

WINTER 2012



MEDIA LITTLE LEAGUE **Illustrated**

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

LEAGUE DRAFTS
March 4, 6, 8

FIELD DAY
March 24

PICTURE DAYS
March 28, 30, 31

UMPIRING CLINIC
April 1

OPENING DAY
April 14

BEEF AND BEER
April 14

BAT-A-THON
May 12

INSIDE

IMPROBABLE
CHAMPS

ONE STEP FROM
A TRIP TO STATES



A NEW SEASON OF MEMORIES

By **TOM FURMAN**
MEDIA LITTLE LEAGUE PRESIDENT

Media Little League's 60th Anniversary season was an exciting and memorable one. As we prepare for our 61st season, we hope to capture the same fun and excitement that has brought our families together to play the great game of Little League baseball for over 60 years.

As in previous years, the Board of Directors has been dedicated to providing a quality Little League experience for the families and players that participate in our league. We remain committed to making Media Little League a family-friendly, yet competitive

style of Little League baseball for the 500 plus children of our community.

Our league continues to grow and thrive at the direction of our dedicated volunteers, starting with our Board of Directors. We have again assembled a hard-working, experienced group of volunteers to lead our organization.

As you know, we take great pride in our complex and consider our fields to be one of the best in District 19 Little League.

Our Board is always considering capital improvement projects to better our playing facilities. This past post-season

Continued on Page 2



A NEW SEASON OF BASEBALL MEMORIES

we hosted the 12 year-old Pennsylvania Section 8 tournament for the first time in recent memory. In addition to hardscaping improvements around the complex and upgrades to the snack bar, we have a new scoreboard for our Major League field which will be ready for the start of the 2012 season.

All of these projects would not be possible without the success of our biggest fundraiser Bat-A-Thon®. Please be generous in your support again this season for this important event.

As the league grows, our need for additional volunteers has never been greater. The opportunities are there for managers, coaches, umpires, team parents, and of course, help in our snack bar. We are sure you will enjoy

volunteering your time for the benefit of our children and working along side the great families that make up Media Little League.

Finally, congratulations to our 12 year-old and 10 year-old teams who both captured District 19 Championships. The players, coaches and parents should be proud of this accomplishment.

I wish everyone a fun and enjoyable season in 2012. If you would like to share a thought or idea that would improve our organization, please seek me out at the complex. I would welcome your thoughts. Now, let's play ball.

Tom

SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR

On Nov. 2, Scott Kotcamp was honored as Sportsman of the Year by the Media Old Timers Association. Scott is a



longtime MLL board member, manager and former president.

He also served on the Media Youth Center and Rose Tree Colts boards. We're fortunate to have such a dedicated and hard-working volunteer among us.

It is a well deserved honor that could not have happened to a better man.



2012 KEY DATES

MARCH 4, 6, 8
League drafts

SATURDAY, MARCH 10
Equipment distribution and practices start.

SATURDAY, MARCH 24
Field Day: 9 a.m. (all parents and coaches expected to help)
No practice allowed

SUNDAY, MARCH 25
Field Day II: 10
No practices until after 2

WED., FRI., SAT., MARCH 28, 30, 31
Picture Days

SUNDAY, APRIL 1
Mandatory umpire clinic for all managers, coaches, and volunteers: noon

MONDAY, APRIL 9
Season Starts for all leagues

SATURDAY, APRIL 14
Opening Day Ceremonies

SATURDAY, MAY 12
Bat-A-Thon

FRIDAY, JUNE 1
Regular Season Ends

SATURDAY, JUNE 2
Playoffs begin

SATURDAY, JUNE 16
Championship Day / Closing Ceremonies



HOW TEAMS ARE SELECTED AT MEDIA

Many parents have asked over the years how our drafts and player selection process works.

With more than 540 players in five leagues in a very successful organization, one might think that it's complicated. But Media Little League has a constitution that details exactly how each league is to be formed. Player agents simply follow the rules, and although it can get uncomfortable, the overall objective is to be fair.

The most common requests are by parents wanting their child to "play up" in the next league. Little League International has set guidelines for its leagues that Media LL follows. Each league is age-specific not skill-specific.

It all starts with the Majors, our highest league. Every 12-year-old is required to play in the Majors unless his or her parents request to play in the American League or league officials determine the player is at great risk of being injured. The 12s are equally divided onto teams, with each team having a maximum of eight 12s (the total number of 12s help determine how many Major League teams there will be). Each team has 12 players and the remaining spots are

for 11- and 10-year-olds. By rule, 10s must be selected by the third round of the draft and be deemed eligible for the Majors by league officials. Very few 10s are selected.

Once the Majors draft is complete, the league moves to the American League draft. The AL consists of the 11s who weren't drafted into the ML and all 10 year olds. As with the ML, all 10 year olds are required to play in the AL unless a parent requests their child to play in the National League for more development. A few of the most gifted 9s are eligible to play in the AL, as determined by league officials.

The NL consists of all 9s and some 8s. We start by drafting all the 9s evenly on each team then

fill in the rest with 8 year olds.

Very few 7s play in the NL, only the very best. On occasion, some 9s stay or start in the Continental League in order to give them the basics they may be lacking.

The Continental League consists of the 8s not selected for the NL and all 7-year-olds. The 8s are evenly divided among the teams and then the 7s are selected. All 7s are required to play in the CL unless their parents wish for them to stay down in T-Ball or there is concern for their safety. If, and only if, there is room for 6 year olds, they will be considered but not promised a spot on a CL roster. The only exception is if they have completed three seasons of T-Ball at MLL. This is where we get the most requests to "play up."

It comes down to a combination of how many openings are in each league, the skill of the player as determined by the player agents and league commissioners and other factors. We hope this offers insight into how we put our leagues together and why we cannot honor all requests to have children play up.

**Tim Broadhurst and
Del Bittle
Media Little League
Player Agents**

Media Little League's Annual **Beef-n-Beer**

**April 14, 2012 7:00 to 11:00PM
at St. Mary Magdalen
\$30 per ticket**



Dancing • Silent Auction • Raffles • Food

- ➡ **Meet new friends and help support our League**
- ➡ **Great evening of fun and entertainment**
- ➡ **Purchase tickets from any Board Member, Manager or Coach**



THE IMPROBABLE CHAMPS

For this age group, Aston-Middletown has always been the roadblock for Media.

Two losses as 9-year-olds. In 10-year-old District play, Media had leads late in two games, including the championship, only to lose both times.

As 11-year olds, it was a similar story in Districts. Two games, two leads, two losses, including in the championship. The only bright spot was Media's last at bat victory over A-M on its own field in its own tournament in a pre-District warm up.

In short, this was the Media team that wasn't expected continue Media Little League's dominance of District 19, where it had won five of the last six championships.

And this District season started out very bad.

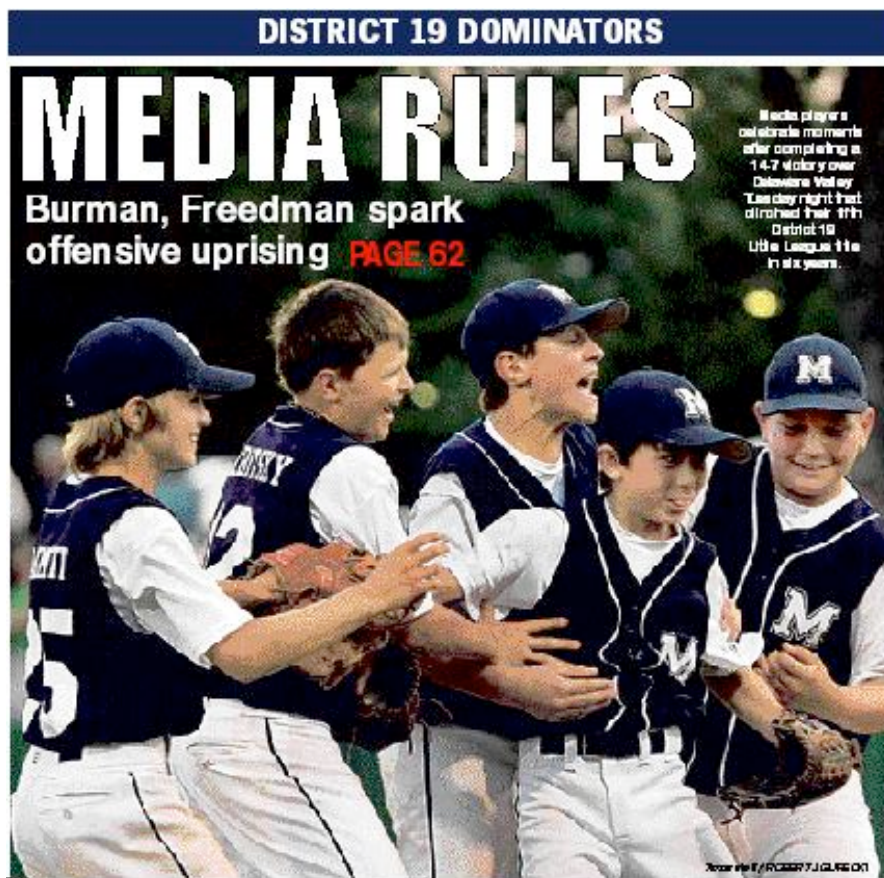
In the first inning of its opening round game, against – who else – Aston-Middletown at A-M's home field, Media was already down 3-0. Two monster home runs had shell-shocked the visitors.

But all that bad karma, all those lost leads and bad memories. All those dashed hopes. ... They all went away with one stunning swing of the bat.

With one out, Alex Burman worked a seven-pitch walk before Vince Sposato stepped into a 1-1 pitch and hit a monster home run of his own off the roof of the snack bar beyond the right field fence.

One the A-M side, giddiness had turned to silence.

After exchanging runs in the second, Media starter Kyle Virbitsky settled down. In the third, Media's sent 10 batters to the plate,



Michael Chang is mobbed by Xandy Hammitt, Kyle Virbitsky, Vince Sposato and Alex Burman after clinching one of the more improbable Media District 19 titles.



Sam Freedman, second from left, and Alex Burman, right, each hit a double and a grand slam in the title clinching game. Freedman also had a solo homer.



11/12-YEAR-OLD DISTRICT TEAM | DISTRICT 19 CHAMPIONS

scoring 5 runs and taking an 8-4 lead.

This time, there would be no A-M comeback. Virbitsky and Michael Chang held the lead (helped by a Caleb Mahalik solo homer in the fifth) and Media sent the heavily favored A-M into the loser's bracket on the opening night.

Monkey thrown off their backs.

The next game, Media found itself down 7-4 after three innings and had squandered many chances. Heading into its last at-bat, Media still trailed 7-6. But Burman, Chang, Sam Freedman, Mark Dombroski and Manny Ruffin scratched out three runs and Xandy Hammitt got out of a second-and-third, no-out jam to eek out the victory.

In the winner's bracket final against Delaware Valley, the teams waited out a long rain delay before their well-pitched, well-played game. Hammitt kept the DelVal hitters off balance in going the distance and Virbitsky and Burman led the hitting attack with solo home runs as Media squeezed out a 3-2 victory.

Media held the advantage in the championship round. Having survived undefeated, it only needed one win to take the District 19 title, while DelVal, which rebounded to come out of the loser's bracket had to beat Media twice.

Game 1 was fast. Pitchers Virbitsky and Matt Gorman for Media didn't allow many baserunners. Virbitsky was good, pitching a complete game four-hitter. But Gorman was better,



Media Little League, the 2011 District 19 Champions. Front Row: Seamus Scanlon, Mark Dombroski, Michael Chang, Vince Sposato, Caleb Mahalik, Kyle Virbitsky, Sam Freedman, Alex Burman, Manny Ruffin and Xandy Hammitt. Back Row: Coaches Tony Antonello, Marty Burman, John Mohollen and Manager Phil Freedman.

giving up only a solo home run by Virbitsky and a walk to Dombroski as DelVal won, 4-1.

That set up the winner-take-all finale the next night.

After both teams threatened but failed in the first, Media loaded the bases with two outs for Burman in the second. First pitch home run. Media leads, 4-0. But DelVal answered back with three in the top of the third to make it 4-3.

But Media's bats had come alive. Freedman hit a one-out home run the next inning to make it 5-3. Three walks, a hit batter and a Mahalik single later and Media had stretched its lead to 8-3.

Yet, every time Media opened a gap, DelVal answered.

In the top of the fourth, it scored two more, closing the gap to 8-5.

Going into the bottom of the fifth, DelVal had clawed closer yet, at 9-7.

The raucous, standing-room-only crowd at Newtown-Edgmont quieted as Media came to bat. Hammitt led off with a single to left and scored on a Burman double. A Sposato walk and infield single by Chang loaded the bases for Freedman, who sent the first pitch he saw into the bushes in centerfield.

Media 14, DelVal 7.

Michael Chang recorded the last three outs 1-2-3, thanks in part to a great play by third baseman Xandy Hammitt and this Media group, in its last year, had come through.



9/10-YEAR-OLD DISTRICT TEAM | DISTRICT 19 CHAMPIONS

ONE STEP FROM A TRIP TO STATE TOURNEY



Manager Tom Furman (right) and coaches Del Bittle (center) and Mike Address. Players were Charlie Address, Evan Fooks, Nathan Furman, Brian Virbitsky, Dylan Bittle, Andrew Sposato, Tommy Zeigler, Bradley Dinger, Danny Crossan, Connor Boyd, and Nick Corrado

Media's 2011 9/10 District team carried on the recent success of Media Little League by winning the District 19 championship, and coming within one run of winning the Section 8 championship to advance to State Tournament.

The run began with one of the craziest Little League games against Newtown-Edgmont that saw several lead changes, a triple play in the sixth inning by Media and finally an extra inning victory by the MLL boys.

Media then went out and beat South Marple at South Marple in an all around team effort, and they followed that with a strong

performance versus Marple Township that saw a contribution by everyone involved.

The boys then advanced to the District 19 championship at Media Little League. The boys did not waste their opportunity and defeated Marple, 12-2, to secure the District 19 championship.

In sectional play at Morrisville, Pa., the boys opened with a hard-fought victory over Exton.

In their next game, Media suffered its first loss of the tournament season to Middletown. With its backs now against the wall, Media rallied to once again beat Exton in loser's bracket play,

to set up a rematch with Middletown.

Having to beat Middletown twice, Media came out focused, and handled Middletown in the first game with a 10-run victory, forcing a second "winner take all" game for the title.

In the Section 8 championship, Media took an early 1-0 lead, before falling behind 3-1. Heading into the top of the sixth, Media rallied for one run, and had a runner on base, when the third out was recorded.

It was a great run by a group of boys who grew as a team throughout the tournament season.



WHY MEDIA USES VOLUNTEER UMPIRES

One of the most frequent questions asked of the director of umpires is, "Why don't we just get paid umpires?"

The main answer is simple: We are better off without them.

With nearly 300 games each year, you can imagine the amount of money that we save and can put toward keeping our complex one of the premier playing fields in District 19.

Media is one of the last Little Leagues to use 100 percent volunteer umpires. Surrounding programs hire outside vendors for

their snack bar, pay for umpires and hire field staffs to maintain their fields.

We have all of this done by you – the volunteers who make our league successful.

It is about more than just saving money, we feel we can better monitor the quality of umpiring. Who knows if the umpire you hire is actually worth the \$40 to \$60 they are paid. Are they experienced? Have they done Little League games before? Is this their first time umpiring? (or does it just seem that way!).

We have our coaches and managers umpire other games in their respective leagues. They know the players and coaches and we feel it helps "keep everybody honest."

We continually educate our volunteer umpires. We will be holding an umpire clinic again this year.

The clinic is open to anyone. This year's Clinic will be held on Sunday April 1st at 12:00 noon on our Major League field.

We hope to see you there.

IN MEMORIAM

TOM FLYNN

On February 19, 2011, we lost one of our truly great sports leaders with the passing of Tom Flynn. Tom had a special love for baseball and was a dedicated volunteer with Media Little League. He served the league as a manager, umpire,

administrator and board member for over 30 years.

He was also one of the original founding members of NPAA. Mr. Flynn received many awards for his community service including his founders NPAA plaque in 1962, a retirement award from Media Little League in 1991.

He was honored as Sportsman of the Year in 1978 by the Media Old Timers Association.

There was no one who felt more deeply about the benefits and rewards that Little League baseball brought to our children than Tom. His contributions laid a solid foundation for our organization which should forever be honored.



GEORGE PLOTTS

Media Little League lost one of its most distinguished contributors when George Plotts passed away on May 11, 2011.

At the time, George was on the staff of Little League Pa. District 19 as District Umpire in Chief and as a tournament director.

George was recipient of District 19's Volunteer of the Year Award in 1995. George was involved with Media LL for more than 50 years and was an integral part of moving us from Hess Field.

When asked how Little League builds character,

George said, "I guess it instills a sense of fair play. In any competitive sport you have winners and losers. And you have to be able to win gracefully and know how to lose. And that teaches, I guess, maybe a little something for life."

No one loved Media LL more than George. His presence, wisdom and inspiration will be missed.



2011 MEDIA LITTLE LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

MAJORS

BAKER PRINTING

Christopher Aman
 Alex Burman
 Casey Calloway
 Chase Davis
 Caleb Mahalik
 Giovanni Matarazzo
 James McGowan
 James Osher
 Vincent Pace
 Justin Ross
 Emmanuel Ruffin
 Kyle Virbitsky
 Bill Virbitsky, manager
 Tony Antonello, coach
 Marty Burman, coach
 Darryl Ruffin, coach
 Carol McGowan, team parent
 Carol McGowan, BAT

AMERICAN

HORIZON SERVICES

Connor Boyd
 Daniel Crossan
 Bryan Dewar
 Dennis Harrsch
 Jeffrey Lunger
 Nicholas Martini
 Christopher McGowan
 Nicholas Palermo
 Nick Steel
 Nathan Sutch
 Ryan Tolentino
 Jamaal Williams
 Michael Boyd, manager
 Richard Crossan, coach
 Tim Lunger, coach
 Tom McGowan, coach
 Christopher Palermo, coach
 Shannon Boyd, team parent
 Theresa Crossan, team parent
 Carol McGowan, BAT

NATIONAL

ADVOCARE CHILDREN'S MEDICAL

Christopher Arizin
 Shane Blose
 Kyle Broadhurst
 Sean Broadhurst
 Jack Buckley
 Samuel Burman
 Erin Daly
 Brian MacCurtin
 Luke Narbus
 Nathan Rodgers
 Timmy Spiotta
 Andrew Wickman
 Tim Broadhurst, manager
 John Daly, coach
 Robert Nunag, coach
 Katie Broadhurst, team parent
 Meg MacCurtin, BAT

CONTINENTAL

KELLY'S SPORTS

Corey Anderson
 Jeremy Cohen
 Max Cummings
 Mason Dewar
 Nicholas Filios
 Nate Hall
 Declan Hefferan
 Nathan Holst-Rightley
 Jack Kellogg
 Shane Kokoska
 Sean O'Donnell
 Tate Strine
 Bobby Sypher
 John O'Donnell, manager
 Steve Hefferan, coach
 Travis Kokoska, coach
 Bob Sypher, coach
 Mary Sypher, team parent
 Jessica Anderson, BAT