

BASEBALL

Bentley College – Waltham, MA

Northeast 3, Metro 0

Pitching ruled in the opener of the 2008 Bay State Games baseball tournament. Northeast hurlers Mike Johnson and Marc Linehan combined for a one-hit shutout of the Metro team. Johnson (Georgetown; Brooks School) went four innings, allowing a lone single, while Linehan (Peabody; Peabody HS) worked final three frames without a scratch. Eric Hailer (Natick; Belmont Hill) managed the only hit for the Metro (0-1) squad. Offensively for the Northeast (1-0), John Hennessey (Andover; Andover HS) provided all the support that the team would need as he scored two runs. Mike Griffin (Arlington; Arlington HS) was dealt the tough loss on the hill for Metro, as he surrendered two earned runs over five innings.

Coastal 12, West 3

The Coastal team swung the bats well and took advantage of erratic West pitching to win its first game of the tournament convincingly. Ryan Lee and Billy Hocking led the way offensively for the Coastal squad. Lee (Attleboro; Bishop Feehan) went 3-for-4 with three singles and Hocking (Duxbury; Boston College HS) was 2-for-3. Corey Laliberte (Fall River; Durfee HS) pitched five strong innings for Coastal. The junior allowed just one earned run, while striking out seven. The West pitchers had a tough time with their control, and ended up walking in five of the 12 runs allowed. Steve Hall (East Longmeadow; East Longmeadow HS) and Kevin Ziomek (Amherst; Amherst Reg. HS) took the lumps on the hill for the West. A bright spot for the West was the defensive play of Matthew O'Herron (Springfield; Cathedral HS).

Central 6, Southeast 5

The Central baseball team battled back from a 5-0 deficit by posting six runs over the final three innings to shock the Southeast. After the bases were loaded by three walks in the bottom of the seventh inning, Nick Bonofiglio (Worcester; Holy Name) blasted a two-out, bases-clearing double to win the game. Jon Leroux (Auburn; Auburn HS) led the Central offense with two hits, while Matt Ball (Worcester; St. Peter-Marian), Brendan Casey (Milford; Milford HS) and Pat McKernan (N. Grafton; Grafton HS) each chipped in with a hit and a walk for Central (1-0). For the Southeast (0-1), Eric MacIver (Hingham; Hingham HS) went 2-for-2 with a run scored. The late inning rally spoiled a terrific start by Southeast hurler Stephen Peraksis (Abington; Abington HS), who went four innings and allowed no hits while walking one and striking out seven of the 10 batters he faced.

Northeast 1, West 1

The Northeast and West squads faced off in a pitchers duel and fought to a draw. Northeast pitcher Johmi Minaya (Lawrence; Pingree School) scattered seven hits and five walks in a complete-game effort, while his West counterpart, Kevin Ziomek (Amherst; Amherst Reg. HS) gave up four hits and collected eight strikeouts over seven innings. With the bats for the West (0-1-1), Kyle DiFranco (E. Longmeadow; E. Longmeadow HS) and Kyle Grumoli (S. Hadley; S. Hadley HS) each went 2-for-4 with a pair of singles. Evan Bunker (Topsfield; Masconomet Reg. HS) was 1-for-2 with a walk and scored the only run for the Northeast (1-0-1).