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The Hour

West Norwalk powers past Norwalk LL

NORWALK
By STEVE GEOGHEGAN
Hour Staff Writer

The West Norwalk Cal Ripken 12-year-old all-stars started off the Kinlock Tournament on the right foot.

West Norwalk rallied from a 4-1 deficit in the third inning and received a solid pitching performance from Chris Cotaling on its way to a 7-4 victory over Norwalk Little League Monday at Tim Devine Field.

West Norwalk is now 1-0 while Norwalk Little League slipped to 1-1.

"It was a great effort for the boys to come back against a very strong Norwalk Little League team," West Norwalk head coach Andy Andriuk said. "Our guys came around with their bats and did an excellent job. I'm very proud of them."

Mikey Terzian led West Norwalk's comeback with a three-run home run to tie the score at 4-4 in the third. Charles Lomanto plated what turned out to be the game-winning run on an RBI groundout in the fourth.

Cotaling (1-0) allowed four runs in the top of the second inning but settled down after that. He scattered six hits in his complete-game effort with six strikeouts and four walks and was backed by several outstanding defensive plays.

"Chris pitched a good game," Norwalk Little League head coach Mike Newcomb

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Hour photo/MATTHEW VINCI
Brendan Hanzlik, far left, of the Norwalk Little League all-stars is congratulated by teammate Ed Petrillo, center, after hitting a solo home run during Monday night's Kinlock Tournament game against West Norwalk Cal Ripken at Tim Devine Field. West Norwalk posted a 7-4 victory in its first game of the tournament.

Two teams, one mission

Norwalk aims for twin New England Regional titles

By MATTHEW DORAN
Hour Staff Writer

The quest begins this week. Two teams. One town. One goal.

One year after sending a team to the Babe Ruth World Series and coming away with its first overall championship, the city of Norwalk will be represented by two teams at the New England Regionals, each possessing the skill and mental toughness to replicate last season's magical run of success.

The 15-year-old all-stars, who captured the 2008 World Series title as 14-year-olds, will open the Regionals Wednesday at 9 a.m. against the New Hampshire state champion at Rhode Island College in North Providence.

The 14-year-olds will also open the Regionals against New Hampshire with a first-round game Thursday at 10 a.m. at McCarthy Stadium in West Warwick, R.I.

Each season, Norwalk's Babe Ruth program one-ups itself. First it started sending teams to the World Series. Then it started sending teams on a regular basis. Last year, the first World Series title was won. Now Norwalk is aiming for something that once might have seemed unimaginable: Two World Series teams in the same season.

"That would be unbe-



lievable," said Anthony Daniello, in his first season as head coach of the 15-year-old team after serving as an assistant to Mark Kohler last summer. "Right now it's just one game at a time and one tournament at a time. But still, getting back there would be special, win or lose."

A Regional victory by the 15-year-olds will send them to the World Series in Longview, Washington, on Aug. 21-28. The 14-year-old World Series will be in Appleton, Wis., on Aug. 22-29.

Both sites are a long way from Norwalk. But the way these two teams have been playing as of late, each capturing state titles in dominant fashion, no way is it a long shot.

"That would be amazing. It would be another first for Norwalk," said Gerald Anastasia, head coach of the 14-year-old team, which will be playing away from home for the first time as all-stars. Last season, Norwalk was eliminated from the state tournament then



Hour photo/MATTHEW VINCI
Jamie Restivo of the Norwalk 14-year-old Babe Ruth all-star team rips a single during the state tournament at Brien McMahon last week. The 14-year-olds will join the 15-year-old all-stars at the New England Regionals this week in the Providence area. Both teams won state titles and are aiming for berths to the World Series.

hosted the states at Brien McMahon this year.

"Let's put it this way: I see it as very possible," Anastasia said of coming home from Providence with two Regional titles. "With the pitching the 15s have and the way they produce offensively, I think they have a real good shot. For us, we just have to see how these guys react to playing on the road. That's going to be a big thing for us."

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Burress indicted

Antonio Pierce spared same fate

NEW YORK
By KAREN MATTHEWS
Associated Press

Former New York Giants star Plaxico Burress was indicted by a grand jury on weapons charges for shooting himself in the thigh at a Manhattan nightclub and faces a minimum prison sentence of 3 1/2 years if convicted, prosecutors announced Monday.

The indictment charged the 31-year-old Burress with two counts of criminal possession of a weapon and one count of reckless endangerment.



Burress

Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau said.

"The grand jury applied the law to the facts of this case," Morgenthau said. He said the accidental shooting at the Latin Quarter nightclub on Nov. 29 was treated "like any similar case against any other defendant."

Burress' lawyer, Benjamin Brafman, said he was disappointed but not surprised by the indictment, which came after Burress testified before the grand jury and expressed remorse.

"When you have the mayor and the district attorney both publicly demanding a maximum prison sentence, it was perhaps too much to hope for the grand jury to conduct a sympathetic review of the unique facts of this sad case," Brafman said in a statement.

Burress' former teammate Antonio Pierce, who was with Burress in the club and drove him to the hospital, was not indicted.

The panel also did not indict the nightclub security guard who carried the gun to Pierce's car or the hospital staff members who failed to notify police that Burress had been shot.

Morgenthau said hospital personnel were guilty of "a screw-up rather than a cover-up" and the security guard exhibited "bad judgment in the first degree" but did not commit a crime.

Pierce, who also testified before the grand jury last week, was practicing with the Giants in Albany when he learned of the panel's decision.

Giants President John Mara said the team was pleased that the linebacker was not indicted.

"We said last week we felt strongly that Antonio's actions did not warrant crim-

15-year-old Regionals
At North Providence, R.I.
Game 1: Wednesday
vs. New Hampshire, 9 a.m.

14-year-old Regionals
At West Warwick, R.I.
Game 1: Thursday
vs. New Hampshire, 10 a.m.



AP photo
New York's Angel Pagan (16) tumbles backward after scoring on David Wright's fifth-inning single as Arizona pitcher Dan Haren (15) comes in to help cover the plate in Monday's game at Citi Field in New York. Diamondbacks catcher Miguel Montero is at right. The Diamondbacks beat the Mets, 6-5.

Mets stumble against D'backs

Reynolds' two home runs power Arizona

NEW YORK
By JAY COHEN
Associated Press

Mark Reynolds hit two more home runs at spacious Citi Field, powering Dan Haren and the Arizona Diamondbacks to a 6-5 victory over the scuffling New York Mets on Monday night.

Reynolds and Miguel Montero capped Arizona's three-run first with only the second set of back-to-back homers at New York's plush new ballpark. Reynolds added a 420-foot, two-run shot off Nelson Figueroa in the second.

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Gerardo Parra had three hits and drove in a run for the Diamondbacks, who nearly blew a six-run lead. Haren (11-6) allowed five runs and eight hits over seven innings, and is 7-2 with a 2.44 ERA in his last 10 starts.

Daniel Murphy homered and Luis Castillo drove in two runs for New York, which has lost four of five after winning five consecutive games.

Arizona won three of four in the series behind Reynolds, who

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