



James Werosta

July 21 Section 3 Little League Tournament

Nottingham has season come to an end, but summer's just beginning

By Rich Fisher

Fish4Scores.com

July 21: As manager Aaron Oldfield so eloquently stated, tonight was not an end, but a beginning.

“Summer starts for all of us tomorrow,” the manager said after his Nottingham 12-year-old All-Stars dropped a 4-3 decision to Woodbridge and were eliminated from the Little League Section 3 Tournament at Tinton Falls. “They’re 12 year old boys. I think the parents take it harder than the kids.

“The kids know it’s not the end of their lives. They will play baseball down the road. Now they can go swimming and enjoy the summer.”

Granted, they all wished the summer could have been put on hold a while longer, but Oldfield’s point is well taken. No sense dwelling on what is past.

The one bummer is that Nottingham did not play up to its potential tonight, as Woodbridge took a 4-0 lead on four unearned runs after three innings. That proved just enough to hold off Nottingham, which had a three-run fifth highlighted by Matt Ricci’s two-run double.

“James Werosta pitched the game of his life, we didn’t give him any support defensively,” Oldfield said. “We left too many guys on base. When you make errors in the field and leave too many guys on base that’s a recipe for a loss.

“But James pitched great. He just had nothing to show for it.”

Oldfield hoped things were starting to change after the fifth-inning rally, but said “we just dug ourselves too much of a hole and couldn’t get out of it.”

Nonetheless, Nottingham can celebrate a season in which it won its 24th District 12 title and provided plenty of thrills throughout the All-Star campaign.

“All in all, it was obviously a very successful season,” Oldfield said. “I don’t know if we had a hangover from districts. I know we had a lot of competition and it’s physically grueling, so I don’t know if that was it.

“I think they came out loose and ready to play in sectionals. For whatever reason we didn’t produce.”

Oldfield added that the disappointment of Tuesday’s loss to Holbrook, in which Nottingham carried a 2-0 lead into the fifth, might have been a letdown.

“Yeah, we should have been playing in the winner’s bracket,” he said. “But we didn’t and we gave them four unearned runs tonight. But overall it was still a successful year. The kids can hold their heads up high.”

And keep their body temps low by jumping in the pool.