

Area Baseball Teams Experience Highs and Lows

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championship game played on Monday, July 26. The finals were originally scheduled to take place a day earlier, but rainy weather forced the one day postponement.

In all, the Bulldogs went 5-0 at the Classic. They won two games apiece against both the Heat and the Alexandria Bandits, while also beating the Herndon Storm.

For the season as a whole, Fairfax, a member of the Old Dominion Baseball League, finished with an impressive 8-4 record.

Members of the Bulldogs are: Thomas Aguila, Mitchell Clarke, Jack Denny, Kyle Hoeth, Ryan Kelly, Matthew Maribojoc, Brian Peirce, Chris Pitura, Randy Prospero, Josh Rector, Thompson Rick and Jack Weaver. Filling in as tournament substitutes were Sam Roux and Joey Kronlage.

Saunders Earns Win Over Nationals

West Springfield High graduate and current Major League pitcher Joe Saunders, who was recently traded from the Anaheim Angels to the Arizona Diamondbacks, went the distance in Arizona's 6-1 win over the Washington Nationals on Tuesday night in Arizona. The southpaw and former Spartans' pitching ace allowed just one run and



Brennan Miller gave Springfield Post 176 eight strong innings of work in his team's season-ending playoff loss to Chesapeake last week.

five hits over nine innings to improve his record to 7-10 with a 4.28 ERA. It was just his second start for Arizona since coming

to the club prior to the July 31 trade deadline.

Saunders, who was 6-10 with a 4.62 ERA for the Angel this season prior to being traded, struck out seven and walked two in the outing versus visiting Washington. The only run he allowed was a solo home run off the bat of Ryan Zimmerman with two outs in the top of the first inning.

In his first start with the Diamondbacks on July 29, Saunders, in a no-decision at Philadelphia, allowed two runs over seven innings with four strikeouts and no walks in a game eventually won by the Phillies, 3-2.

Saunders, a former Virginia Tech pitcher who was drafted by the Angels with the 12th overall pick in the 2002 first year player draft, has crafted a nice career for himself in the Major Leagues. He won 17 games for the Angels in 2008 and 16 for them last year.

Springfield Post 176 Eliminated

What has been a terrific season ended for the Springfield Post 176 American Legion baseball team last week when the locals fell to Chesapeake Post 280, by an 8-7 score, in a state playoff game that took place in Danville on July 28.

Springfield, which a few weeks ago captured its eighth American Legion District 17 (Northern Virginia) crown in the last 21 years, finished the summer season 20-10.

The night before its season-ending loss to Chesapeake, Springfield fell into the loser's bracket of the eight-team, double-elimination state tourney with a 6-4 first round loss to host Danville Post 325 on Tuesday, July 27. That game, due to rain, got started late Tuesday night and did not conclude until 1:45 a.m. on Wednesday morning.

Springfield had little time to regroup following that loss to Danville before it played again at 1 p.m. on Wednesday against the Chesapeake squad. Springfield received a solid outing from starting pitcher Brennan Miller, who allowed three runs and seven hits over eight innings of work against Chesapeake. He fanned seven and walked one in an outing in which he threw 117 pitches, 79 for strikes.

At the plate for Post 176, strong games came from John Ponton (3 hits, 2 RBI); Joe Townsend, who doubled and reached base four times while scoring two runs; and Nathan Slater (2 RBIs, 2 runs).

Springfield, under successful longtime Manager Al Vaxmonsky, qualified for states by winning the District 17 tournament championship game, 13-6, over Vienna Post 180 on Friday, July 23.