



Hour photo/MATTHEW VINCI
Edward Petrillo of the Norwalk Little League all-stars slides safely into third as Mikey Terzian of West Norwalk waits for a throw during Monday night's Kinlock Tournament game at Tim Devine Field. Terzian hit a game-tying three-run home run in the third and West Norwalk went on to post a 7-4 victory.

West Norwalk wins Kinlock opener

From B1

said. "We had him on the ropes and didn't get him out of the game. He battled and we couldn't come through when we needed to with some hits. It was a well-played game, all around."

West Norwalk took a 1-0 lead off starter Paul Salata (0-1) in the bottom of the first.

Leo Andriuk walked with one out and took second on a single to left by Terzian, who was 3-for-3 with two runs scored. Andriuk tagged up and went to third on a fly out to right and scored on an RBI single up the middle by Thomas Clyne.

Salata also pitched a complete game, allowing seven runs on seven hits with three strikeouts and four walks.

"He pitched well but the walks killed us," coach Newcomb said.

Norwalk LL answered with a four-run second inning and capitalized on some misplays in the field by West Norwalk.

With one out, Brendan Hanzlik hit a solo home run over the centerfield fence to tie the score at 1-1. Edward Petrillo walked, Drew Pace hit a bloop single over the head of Terzian at third and the runners advanced to second and third on a wild pitch. After a strikeout, Jared Smith (3-for-4) had an infield single to short that scored Petrillo and

Alex Scallion reached on an infield error, plating Pace.

Trey Newcomb hit a bullet to short that took a bad hop and landed into left field for an RBI single to give Norwalk Little League its lone lead of the game. It could have been worse if not for a diving catch in left field by Steven Galyas, who dove into foul territory to make a catch on a fly ball off the bat of Ryan Evans to retire the side.

"That was a tremendous catch," Andriuk said. "It was actually in foul territory and up the hill a little bit. He said that he fell but we all saw him leave his feet."

The third-inning rally for West Norwalk started when Cotaling and Andriuk worked back-to-back walks. Terzian followed with a three-run homer over the left field wall to tie the game at 4-4.

"He threw me an inside fastball and I turned on it," Terzian said. "I've been doing a lot of batting practice, which helps. It's a good start (for the team) so hopefully it continues."

A two-run second inning put West Norwalk on top for good, 6-4.

Tyler Tsang led off with a single to right and Ryan Connors followed with a walk. They both moved up a base when the ball got away from Evans behind the plate. Lomanto's grounder to short was able to plate Tsang. Connors scored

on an RBI groundout to second by Cotaling.

"Mikey Terzian got us back in the game and from that point on, the boys were on base all the time after that it seemed," Andriuk said. "It was a nice job by the boys to get on base and get in."

Cotaling wasn't perfect after the second inning but he got the job done. Terzian turned a double play at third unassisted to first in the third and retired eight of the last nine batters he faced.

"I felt good," Cotaling said. "We just had a bad inning (in the second). After that, I was more focused and just went back to the fundamentals, keeping my eye on the target and the stride. (This win) helps because they beat Cranbury the other day."

Andriuk was impressed with the way his ace bounced back after the second inning.

"He was fantastic and really came through," he said. "At the end of the third inning, I asked him if he was all right and he just wanted to keep going back in there. When he shut them down in the fourth inning, I knew he was going to go all the way."

Terzian scored on an RBI infield single, between Salata and Scallion at third, by Kei Pritsker in the fifth inning to complete the scoring.

Norwalk aims for twin titles

From B1

Ironically enough, both of Norwalk's teams will be trying to get it done within miles of each other. With each tournament based in the greater Providence area, the teams will be just minutes apart. Should either one get the chance, they'll be heading over to the other location to root on their Babe Ruth brethren.

"We're going to try," Anastasia said. "If the schedules work that way and we're off and they're playing or vice versa, we're so close we definitely want to keep in touch."

Both teams head into the Regionals having overcome adversity in the state tournament, which should give each team plenty of confidence and momentum.

The 15-year-old team had to dig itself out a huge hole after losing in the first round of the states against Stamford. But Norwalk came back to win six straight out of the losers bracket, beating Stamford twice in the finals by scores of 7-2 and 12-2 to claim its second straight title.

Norwalk didn't want to lose in the first round, but looking back, it might have been a blessing in disguise.

"Overall, I think it did help us," said Aleko Petridis, who went 2-0 on the mound during the states. "The first game we didn't hit at all, and slowly but surely, every game we got better and better hitting. The hit count just kept going up and up until the last game when we broke it open."

The 15-year-olds swept through the District title in four straight games, winning by a combined margin of 54-4 with three shutouts. Norwalk then outscored its opponents 46-15 at the states using a potent offense powered by speedy leadoff batter Bryan Daniello, Leon Fleming and Danny Diaz, so Daniello knows his team is capable of lighting up the scoreboard against anyone.

But it's Norwalk's deep pitching staff, led by Petridis, James Cooksey and Bryan Daniello, that should make Norwalk one of the favorites to win the Regional title.

"If you look back at the states, we played every day, six days in a row," Daniello said. "We know if we have to play every day, we have the pitching to do that. Even if we lose a game here or there, I'm confident we have the pitching to be in every game."

The 14-year-olds also came out of the state tournament knowing it can bounce back on its feet after getting

knocked down. In the second game against defending New England champion Greenwich, Norwalk came back from four different deficits to post a 16-15 victory.

"We know that we can come back now," shortstop Jamie Restivo said. "We know our offense is good enough to get it done no matter what."

After losing to Newtown in the first game of the championship round, the host 14-year-olds came back the next morning and posted a decisive 10-0 run-rule victory to claim the state title.

"You always like to lose early," Anastasia said. "Would I have liked to have won on Friday night? Yes. You're taking a chance playing another game. But you always like to have a loss under your belt."

Norwalk, led offensively by first-baseman Richie Henderson, catcher Mike Parlanti and third-baseman Mike Carter, should be one of the favorites to win the title along with Cranston (R.I.), which finished second at the 14-year-old level to Greenwich.

"I feel good about our chances," Anastasia said. "Connecticut had the representative last year. Greenwich went right through it, so we just have to stay focussed and play our game. If we do that we've got a good shot."

"This team has a lot of fight in them. It's been a year in the making," Anastasia added. "This town should be really proud of them."

Norwalk's only question mark is pitching. With ace left-hander Mike Hughes on the mound, the 14-year-olds have been golden. Hughes went 3-0 during the state tournament with three shutouts. But Norwalk still doesn't have a definitive No. 2 starter, which could be an issue at a tournament like the Regionals.

"Hughes has been great, but we need someone else to step up if we're going to win," Anastasia said. "If not, we're going to have to mix and match and pitch by committee. We do have enough arms to do it that way."

Going into the Regionals as defending World Series champions will have its advantages for the 15-year-olds. Simply going through that process and coming out on top gives Norwalk a huge mental edge over its opponents.

"It helps a lot," Petridis said. "You get the experience, but also all the other teams know you, so there's a little intimidation factor there. The experience and getting to know the players helps a lot."

However, Norwalk will

have a giant-sized target on its back. Everyone will be gunning for them, trying to play their best against them.

For Norwalk, that's not much of a concern.

"Everyone is out to get us, but sometimes that's a good thing," Daniello said. "It makes us think, 'Everyone's out to get us. Let's show them why we're the best.'"

Should Norwalk win its second straight New England title with everyone watching, with everyone expecting them to do it, the accomplishment will be that much more impressive.

"I like it because you know everyone's gunning for you," Petridis said. "In the end, if we can win, it'll be an even greater accomplishment."

The 15-year-olds will go into the Regionals minus three players from last summer's team, including World Series MVP Kevin Daniele, who played for the Norwalk American Legion team instead. But that gave players like third baseman Brandon Davis and centerfielder Zack O'Connor a chance to play every day, and so far both have filled in quite well. Daniele played third base for the all-stars last year.

"That's the great thing about baseball," Daniello said. "You lose a couple guys and a couple others step up."

"Kevin (Daniele) was a big help last year," Petridis said. "But Brandon (Davis) has taken his spot and helped us out a lot with a couple of home runs and RBIs, so he's done well."

Knowing the 15-year-olds won the World Series title last summer hadn't put much pressure on the 14-year-olds to repeat the feat. It's actually motivated them, giving them confidence that it can be done if they play their best baseball.

"They were actually saying if they could do it then we can too," Restivo said. "We know we can do it."

Whatever happens this week, the city of Norwalk should be proud to say it has two teams battling for New England Regional titles at the same time.

"This is a great baseball town," Anastasia said. "I think every summer we prove that, and that helps the high school teams, who always have a chance to win it."

Still, Norwalk would love to come back from Providence with two tickets to the World Series.

"One World Series was great," Petridis said. "Two in the same year would be unbelievable."

But not out of the question.

Mets closer to getting injured players back

By JAY COHEN

Associated Press

NEW YORK — All-Star center fielder Carlos Beltran shagged fly balls Monday for the first time

METS NOTES since going on the disabled list with a

bruised right knee, part of another encouraging day for the injury-riddled New York Mets.

Billy Wagner, out all season following elbow ligament replacement surgery, worked another perfect inning in his second minor league rehab

appearance and first baseman Carlos Delgado took batting practice on the field for the first time since hip surgery.

Beltran said he took about 30 fly balls and the bone bruise on his knee bothered him twice, but with much less pain than before.

"I think it's progress because I didn't feel it all the time," he said "and I ran in the pool today, like six miles per hour, and I didn't feel anything. It's getting better little by little."

Beltran, who took early batting practice on

the field Saturday, said his knee still needs to improve before he would feel comfortable playing the outfield. He was still sticking to his plan to be back in approximately two weeks.

"That's my plan," he said before the Mets hosted the Arizona Diamondbacks. "That's my target and I'm doing everything possible for me to accomplish that."

Delgado had surgery on his right hip in mid-May. The slugger said he probably will run Tuesday but there is no timetable for his return.

Mets drop three of four against D'backs

From B1

put up impressive numbers despite resting during Sunday's 5-2 victory. The slugger went 5 for 12 with four homers and five RBIs against New York. He has seven long balls in his last seven games and is batting .387 (24 for 62) with eight homers since the All-Star break.

The Diamondbacks led 6-0 after two innings against Figueroa (1-1), who was recalled from Triple-A Buffalo with

New York needing a fill-in starter because of a rainout last week and subsequent doubleheader. The right-hander, who grew up in Brooklyn, failed to make it out of the second in his second start.

Parra had an RBI single in the first and Justin Upton singled in a run in the second against Figueroa, who allowed a career-high 10 hits in 1 2-3 innings.

Four relievers combined to shut out the Diamondbacks after Figueroa left, giving New

York a chance to rally. Castillo hit a two-run single in the Mets' three-run fifth and Murphy went deep for his seventh homer to make it 6-5 in the sixth.

New York had a chance to tie it in the eighth but couldn't come up with a big hit. Gary Sheffield doubled with one out against Jon Rauch but Murphy fouled out and Jeff Francoeur hit a harmless bouncer to third to end the inning. Chad Qualls worked a perfect ninth for his 20th save.

Ahmad wins latest Road Runners event

Contributed report
Nadeem Ahmad of Westport won his second Westport Road Runners race of the season, leading 133 runners over the flat, scenic and 4.7-mile certified course with the time of 26:13 Saturday at Longshore Club Park.

Ahmad's time, however, was well off the course record of 23:36 set by Dave Peterson of Fairfield in 1983.

Second and third places in Saturday's race were awarded to Tom Parise of Atlanta, Ga., and Jon Foster of Westport, with respective times of 27:08 and 27:50. The first woman to finish was Amy Fredericks of Norwalk in ninth place with the time of 29:47. Second and third places in the women's division were awarded to Liz Herbert of

Darien in 12th place and Kristen Simonsen of Westport in 26th place with respective times of 30:12 and 32:38.

Other Westport-Weston residents who finished in the top 10 were Paul Greenberg (fourth in 28:39), Roland Lochoff (fifth in 28:58), David Allen (eighth in 29:25), and K. C. Klegar, 10th in 30:03.

The next scheduled Road Runners race will be held on Saturday, August 8, at 8 a.m. with a 5.85 mile run starting at Compo Beach.

All interested persons are invited to participate in this popular summer program. Applications for and information about the Road Runners Program are available at the Recreation Offices at Longshore Club Park, at

the start of each Saturday's race, or at the Program's website located at: westportroadrunners.org.

Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. at the Brick Pavilion located near the cannons. The fee for the program is \$30 for Westport residents and \$50 for non-residents.

In addition, participants have the option of paying a weekly fee of \$5 (resident) or \$8 (non-resident) per race fee instead of the program fee. All participants may park in the main Compo Beach Parking Lot.

Complete results of Saturday's 4.7 mile race are attached or may be found at the Westport Road Runners Summer Series website located at: westportroadrunners.org .