

The 2006 version of Delco Baseball's quest to win the York Tournament ended only after an epic battle with 2005 York Tournament Champion Brothers Pastry of New York City.

Delco started off the day, Monday, at 8AM in the winners bracket with a tough match up, for any time day, with this years tournament favorite Long Island. It was a staff outing for Delco in which Aston's PJ Holberg, Collingdale's Matt Wilcox and Tom Moran, Upper Darby's Bob Quaile, and Wayne's Jim Vankoski combined for a tough 7-1 loss to the Storm, whose name is appropo.

With the loss Delco was forced to battle through the losers bracket. Delco's first match in the losers bracket was against local entry York Township. Delco came out hitting in the first, posting 6 runs on 6 hits including a 3 run home run by Aston's Bryan Mulhern before a stunned York Township audience. Local teams are accustomed to playing deep into their own tournament. Starting pitcher, Upper Darby's Dave Ciccone would not need 6 runs to put this one in the win column, one run would have done the trick. Ciccone went 6 innings giving up just 2 hits and striking out 4 before Chester's Dan Mulholland came on to slam the door in the 7th, 3 up and 3 down. Manager's Choice' Fred Hilliard had 2 doubles and an RBI and Jim Vankoski also had two hits and an RBI.

Now in the Quarterfinals, Delco needed one more win to earn a spot in next Saturday's Championship round. Manager's Choice' Todd Rizzo got the ball and held Brothers Pastry's in check all day, Rizzo went 6 full, striking out 5 and allowing just 3 hits and 2 runs, only one earned. Meanwhile Delco's bats were alive building a 5-2 advantage heading into the 7th inning. Fred Hilliard spotted Delco the lead with a home run in the 1st enroute to 2 hits and one RBI on the day. Collingdale's Bill Caton led off the 3rd inning with a walk, after Hilliard's single and another walk of Chester's Ken Elkind, Aston's Josh McLeod plated Caton with a single to right tying the game at 3 after 3 innings. Delco took the lead in the 4th. Wayne's Brady Schlack walked and went to 3rd base on a double by Chester's John Plasha. A fielders choice scored Delco's go ahead run and two more runs scored when Brother's pitcher Rob Previti, walked Vankoski, Elkind, and McCleod in succession.

Dan Mulholland came on to relieve Todd Rizzo in the 7th with a runner at first and nobody out. Mulholland walked Rob Cavallo and was touched for a 3 run home run over a right field fence that only Cardinal O'Hara fans would appreciate. Mulholland settled down thereafter retiring the next 6 hitters in succession. Brother's 9 hitter, Rob Previti, gave the New York contingent the lead with a lead off home run in the ninth. After a base hit, Collingdale's lefthander Matt Wilcox came out and quickly dispatched Brother's left hand hitting 2nd and 3rd hitters, striking out Lou DiDonna to end the inning. Down 6-5, Delco wasn't ready to pack the bags up just yet. With one out in the 9th, Jim Vankoski walked, after a strike out, Delco Manager and Aston Head Coach Bill Wright sought to take advantage of the short right field porch and made the unusual move to pinch hit, left hand hitting Wayne Robinson of Wayne Baseball, for the right hand hitting McLoed. Robinson went with the game plan, making two formidable attempts at fast balls from the hard throwing lefty, Lou Mondie. Down in the count Robinson had to dig in and that he did, fouling off no less than seven 2 strike pitches from the exasperated Mondie. Meanwhile, Jim Vankoski was able to advance to 2nd base on an errant pick-off attempt. Robinson promptly lined Mondie's 10th offering to centerfield scoring Vankoski and sending the game to the into the 10th inning. Collingdale's Tom Moran came on to pitch in the tenth. Brother's Joe Durso reached base on an error to start the inning, he was advanced on a sacrifice bunt, and after a ground out to second base moved the runner to third, Vinni Cantelmo singled Durso home to give the New Yorker's a lead that that this time would hold up. Delco got runners to the corners in the 10th but could not score. Thus ended a great weekend for the Delco Baseball contingent in true baseball country, York County. TJ Chism received Delco Tournament MVP honors. The Sun Valley graduate and soon to be Lasalle Explorer hit .412, with 2 doubles, 2 RBI's, one run scored and played outstanding defense all weekend