

Undefeated West Point takes title

The Junior Division team routs Apollo in the Norm Flemm Tournament final.

WEST POINT 12, APOLLO 1

BY BRIAN KAMINSKI

FOR THE VALLEY NEWS DISPATCH

APOLLO — Top-seeded West Point entered the Norm Flemm Tournament as the top seed with an undefeated record. Manager Tim Rowe joked that his team did not want to end up like the New England Patriots and lose in the championship game.

Rowe can relax. West Point defeated Apollo, 12-1, in the Junior Division final Friday at Apollo-Ridge High School to cap a 17-0 season.

"We definitely knew that we would have to take our game to another level in this game," Rowe said. "The entire team stepped up big for us."

West Point struck early, as brothers Tanner and Tyler Rowe singled to begin the game. Matt Moyer sacrificed Tanner Rowe home, and Tyler Rowe scored on a



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Cody Dalicandro single. West Point loaded the bases later in the inning, and Chris Barone brought them all home with a double to give West Point a 5-0 lead.

"On most teams, you don't expect your No. 8 hitter to come through like that,"

Tim Rowe said. "But on this team, we knew Chris could get it done for us."

West Point continued to show its offensive prowess in the second inning, when the Rowe brothers singled to start another rally. Moyer recorded two more RBI as he doubled them home and then scored

on a Dalicandro single to make it 8-0. West Point scored four more runs in the fourth inning, as Tyler Rowe scored on a throwing error, and Issac Hertzog doubled home two runs before scoring on a Barone single.

After a fiery pep talk from manager Joe Gembella, Apollo responded with a Ryan Mack solo home run and several baserunners, but it managed only one run.

"That's Ryan's second home run this year, and the other one was a grand slam," Gembella said. "I sort of wish this was the one that could've been (another grand slam)."

Moyer recorded the win, throwing a complete game in five innings and only allowing three hits.

"That's the first time all season we asked him to get a complete game for us, and he came through for us in the pinch," Tim Rowe said.

Despite falling one win short of a championship, Gembella believes Apollo learned lessons in the tournament.

"These kids never gave up on me whenever I challenged them," Gembella said. "They always responded, and they learned hard work pays off for us to get this deep in the tournament."