

HUNTERDON/WARREN/SUSSEX ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
BASEBALL TOURNAMENT – SPRING, 2011

Hunterdon Central (1) at Pope John (8), Hunterdon/Warren/Sussex Tournament,
Final Round - Baseball

The Star Ledger, May 21, 2011 10:46 p.m.

Brendan Mayers threw a four-hitter with seven strikeouts and supplied two hits to lead Pope John, No. 5 in The Star-Ledger Top 20, to an 8-1 victory over No. 11 Hunterdon Central, the 2010 champion, in the championship game of the Hunterdon/Warren/Sussex Tournament last night at Diamond Nation in Flemington.

“He had a cramp in his left calf since the second inning. He pitched with guts,” Pope John coach Vincent Bello said. “He threw like a senior that has led us the last few years. He’s a bulldog.”

The Rutgers-bound Mayers allowed one run on four walks and 127 pitches. He did not let a runner reach third until the seventh inning.

“I felt like I had really good stuff,” said Mayers, who was named tournament MVP. “I was able to go to my fastball a lot early and I didn’t have to throw my curveball or changeup. Later on I started dragging more, then I went to my curveball. But I felt like I had my best stuff.”

In the third inning, Pope John (18-3-1) scored six runs when Matt Ackerman (2-for-2 with two doubles and a steal) and Ryan McNally hit back-to-back doubles and Alex DeBellis hit a three-run opposite-field home run. Mayers hit an RBI double and Pope John would get two more runs on errors.

Pope John added two runs in the fifth when Mike Liegel scored on a sacrifice fly by McNally and a throwing error. Hunterdon Central scored in the seventh when Josh Ake walked with the bases loaded.

“I thought Mayers was good today,” Hunterdon Central coach Mike Raymond said. “I thought there were some things we could do better. But we didn’t make the adjustment.”