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MEDIA LITTLE LEAGUE **Illustrated**



Monsters of the Mid-Atlantic

P A G E F O U R



HERE'S TO ANOTHER SEASON OF GREAT MEMORIES AT MEDIA LITTLE LEAGUE

Spring is here and so is Media Little League's 62nd season. Baseball season brings warmer weather, longer days, and exciting Little League baseball at the Media complex.

Last season was another fun and successful season. Our 2013 Board of Directors has been hard at work preparing for another great season for the 500 plus children of our community participating in our program.

I would like to thank all of the volunteers that are offering their time to our great organization this season. It is this volunteer spirit that is truly the backbone of our 62 years of rich Little League history.

We continue to focus on improving the safety and overall appearance of our complex. Our most recent project has been a complete renovation of our National and American league batting cages. This area was in need of a complete overhaul for some time now.

This project is a vast improvement for the benefit of all of our players and coaches.

Improvements such as this are a direct result of the generous contributions to our Bat-a-Thon fundraiser. Last year's event was one of the most successful in recent years.

Please continue to support all of our fundraising efforts and we will continue to maintain our modest registration fees and improve

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

the baseball experience for all of our members.

Our annual Beef and Beer event is quickly becoming another major fundraising event for our organization. This year's event on April 20th helped kick off the season and offered a chance to relax with the many great parents that make up MLL.

Finally, I would like to congratulate all of our

postseason teams. They all represented Media Little League well. In particular, our 9/10 District team captured a Pa. State Championship then went on to win a Mid-Atlantic crown. The first such title in Media Little League History!

The support of this group by the MLL Board and entire membership was truly unprecedented. We had a great Opening Day ceremony which included recognizing the accomplishments of this special group.

I wish everyone a fun and enjoyable season. I hope every one of our Little Leaguers hits a home run this season, just not against my team!

See you at the complex and Play Ball.

Tom





2012 CHAMPIONSHIP TEAMS



MAJORS

BAKER PRINTING

Ryan Duplicki
Joseph G. Hare
Luke Lombardi
Jeffrey Lungert
Giovanni Matarazzo
Jacob McDonald
Nicholas Palermo
Justin Ross
Brendan Schramm
Russell Smith
Zak Summy
Brian Virbitsky
Bill Virbitsky, manager
Tony Antonello, coach
Tom Schramm, coach
Hank Summy, coach
Mary Ann Palermo, team parent
Abbe Lungert, BaT

AMERICAN

COCCO'S PIZZA

Aidan Carroll
Anthony Covello
Evan Cummings
Ethan Emery
Harry Layne
Nathaniel Lemisch
Spencer Nicolson
Kevin Smith
Cameron Swindell
Patrick Theveny
Kevin Wang
Dylan White
Dave Smith, manager
Bryan Carroll, coach
Gary Emery, coach
Paul Theveny, coach
Susan Emery, team parent
Chrissy Smith, BaT

NATIONAL

COURT DINER

Tyler Allen
Zachary Allen
Jonathan Aman
Shane Blose
Tyler Boyd
Luke Cavanagh
Maxwell Cohen
Shane Farber
Dylan Hermann
Andre Hunter
Derek Luther
Eamon Scanlon
Tom Scanlon, manager
Bart Cavanagh, coach
Sue Scanlon, team parent
Sue Scanlon, BaT

CONTINENTAL

ROSE TREE FIRE CO.

Michael Byrd
Damian Carr
Dylan Colvin
Michael Costello
Rowan Degnan
Joshua Emery
Samuel Kleiman
Alexander Maillie
Jacob Maillie
Kadin Matotek
Isabella Mingioni
Alex Pak
Samuel Pietrzak
Bob Colvin, manager
Dan Costello, coach
Jason Maillie, coach
Steve Pak, coach
Kelly Costello, team parent
Joe & Denise Mingioni, BaT



MONSTERS OF THE MID-ATLANTIC



I trust in God
I love my country
And will respect its laws
I will play fair
And strive to win
But win or lose
I will always do my best

The 2012 Media Little League 9/10 district team took an incredible journey last summer. The players and coaches lined up 22 times to recite the Little League Pledge before each game.

Each time, the players looked across at their opponent, it was clear Media was the smaller team. However, what they

lacked in size, they made up for with their inspired play on the field and never-give-up attitude.

The District 19 Tournament started with a 19-1 victory over Mickey Vernon highlighted by Leo Burman's home run and 5 RBI. Owen Evert blasted a solo home run to deep left to help secure a 7-3 win over Newtown-Edgemont in Game 2.

Media reeled off wins over Del Val and Ridley before falling 10-0 to Ridley, forcing a winner-take-all final.

Media would not be denied as it only took starting pitcher Brian Virbitsky 38 pitches to shut down the Ridley lineup.

Media's offense exploded, led by Max Brown with 3 hits and 5 RBI, while Andrew Pak and Kevin Smith combined for 5 hits and 4 RBI. With a dominating 15-1 win, this Media team took its first victory lap with the District 19 Flag.

The Section 8 Tournament began with a tough 4-1 loss against Horsham. Again, Media's backs were against the wall as now they would need to win four consecutive games to advance to the Pennsylvania State Championship. A tough task considering they would need to play four straight days and manage a pitching rotation



with strict pitch count rules.

The boys seemed unfazed and they responded by pounding Upper Providence 13-3 to eliminate them. Next up, they beat Horsham 16-10.

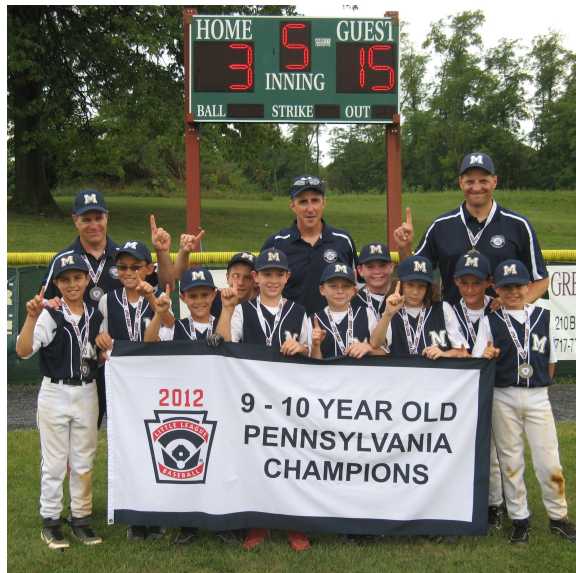
Media then faced a strong Morrisville team that was undefeated in District and Section play. Media had to beat them twice in a row to advance.

In Game 1, Nate Furman pitched a gem, holding Morrisville to just 1 run on 2 hits while striking out 7. Danny McLoughlin had 3 hits and 3 RBI to lead the offense and secure a chance to play in the Section 8 championship game.

In the championship game, Media led 3-0 in the third before Morrisville exploded for 7 runs. But Media bounced back in the final 3 innings with an offense attack led by Johnny Francis, Furman, and Virbitsky who combined for 10 hits.

Furman and Virbitsky each made spectacular defensive plays to keep Morrisville from rallying. But the difference was the spectacular pitching effort of Tommy Bradley who came off the bench to pitch 3 scoreless innings. Media took another victory lap, this time with the Section 8 Flag.

The Pennsylvania State Championship Tournament was hosted by Newville Little League, which is approximately 130 miles from Media. Game 1 against Lehigh turned out to be an unbelievable game. It was scheduled to start at 8 p.m., but because of rain, the game didn't start till after 10:30.



It was scoreless after 3 innings thanks to great pitching by Furman. Then, tied 1-1 in fifth, disaster struck as Brown came on in relief and gave up 3-run home run.

Media didn't give up, though, and rallied to tie the score in the bottom of the fifth just about as the clock reached midnight. Little League rules prohibit starting a new inning after midnight, so the game resumed the next morning.

Brown retired Lehigh in the top of the sixth, then Francis drove in the game winning run with two outs. From that point on, Media dominated its competition.

Burman had 7 RBI including a walk off grand slam to beat Collier Twp., 16-5. A 12-1 victory over Red Land was impressive as Media used 5 pitchers (Brown, Pak,

Burman, Bradley and Furman) who combined on a 2-hitter.

In the semifinal, Evert dominated with 4 hits and drove in 7 runs to lead Media to a 19-3 victory over Clarion to set up a rematch against Lehigh for the Pennsylvania Championship.

Furman pitched a complete game and led Media at the plate with 3 hits and 4 RBI as the boys cruised to a 15-3 win and another championship flag and another victory lap.



Winning the state title earned Media a 300-mile trip up I-95 to Cranston, R.I., for the 9/10 Eastern Region Invitational.

After jumping out to an early lead in the opening game against Delaware, Media lost that lead – and all its momentum in the middle innings. Then, the Media squad caught fire. Trailing 7-3 with just 2 innings left, Media scored a run in the 5th and 3 in the 6th to tie the game.

Then in the first extra inning, Media exploded for eight runs and went on to a 15-7 victory. Burman led the offense with 2 hits and 5 RBI. Virbitsky had 3 hits and scored 3 runs while Smith had 2 hits and 2 RBI.

In game 2, Media defeated New Jersey, 6-3, behind solid pitching from Virbitsky, Brown, and Bradley while McLoughlin had 2 hits and 2 RBI and Furman added 3 hits. Game 3 featured an 18-hit explosion led by 9-year-olds Francis and Smith who combined for 7 hits and 6 RBI to lead Media past New York, 18-11.

Furman, Bradley, Burman

and Pak each pitched for Media. With a birth in the Mid-Atlantic final already secured with a 3-0 pool play record, Media used 5 pitchers (Brown, Burman, Smith, Virbitsky and Bradley) to shut out Maryland, 6-0.

Media faced New Jersey in Mid-Atlantic Championship game, roaring out of the gates with 5 runs in the bottom of the 1st. Furman and McLoughlin singled, Brown, Pak, Francis followed with RBI hits and Evert knocked in 2 with a single.

Media played great defense behind another strong pitching performance by Furman and coasted to a 7-0 lead in the 6th before N.J. erupted with a home run and scored 4 runs until Virbitsky picked up the save thanks to a great game ending catch in center by Brown.

With the victory, Media captured its 4th Championship Flag of the summer. If the boys were 12, this victory would have earned them a trip to Williamsport to compete in the Little League World Series.

The next day, Media faced

Massachusetts for the East Region Championship. Media took a 5-3 lead into the 5th but couldn't withstand a 7-run rally by Massachusetts to prevent Media from one last victory lap.

Media traveled over 1,400 miles and finished with a 19-3 record, including 14 straight wins. Eight of the wins were in "elimination" games where the boys' season would have been over had they lost. Media outscored its opponents, 230-87.

Led by Manager Tom Furman, coaches Tom Bradley, Bill Virbitsky and Tony Antonello the team finished as one of the top two teams in the 11-state East Region which comprises approximately 1,500 Little League teams.

The overwhelming support and sacrifice from the parents and families, the Media Little League board, and the community back home made this an incredible experience that the boys will never forget.

They truly lived out the Little League Pledge.



Media Little League Memories

By Steve Hefferan

In 1981, Media Little League opened at its current location and the Major League field was just where it is today.

Media Rotary Club put up \$100 to the first Majors player to hit a home run on the new field. This became a big deal and was discussed frequently at school.

A few weeks passed and anticipation built. Our team was William Penn and we ended up going 1-15 largely because we had no pitching.

I was a second baseman by natural selection (rag arm) and ended up being called on to pitch far too often.

One of those appearances had me facing Phil Smolcynski, who hit a mammoth shot off me that landed at the foot of an old tree where the current Continental field sits.

Much fanfare ensued (I believe Phil was issued the money on the spot) and I endured it on the mound, waiting what seemed like an hour before the game started back up.

Phil came back up to the plate two innings later and I was able to strike him out swinging. My Dad, Marty Hefferan, was our coach and as Phil walked back to the dugout he yelled out "There's 50 back."

The whole crowd broke out in laughter. It's probably one of my all time favorite sports memories.

OPENING DAY 2013



Bat-A-Thon

Saturday, May 11

Two ways to earn great prizes

1. Collect from family, friends and parents' co-workers
2. Be one of the top hitters on Bat-a-Thon day

Grand Prize: Top team earners from each league win a day at the Wilmington Blue Rocks

All proceeds support Media Little League