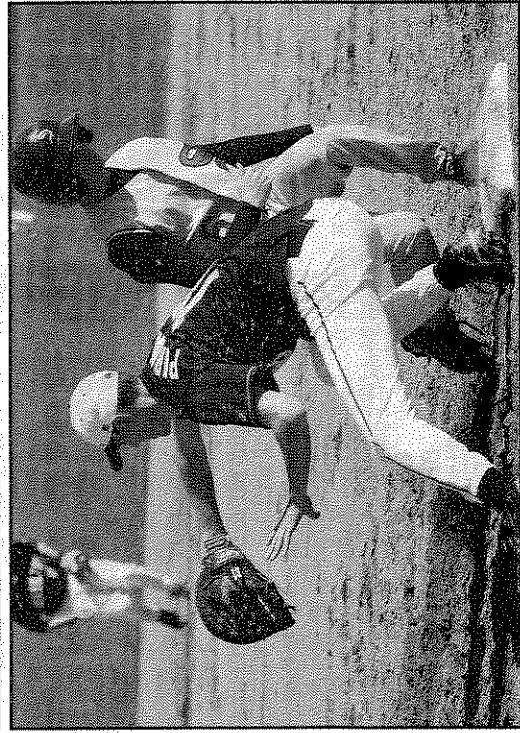


HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL



Steinert's Nick Beers, right, gets back to the bag ahead of the throw as Hamilton's Paul Piromalli reaches for the throw.

Trentonian Photo/JACKIE SCHEAR

# SPARTANS ROLL

By RED BIRCH

**HAMILTON** — In order to take some pressure off their pitchers, the Steinert High baseball players have a simple formula they use in an effort to score runs.

"It's all about getting guys on, getting them over, and getting them in," Spartans senior Matt Maher said.

As the No. 2 hitter in Steinert's lineup, Maher has a big part in that mix. He is very capable of getting that job done in a number of ways as are all of his teammates.

The Spartans showed their deadly ability to manufacture runs in racing past cross-town rival Hamilton yesterday, 16-1, in six innings.

Along the way, Steinert (7-0) banged out 15 hits, drew eight walks and had two other players hit by pitch. The Spartans were able to score 16 times over the course of five innings (yes, there was one inning in which they did not score) to help starting pitcher Neil Harm settle in.

In response, Harm and reliever James Pugliese limited the Hornets (2-4) to four hits.

"Our pitchers have been phenomenal," Maher said. "They just go out and get the job done."

The same could be said of Steinert's offense, which has outscored opponents, 63-6, so far this spring. The most impressive thing about that number is coach Brian Giallella's team is not hitting at its best yet, and is quite happy to manufacture runs.

That's where Maher is the perfect example. He is more than happy to reach base via walk, hit by pitch or single. In fact, the RBI double he hit in

the third inning yesterday was the first extra-base hit he has managed in a while.

No worries. Maher is just as happy to move any runners ahead of him along whether by bunt, ground out, fly ball or hit. Against Hamilton, the team his father, Jim, used to coach, he went 2-for-3, scored twice and knocked in two more — one on a sacrifice fly.

"I don't think anyone on this team is feeling any pressure," Matt Maher said. "In fact, the great thing is that everyone contributes, even the guys off the bench. It's been like that all year."

Steinert made sure it was the Hornets who felt pressure from the second inning on when the visitors began scoring.

Starting pitcher Tim Dooling survived the first two innings, but after hitting Marc Mocerri with a pitch to open the third, Maher followed with his RBI double, then Mark Kalokitis singles to start the Spartans on the way to a four-run inning.

"We're making too many mistakes," Hamilton coach John Costantino said of his young squad. "We let their leadoff hitter get on just about every inning. That's not a good recipe for success."

The Hornets stayed as close as 5-1 when Anthony Verderese singled in Paul Piromalli with two outs in the bottom of the third inning. That was his team's first hit.

Hamilton put runners in scoring position in each of the next three innings, yet could not score, while Steinert added 11 runs.

"That is something the Spartans, who stranded 11 runners, figure to do a lot more as their hitting gets sharper in May."

**Staff Report**  
**HIGHTSTOWN** — Ben Meer's bases-loaded triple in the top of the sixth inning broke open a tie game and helped the Hopewell Valley High baseball team pick up its first win with a 10-6 decision over Hightstown yesterday.

Meer went 3-for-4 in the game, adding a double and a run scored to the damage he did. Carl Sorg and Eric Palin added two hits apiece for the Bulldogs (1-3).

Charles Schultz went 2-for-3 and scored twice for the Rams (1-4), who had just rallied to tie the game, 6-6, with a pair of runs in the bottom of the fifth before Meer's big hit.

**EWING 4, Robbinsville 1**  
**EWING** — Nick Cifelli ripped three hits, including a triple and a home run, as the Blue Devils improved to 6-0 with a win over CVC Patriot Division rival Robbinsville.

Colin Holmes gave up just four hits in six innings for his third win.

Ravens sophomore right-hander Ryan Leader suffered his third setback.

**PDS 7, Princeton 6**  
**PRINCETON** — Jon Walker doubled and knocked in two runs as Princeton Day School edged Princeton High.

Colby Haring and Benito Gonzalez each had two hits and drove in two runs for the Little Tigers in a losing effort.

**Hun & Pennington 1**  
**PRINCETON** — Mike Ford hit a pair of two-run homers to help Hun even its record with a win over Pennington.

Nick Couveller earned the victory to improve to 2-1.

Joe Mayes drove in the Red Raiders' only run in the fifth. Pennington (1-2) 000 010 0 — 1 5 3  
 HR: H-Ford 2. RBIs: P-Mayes, H-Ford 4, Sessa, McNeys, Picot, Couveller (2-1), LP-McNeill (0-1).

**Blair Academy 8, Peddie 4**  
**HIGHTSTOWN** — Connor Kortmann homered and Anthony Buonopane doubled, but three other hits off Blair pitcher Ryan Lubreski as the Falcons saw a 3-1 lead disappear.

Blair Academy (7-2) 100 214 0 — 8 11 3  
 Peddie (2-3) 021 001 0 — 4 5 3  
 HR: BA-Boisture 4, Peterson; P-Buonopane, Kortmann; WP-Lubreski (4-0), LP-Varusi (1-2).

**New Egypt 13, Riverside 9**  
**RIVERSIDE** — Doug Miller cleared the bases with a triple in the fourth inning as the Warriors stretched their lead to 9-5 on the way to victory over Riverside in BCSL Freedom Division action.

Miller had five RBIs for New Egypt (2-2), while winning pitcher Dakota Havens knocked in four.

New Egypt (2-2) 240 310 3 — 13 10 3  
 Riverside (2-4) 032 002 2 — 9 14 1  
 HR: NE-Tortorello; R-Mount, 3B-NE-Sleen, Miller; Havens; RBIs: NE-Miller 5, Sleen 3, Havens 4; R-Mount, Borek, Perrillo 2, McFadden 2; WP-Havens (1-1), LP-Chabalat

**Morrisville 10, DelCo Christian 1**  
**MORRISVILLE, Pa.** — Kyle Schnee had a double as the Bulldogs picked up their second win.

DelCo Christian (2-3) 001 000 0 — 1 4 3  
 Morrisville (2-3) 011 418 X — 10 6 1  
 WP-Demi, LP-Goebel.

**Positronements**  
 Lawrence's home game with West Windsor-Plainsboro North was postponed again yesterday because of unplayable field conditions.

Florence's game at Palmyra was also postponed and will be made up at 11 a.m. today.

**EWING 4, ROBBINSVILLE 1**

RVILLE	ab	r	h	bi	EWING	ab	r	h	bi
Fleming	3	0	0	0	Kantor	SS	3	0	0
Karagjazi	1b	3	0	1	Elder	rf	3	0	0
Ulisse	ss	3	0	1	Cielli	3b	3	2	1
Casey	cf	3	0	0	Arnold	lf	2	1	1
Strano	c	3	0	0	Melcalle	c	3	0	0
Leader	p-3b	2	1	0	Wycoff	cf	3	0	1
Vorasso	dh	2	1	0	McGuire	cf	3	0	1
Sparrella	3b	0	0	0	Delmonte	dh-p	3	0	0
Burum	p	0	0	0	Holmes	p	3	0	0
Zingaro	rf	2	0	1	Kildearden	rf	3	0	0
Kowalski	2b	2	0	1	Kildearden	2b	2	0	1
Totals	24	1	5	1	Totals	25	4	9	2
Robbinsville (1-6)	000 010 0 — 4				EWING (4-0)	000 310 0 — 4			
HR: K-Miller; Strano, Sparrella, Cielli, DP-Ewing; E-Kantor; RBIs: EW-Miller 3, Strano, Sparrella, SB-Cielli, HR-Cielli 3; SB-Cielli 2, McGuire, Wycoff, CS-Zingaro 2, Leader, Cielli.									

**ROBBINSVILLE**

Leader	L	0-3	ER	BB	SO
Burum	H	7	4	3	0
	R	1	0	0	1

**EWING**

IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
1	4	1	0	0	1
1	4	1	0	0	1

Holmes W 3-0  
 Delmonte S 2

**PDS 7, PRINCETON 6**

PDS	ab	r	h	bi	PRINCETON	ab	r	h	bi
Kelly	cf	3	1	1	Miranda	3b	3	0	0
Wright	2b	4	0	0	Robbins	2b	3	0	0
Backoff	ss	4	0	0	Barbieri	lf	4	0	0
Fuhrman	rf	4	1	0	Bursuman	rf	3	2	0
Samsa	dh	4	1	0	Alvarez	lf	2	1	0
Horan	3b	3	2	1	Haring	dh	3	1	2
Deutsch	p	0	0	0	Shimamoto	3b	0	0	0
Backhoff	php	3	2	1	Fuchs	c	3	1	1
Fanna	lf	3	0	1	Powell	p	1	0	0
Walker	lf	3	0	1	Gonzalez	ph	2	1	2
Totals	32	7	7	4	Totals	28	6	10	5
PDS (2-1)	120 130 0 — 7				PDS (1-5)	120 130 0 — 7			
Princeton (1-5)	000 401 1 — 6				E-Shimamoto 3; Ethenet 2; Cordonnier Hoffman; Gonzalez; LOB-Princeton Day School 7, Princeton 3; 2B-Samsa, Deutsch, Walker, Miranda; Barsa-Cannon, Gonzalez, Ethenet, 3B-Haring, SB-Kelly, Caman, Baird, Furman, DeSoto, Fuchs.				

**PRINCETON DAY SCHOOL**

Deutsch	W	1-0	ER	BB	SO
Backhoff	S	1	4	2	0
	H	2	6	2	2
	R	3	3	1	2

Powell  
 Gonzalez L 1-2

**LOCAL UPDATE**  
**American Legion Baseball**  
 The Trenton Posts 93/182 American Legion Baseball team will be holding registration for this season's team at 6 p.m. today at the Wetzel Field clubhouse.

The Mercer County American Legion League season is set to begin June 1 and continues through late July.

Residents of any of Trenton's wards who are between the ages of 15-19 are eligible to sign up. First-year players should bring their birth certificates.

Tryouts will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 18 at Wetzel Field.

**Bordertown Post 26** American Legion baseball is holding tryouts for both its junior and senior programs at 1:30 p.m. Sundays April 19 and 26 or May 3 at Gilder Park.

To be eligible for the Junior program, players must have been born on or after Jan. 1, 1992.

To be eligible for the Senior program, players must have been born on or after Jan. 1, 1990.

**HOPEWELL VALLEY 10, HIGHTSTOWN 6**

HOVAL	ab	r	h	bi	HTOWN	ab	r	h	bi
Sorg	cf	4	0	2	Indrikovic	cf	3	1	0
Palin	c	4	0	2	Luberto	ss	4	1	1
Catherina	3b	3	1	0	Schultz	3b	3	2	0
Cignarella	2b	3	3	1	Monahan	dh	2	1	1
Motte	lf	1	3	1	Hernandez	rf	2	0	1
Meer	rf	4	1	3	Murphy	rf	3	0	0
Smart	lf	2	0	1	Neebels	p	3	0	0
Patrick	dh	2	0	1	Kabak	2b	3	1	1
Miller	ss	1	0	1	Carlisi	c	3	0	0
Bradley	ss	4	1	1	McClellan	1b	3	0	0
Totals	28	10	12	10	Totals	28	6	9	3
HopeWValley (1-3)	000 424 0 — 10				Highstown (1-4)	100 320 0 — 6			

**HOPEWELL VALLEY**

IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
2.0	0	0	0	4	2
2.0	0	0	0	4	2

**HIGHTSTOWN**

IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
3.1	5	4	3	2	1
1.0	2	2	2	3	1
2.0	0	0	0	1	0
0.2	0	0	0	4	3

WP-Wolf 2  
 HBP-by Neebels (Mottie), WP-Wolf 2.

**STEINERT 16, HAMILTON 1**

STEINERT	ab	r	h	bi	HAMILTON	ab	r	h	bi
Mocerri	cf	3	2	1	Verdese	cf-f	3	0	1
Beers	cf	3	2	1	Cenerino	ss-2b	3	0	1
Maher	3b	3	2	2	Kocsak	2b-cf	3	0	0
Plunkett	3b	0	1	0	Septer	c	3	0	0
Kalokitis	c	2	0	1	Sunkuski	3b-p	1	0	0
Hickethi	ph	1	0	0	Liepins	ph	2	0	0
Zucchero	1b	4	2	2	Dooling	p-ss	2	0	0
Costantino	lf	4	2	2	Piomalli	1b	0	1	0
Pontani	dh	3	0	1	Smigocki	1b	0	1	0
Imbordino	dh	2	0	1	Callaghone	lf	0	0	0
Berra	ss	2	0	1	Thompson	rf	0	0	0
Byrd	2b	2	1	2	Thompson	rf	1	0	0
Barra	ss	4	0	1	Onorati	ph-3b	1	0	1
McCall	ph	1	0	0					
McLaughlin	rf	2	0	0					
Totals	32	16	15	15	Totals	23	1	1	1

**STEINERT**

IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
5.0	4	0	0	1	3
1.0	0	0	0	1	1

**HAMILTON**

IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
2.1	5	4	2	4	2
2.2	5	3	4	2	1
1.0	6	6	6	6	2

WP-Harm 2  
 HBP-by Dooling (Pontani, Mocerri), WP-Harm 2, Pugliese, Sunkuski, PB-Septer 2.

Game ended by 10-run rule.  
 E-Cenerino, Septer, Dooling, Piromalli, LOB-Steinert 11, Hamilton 7; 2B-Maher, McLaughlin, Imbordino, SF-Maher, Kalokitis, SB-Maher, Beers, Piromalli, Verdese.

Harm W 2-0  
 Pugliese 5-0