

**Aug. 10 NJ State Little League Tournament: Nottingham draws first blood!**  
**Nottingham overcomes nerves to trounce Livingston in opener**  
By Rich Fisher  
Fish4Scores.com

**Aug. 10:** The Nottingham Little League 11-year-old All-Stars grabbed an early lead and never let go in opening the New Jersey Little League State Tournament with a 12-2, five-inning victory over Livingston American in Edgewater tonight.

Nottingham opened with five runs in the first three innings and Joey Sacco took it from there, allowing three hits and one walk while striking out 10 in 4-1/3 innings. Gennaro Salzano closed it out.

The Sayen Gang only led 1-0 heading into the third before exploding for four runs.

“The first two innings they were getting the state tournament jitters out of the way,” manager Mark “The Webmaster” Sacco said. “Our hitters took a couple innings to get the jitters out, but the first time through lineup you’ll have that. By the time they got that first at-bat out of the way they started playing Nottingham baseball the way we’re used to.”

Nottingham moved into the winner’s bracket final at 8 p.m. Thursday night, where it will play Par-Troy East (made up of players from Parsippany and Troy Hills).

“They won the first game tonight and all four teams look good,” Sacco said. “It was great to win tonight for a confidence standpoint. The ability to see other teams, and know there are great teams all over and we’re really good too.”

Ryan Bremer’s RBI single got things started for Nottingham in the second. By the time it was over, Dom Chiarello had three RBIs on two hits, including a double and homer. Chris Cote was 4-for-4 with a run and RBI, Alex Coleman had a hit, three RBIs and two runs scored while Tristan Spadola had a double, RBI and two runs.

Nine different players had hits for Nottingham, which collected a total of 13. Andrew Barlow had a hit and two runs, Matt Adams and Sacco each had a hit and a run, Will Cocroft had a hit and Salzano scored a run.

If NLL wins tonight, it will play for the championship at 7 p.m. Saturday. If it loses, it must come back Friday at 7 to play in the loser’s bracket final.

Since district play started, Nottingham is 10-1.

“The kids are talented, but with any 11-year-old kid, there’s that doubt that comes from being unsure of themselves,” Sacco said. “What I think we’ve been able to teach the kids right now is ‘Listen, if you believe in yourself and trust in what you’re doing and trust people around you; you don’t worry about failure, someone will pick you up.’

“That was biggest thing we took from that game we lost (to North Wall). If you trust everybody, if you trust in each other you can come back from adversity.”

Nottingham has not only come back, but is running full speed ahead.