



Matt Downey (center) of the Cal Ripken all-stars crosses the plate as his teammates look on after he belted a home run in the bottom of the first inning of Sunday's Kinlock Tournament game against Norwalk Little League at Tim Devine Field. Downey's solo shot, the second of the inning for Cal Ripken and one of nine in the game by both teams, gave the West Norwalkers a 3-2 lead at the time. Norwalk LL would hit the final two HRs in the ninth inning for a 9-7 win.

Hour photo/MATTHEW VINCI

Home Run Derby at Kinlock tourney

From B1

a solo-homer well over the fence in right center to lead off the ninth. One batter later Evans made it back-to-back homers as Norwalk led 9-7.

Love, who came on in relief of Evans to start the eighth, retired all six batters he faced to earn the win for Norwalk. Evans, who went the maximum seven innings, allowed seven runs on nine hits and just one walk while striking out seven.

For West Norwalk, Chris Cotaling started on the mound but left after two innings with a sore forearm. He allowed four runs (three earned) on four hits and a hit batter while striking out two.

Balunek came on and tossed

five innings of solid relief, allowing just three runs on five hits and a walk while striking out six. Enzo Lattella, who pitched for the first time since he threw one inning in the 11-year-old District One tournament, came on for the eighth and ninth.

In the top of the first, Love put Little League in front early when hit a monster two-run homer well over the centerfield fence.

West Norwalk came back in the bottom of the first with a pair of homers. Terzian drove a two-run homer to left center and Downey (2-for-4) hit a solo shot as Cal Ripken led 3-2.

Norwalk regained the lead in the second when Brendan Hanzlik homered and Drew Pace singled and scored on an error. Hanzlik

homered again in the third as Little League led 5-3.

Terzian's second home run pulled West Norwalk back within one in the bottom of the inning, but Norwalk got the run right back when Hunter Sharkey singled and scored on a two-out single by Love.

Trey Newcomb hit a home run to left in the sixth for a 7-4 Little League lead.

With two games to play in the Kinlock tournament, Norwalk Little League sits in first place with a 3-1 record. Cal Ripken is 2-2 while Cranbury is 1-3.

NLL can clinch the tournament championship with a win over Cal Ripken Tuesday, while Cal Ripken needs to win its final two games to be declared champion.

Johan does it all

From B1

him. ... He comes to perform."

Santana helped himself as he singled twice, drove in one run, scored a run and had one walk. Santana was hitting .114 (four for 35) with three RBIs coming into the game.

"I think that was too much Santana," said Padres manager Bud Black.

"You've been hearing all year that he's been struggling — for his standards," said San Diego's Tony Gwynn. "But it certainly didn't seem like that today."

Tim Stauffer (1-4) took the loss despite allowing one run on five hits in five innings. The right-hander struck out six with two walks.

Francisco Rodriguez pitched the ninth although it was not a save situation. The Mets' closer has struggled lately with five blown saves in his last 13 chances, including Friday night when he gave up a grand slam to rookie Everth Cabrera in the ninth as the Padres scored five times for a 6-2 win.

"We just have to make sure that we pitch him on a regular basis," said Manuel, who believes that part of Rodriguez's problems have been inactivity.

"I was trying to be more aggressive and get strike one," said Rodriguez, who has 24 saves. "Any time you put a zero on the board, it's huge. It's a good step."

Jeff Francoeur led off the New York sixth with a single off Edward Mujica and advanced to second base on Omir Santos' two-out single. After Anderson

Hernandez struck out, Santana lifted a fly ball to left-center field.

Chase Headley and Tony Gwynn both dove for the ball but Gwynn was unable to hang on. Santana's RBI single put the Mets up 2-0. Angel Pagan then lined a ball off the glove of second baseman Oscar Salazar for an error that allowed two more runs to score.

New York went ahead 1-0 in the second inning on Hernandez's RBI single that scored Francoeur, who led off with a single and advanced to second on a groundout.

Daniel Murphy singled in a run in the ninth inning to put the Mets ahead 5-1.

The Padres reached Santana for their only run on a two-out double by Kevin Kouzmanoff in the sixth inning and Headley's RBI single.

Santana ran his record 3-1 since the All-Star break. The left-hander is 61-18 during his career after the All-Star break.

Home plate umpire Randy Marsh left the game in the fifth after taking a foul ball off his face mask.

The foul tip off the bat of Padres pinch hitter Luis Rodriguez knocked off Marsh's face mask. The ball appeared to jar Marsh, who staggered to the side before Mets catcher Santos reached back and grabbed him by the arm.

There was a 13-minute delay before play resumed again with the remaining three umpires.

NOTES: New York's Luis Castillo went 2 for 5 in his first game back in the starting lineup since he suffered a sprained left ankle on Tuesday night.

Wilson youngest ever to capture Met Am crown

From B1

match play victories over Michael Quagliano of GlenArbor, Colin Dolph of Nissequogue on Friday, and Sean Curtin of Orange County on Saturday to advance to Sunday's 36-hole final match against the 54-year-old Ervasti, the runner-up in the 2008 MGA Mid-Amateur at Bayonne.

Wilson began the final with a bogey and a par, while Ervasti made par and birdie to jump out to a quick 2-up lead. Wilson came back to even the match through the eighth hole, but then three-putted the par-four ninth to allow Ervasti to take a one-up lead through nine holes.

"I knew there was a lot of golf left to play and there were more par fives and birdie opportunities, so I wasn't nervous when he took the lead," said Wilson.

His comments rang true as the match continued to the par-five 10th hole, where Wilson began to take control.

The 10th hole at Hackensack is 522 yards, and like the PGA Tour pro that he hopes to become one day, he feasted on the reachable par five, playing it in 8-under par for the week with four birdies and two eagles, including one today that required only a three-foot putt to

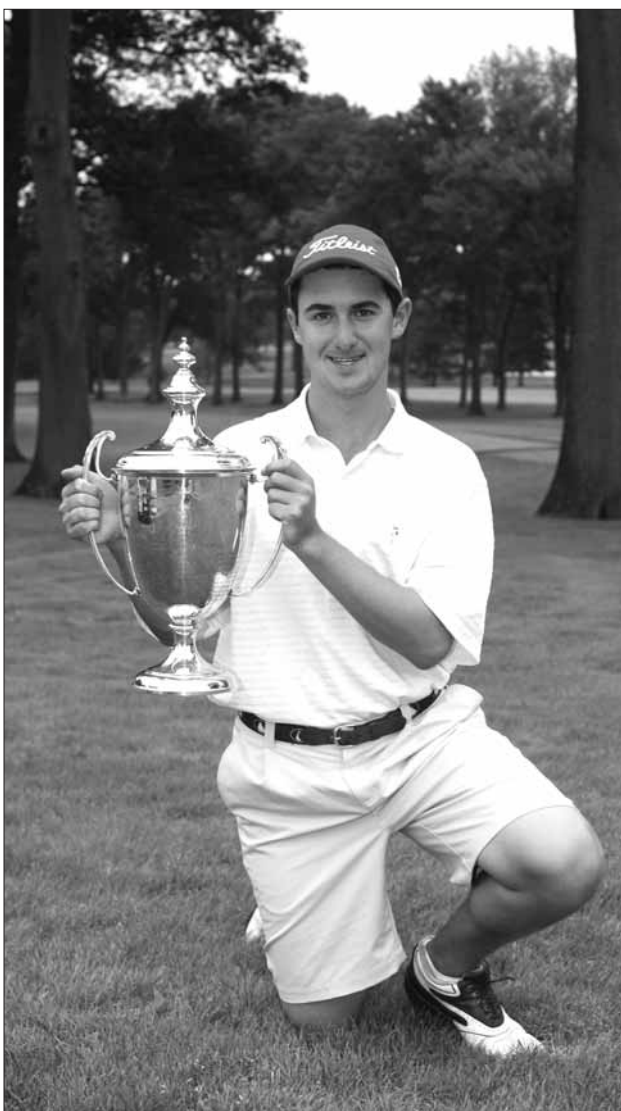
square the match with Ervasti.

Wilson then went on to win the par-four 13th, the par-four 16th and the par-three 17th holes with birdies to take a 4-up lead through 18 holes.

The players resumed the match at noon, and Ervasti began to immediately put heat on the youngster. Ervasti drained a 40-foot birdie putt on the first hole (19th of the match) to win the hole and go 3-down. He kept the momentum going with a second birdie at the next hole, putting pressure on Wilson and trimming his lead to 2-up.

Wilson won the par-three third hole, as he did in the morning, but Ervasti again closed to within 2-down with a sensational up-and-down at the par-four ninth hole (27th of the match), again holing a long putt.

However, just as he did in the morning, Wilson took advantage of the 10th through 13th holes. He used his prodigious length and accurate approach shots to pile up more birdies, including a two-putt birdie on the par-four 13th hole (31st hole of the match), where he hit the green and nearly holed his drive on the fly. That increased his lead back to 4-up, and he made two routine pars to close out the match on the par-five 15th hole, 4



Norwalk's Cameron Wilson displays the championship trophy after winning the 107th Met Amateur Sunday at Hackensack Golf Club. The 16-year-old Wilson, who beat John Ervasti of Sleepy Hollow 4-and-3 in the final, became the youngest Met Amateur champ in history.

Contributed photo

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"When one thing wasn't working, another thing was," Wilson said, assessing his play following the win. "Today I hit the ball really well, whereas earlier in match play I was putting really well."

Both players were supported by an enthusiastic gallery of family, friends, and Hackensack members who came out to watch. All came away impressed by the quality of play and of the course. "The moment I came

here for a practice round, I felt comfortable on this course," said Ervasti. "Cameron's a great player and I gave him a good fight, but just didn't make the putts when I needed to."

Next up for Wilson is U.S. Amateur qualifying on Tuesday at GlenArbor Golf Club in Bedford Hills, N.Y.

But before that? "I think I'm going to rest tomorrow," said the newest Met Amateur champion.

Tiger rallies to win at Firestone

From B1

time to contemplate his escape from the trees, the collar of a bunker and a dicey flop shot behind the green, he turned the hole known as "The Monster" into an utter mess.

The pivotal play was his fourth shot behind the green, which came out hot and into the water.

"I had an awkward fourth shot," Harrington said. "I had to go after it and probably rushed that a bit. That was the end of that."

Harrington told Woods when it was over, "We'll do battle many times again."

Woods, who holds the three-time major champion in high esteem, looked forward to that.

"Like I was telling him out there, I'm sorry that John got in the way of a great battle," because it was such a great battle for 16 holes," Woods said. "We're going at it, head-to-head, and unfortunately that happened. Paddy and I will definitely do it again."

Asked if he won because of an 8-iron or a stopwatch, Woods replied, "Both."

Paramor said the final pairing was 17 minutes behind schedule on the 16th hole and "we had no choice but to put them on the clock."

The dispute clouded an otherwise remarkable rally for Woods, who won his 16th title in just 30 starts in the World Championships series.

Woods, who has won the Bridgestone Invitational seven times in 10 starts and has never finished out of the top five, closed out his remarkable afternoon in style with a 6-foot birdie putt.

His fifth victory this year and 70th of his PGA Tour career put him three behind Jack Nicklaus, and 12 victories away from the all-time record held by Sam Snead.

"We locked horns pretty good," Woods said. "I made a couple of mistakes. Paddy was being consistent, grinding it out, doing all the right things. Unfortunately, 16 happened. But it was a great battle all day."

It was every bit of that.

Woods won for only the sixth time in his career when trailing by three shots or more, a deficit that didn't last long.

He hit his approach into the par-5 second hole just over the bunkers to 25 feet to make eagle, and two more birdies was enough for him to take the lead after only five holes. From the right rough on the ninth fairway — a rare miss on the front nine — Woods hit to 7 feet for a birdie that gave him a 30 on the outward nine and a two-shot lead.

Harrington, a three-time major champion with a tough mind, kept grinding away with pars and regained a share of the lead with his first birdie of the day on the 11th. And when Woods made consecutive bogeys, Harrington found himself with a one-shot lead heading for the homestretch.

What cost Harrington was his second shot from the trees, which he tried to land some 80 yards short of the green. Instead, he pulled the 5-iron to the grassy slope of the bunker.

The four-shot swing was the tournament. For the first time all day, Woods finally felt in control.

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