack 2b	1	0	1	0	R. Pettit p	0	0	0	0
					Zeigler rf	1	0	0	1
					Labe 1b	2	0	1	1
Totals	38	15	16	14	Totals	34	9	12	5

Birdsboro042 104 202 - 15 16 3
West Lawn031 002 300 - 9 12 5

E: E. Everhart, Campogiani, Walbert, Dietrich 2, E. Pettit, Zeigler, Elliott. LOB: Birdsboro 12, West Lawn 5. DP: Birdsboro 3, 2B: Rightmyer 2, Werner, Wolfgang, Krotee, Brewer, 3B: Brewer, SB: E. Pettit, Shipe, SF: P. Colon 2, Campogiani, S: Wolfgang 2, E. Everhart 2, Krotee.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Birdsboro Orioles						
Olshenska	2	4	4	4	4	2
Walbert W, 7-3	5	6	5	2	0	3
Werner	2	1	0	0	0	1
West Lawn Owls						
R. Pettit L, 5-2	2	4	6	2	2	0
Yocum	4	5	5	1	2	2
J. Colon	1	3	1	1	0	1
Elliott	2	4	2	2	2	0

HBP: by R. Pettit (E. Everhart), by Olshenska (R. Pettit), by Yocum (Rightmyer), by Walbert (Dietrich), WP: J. Colon, Elliott, PB: E. Pettit.

T: 3:01, A: 300,

In a classic, Red Sox outlast Owls in 12th

■ Shillington upsets West Lawn and advances to the winners bracket final tonight against Boyertown.

By Sean McCann
Eagle/Times

Every single member of the bipartisan crowd at Owls Field Friday night got its two bucks' worth.

In a game for the ages, Shillington beat West Lawn 7-5 in 12 innings in a winners bracket semifinal game of the Berks Legion playoffs.

"This has got to go down as a classic," Shillington manager Bob Houck said. "One of the best games I know in my eight years here in the playoffs."

"These are two good teams that battled all night long and it's a shame somebody had to lose tonight."

Shillington advances to meet Boyertown in the winners bracket final tonight at 7:05 at George Field. West Lawn faces Birdsboro in an elimination game at 12:05 at George Field.

Except for a display of home run power, this game had just about everything: great pitching, clutch hitting, gutsy baserunning, a little rain and even a full moon.

Shillington starter Phil Futrick had a 2-0 lead and a no-hitter entering the fifth inning, but he gave up a hit to Mike Dietrich, then a

Mike Dietrich couldn't handle it. DeWald scored, giving Shillington a seemingly commanding 7-4 lead.

Defending Berks Legion champion West Lawn didn't go quietly, however.

Leadoff hitter Mark Elliott singled to get the Owls started. Travis Yokum followed with a base hit of his own, moving Elliott to third.

That brought Cipolla, the potential tying run, to the plate and also chased pitcher Dan Batz.

Tim Gombar relieved Batz and got Cipolla to fly out to center. It was enough to score one run, though, and the Owls were within two with one out.

Gombar struck out Dietrich for the second out, and then Eric Pettit worked a walk, bringing the potential winning run to the plate. But Mike Schaeffer popped out to right field and it was finally over.

It was the little things - solid defense, bunting, smart baserunning - that were responsible for Shillington's victory.

Just one night after winning a sloppy 22-10 game at home over Exeter, the Red Sox seemed to do everything right on their way to the upset.

"I've been telling them, especially toward the tail end of the year, that when they get up against a good team they're going to have to execute," Houck said. "We did a good job on the bases and we battled."

"It was a great game. A lot of great baseball tonight."

run and then his lead by the end of the inning. He was replaced by Ryan Gerber.

West Lawn led 3-2 in the eighth, when the Red Sox got two. West Lawn tied it in the bottom half.

With one out in the top of the 12th, with the game tied 4-4, Shillington's starting catcher, Dan Weber, reached base on an error, then was lifted for pinch-runner Craig Smith.

Smith stole second and Shillington had a runner in scoring position with one out.

That brought up third baseman Jesse Berger, who jacked a long fly ball to center, but spacious Owls Field easily contained it for the second out.

Then, Shillington switched gears from long ball to small ball, as Eben Wilson surprised everyone with a two-out bunt down the third base line for a single, putting runners at the corners for Brandon DeWald.

"I called it," Houck said of Wilson's unexpected bunt. "Eben's good at it (bunting), we work at it, and he (Owls pitcher Tony Cipolla) was starting everybody with a fastball, so if we were going to do it, that was the time to do it."

The gamble worked. DeWald cashed in on his opportunity, crushing a ball just a little bit longer than Berger's and past Owls center fielder Eric Shiye. Two runs scored on DeWald's double.

Center fielder Ben Arndt then hit a hard grounder to third and

SHILLINGTON		WEST LAWN	
ab	r	h	b
Holland 1b	6	0	1
Nihrler ss	6	0	0
Batz 2b	6	1	3
Weber c	5	2	1
Berger 3b	3	0	2
Miller if	5	1	3
DeWald rf	6	0	1
Arndt cf	2	0	0
Futrick p	1	0	0
Gerber p	1	1	1
Wilson if	1	0	0
Schaeffer ph	1	0	0
Snyder 2b	0	1	0
Smith pr	0	1	0
Totals	49	7	13

SHILLINGTON		WEST LAWN	
IP	H	R	ER
Futrick	4 1/2	3	0
Gerber	2 2/3	1	0
Batz W, 2-0	4	3	2
Gombar S, 2	1	0	0
West Lawn	8 2/3	9	4
Frees	3 1/3	4	3
Cipolla L, 1-1	3	3	2
HBP: by Freas			
Batz, PB: Pettit			

Berks Legion

■ Rain forced the Berks Legion Senior All-Star Game to be called in the top of the ninth, but it's not likely the extra inning would have mattered.

Behind a five-run third inning and a six-run seventh, Team Hemmig ripped Team Bowers 16-2 in eight innings Friday night at Owls Field.

Coming up big offensively for Team Hemmig were Shillington's Justin Holland (1-for-2, two RBIs) and Dan Batz (1-for-1, two runs, two RBIs), West Lawn's Eric Pettit (1-for-2, two RBIs) and Exeter's Tom Rochowicz (1-for-1, two RBIs) and John Woram (1-for-1 with two RBIs).

Muhlenberg's Jason Reinhart went 2-for-2 and scored a run for Team Bowers. Exeter's Tom Rochowicz pitched two scoreless innings of relief for the win.

Berks Legion

Senior All-Star game
Team Hemmig 16, Team Bowers 2

TEAM BOWERS				TEAM HEMMIG					
	ab	r	h	bl	ab	r	h	bl	
Reinhart cf	2	1	2	0	Gerhart cf	2	1	0	0
Mattuz ss-p	2	0	0	1	Miller lf	2	1	1	0
Loeb 1b	3	0	1	0	Kunkle 2b	2	0	1	0
Rightmyer 3b1	0	0	0	0	Leck 3b	2	0	0	0
Fisherowski lf2	0	0	0	0	Holland 1b	2	1	1	2
Heinly rf-p	2	0	0	0	Lydon ss	1	1	0	0
Marshall c	1	0	0	0	Pettit c	2	1	1	2
Kim 2b	3	0	0	1	DeJesus rf	2	0	1	0
Evangelista p2	0	1	0	0	Gombar p	1	0	0	0
Korshner dh	1	0	0	0	Riegel dh	1	0	0	0
N. Cotellese p10	0	0	0	0	Rochowicz p1	0	1	2	0
Reinhart cf	2	0	0	0	Shipe cf	2	1	0	0
Gressley ss	1	0	1	0	DeWald cf-p0	1	0	0	0
Deese 1b	1	0	1	0	Hayes lf	1	2	0	0
Gnoff 3b	1	0	0	0	Krotee 2b	1	2	1	0
Price lf	2	0	0	0	Batz 3b	1	2	1	2
Moschak rf	0	0	0	0	Woram 1b	1	1	1	2
Christman c	1	0	0	0	Weber 1b	1	0	0	1
Schweck 2b	1	0	0	0	Cipolla ss	1	0	0	0
Hasenauer 2b10	0	0	0	0	Nuhfer ss	1	0	1	0
Lipovsky p-3b10	0	0	0	0	Meetsick c	2	0	0	0
Marburger c	1	0	0	0	Bishop rf	1	1	0	0
Trout p	1	0	0	0	Stamm p	2	1	0	0
Morganti c	2	0	0	0	S.Cotellese p10	1	0	0	0
Ingram p	1	0	0	0					
Totals	38	2	6	2	Totals	33	16	11	11
Team Bowers	100	0	10	00-2	60				

Team Hemmig 005 302 60-16 11 2
E: Kunkle, Krotee. LOB: Bowers 8, Hemmig 13. DP: None. 2B: Holland, Pettit, Gressley, Evangelista, Batz, Woram. 3B: Reinhart. SB: Pettit, DeJesus.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Team Bowers						
Evangelista	2	2	0	0	2	3
N. Cotellese L, 0-1	1	4	5	5	2	1
Trout	1	1	3	3	3	1
Lipovsky	1	0	0	0	0	0
Mattuz	1	1	2	2	2	1
Ingram	1	3	6	5	3	2
Heinly	1	0	0	0	2	2
Team Hemmig						
Gombar	2	1	1	1	0	0
Rochowicz W, 1-0	2	2	0	0	1	1
Stamm	2	3	1	1	0	0
S. Cotellese	2	0	0	0	0	2

Something for everybody

The Berks Legion season offered plenty, including three champions

One team won the county championship. Another won the Region 2 title. And yet another won the state crown.

Boyertown, Shillington and Muhlenberg gave the Berks Legion League a unique triple crown which defined a stellar summer. Here's a final look back at the league, from A to Z.

A is for A's, Muhlenberg's motivated bunch who brought home their first state title in team history. The A's (28-13) advanced all the way to the semifinal round of the Mid-Atlantic National Regional Tournament before a loss to Boyertown.

B is for the Boyertown Bears, who added another chapter to their storied history. Boyertown (47-11) brought home its 25th Berks crown (and 19th in the last 26 years) and came within one win of qualifying for the American Legion World Series.

C is for Chase Roth, who despite being confined to a wheelchair after a tragic automobile accident last summer remained an inspiration to his Boyertown teammates. The guy who would have been the league's best pitcher was a constant at Bears games.

D is for Dan Batz, Shillington's slugging second baseman who spent the postseason pummeling opposing pitching. During the Berks, Region 2 and state playoffs, he hit .520 (39-for-75) with eight homers, and a 1.027 slugging percentage.

E is for extra innings, which became par for the course for Shillington. The Red Sox survived an epic, 7-5, 12-inning victory over West Lawn in the winners bracket semifinal of the Berks playoffs, then had a seven-day stretch in the Region 2 and state playoffs in which they played four 10-inning affairs.

F is for Fisherowski, Boyertown outfielder Kyle, who turned in a league-best 24-game hitting streak, with a majority of it coming in the postseason.

G is for Gochnauer, Muhlenberg veteran coach Dick. His 31st season might have been his most rewarding. Despite a late start due to the high school season and a somewhat disappointing finish in the Berks playoffs, the A's rallied to win the state tournament on their home field — defeating Blackhawk 4-2 in the final. Gochnauer will enter the 2001 season five wins shy of 600 for his career and 15 games shy of 1,000 for his career.

H is for the Hamburg Hawks, who epitomized the league's wild and wacky regular season. Hamburg notched victories over

powers Boyertown and West Lawn, but also suffered its share of losses, including seven games when the Hawks allowed 16 or more runs.

I is for incredible, the best way to describe the late turnaround in the Region 2 final at Coplay. Shillington, which had lost to Boyertown eight straight times, trailed 6-1 heading into the eighth inning before scoring six unanswered runs to pull out a 7-6, 10-inning victory.

J is for Jason Reinhart, Muhlenberg's stalwart center fielder who capped his career by sweeping the batting and MVP awards in the Pennsylvania Tournament, when he hit .617. For the season, Reinhart hit .469 with 14 homers and 69 RBIs.

K is for strikeout. Wyomissing's Justin Hanley fanned 16 in an 11-inning game against Schuylkill Valley; Hamburg's Nick Evangelista struck out 14 in a win over Muhlenberg; and Shillington's Brandon DeWald

struck out 13 in a win over Reading.

L is for long ball, which Muhlenberg's Jason Reinhart (14 homers), Shillington's Jesse Berger (14) and Dan Batz (12), Boyertown's Drew Hoffman (11) and Birdsboro's Ty Brewer (10) and provided plenty of this season.

M is for managers. Boyertown's Rick Moatz sur-

passed the 600-win mark, overtook the legendary Dick Ludy as the Bears' winningest coach and was also inducted into the Pennsylvania Legion Hall of Fame. West Lawn's Tony Matz earned his 400th career win.

N is for next year, when Muhlenberg will play host to the Region 2 Tournament and Boyertown will play host to the state tourney. Watch out for Shillington, Birdsboro and West Lawn in what should be another strong season.

O is for Oley coach Gary Reinert, who stepped down after a nine-year campaign that included 98 wins.

P is for a memorable Pennsylvania Tournament, which had to be the most competitive state tourney ever. Five of the 15 games went to extra innings, while 10 were decided by two runs or less.

Q is for quadrupleheader, which would be the next logical step for Conrad Weiser. The Scouts undertook the first tripleheader in league history, defeating Hamburg 18-3 before losing to Birdsboro 9-2 and Muhlenberg (12-1) on a day that lasted 25 innings and 14 hours.

R is for the Region 2 Tournament, where Shillington and Boyertown reaffirmed Berks

dominance. The Red Sox's title was the league's 22nd in the 26-year history of the tourney. It was the sixth All-Berks matchup in the final, in which a county squad has participated in every year.

S is for the Shillington Red Sox, who advanced to the Berks final for the sixth time in eight years, won their third Region 2 title in team history, and finished third in the state tournament. The Sox came within a heartbreaking 3-2, 10-inning loss to Blackhawk of qualifying for national regionals.

T is for Trout, Boyertown pitcher Jared. He fired a two-hitter and went 3-for-4 with a homer, triple and three RBIs in the Bears' 7-2 Berks championship victory over Shillington at George Field. Trout, teammate Drew Hoffman and Muhlenberg's Nate Guers each advanced to the prestigious Pennsylvania East-West all-star game in Harrisburg.

U is for umpires. Berks umps Kurt Henry and Terry Shober worked the Region 2 Tournament; Mike Kauffman participated in the state tourney; and Ron Perry saw action in the Mid-Atlantic National Regional.

V is for victories. Boyertown right-hander Nick Allen picked up a county-best nine of them.

W is for West Lawn pitcher Mike Schaeffer, who earned a couple of impressive W's (beating both Boyertown and Muhlenberg) on the way to a 5-1 season.

X is for X-out, which American Legion powers that be should do to the national regional pool play format. Both Boyertown and Muhlenberg played totally meaningless games in their third day of pool play, where ridiculous tie-breaking criteria turned what should have been competitive settings into fiascoes.

Y is for youth, which was served this summer by plenty of promising first-year players. Fifteen-year-olds such as Muhlenberg's Julian Pellegrini, Shillington's Ryan Gerber and Exeter's Zach Groh and 16-year-olds including Ty Brewer of Birdsboro, Phil Futrick of Shillington and Dave Yoder of Kutztown each had major impacts in their rookie seasons.

Z is for zero, the number of runs allowed by Boyertown's Drew Hoffman in 31 regular season innings. Hoffman, who was finally touched for a run in the Bears' Region 2 opener against Lehigh-West Bethlehem, finished with an ERA of 0.95 in 47¹/₃ innings.

■
Darryl Grumling covers Berks Legion baseball for the Reading Eagle and Reading Times. To comment, call Eagle Link at 610-376-6000, category 3010, or email sports@readingeagle.com.

DARRYL GRUMLING



2000 Team Stats for West Lawn Owls (ALL)

Wins= 23 Losses= 8 Ties= 3

Batting Report

Player	G	AB	R	H	RBI	1B	2B	3B	HR	SO	TBB	HP	Sacf	Sacb	Obae	Slg	Avg
Eric Pettit	30	100	40	35	27	28	5	2	0	5	29	5	2	3	544	440	350
Brett Krotee	28	61	24	24	7	20	4	0	0	8	16	2	0	3	557	459	393
Tony Cipolla	30	95	33	42	37	23	8	7	4	9	26	4	4	1	589	800	442
Eric Shipe	31	117	26	41	28	34	4	3	0	7	11	0	3	3	412	436	350
Travis Yocum	32	119	39	45	16	36	8	0	1	16	23	2	1	0	517	471	378
Mike Schaeffer	26	66	9	15	20	8	6	1	0	10	7	0	3	3	329	348	227
Kyle Frees	28	94	17	22	10	18	4	0	0	11	9	0	1	3	375	277	234
Jon Zeigler	33	91	30	30	10	24	5	1	0	27	24	1	1	5	487	407	330
Mike Moore	28	65	18	17	9	14	2	1	0	6	11	1	2	1	443	323	262
Mike Dietrich	32	104	27	36	27	25	7	4	0	8	23	3	3	7	489	490	346
Greg Labe	28	66	13	21	16	16	3	2	0	14	6	2	2	2	395	424	318
Ryan Pettit	18	32	8	7	8	6	1	0	0	7	8	2	0	1	405	250	219
Mike Bruno	16	29	6	8	6	4	3	1	0	7	2	2	0	1	364	448	276
Mike Aynardi	10	9	2	2	0	2	0	0	0	3	2	2	0	1	462	222	222
Jason Colon	16	17	3	3	1	3	0	0	0	5	3	0	0	2	450	176	176
Derrick Koyste	14	17	2	4	5	4	0	0	0	5	1	1	2	0	286	235	235
Jason Zeigler	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Andy Gerhard	7	8	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	300	125	125
Mark Elliott	25	53	16	19	16	13	3	3	0	10	17	2	1	2	562	528	358
Total for Team	34	1143	314	372	244	279	63	25	5	161	220	29	25	38	471	437	325

[G]-Games [AB]-At bat [R]-Runs [H]-Total Hits [1B]-Single [2B]-Double
 [3B]-Triple [HR]-HomeRun [SO]-Total Strike Outs [TBB]-Total Walks [HP]-Hit
 by Pitch [Sacf]-Sac Fly [Sacb]-Sac Bunt [Obae]-On Base Average (+E) [Slg]-Slug
 % [Avg]-Average

2000 Team Stats for West Lawn Owls (ALL) Pitching Report

Player	G	IP	W	L	S	GS	CG	RS	ER	HITS	AVG	SO	K/G	BB	W/G	HP	ERA
Eric Pettit	30	5.00	0	0	0	0	0	7	1	6	231	3	5.40	4	7.20	0	1.80
Tony Cipolla	30	15.33	1	1	1	1	0	11	5	18	257	17	9.98	1	0.59	0	2.93
Travis Yocum	32	16.33	3	0	0	0	0	13	9	17	266	7	3.86	10	5.51	1	4.96
Mike Schaeffer	26	59.00	5	1	1	7	3	23	18	27	129	66	10.07	27	4.12	9	2.75
Kyle Frees	28	66.67	6	2	0	8	4	18	12	55	213	70	9.45	14	1.89	2	1.62
Mike Moore	28	1.00	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	333	0	0.00	3	27.00	0	9.00
Greg Labe	28	6.00	0	0	0	1	0	6	5	10	370	5	7.50	2	3.00	1	7.50
Ryan Pettit	18	42.00	5	2	0	6	1	30	17	53	306	22	4.71	12	2.57	5	3.64
Mike Aynardi	10	19.00	1	0	2	2	0	15	8	20	222	16	7.58	12	5.68	1	3.79
Jason Colon	16	23.67	0	1	0	3	0	14	5	26	271	9	3.42	10	3.80	1	1.90
Derrick Koyste	14	2.00	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	3	333	1	4.50	0	0.00	0	4.50
Jason Zeigler	2	1.00	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	18.00	1	9.00	0	0.00
Mark Elliott	25	29.00	2	1	1	4	1	27	18	36	305	13	4.03	19	5.90	2	5.59
Total for Team	34	286.00	23	8	6	32	9	167	100	272	237	231	7.27	115	3.62	22	3.15

[G]-Games Started [IP]-Innings Pitched [W]-Won [L]-Loss [S]-Save [GS]-Games Started
 [CG]-Complete [RS]-Runs Allowed [ER]-Earned Runs Allowed [HITS]-Tot Hits
 [AVG]-Batting Avg [SO]-Total Strike Outs [K/G]-StrikeOuts/Game [BB]-Walk
 [W/G]-Walks/Game [HP]-Hit by Pitch