

Sports

The **Bristol Observer**

Our Athletes

•Bristol stops pesky foe...page 25

•Tri-State baseball action...page 25

•Scoreboard...page 26

Edgewood's champs



SUBMITTED

The Edgewood Little League 10 and 11 year old All Star team recently won the District 5 Championship. They will be competing in sectional play starting July 21 going through July 25 in the Stamford area. The team has adopted the nickname of 'The Green Machine.' Front row from the left, Nick Sassu, Matt Heffernan, Mike Dombrowski, Ziggy Aldieri, Evan McGinley, and Zach Marquis; middle row from the left, Coach Dan Cahill, Nate Hickey, Nate Carney, Alex Cahill, Noah Cruz, Adrian James, Mike Massarelli, Josh DiMattia, Coach Tom Heffernan; back row, Manager Bob Marquis.

Bristol can't steal victory from NECBL leaders

By MICHAEL LETENDRE
STAFF WRITER

BRISTOL – If the Bristol Collegiate Baseball could have just taken back one inning of its eventual 5-3 loss to the North Shore Navigators on July 14, then the talented locals might had pulled out a victory after all.

Opportunity came and went for Bristol and even after a lengthy rain delay, that seemed to energize the home squad during its first stanza after the reprieve, it just wasn't enough to steal the game away from current Eastern Division leaders.

Down 2-0 going into the Bristol half of the third frame of play, the heavens opened up and the umpires called for a rain delay.

Nearly 80 minutes later, Bristol came charging out the gate and nearly buried North Shore during the stanza.

Bristol notched two runs in the third to tie the game at 2-2 but left the bases loaded to end the inning.

Even after North Shore grabbed a two-run cushion at 5-3, opportunity came again in the seventh and eighth frames as Bristol had its first two batters reach safely during each inning before leaving the field

NECBL

without having a runner cross the plate and trailing.

In the ninth, Bristol rallied with two outs and once again put the tying run at the plate.

But it would not go Bristol's way as no additional runs were scored and North Shore – looking at a possible defeat several times during the contest – somehow hung on to win by two.

"We had a lot of opportunities," said Bristol coach Patrick Hall. "We put ourselves in position not to just tie the ball game but a chance to win the ball game if we got a big hit or just a hit. We threw a ball away that kind of hurt us (and) took the momentum back after the rain delay."

"Those things are going to happen but throwing the ball away and not hitting with runners in scoring position, those two things compounded each other and we came up on the short end tonight."

Coming in relief, Ryan Moore absorbed the loss and fell to 0-3 on the campaign despite pitching a robust three innings.

The former St. Paul standout yielded three runs,

but none were earned.

Errors prolonged Moore's stay on the mound as an error on a third-strike call led to a run for the Navigators in the fifth while a miscue in the Bristol infield led to two additional runs in the sixth as a tight 2-2 game became a 5-2 tilt for the visitors.

Moore gave up four hits and struck-out two batters but despite his 0-3 ledger, his 2.46 ERA speaks volumes about the job he has done so far this past season.

"Ryan did an okay job (tonight) and he's done a pretty good job for us all year," said Hall. "I thought that he put himself in a position to be successful tonight. He had a few miscues with an 0-2 pitch but as a whole, I thought he came out and gave us what we needed in that situation and if we played a little better defense behind him, it would be a different ballgame."

Starting pitcher James Campbell, More and Daniel Munday gave up only seven total hits but the Bristol offense was limited to five hits and six walks from a combined six North Shore pitchers.

Jason Banos led the Navigators, going 4-for-4 at the plate, drawing a walk

and scoring a run.

Mike Fransoso, Mike Gallic, Dean Dignelli, Kyle Nisson and Kevin Mager each tallied a hit for Bristol during the nearly four-hour contest.

North Shore pitcher Dan Duval (1-1) hurled three scoreless innings to pick up his first victory of the season.

Campbell gave up only one hit over his first two innings of work but got in trouble in the top of the third.

After posting back-to-back walks, an RBI single by Cody Dent scored Matt Hamlet and a double-steal netted an additional run as Banos scored to make it a 2-0 push for the Navigators.

After the rain delay, Nisson started the bottom of the third frame with an infield hit, followed by three consecutive walks as a bases-loaded RBI jaunt by Fransoso led to Bristol's first tally of the game.

Two batters later, a sacrifice fly by Gallic scored Eric Freddette from third and the game was quickly notched at 2-2.

"Mike's a great player," said Hall of Gallic. "If Mike could figure it out a little

See NORTH SHORE,
page 28

A season Post 2 will remember

By MICHAEL LETENDRE
STAFF WRITER

For the Bristol American Legion baseball team, the 2010 season will be a campaign that the players, coaches and fans will soon not forget.

American Legion

Overall, Post 2 achieved a 25-10 record and boasted some of the best pitching the state has to offer.

Post 2 went 21-6 in a Zone One play this season and while Bristol compiled a 26-1 record in the zone in 2009, the feat is still a grand

accomplishment and, once again, shows the resolve of what a team can do when firing on all cylinders.

"For us to get twenty-one wins and doing it by losing Matt Roche, losing Todd Anderson (to injury), dealing with Justin Tacinelli, who has an injury right now, for us to do that dealing with all this adversity we had to deal with this year, to me is a testament to the character of this team," said coach Dave Nocera. "I think it's a big accomplishment that this team won the zone championship"

The players battled and battled and battled this past season and

See SEASON, page 27

Post 2 comes from behind to win

By MICHAEL LETENDRE
STAFF WRITER

Making a comeback is not something the Bristol Legion baseball squad has done a lot of this past season.

American Legion

But with the Zone One title on the line and Avon hanging around in the title chase, Post 2 finally sealed the deal on July 15 with a 4-1 come-from-behind victory to clinch the division in Avon.

"I was certainly happy with the way we played," said Bristol coach Dave Nocera. "That was one of the games where we were behind. (Avon's) pitcher was really dealing it but we got some good quality at bats in and we held our own."

Bristol was down 1-0 early in the game but scored three runs in the fifth to ice the contest.

Post 2 added one final run in the sixth frame to insure the victory and the Zone One clincher.

"Once we got the lead, we didn't relinquish it," said Nocera. "Actually off Craig in that game, (Avon) was hitting him. He only had a few strikeouts in the

game. We had to make all the plays and do all the little things necessary to win and beat a very good Avon team."

Lejeune earned the victory on the mound while Mike Methot came in during the seventh and final frame for the save.

Matt Maynard and Nick Palmisano led the Bristol offense as Post 2 moved to 20-6 in Zone One play.

"The Zone One championship was a big accomplishment for us," said Nocera. "I thought the zone this year was very competitive. A lot of people will look at our zone and say 'It's not real competitive'... But I thought the zone was extremely competitive this year."

Bristol has taken the Zone One championship in 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009 and now in 2010.

"(In the zone), there was a lot of good pitching and everybody battled," said Nocera. "Once again with wood bats, the talent disparity is relinquished because it's harder to drive the ball (and) it's harder to score runs."

"You really have to play good baseball so whoever you play, you get quality wins."