

Washington Twp. legs out a victory

By **KEVIN MINNICK**
Courier-Post Staff

WASHINGTON TWP.

One mighty swing brought them back, but two speedy legs got them the win.

Pinch running in the bottom of the seventh inning, Dan Simnor raced from first to third on Nick Valori's two-out bloop single. The sophomore then showed his speed again, scoring on a passed ball to give the Washington Township High School baseball team a 4-3 victory over Cherry Hill East in an Olympic Conference American Division game Thursday.

"Danny has won a couple of games for us with his legs," Minutemen coach Bill Alvaro said. "It takes the 22 guys that we have in the dugout to win a game, and that's what we did."

Said Simnor: "The ball went and I had to go. As soon as the ball gets past the catcher, I'm going."

Simnor wouldn't have been in that situation if not for Anthony Cauley's at-bat. The senior battled back from an 0-2 count to draw a walk, with the ball getting past the catcher on ball four.

"This team knows how to battle to the very end," Alvaro added.

Russ DiPiano picked up the win in relief.

Washington Township (7-3), No. 8 in the Courier-Post Top 20, tied the game at 3-3 in the sixth. Leading off, junior shortstop Nick Favatella smoked a high fastball to dead center on the first pitch from Ryan



KEVIN MINNICK/Courier-Post

Washington Township pitcher Russ DiPiano was the winner Thursday.

Martin.

"I just like a strike," said Favatella, who's hit all seven of his homers in the last six games. "I'm seeing the ball pretty well right now and I'm relaxed at the plate. It all has to do with trusting yourself and swinging when your instincts tell you."

Noted Alvaro: "There hasn't been one of them that hasn't tied the game or given us the lead. Every one has been clutch."

No. 7 Cherry Hill East (3-1) walked Favatella in the third. But late in the game, the Cougars weren't going to put the tying run on base without a fight.

"With no one on and leading off the inning, of course we're going to pitch to him. . . . It was a bomb," East coach Erik Radbill said.

WASH. TWP. 4
C.H. EAST 3

■ **Player of the game:** Nick Favatella belted his seventh home run in the last six games.

■ **Play of the game:** Sophomore pinch-runner Dan Simnor scored the winning run on a passed ball in the seventh.

courierpostonline
BLOG .COM

■ Add **/varsityinsider** for our behind-the-scenes high school sports blog.

"Every game here seems to be a one-run game. The last couple of times we've been here, we've lost in a similar fashion. It seems like it always comes down to a play here or there."

Washington Township scored single runs in the third and fourth to take a 2-0 lead. But in the top of the fifth, East's bats started to catch fire.

Chip Tagland and Sam Slutsky, who both singled, scored on a Sean Gold single. Momentum had quickly changed.

"We hadn't played a game in 15 days, so I knew it would probably take us a few innings for our bats to get going and our timing to get back," Radbill said.

Martin came out fired up and struck out the side in order. The Cougars went to work again on offense, taking a 3-2 lead on Nate Mullberg's RBI single.

Reach Kevin Minnick at (856) 486-2424 or kminnick@courierpostonline.com