

July 20 Legion Section 3 – North Trenton storms back to take game one



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North Trenton's Andrew "Dino" Immordino gets ready to gun down Dan Simnor after fielding a bunt in the fifth inning of tonight's Section 3 game at Moody Park (Photo by John Blaine/purchase photos by e-mailing jbsportsphoto@aol.com).

Dino provides the spark, Guest and Patterson fan the flames

By Rich Fisher

Fish4Scores.com

July 20: Andrew "Dino" Immordino knew that after Washington Township scored four runs in the top of

the first, that North Trenton still had a lot of time to come back with nine at-bats yet to come.

But Dino and his teammates didn't waste any time at all.

With North Trenton trailing 4-0 and facing 5-0 pitcher Tyler Bright, Immordino immediately singled from his new leadoff spot to spark a three-run rally. That got Post 458 right back in it as NT went on to take a 10-6 victory in the first round of the New Jersey American Legion Section 3 Tournament at Moody Park tonight.

The win gives 458 a second-round date with Haddon Heights on Friday. The game is scheduled for 6:30 but with nine-inning games in districts, it will take a small miracle for that to happen.

In some ways, tonight was a small miracle as starting pitcher Matt Owle looked not to have it for North Trenton. He was hit hard in the first (four hits, one walk) and gave up a leadoff single in the second.

It seemed like 458 might be ripe for a letdown after winning two games Sunday to reach the districts.

And suddenly, it all turned around.

"Matt Owle threw a helluva game after the first inning," said Immordino, his catcher. "I guess it was first-inning nerves. After that he came out and threw the ball real well."

Owle allowed 11 hits and four walks with three strikeouts but from the second to the seventh he yielded five hits and one run. After giving up two singles to start the eighth, John Krecicki entered and escaped by allowing one run. Charlie Batts threw a perfect ninth.

"In the first inning Matt was leaving the ball a little up, after that he was hitting spots," Immordino said. "The curveball was working well, the change-up was down and he was throwing real well today. And we played well."

Especially offensively (14 hits) and particularly at the top of the lineup where Immordino, Jordan Guest and Matt Patterson went a combined 10-for-13 with six RBIs and seven runs scored.

Immordino was 3-for-4 with four runs scored, Guest was 3-for-5 with two runs and the ridiculously red-hot Patterson was 4-for-4 with five RBIs, a double and triple.

It all started with Immordino in the bottom of the first, as he jumped on Bright for a single and ended up getting to second on the leftfielder's error.

"It's a long game but definitely a leadoff double helps," Immordino said. "Jordan told me before the game 'If you get a leadoff double I'm gonna get you over and we're gonna score some runs.' It worked out well."

When reminded it was a single and error, Immordino smiled.

"That's true," he said. "But I'll count it as a double."

OK, fine with us.

Either way, it got North Trenton fired up quickly. Guest singled, Patterson drilled a triple into the left-centerfield gap and scored on Nick Senatore's ground out. Patterson lined an RBI single through the box to tie it in the second.

Post 458 took the lead in the third thanks to RBI singles by Blasé Cottrell, Immordino and Patterson and a bases loaded walk to Krecicki. The final run came on an Immordino double (a real one, this time) a Guest bunt single and Patterson's sacrifice fly.

North Trenton actually collected four bunt singles on the night as third baseman Chris Carmolingo continued to play deep behind the bag.

"He was playing back in warm-ups, I looked and even after the first pitch of the game he was still playing back," Immordino said. "I decided to give it a shot. After that everyone else was bunting, we were putting down perfect bunts. That helped us manufacture runs."

So has the presence of Immordino in the leadoff spot. He was moved there on Sunday when North Trenton beat Broad Street Park and Hamilton to gain a berth in the districts.

"We were talking about it and we were thinking to do it just to manufacture some more runs," said Immordino, who also threw out a would-be base stealer and made a nice play on a Township bunt to get the out at first. "I'm a decent bunter, maybe if we could just get me on and Jordan can get some singles in the gap and Matt just comes up and does what he does."

Immordino also had a stolen base as did the team's other catcher, Dan "The Mayor of MT" Chiappetta, who reached on an infield hit and scored a run as the designated hitter.

It's the kind of stuff that happens when teams get hot. The night's only misfortune came in the sixth when shortstop Eric Patterson and third base coach Steve Krecicki were thrown out of the game for arguing when Patterson was called out trying to score on a wild pitch.

According to a legion official in the pressbox, Krecicki must sit out the remainder of the tournament.

Patterson will miss one game and after legion officials talk to the umpires, it could stay at one or be increased. While that will definitely put North Trenton at a disadvantage, it still seems to be on a pretty good roll. "I think so," Immordino said. "I think this is gonna carry on for a while for us and I think it's gonna be good."