

Pendel vs. Perky Playoff: Nor-Gwyn 8, Horsham 3

## Nor-Gwyn tops Horsham in first Perky vs. Pendel playoff

- [By Bill Keen, staff writer](#)

UPPER GWYNEDD — For once it really wasn't whether you won or lost. The mere fact the game was played was far more significant than which team had more runs when it was over.

Officially, it was Nor-Gwyn, the winner of the Perkiomen Valley Twilight League title for the first time in 27 years, that scored an 8-3 victory over Horsham, the first-time champions of the Pendel League.

A meeting of the champs of the region's two premier adult baseball summer leagues has been discussed in the past but this was the first time everything fell into place to make the Sunday night showdown a reality.

According to Joe Catanzaro, the president of the Perky League, this initial meeting may not be the last.

"If everything times out right again, hopefully, we'll do it again next year," Catanzaro said. "(Pendel president) Joe (Stoll) and I had a conversation about it last week. We said, 'Hey this is great but we really didn't know much about it until it (was set),' so we'll talk about it in the offseason to see if we can get something in concrete."

In the past, the biggest hurdle was that the Pendel playoffs are played on the weekends and typically were continuing when the Perky champs were celebrating their win. This season Pendel finished first and when Nor-Gwyn beat Norristown in three straight in the finals, a playoff seemed likely.

Horsham's players issued an unofficial challenge to their counterparts on Nor-Gwyn, asking if they wanted to meet. Sunday's game was the result.

The Packers scored all the runs they would need in their first at bat. Greg McDonough singled and with one out Jason Mills doubled him home and scored when catcher Matt Blazynski belted a long home run to left. Michael Knipe followed with a double, went to third on a wild pitch and made it 4-0 on Eric Lewandowski's sacrifice fly.

"In the postseason I didn't have the (hitting) results that I wanted," said Blazynski, who had two more hits and finished with four RBIs. "Jason Mills gave us a brief little scouting report (on Horsham starter Matt Schoettle) before the game. He's a quality pitcher and we knew we were going up against him ... I don't remember the count on the home run but it was a fastball and it was in."

Horsham battled back to score all three of its runs in the top of the second. With one out, Anthony Kelly walked and scored when Archbishop Wood product Joe Santospago smacked a mammoth home run to left center. Matt McAllister singled and later scored on a Mark McCouch single.

"I never faced (Nor-Gwyn pitcher Joe Harris) before but I just stayed calm," Santospago said. "The home run was on an inside, little bit chest high fastball. I didn't get all of it and I got jammed a little bit, but I kind of knew it was gone."

Nor-Gwyn added three runs in the fourth and its final one in the fifth in a game that was extra special simply because two teams agreed to get together on a Sunday night to play baseball.

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