

By Herky Cosh

Baseball

The future is now at West Mifflin. Coach Jeff Kuzma is looking for a third straight section title and hopes to add a little more icing on his cake.

Despite those back-to-back section titles, Kuzma's crew figures to be hungry after consecutive first round playoff losses.

And there will be a strong group of experienced players setting out for that section three-peat. Especially in the infield where Mike Mroz returns at third base and is joined by returning starters Nick Miller at shortstop, Kevin Quinn at second, and Jesse Clayton at first. In addition the pitching trio of Bill Bendgen, Josh Dawida and Jeff Ziegler return as does leftfielder Brian Ripper.

Scott Commander will be in center after missing last year with a hand injury. Other newcomers are Johnathan Pollack, DH and pitcher; catcher Bill Hodgetts; utilityman Brandon Constantino; and outfielder Tony Spicuzza. Anthony Olgetree will also see duty as the designated hitter.

Bendgen, Dawida, Mroz, Clayton, Commander, Olgetree and Spicuzza are seniors. The rest of the squad is made up of juniors.

"We have high expectations," Kuzma said. "If we stay healthy and play smart baseball we should be in line for the section title." Kuzma added their section is loaded with strong teams and every game figures to be a battle.