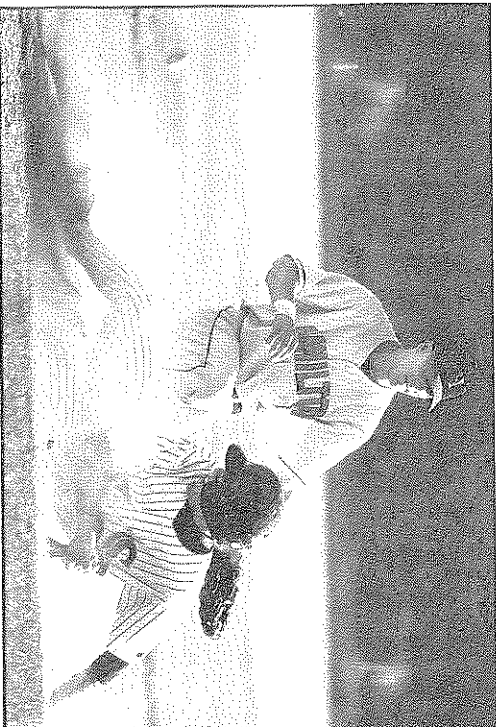


HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

TRENTONIAN TOP 20

| Team | Record |
|-------------------------|--------|
| 1. Steinert | 16-3 |
| 2. Hun | 12-2 |
| 3. Notre Dame | 11-3 |
| 4. Robbinsville | 11-3 |
| 5. Princeton Day School | 12-4 |
| 6. Rancocas Valley | 9-2 |
| 7. Holy Cross | 10-2 |
| 8. Hopewell Valley | 11-6 |
| 9. Delran | 10-5 |
| 10. New Egypt | 9-5 |
| 11. Florence | 8-4 |
| 12. Bordentown | 9-6 |
| 13. WW-P North | 8-6 |
| 14. Hightstown | 8-6 |
| 15. Northern Burlington | 7-7 |
| 16. Hamilton | 7-8 |
| 17. Nottingham | 6-7 |
| 18. Lawrenceville | 6-8-1 |
| 19. WW-P South | 6-7 |
| 20. Peddie | 4-5-2 |
| (tie) Burlington City | 5-6 |



Trentonian File Photo/ARREG SUAREZ

Steinert's Michael Constantini seals second base as the ball skips past Hamilton's Matt Cenerino earlier this season.

WBBB BASEBALL SCHEDULE

May 3 Notre Dame at Steinert* (1:30 AM)
 May 5 WW-P North at Steinert*
 May 6 Steinert at Hun*
 May 7 Trenton at Notre Dame*
 May 8 WW-P South at N'ham (MCT)* 2:00

* Games with bold stars are on WHWH (1380 AM). All others are broadcast on WJCS (1400 AM). Coverage begins 15 minutes prior to listed game time with The Trentonian Pre-Game Show.

WV BASEBALL STANDINGS

| Team | W | L |
|-------------------|----|----|
| Steinert (16-3) | 12 | 1 |
| Notre Dame (11-3) | 9 | 2 |
| WW-P North (8-6) | 7 | 7 |
| WW-P South (6-7) | 5 | 5 |
| Trenton (2-13) | 1 | 12 |

| Team | W | L |
|------------------|---|---|
| Hightstown (8-6) | 7 | 5 |
| Hamilton (7-8) | 6 | 6 |
| Nottingham (6-7) | 6 | 6 |
| Princeton (3-13) | 3 | 9 |

| Team | W | L |
|------------------------|----|----|
| Robbinsville (14-3) | 10 | 3 |
| Hopewell Valley (11-6) | 9 | 4 |
| Ewing (4-9) | 4 | 9 |
| Allentown (6-10) | 4 | 10 |
| Lawrence (3-11) | 3 | 10 |

BOSS BASEBALL STANDINGS

| Team | W | L |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| Moorestown (11-2) | 5 | 0 |
| Rancocas Valley (9-2) | 4 | 1 |
| Northern Burlington (7-7) | 3 | 2 |
| Pemberton (5-8) | 0 | 4 |
| Burlington Township (2-5) | 0 | 5 |

| Team | W | L |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| Delran (10-5) | 6 | 1 |
| Holy Cross (9-2) | 4 | 1 |
| Bordentown (9-6) | 4 | 2 |
| Cinnaminson (8-5) | 4 | 3 |
| Medford Tech (2-8) | 1 | 4 |
| Willingboro (3-10) | 1 | 5 |
| Westampton Tech (0-7) | 0 | 4 |

| Team | W | L |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| New Egypt (9-5) | 6 | 1 |
| Florence (8-4) | 4 | 2 |
| Riverside (6-8) | 4 | 2 |
| Burlington City (5-6) | 4 | 3 |
| Maple Shade (5-8) | 3 | 3 |
| Palmyra (2-6) | 3 | 5 |
| TCA (1-10) | 0 | 7 |

Race to state is on

By RED BIRCH

Staff Writer

For many in local high school baseball circles, the beginning of May signifies the start of the Mercer County Tournament.

While that is definitely something to look forward to Saturday (when the 31st annual slugfest kicks off at home sites), this week is also well known as being the last in which to qualify for the state tournament.

Things have changed a little this season since the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association initiated its own version of "cash for chunkers" by letting teams pay their way into the field. The best way to qualify is still to make sure you have a .500 record or better by the time entries close at the end of play this Friday.

As long as a bracket is filled (eight or 16 teams), there is no need to add sub-par teams to that section of the state tournament. So the NJSIAA will not bring in other teams if the field is filled with teams who actually qualify.

As of yesterday, 11 teams from *The Trentonian's* area had locked up tournament bids with another eight still on the bubble this week.

Of those eight, only Hightstown (8-6) has a winning record at the start of the week. The Rams need one more win to ensure getting in.

Northern Burlington is the only bubble team with a .500 record entering the week. With three games listed for the week the Greyhounds need to go 2-1 to automatically qualify. Hamilton, Nottingham, West Windsor, Plainboro, South and Burlington City are all a game below .500 with a week to qualify. Burlington, Pemberton and

need to win out this week to get an automatic bid or else pay their fee and hope the NJSIAA will pencil them in when it comes time to fill out the brackets.

The times for Saturday's opening-round MCT games have been announced. Three games will be played at 10:30 a.m., while the other five start at 2 p.m.

Here's a look:
 Saturday, May 8
 Mercer County Tournament
 First Round

| | |
|------------------------------|-------|
| Trenton at Steinert | 10:30 |
| Allentown at Hopewell Valley | 10:30 |
| Lawrence at Robbinsville | 10:30 |
| Ewing at PDS | 2:00 |
| Princeton at Notre Dame | 2:00 |
| Hamilton at WW-P North | 2:00 |
| WW-P South at Nottingham | 2:00 |
| Ferrington at Hightstown | 2:00 |

Usual entrant Hun is absent from the field this season because the Mid-Atlantic Prep League Tournament is also this Saturday, and the Raiders are hosting it.

Don't forget to head over to Trenton Catholic Academy early for its 7 p.m. game with Willingboro tonight.

The Iron Mikes will honor their greatest baseball coach Tony Potenza before the game with a ceremony in which they will retire the number of the coach who directed them to a state crown in 1974, along with two other sectional titles during his tenure.

While some might remember him better as the former Hamilton High boys soccer coach or a Hopewell Valley High dad, Potenza was all the rage during the 1973-74 season when he led the Iron Mikes to state titles in both boys soccer and baseball. He is still the only Mercer County coach to have accomplished that feat.

STATISTICS

Games through April 28:
 BATTING

AVERAGE (minimum 25 at-bats) — Blaise Lezynski (Notre Dame) 25-46, 565; Steve Arnold (Ewing) 19-35, 543; Alex Mottie (Hopewell Valley) 25-47, 532; Eric Kondor (Ewing) 20-38, 526; Matt Cenerino (Hamilton) 20-39, 513; Kevin Carlisi (Hightstown) 19-38, 500; Chet Ollis (WW-P North) 20-41, 488; Eric Strano (Robbinsville) 21-44, 477; Chris Baxler (Notre Dame) 20-43, 465; Alec Schwartz (Allentown) 25-55, 455; Ryan Dember (Hopewell Valley) 13-29, 448; Paul Balesieher (WW-P South) 11-25, 440; Matt Patterson (Nottingham) 19-45, 422; Ryan Casey (Robbinsville) 21-50, 420; Eric Patterson (Nottingham) 18-43, 419; David Schultz (Hightstown) 18-43, 419; Kyle Donohier (Allentown) 20-49, 408; Adam Riase (Steinert) 20-50, 400; Drew Sempie (Hopewell Valley) 8-20, 400.

HITS — Lezynski (Notre Dame) 26, Mottie (Hopewell Valley) 25, Schwartz (Allentown) 25, Casey (Robbinsville) 21, Mike Constantini (Steinert) 21, Strano (Robbinsville) 21, Baxler (Notre Dame) 20, Cenerino (Hamilton) 20, Donohier (Allentown) 20, Kondor (Ewing) 20, Ollis (WW-P North) 20, Riase (Steinert) 20, Steven Todd (Allentown) 20, Arnold (Ewing) 19, Carlisi (Hightstown) 19, Ben Meer (Hopewell Valley) 19, Patterson (Nottingham) 19, Marc Mocerri (Steinert) 18, Eppatterson (Nottingham) 18, Schultz (Hightstown) 18, Rick McLaughlin (Steinert) 17, Mike Ras (Allentown) 17, Steve Spadafino (Steinert) 17, Kevin Bradley (Hopewell Valley) 16, Trevor Baseman (Princeton) 16, Luke Cordanier (Princeton) 16, Matt Weidner (Princeton) 16.

DOUBLES — Mocerri (Steinert) 9, Strano (Robbinsville) 7, Todd (Allentown) 7, Carlisi (Hightstown) 6, John Indrikovic (Hightstown) 6, Mottie (Hopewell Valley) 6, Schwartz (Allentown) 6, Arnold (Ewing) 5, Bradley (Hopewell) 5, Constantini (Steinert) 5, Cordanier (Princeton) 5, Phean (WW-P North) 5, Riase (Steinert) 5.

TRIPLES — Rich Tolo (Lawrence) 4, Ollis (WW-P North) 3, Jason Patrick (Hopewell Valley) 3, Casey (Robbinsville) 2, Constantini (Steinert) 2, Demouth (WW-P North) 2, J Garcia (Trenton) 2, Lezynski (Notre Dame) 2, Schwartz (Allentown) 2, Evan Smith (WW-P South) 2, Spadafino (Steinert) 2, Weidner (Princeton) 2.

HOME RUNS — Rob Pate (Notre Dame) 4, Lezynski (Notre Dame) 3, Mottie (Hopewell Valley) 3, Baseman (Princeton) 2, Demouth (WW-P North) 2, Patterson (Nottingham) 2, Phean (WW-P North) 2, Riase (Steinert) 2.

RUNS SCORED — Mark Malorano (Allentown) 22, Mottie (Hopewell Valley) 20, Demouth (WW-P North) 19, Otis (WW-P North) 18, Schwartz (Allentown) 18, Baxler (Notre Dame) 17, Spadafino (Steinert) 17, Freddie Ulisse (Robbinsville) 17, Constantini (Steinert) 16, Meer (Hopewell Valley) 16, Mocerri (Steinert) 16, Patrick (Hopewell Valley) 16, Eppatterson (Nottingham) 16, Justin Plichman (Notre Dame) 16, Riase (Steinert) 16, Bradley (Hopewell Valley) 15, Casey (Robbinsville) 15, Kondor (Ewing) 15, Schultz (Hightstown) 15.

RBI'S — Meer (Hopewell Valley) 21, Lezynski (Notre Dame) 20, Mottie (Hopewell Valley) 20, Todd (Allentown) 17, Casey (Robbinsville) 16, M'Patterson (Nottingham) 16, Pate (Notre Dame) 16, Donohier (Allentown) 15, Mark Maksimow (Notre Dame) 15, Strano (Robbinsville) 15, Bradley (Hopewell Valley) 13, Hase (WW-P North) 13, Mike Mannion (Ewing) 13, Riase (Steinert) 13, Schwartz (Allentown) 13, Joe Zuccheri (Steinert) 13.

STOLEN BASES — Jose Garcia (Trenton) 17, Nick Miranda (Princeton) 11, Mottie (Hopewell Valley) 11, Dember (Hopewell Valley) 9, Constantini (Steinert) 8, Kondor (Ewing) 8, McLaughlin (Steinert) 8, Patrick (Hopewell Valley) 8, Spadafino (Steinert) 8, Cenerino (Hamilton) 7, Hase (WW-P North) 7, Meer (Hopewell Valley) 7, Ulisse (Robbinsville) 7.

PITCHING

ERA (minimum 15 innings) — Kyle Reed (WW-P North) 0.78, Robbie Zingaro (Robbinsville) 0.93, Matt Backlund (Steinert) 1.11, Adam Vorrasso (Robbinsville) 1.17, Sam Burum (Robbinsville) 1.28, James Pugliese (Steinert) 1.47, Colin Homes (Ewing) 1.77, Kyle Pauli (Steinert) 2.33, Nick Glas (Hopewell Valley) 2.40, Casey Clark (Notre Dame) 2.59, Brandon Puhatski (Steinert) 2.66, Alex Mottie (Hopewell Valley) 2.99, Joe Jensen (WW-P North) 3.00.

WINS — SBurum (Robbinsville) 4-0, Paul (Steinert) 4-0, CClark (Notre Dame) 4-1, Zingaro (Robbinsville) 4-1, Backlund (Steinert) 3-0, Neal DeVincenzo (WW-P North) 3-0, Mike Mirrno (Nottingham) 3-0, Mark Maksimow (Notre Dame) 3-1, Puhatski (Steinert) 3-1, Jose Lopez (Hightstown) 3-2, Mottie (Hopewell Valley) 3-2, Paul Paladino (Allentown) 3-2, Corey Vono (Hightstown) 3-3, James Harily (Hopewell Valley) 2-0, James Pugliese (Steinert) 2-0, Reed (WW-P North) 2-0, Vorraso (Robbinsville) 2-0, Glas (Hopewell Valley) 2-1, Ryan Leader (Robbinsville) 2-1, Alex Slagyi (Steinert) 2-1, Mike Young (Notre Dame) 2-1.

INNINGS PITCHED — Vono (Hightstown) 37, Matt Ovie (Nottingham) 34, Mirrno (Nottingham) 32, Zingaro (Robbinsville) 30, Lopez (Hightstown) 28, Holmes (Ewing) 27 2/3, SBurum (Robbinsville) 27 1/3, Benito Gonzalez (Princeton) 27 1/3, Frank O'Brien (Allentown) 27 1/3, CClark (Notre Dame) 27, Paul (Steinert) 27, Paul Pirromalli (Hamilton) 27, Palladino (Allentown) 26 2/3, Dylan Murphy (Hamilton) 25, Luke Cordanier (Princeton) 24, Maksimow (Notre Dame) 23 2/3, Glas (Hopewell) 23 1/3, Kevin Fizzle (Lawrence) 22, Leader (Robbinsville) 21, Slagyi (Steinert) 21.

STRIKEOUTS — Vono (Hightstown) 30, Mirrno (Nottingham) 29, Fizzle (Lawrence) 28, Slagyi (Steinert) 27, Zingaro (Robbinsville) 27, Glas (Hopewell Valley) 25, Maksimow (Notre Dame) 25, Evan Smith (WW-P South) 25, Holmes (Ewing) 22, O'Brien (Allentown) 22, Paul (Steinert) 22, Pirromalli (Hamilton) 22, Reed (WW-P North) 22, Gonzalez (Princeton) 21, Palladino (Allentown) 19, Cordanier (Princeton) 18, Harily (Hopewell Valley) 18, Pugliese (Steinert) 18, Jose Garcia (Trenton) 17, Charlie Morrae (Lawrence) 17.

COMPLETE GAMES — Ovie (Nottingham) 4, SBurum (Robbinsville) 3, Holmes (Ewing) 3, Mirrno (Nottingham) 3, Pirromalli (Hamilton) 3, Vono (Hightstown) 3, CClark (Notre Dame) 2, Carlos DeJesus (Trenton) 2, J Garcia (Trenton) 2, Glas (Hopewell Valley) 2, Leader (Robbinsville) 2, Maksimow (Notre Dame) 2, Puhatski (Steinert) 2.

SAVES — Pugliese (Steinert) 4, Charlie Batts (Notre Dame) 2, Jensen (WW-P North) 2, Vorraso (Robbinsville) 2, SBurum (Robbinsville) 1, Maksimow (Notre Dame) 1, Morrae (Lawrence) 1, Mottie (Hopewell Valley) 1, Pauli (Steinert) 1