

SPORTS

By Jim Byrne

RYE RECREATION ADULT SOFTBALL

The Comeback Kids: Poppy's Men's A Team Wins a Close One for Championship

Storming back from a 13-0 deficit, the Poppy's Café men's A team pulled out all the stops and defeated Rollins 14-13 in the final game of the Championship series August 13.

Rollins led 5-0 in the first inning and 13-0 by the 4th inning. By the bottom of the 4th it was 13-9 as Poppy's battled back. Pitcher John Castellano pitched two scoreless innings to keep the team within striking distance.

Batting in the bottom of the 7th with one out, Brendan Ahearn and Chris Delfino both singled. Mickey "Smoltz" Glauber's two-out, two-run single brought

Poppy's within two at 13-11. Still with two outs on a 2-2 pitch Steve "Big Dog" Massinello homered to right field to tie it up and send the game into extra innings.

Rollins went down in order in the top of the 8th. In the bottom of the inning, tied at 13, series MVP Steve Gulotta singled to start the inning and went to 2nd base on Ian Ahearn's single, setting up the grand finale. Tim "the X-Factor" Kelly laced a game-winning, walk off single up the middle to score Gulotta to give Poppy's Café the win.

Timely hitting and stellar defense by Steve "Rambo"

Ramsey, Jimmy Groglio, Anthony DeRenzis, John Parisio, Ryan Prata, Luke Walsh and John Portale helped to bring Poppy's their third championship in four years.

"Being down 13-0 is tough to come back from in any game, doing it in the championship game is unheard of," said Poppy's Café coach and general manager Luke Walsh. "This win could not have been sweeter."

On the way to winning the title, Poppy's beat the Jay Dees 12-5 in the first round of the playoffs. In the first of two Championship games they bested Rollins 11-4.



BallBusters Repeat as Women's Champs



◆ Photos by ryesportsphotos.com, Melanie Cane and Steve Massinello

The BallBusters allowed only three runs in the Women's Softball League Championship series against A&F and won the title August 13 for the second year in a row.

In Game 1, after a six-inning pitching duel, the BallBusters scored the game-winning run in

and won 1-0.

Tied 1-1 in the 4th inning of Game 2, the BallBusters assaulted A&F with seven consecutive singles by Jenn "Junior" Snyder, Pam Stonehouse, Steph Shaughnessy, Natalie Chiquina, Lynda DeRenzis, Kristie Brigante and Hedy Gannon. Gannon's towering

fly ball to left center caused a collision between the left and left-center fielders, giving the BallBusters a three-run lead. The final score was 5-2.

"Stellar defense and timely hitting are what matter and we had both in the final game," said manager Bobby Piovesan.