Mahopac Struts Stuff, Slides to 15U GHVBL Title, Indians Flash Gold in 6-1 Win over Highlanders

Mahopac’s Tyler Castrataro stylishly eludes tag for one of many big plays he would trigger in the Indians’ 6-1 win over the Heat Baseball program Sunday in the championship round of the 15U Greater Hudson Valley Baseball League championship at Rogers Park in Danbury where the Indians (inset) would finally be crowned after several years of championship disappointment... see Focus on GHVBL
FOCUS ON GHVBL

Scenes from the Greater Hudson Valley Baseball League Championship Weekend

The WP Highlanders won the 10U D3 title by defeating Mahopac 9-4 on Sunday at Rogers Park in Danbury.

Cortland Nationals (Hen Hud and some L-P guys) beat a solid 9ers squad behind P Noah Lipton (7 IP, 3H, 6K) who worked a 4-0 win for D2 high school GHVBL title.

Hen Hud’s Kieran Plunkett slides into 2B in Cortlandt’s 7-5 win over CT Rangers in 15U GHVBL title win Saturday in Danbury.

Cortlandt’s Cody Mann goes up for high-five after Jackson Urezzo’s walk-off double gave them a 16-6 GHVBL 9U title win over Briarcliff Saturday.
Sports

Players and coaches of the Put Valley 11U Miners team pose with first D-1 GHVBL banner in town history.

Eddie Lederer sends it to the outfield in NW Thunder 2-1 loss in 13U D3 final at Rogers Park in Danbury.

Cortlandt’s Micahel Wenz tracks his two-run double in 16-6 GHVBL 9U title win over Briarcliff Saturday in Danbury.

WP Highlanders starting pitcher Sean McKeon follows through in 9-4 win over Mahopac in 10U championship game on Sunday.

Mahopac’s Ryan Giorgianni can’t get the tag down in time at the plate as Quinn Austin of the WP Highlanders slides in safely in 10U.

Briarcliff’s Rithik Chaudhuri scores run in 16-6 loss to Cortlandt as C Rocco Carbone is late with tag in 9U GHVBL finals Saturday.

Jack Garneau hustles to first in the NW Thunder’s 2-1 title game loss in 13U.

Hen Hud’s Billy Moretti gets a greeting from Michael Gagliardi (2 2B, 2RBI) after scoring run in Cortlandt’s 7-5 win over CT Rangers in 15U GHVBL title win Saturday.

Cortlandt’s Kane Wamack was a pivotal contributor to his club’s 16-6 9U GHVBL title win over Briarcliff Saturday in Danbury.

Cortlandt’s Micahel Wenz was a pivotal contributor to his club’s 16-6 9U GHVBL title win over Briarcliff Saturday in Danbury.

photos continued on next page
John King of the Somers Red Storm hustles to first in Red Storm’s GHVBL victory in 13U finals.

Put Valley Miner Chris Constantino tracks a shot in 10-1 D-1 title win over Danbury in 11U GHVBL action Saturday.

Somers’ John Barbagallo tips cap after recording final out as Dean Barlanti and John King join in Somers Red Storm’s 7-2 win over CT Kings in 13U championship.

Joe Fink puts it in play and heads for first in Somers Red Storm’s 13U GHVBL championship win.

Somers’ Dean Palazzolo heads home to score a run in Red Storm’s victory in GHVBL 13U finals.

Rising Hen Hud P Max Lipton delivers in Cortlandt Nationals’ 7-5 win over CT Rangers in 15U GHVBL title game Saturday.

Put Valley Miner Roman Catalano was a major catalyst in 10-1 GHVBL 11U title win over Danbury Saturday.

Michael Sgobbo of the NW Thunder heads for third in 2-1 championship game loss.

Put Valley Miner Chris Constantino tracks a shot in 10-1 D-1 title win over Danbury in 11U GHVBL action Saturday.

Gianni Madera of Mahopac sends it for a ride in 9-4 loss to 10U WP Highlanders in GHVBL finals.

John Crowley races to third in WP Highlanders 10U championship game against Mahopac.
John Crowley pitches in relief for the WP Highlanders in 9-4 GHVBL 10U title win over Mahopac.

Quinn Austin of the WP Highlanders heads for third base in 10U GHVBL title win over Mahopac Sunday.

P.J. Stonsby of the NW Thunder fires to first for the out in 13U championship game loss last Sunday at Rogers Park in Danbury.

NW Thunder shortstop Spencer Grayson doubles a runner off first after catching a liner in 2-1 championship game loss to the TEB Eagles in 13U.

Mahopac starting pitcher Chris Sapienza fires in Indians’ 6-1 win in the 15U GHVBL championship game.

PV’s Nick Martinelli (2) is set to embrace winning P Logan Moriarty as Miners copped 11U GHVBL title Saturday in Danbury.

Somers Red Storm 3B Lorenzo D’Ambrosio can’t get the tag down in time in Red Storm’s 13U finals win.

Mahopac’s Nevan Nystrom tracks a ball hit to the outfield in GHVBL 15U title win at Rogers Park on Sunday.

Nickey Benedetto and Jack Marinelli lead the line of PV Miners as they accept congrats on their 11U GHVBL D-1 title win over Danbury Saturday.
PV Miner IF Matt Quinn was flawless at SS during 10-1 GHVBL 11U title win over Danbury Saturday.

PV Miners slugger Braeden McCarty is first to get P Logan Moriarty after Miners made PV history by clinching 11U D-1 GHVBL title Saturday in Danbury CT.

Mahopac's Luke Langtry hits the cutoff man in 9-4 GHVBL finals loss to WP Highlanders.

FOCUS ON GHVBL

Owen Ryan of Mahopac ropes an RBI single in 6-1 win over the Heat in GHVBL 15U finals.

Mahopac 2B Joe Luczkowski makes the throw to first in Indians' 6-1 win in 15U championship game Sunday at Rogers Park.

Mahopac's Mason Kugler sprints to third in Indians' 9-4 title loss in 10U GHVBL finals.

Putnam Valley ace Logan Moriarty works a splendid outing en route to Miners' 10-1 win over Danbury in D-1 GHVBL 11U title win Saturday.

Mahopac first baseman Landon Saracco makes the catch in Indians' 9-4 loss in 10U GHVBL finals.

RAY GALLAGHER / ROB DIANTONIO PHOTOS
GHVBL Championships Tugged on All Emotions

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports
Editor @Directrays

There were screams of joy and moans of agony coming from every direction. Angst, euphoria and intensity filled the air in and around Rogers Park in Danbury where more than 80 teams, from 8U to college, challenged for supremacy in the Greater Hudson Valley Baseball League last weekend.

GHVBL founder David Zaslaw was shot (not literally) before the tournament’s first pitch Saturday morning, due to the multitude of drama surrounding the leagues, the scheduling, the umpires, the merchandise, the medals and what not. It was quite the endeavor, for sure, but when all was said and done there were indelible happy endings mixed with fleeting moments of disappointment; depending on which side you were on. But, man, was it worth it, and, best I could tell on Day 1: Everybody was on their best behavior!

There’s nothing quite like an impressionable youngster looking into the eyes of his coach while he awaits a high-five from a kid that desperately needed one after coming through when it mattered most, which is what we witnessed in a 9U game between Cortlandt and Briarcliff most, which is what we witnessed in a 9U game between Cortlandt and Briarcliff when lefty slugger Jackson Urezzio game between Cortlandt and Briarcliff when lefty slugger Jackson Urezzio went 5 2/3 innings with 7 K’s. Not to be outdone by his little brother, Noah Lipton, who fired six innings of shutout on seven K’s for Coach Mike Moriarty, who set a high bar, cleared it sufficiently.

Miners to the first D-1 GHVBL title in town history. Backed by steady SS Matt Quinn and 2B Roman Catalano, Moriarty was near flawless for the second-seeded Miners, who toppled No.1 Danbury, 10-1, on their home turf. Ya’ gotta love when it all comes together for a team that has put in the time and challenged itself to go where no team before it has, and Moriarty, who sets a high bar, cleared it sufficiently. “We could’ve stayed down in lower divisions and won or challenged for a championship every year, but what’s the sense in that,” Miners co-coach Mike Quinn said between the lines before his team erupted off Danbury’s ace. “We decided to challenge ourselves, and win or lose today, it’s been a great season for these kids. We’re always going to challenge ourselves and we see great things ahead for this group of kids.”

You also got the sense that Cortlandt, and more specifically, Hendrick Hudson High, has a bright future after the Nationals delivered three GHVBL titles, including a 9U, 15U and a varsity D-2 championship last Saturday. Hen Hud Coach Van Vouriots isn’t messing around. He’s a varsity coach that has taken to his program, so much so that he’s leading them through the dog days of summer by coaching his 15U team to a 7-5 GHVBL title win over the CT Rangers.

So, we all need a feel-good story these days, and you’d have to feel pretty good for the Lipton family out of Cortlandt after their sons, Max, the winning pitcher in the 15U championship game, and Noah, the winning pitcher in the varsity tournament, each led their respective teams to a title. Max, a 2024 Hen Hud grad-in-waiting, went 5 2/3 innings with 7 K’s. Not to be outdone by his little brother, Noah Lipton, just a few hours later, buoyed by an Alex Jankowski (Panas) two-run bomb, pitched his Cortlandt National varsity team to their championship with a complete game shutout on seven K’s for Coach Mike Vaccaro’s Nationals. Something tells me the Lipton’s feasted somewhere between the CT border and Montrose, which brings me to my buddy, Bruce Fulgum, the owner of Fulgum’s Bar & Grill across the street from Hen Hud High.

You hate to end on a down note, but Juicy Brucey is a fixture in the Hen Hud community, a man who set the Sailor parque on fire before the three-point shot was even invented. On August 6th, a terrible tragedy occurred in Coachlight Square in Montrose when a fire started in one unit and quickly spread through the rest of the building where the Fulgums resided. All units were destroyed, leaving multiple families homeless and in need of EVERYTHING! This close-knit community will take care of its own, but anything you can donate to the Coach Light Fire Fund will be greatly appreciated.

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The Lipton boys -- Noah (l) and Max, -- made history by pitching their respective GHVBL teams to titles Saturday in Danbury.

The moment every local GHVBL player lives for, brought to you by Putnam Valley’s Matt Quinn after earning 11U D-1 title Saturday.

Jankowski (Panas) two-run bomb, pitched his Cortlandt National varsity team to their championship with a complete game shutout on seven K’s for Coach Mike Vaccaro’s Nationals. Something tells me the Lipton’s feasted somewhere between the CT border and Montrose, which brings me to my buddy, Bruce Fulgum, the owner of Fulgum’s Bar & Grill across the street from Hen Hud High.

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Somers Crowned Champs!

Red Storm Rips Through CT, Takes 13U GHVBL Title

Somers’ Dean Palazzolo and Lorenzo D’Ambrosio (L) of the highly respected Red Storm baseball program celebrate after getting out of a jam in the Red Storm’s 7-2 win over CT Kings in 13U D2 championship game of the Greater Hudson Valley Baseball League at Rogers Park in Danbury, Ct, Sunday when the Storm cut loose for a championship team celly (inset)... see Focus on GHVBL