



DelcoSport

Delco League
Playoffs

It's finally big Knight for Media

By **ROB KNOX**

Special to the Times

YEADON — The Media Knights made history by winning the first playoff series in their four-year Delco League existence by holding off a late Upper Darby Blue Sox rally, 6-4, at Kerr Field Monday evening.

"This is big win for us," Media's C.J. Boyle said. "We were the underdogs coming in and we fought hard. We believed that we could win coming into this game and this is a great step forward for our franchise."

After losing the opening game of its best-of-three series, Media stormed back to win the final two games to advance to a semi-final meeting against top-seeded Collingdale. The best-of-five series begins Wednesday evening in Collingdale.

After center fielder Marcus Spero squeezed the final out, the Media bench stormed the field and erupted in joy.

Sixth-seeded Media prevailed despite only collecting four hits. However, three of those hits were of the extra-base variety and they accounted for all six of the

Knights runs in the tense game.

"We focused on working the count and having long at-bats," Media's Jeff Monaco said. "This is really exciting for our team because we are so young and we've only been in the league for four years. We've been working for this for the last three years and our goal was to get to the playoffs, so to make it to the second round is gravy for us."

Kevin Scott pitched four solid innings to earn the win. Upper Darby's Mike Montanero was the hard-luck loser despite pitching 6¹/₃ strong innings and getting three strikeouts.

Monaco, a Unionville and Virginia Tech product, had two hits for Media and scored a pair of runs. He slugged a home run to left-center field to give the Knights a 1-0 lead. Upper Darby's Rob Itri, who slugged a pair of home runs in the game, answered with a monster shot in the bottom of the third to knot the score at 1.

With the bases loaded in the top of the fourth inning and two outs, Boyle delivered the biggest blow of the game as he smoked

a fastball to the right-center field fence that cleared the bases and gave Media a 4-1 advantage.

"I sat on a fastball and that's what I got," Boyle said. "They had a mound conference before pitching to me and I had a feeling I was going to get a fastball in that spot, so I prepared for it. Usually, the first pitch after a mound conference is a fastball."

Upper Darby crept to within 4-3 after five innings, but Media received huge contributions from Monaco, Ed Kerstetter and Brian Radford, who provided much needed insurance in the seventh inning when he hammered a two-out, two-run double to right field after Spero was intentionally walked.

Monaco made a huge defensive play in the sixth inning. After bobbling a ball, he recovered quickly and fired a laser that was trailed by a Comet's trail to record the putout on Upper Darby's Dave Ciccone.

Finally, Kerstetter made tough pitches to escape a bases-loaded one-out jam in the fifth and overcome a rocky seventh inning in which Upper Darby brought the poten-

Media 6, Upper Darby 4

MEDIA					UPPER DARBY				
	ab	r	h	bi	ab	r	h	bi	
Monaco ss	4	2	2	1	Ciccone dh	4	1	1	0
McGarry lf	4	0	0	0	Schild ss	4	0	0	0
Spero cf	3	1	0	0	Itri 2b	3	2	3	2
Radford 1b	4	0	1	2	Corsanico c	3	0	1	1
Iljas c	4	0	0	0	J. Kennedy pr	0	0	0	0
Reese pr	0	0	0	0	D. Kennedy lf	3	0	1	1
Yingling rf	1	0	0	0	Hogan cf	3	0	0	0
Young 3b	1	1	0	0	Livory rf	3	0	0	0
Patroni dh	2	1	0	0	Grafstrom ph	1	0	0	0
Boyle 2b	3	0	1	3	D'Urso 3b	3	0	2	0
					Jerdon 1b	2	1	1	0
Totals	26	5	4	6	Totals	29	4	9	2

Media	001 300 2 -- 6
Upper Darby	001 020 1 -- 4

E-Montanero, Schild, LOB-Media 5, Upper Darby 9. 2B- Boyle, Radford, HR-Itri 2, Monaco, SB-Yingling, S-Jerdon.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Media						
Scott, W	4	6	3	3	0	2
Paul	1/3	0	0	0	1	1
Kerstetter, S	2 2/3	3	1	1	1	0
Upper Darby	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Montanero, L	6 1/3	3	3	3	3	3
Wright	2 1/3	1	1	1	0	0

HBP-By Paul (Corsanico), By Scott (Hogan).
Umpires-Mike Perchalski (plate), Jack Egan (first), Dennis Keegan (third). T:2:13.

tial tying run to the plate three times.

"It really wasn't too tough to (escape the jams) because I just focused on making my pitches and hitting my spots," Kerstetter said. "Our bats are beginning to come around for us. We are really excited about what we accomplished, but now we're focused on a little more."