

A Look Back...

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COMMUNITY SPORTS

Jersey Shore 55- and-over team comes up two wins short of title

SOFTBALL NOTEBOOK

—Written by Mitch Powitz.

PRESS STAFF WRITER

Just a heartbeat away. The Ocean County-based Jersey Shore's 55-and-over squad came within two wins of a national title as they competed at the Senior Olympics in Syracuse, N.Y. "We were two games from the championship," said Jersey Shore's manager John Londres of Lakehurst. "Thirty-two states sent representatives and the top contenders, Virginia and Syracuse, got knocked out in the first day. "That left the favorites."

Jersey Shore's, which won two out of three games at the tournament, earned its biggest win over Florida's representative,

Citrus Hill, sponsored in part by baseball Hall of Famer Ted Williams. Jersey Shores defeated Citrus Hill, 14-8. "We just tore them apart," Lourdes said. "We would have beat any team up there, we were so hot."

The win over Florida followed a 14-8 opening-game victory against Minnesota, which poised Jersey Shores for its quarter final game with Colorado.

"We had them by two runs in the seventh inning, with two outs and nobody on base," Lourdes said. "All we needed was one out. We were facing the bottom of their batting order.

"They got four straight hits to beat us," he said. "I've never seen anything

like it happen before in my life." Jersey Shores fell to Colorado, 9-8. "They won all their games by one run and came from behind each time," Londres said. "It was a pure Cinderella thing. When we played, it was their day, they just came from behind."

Jersey Shores was led by Lacey Township's George Mako (8 for 12) and Edison Township's Bob Burger (7 for 12). Lee Williams of Toms River and Ron Forbes of Brick Township also had big weekends, Williams pitched, walking one batter in 21 innings. One of the top defensive players was second baseman Sam Hanson of Brielle, who teamed with Burger on 10 double plays. The squad's left fielder Frank Haviland of Wall Township, played

good defense as well and slugged a home run against Florida. Ed Basile of Toms River, was also a major contributor.

"Ed's a real sparkplug guy," Londres said. "He usually plays outfield, but he pulled a muscle in his leg and I had to move him to catcher. I didn't want to take him out of the game. "He's our oldest player at 61, but he's got a lot of mouth and a lot of inspiration. We didn't want to lose his momentum."



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