

All Stars Put on Great Show

The Souderton Area Baseball League sent its best 9 and 10 year old boys to the Minors All Star Game on Saturday night and put on a great show for the standing room only crowd at the Telford VFW field.

Dave Freed's American team secured an early lead in the first inning with four RBIs. Steve Murphy's National team answered back with two of their own, and Ian Beardsley pitched a quick top of the second with three strikeouts and only one walk. The Americans maintained their lead picking off runners stealing home, and managed to steal it twice in the top of the third. Miles Minnick of the Americans had two strikeouts in the bottom of the third, helped out by Koby Khan catching Zach Brown's pop up.

Both teams moved ahead in the fourth with smart scoring on errors, with the Nationals' effort to close the lead thwarted only by the five run rule for the inning. The fifth inning saw even more action, both teams loading the bases, and some serious play making in the works. Evan Miller of the Americans hit a double to the fence, gaining three RBIs, but first baseman Chris Kovack of the Nationals kept them at bay with two outs at the bag.

Sam Stehr, coming off of an RBI single in the bottom of the fifth, caught a fly ball in right field for the Nationals in the top of the sixth. But it wasn't enough to stop the Americans from moving ahead to 16-11. The Nationals came right back in the bottom, with Ian Beardsley hitting an in the park home run, Evan Alderfer gaining two RBIs with a double and then going ahead to score on errors, closing the lead to one point. The Americans moved four more ahead in the seventh on RBI base hits and a steal, to which the Nationals responded with a walk in score and two steals at home.

Isaac Brunk led off the eighth with a triple, moving on to score one of two of the Americans' final points, and Craig Rosenberger pitched a strong inning to keep the Nationals from answering back again. Patrick Murphy's first base plays kept the Americans from any more scores in the ninth, but pitching by Trevor Watts of the Americans managed to shut the Nationals down in the bottom, ending the game at 22 Americans, 18 Nationals.

Coach Murphy, clearly proud of his Nationals, said, "For me this game is an opportunity to recognize those boys who are having a good year and reward their effort and performance with a game that's really all about having fun. This particular game was really fun to watch and the boys all seemed to have a great time."

Coach Freed agreed, "This game was an exciting and fun opportunity to coach the boys and I couldn't have done it without the help of my assistants, Tom Moyer and Craig Rosenberger."