

AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

TRENTON DOUBLES UP RIVALRY

By DAN ANGELL

For the Trentonian

TRENTON — It would be an understatement to call Mitchell Davis Post 182's Franklin Armstrong a tough player after what he went through yesterday to stay in the game against Trenton Post 93.

In the top of the fourth, Armstrong, who was batting left-handed to protect an injured shoulder, swung at a pitch from Trenton's Shaun Connell and hit the dirt in pain after re-injuring the shoulder on the swing.

But no matter how much it hurt, there was no way Armstrong was going to come out of this game.

"I wanted to play through it," he said. "I'm not going to let our team down, I'm the captain."

Armstrong stayed in the game, but his effort ultimately proved to be in vain. Mitchell Davis (0-3) could not overcome several fielding miscues that led to an early 8-0 deficit, and lost 12-6 to Trenton (1-1).

"We've got to make routine plays," said Mitchell Davis co-manager Nate Bryant, whose team committed three errors in the first inning and four for the game. "In the first inning, we had a tailor-made double-play ground ball, and the second baseman can't hold on to the ball. That was a big difference."

The errors in the first inning led to four unearned runs for Trenton, an advantage that would become important when

Mitchell Davis attempted to claw back in the later innings.

"They made a lot of mistakes and we capitalized on them," Trenton manager Doug Moore said. "I'm pretty happy with the way the kids played. We've got to get back to fundamentals, we missed a couple signs, but I'm pretty happy overall."

Ironically, the game almost turned in Mitchell Davis's favor after an ejection of Mitchell Davis starting pitcher Jorge Armstrong, who was tossed because he threw his batting helmet after a strikeout. Mitchell Davis scored six runs in the next four innings while Brad DeUmberto held Trenton to one run after inheriting the unenviable task of entering the game trailing by eight runs.

"If you go up there with a good mindset, you get people on, anything's possible, especially in Legion," DeUmberto said.

But despite battling the heat, which Moore said caused him to pull some of his players because they were overheating, Trenton had enough left at the end to hold off Mitchell Davis and notch its first win of the season.

"Intensity was a big part of it, because it's so hot out," Trenton's Matt Joiner said. "You feel like you're going to pass out, but you've got to keep your focus."

Focus is never a problem for either of these teams when they face each other. As the two Mercer County American Legion

League teams from Trenton, the city teams have enjoyed several close games and a healthy rivalry.

"No matter when we play them it's always a battle, no matter what the records are," Moore said. "We're inner-city rivals. No matter what the score against them is, they always come back."

DeUmberto said that the rivalry was a big motivating factor as Mitchell Davis tried to dig itself out of the early hole that its slow start had created.

"These guys are our rivals, we don't want to lose big to them," he said. "We've still got three more games against them. We'll get them."

TRENTON 12, M. DAVIS 6

MITCHELL DAVIS	ab	r	h	bi	TRENTON	ab	r	h	bi
F. Armstrong, cf-p	2	1	0	0	O'Boyle, lf	3	3	2	0
J. Armstrong, p	1	0	0	0	G. Suarez, 2b	3	0	3	1
Thompson, lf	2	0	1	0	DeJesus, ph-2b	1	0	0	0
Gonzales, 3b-ss	2	2	0	0	X. Jaquez, c	1	3	0	0
Owens, c	5	1	4	1	Joiner, 1b-p	3	2	1	2
Miller, 1b-3b	3	0	1	2	Sebasto, ss	0	2	0	2
Gomez, lf-1b	3	1	1	0	Brochelli, 3b	3	1	1	1
DeUmberto, ss-p	3	1	0	0	Mondello, dh	3	0	0	0
Ocasio, 2b	4	0	0	0	C. Suarez, dh	1	0	0	0
Florence, rf	4	0	1	2	Gramajo, rf	2	0	1	1
					Garcia, rf	1	0	0	0
					Gonzalez, cf	3	1	0	0
Totals	29	6	11	5	Totals	24	12	8	7

MITCHELL DAVIS						
	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
J. Armstrong, L	2	6	8	4	3	0
DeUmberto	3	2	1	1	2	4
F. Armstrong	1	0	3	2	4	1

TRENTON						
	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Checo, W	3	2	2	1	6	2
Connell	3.1	7	4	4	2	0
A. Jaquez	0.2	1	0	0	0	0
Joiner	1	1	0	0	1	2

HBP- Miller (Connell), PB- Owens.

Chotkowski lifts North Trenton over Princeton

Staff Report

Matt Chotkowski had four hits, scored twice and had two RBIs to help North Trenton Post 458 (1-1) to a 9-6 victory over Princeton Post 218. C.J. Prettyman added three hits and two stolen bases for North Trenton.

Both teams struggled in the field, combining for seven errors. As a result, eight of the teams' combined 15 runs were unearned.

In the losing effort, Princeton's Trevor Barsamian had a solo home run and Danny Etherton had a triple and a run scored.

Luis Alvarez pitched 4 1/3 innings of three-hit baseball, giving up one run and earning the victory. Jim Fuhrman was tagged with the loss after surrendering seven runs (three unearned) in four innings of work.

WWP 7, Hamilton 6

Alex Campbell had a walk-off single with the bases loaded in the bottom of the seventh to power WWP to the season's first

win.

Ryan Phelan scored four times while going 2-for-2 with a triple.

Matching Phelan with two hits was Max Merkowitz, who also knocked in an RBI.

Greyson Van Dyke and Evan Smith combined on the mound, with Smith snatching the win in

WWP 7, HAMILTON 6

HAMILTON 31	ab	r	h	bi	WWP	ab	r	h	bi
Ridge	3	0	1	0	Leibowitz	3	1	0	0
Byrdzinski	4	0	0	0	Aurora	2	0	1	0
Mastrangelo	4	1	2	0	Titsch	4	1	0	0
Zucchero	2	1	1	1	Phelan	2	4	2	0
Fryczynski	2	1	1	0	Merkowitz	2	0	2	1
Kalokitis	0	2	1	0	Male	3	0	0	2
Baron	4	1	1	1	Campbell	3	0	1	1
Dudeck	4	0	0	0	Otis	2	1	1	0
Constantini	1	0	0	0	Block	2	0	1	0
Moffat	1	0	0	0					
Maher	0	0	0	0					
Totals	27	6	7	2	Totals	23	7	8	2

HAMILTON 31						
	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Paul	2	2	3	3	5	2
Puhalski	3	1	2	1	4	3
Dragert (L)	2	5	2	2	1	1

WWP						
	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Van Dyke	5	5	3	2	3	5
Smith (W)	2	2	3	1	3	1

WP- Van Dyke, PB- Phelan.

relief.

Hamilton's Joe Mastrangelo led his team with two hits, while Nick Zucchero and Billy Baron each chipped in an RBI for the losing team.

N. TRENTON 9, PRINCETON 6

AWAY	ab	r	h	bi	HOME	ab	r	h	bi
Chotkowski, ss	5	2	4	2	Hoffman, 2b	2	0	0	0
Prettyman, 2b	4	1	3	1	Jeong, 2b	2	0	0	0
DeLisa, cf	2	0	1	0	Etherton, cf	4	1	0	0
Pierly, c	2	2	1	1	O'Brien, ss	2	1	0	0
Carmona, 3b	4	1	1	0	Barsamian, dh-1b	4	2	2	1
DeBonis, 1b	3	0	0	0	Mays, c	3	1	2	1
Alvarez, dh-p	4	2	0	0	Siegel, 1b	4	1	2	2
Mimmo, rf	4	0	1	0	Baxendale, lf	2	0	0	0
Ricciardi, lf	3	1	0	0	Fuchs, lf	0	0	0	0

Totals						
	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
North Trenton (1-1)	31	9	10	5	29	6
Princeton (0-1)						

NORTH TRENTON						
	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Morgante	2.2	6	5	3	3	4
Alvarez, W	4.1	3	1	1	2	3

PRINCETON						
	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Fuhrman, L	4	7	7	4	2	4
Gordy	2.2	2	2	0	4	2
Madden	0.1	1	0	0	0	0

WP- Fuhrman 2, Gordy, BK- Fuhrman.