

## Baseball Season

With a heartbreaking defeat by Hicksville, 1-0, the Port High championship baseball team ended the successful season.

In the third inning, a long fly ball was hit deep to center field with the bases loaded. Lou DiLeo made a fantastic catch but the only tally of the game was allowed to score.

From then on, it was a pitchers' duel but Port failed to make that all important run.

The Blue and White concluded the season by winning four out of the four pre-league games, eight of ten league games and they lost the one post league.

This was the first on about thirty seasons when a Port High team has won first place in the western division. Coach Rogo was "mighty pleased" with his boys, and he feels that next year will be as victorious.

Just how did this club happen to win where so many others had failed? One look at the team batting average — 386 — will give the answer. Combined with the great pitching of veterans Paul Nuzzolese and Joe Rezek, only one team in our division could beat us.

Nuzzolese and Dohm both hit over 700! Newman and Marra hit in the 400's while the outfield, Ron Musselwhite, DiLeo, and Fatizzi, averaged 322.



By Roger Musselwhite

### A Dream Come True, Partly

Like a dream, the reality of a North Shore championship came and went almost in the same breath. The Port baseball squad, which had defeated Hicksville earlier in the year 3 to 1, lost to the very same Hicksville team 1 to 0 June 1, at Bethpage State Park. The occasion for their second meeting was entirely different from the first. This game was not merely a non-league exhibition it was to determine the North Shore Championship in baseball for 1955.

### A Pitcher's Duel

Port's team had counted on their reliable batting power to come through in this game as it has throughout the season. But either due to the powers that be or the Hicksville pitcher the Port batters could not seem to find the hitting range all through the game. Port's two starters combined to limit the Comets to just four hits. Paul Nuzzolese started the game and pitched easily until the fourth inning. At

this point in the game Nuzz had five strike-outs, but a streak of wildness and two scratch singles put him in a hole. Coach Rogo went to his bullpen and sent Joe Rezek into the thick of the trouble. With bases loaded and nobody out, Joe made one pitch a little too good and a Comet batter slammed a deep drive to centerfield. Lou DiLeo made a terrific catch of the ball but the fly was deep enough to permit the runner on third to score. This run proved to be the winning run, as the Comets collected only one more hit off of Rezek.

### Pitcher's Control Is Batter's Woe

Port batters were baffled all afternoon long by the control and "stuff" of Hicksville's pitcher Hogan. Lou DiLeo had a good day both in the field and at the plate. He singled in the third inning to register Port's first hit of the day. Pete Fatizzi, a reliable hitter all season, made no exception of this game as he singled in the fifth inning. These two hits plus a walk to Rezek were the only occasions for baserunners Port had until the sixth

inning. Hogan walked only one Port batter in the entire game and he kept ahead of almost all of the batters he faced. His unusually good control was probably the secret to Port's poor hitting.

### DiLeo Leads Port Batters

The Port half of the sixth inning was almost but not quite the tie-maker for the Blue & White team. With two men out Lou DiLeo drove a solid triple to right-centerfield. In any other field Lou's hit would have been a home-run and Port would at least a tie with the Comets. The Comet fielder was able to put the ball into play after it rolled up the steep embankment surrounding the field and hold Lou to a triple. In the last inning Dickie Marra tried to start a rally with a single, but a Comet double play quickly ended any Port hopes of pulling the game out of the fire.

Even though the team did not win the North Shore title they did win the Western Division title and they did win 12 games while only losing 3 games.

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