

Defending Champs Repeat in District 17 Legion Baseball

by **DAVE FACINOLI**, Staff Writer

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The team's philosophy with the bats changed to more of a free swinging, hitting away approach this summer, but the ultimate outcome for Springfield Post 176 in the American Legion District 17 tournament remained the same .

Top-seed Springfield (23-4) defended its title last night at Waters Field in Vienna by defeating No. 4 seed Fairfax Post 177 by an 11-8 score in the championship game.

AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

Springfield now advances to the state tournament in Lynchburg, July 26-30.

The more aggressive attack worked because Post 176 was 3-0 in the tournament and outscored those opponents, 45-18. In the title game, Springfield had to rally from behind twice, and amassed 12 hits in doing so.

Nathan Slater had two hits, including a two-run homer, and drove in three runs for Springfield. Joey Townsend doubled and had two RBI, Garrett Wooddell had three hits, Alex Carrington doubled, and winning pitcher Wes Stonelake singled and had an RBI.

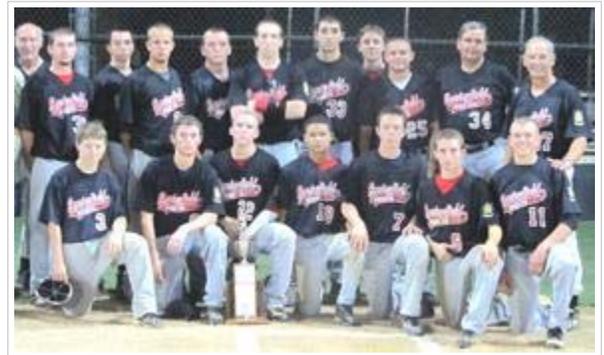
Stonelake pitched five innings of relief of starter Justin Drechsel and struck out 10 to get the win. He allowed six hits. Four errors helped Fairfax score a number of its runs.

For Fairfax (15-14) in the loss, Nolan Kime and Zach Hoeth had three hits each and Nick Priftis had a two-run single. Fairfax had 10 hits.

Fairfax last played in the District 17 final in 1986 when it lost to McLean Post 270, 8-3.

For Springfield, the district title was its ninth under longtime manager Al Vaxmonsky, who has won more than 450 games as Post 176's skipper. In addition to the nine championship, including two in a row, Springfield has finish second seven times under Vaxmonsky.

Vienna Post 180 was the second seed in the tournament and finished third.



The Springfield Post 176 teams poses with the trophy after winning the American Legion District 17 tournament championship for the second year in a row.