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Sports

Greenwich Junior Babe Ruth takes Sharkey tourney

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Members of the Greenwich Junior Babe Ruth 15U team pose for a team photo after winning the championship of the Sharkey-Laureno tournament in Stamford. From left is Coach Joseph Huley, Yuta Okazaki, John Gelcius, Scott Huley, Will Colombo, Kevin Collins, D.J. Maloney, Grant Johnson, Mike Swenson, Connor Grealy, T.J. Kenny, Greg Bayliss and Coach Bill Boutelle. In front is Janet Huley. Missing from the picture is Andrew Diddel and Coach Joe Rogers.

The Greenwich 15U junior Babe Ruth team won the Sharkey-Laureno baseball tournament at Stamford's Cubeta Stadium Sunday night by beating Fairfield 3-1 in a hard-fought battle that went down to the wire.

Fairfield's pitcher Brian Power gave up back-to-back singles in the first inning by Greenwich leadoff batter T.J. Kenny and John Gelcius. However, Greenwich was unable to capitalize until the fourth inning, when Greg Bayliss got a hit on a line drive up the middle and D.J. Maloney reached base on an error by the Fairfield shortstop.

Mike Swenson got on base with a fielder's choice over to third and Scott Huley's single scored Maloney. In the sixth inning Greenwich struck again, as Gelcius got a hit to start another rally, and Yuta Okazaki drove him home. In turn, Bayliss' hit brought home Okazaki for Greenwich's final run of the night.

Okazaki pitched an almost flawless complete game, allowing only five hits, one unearned run and six strikeouts. He finished the game with a timely strikeout with bases loaded in the bottom of the seventh. Other highlights include Swenson's excellent catch at second to stop what would have been a line-drive.

Connor Grealy, an All-Star catcher on a team with three All-Star catchers, played at shortstop and picked up four put outs. Maloney, who was playing third, caught a difficult pop-fly foul ball.

Greenwich made it to the championship by beating Pelham, N.Y. 9-7 in a knuckle-

biting finish a day earlier. Pitcher Grant Johnson held Pelham scoreless for three innings and was relieved by Will Colombo and Swenson, who each stopped the Pelham's rally before the game turned. Kevin Collins had a double in the first inning and Colombo had a towering triple in the fourth.

The victory over Pelham was particularly sweet for Greenwich, as Pelham had held Greenwich to two hits and no runs and got 10 runs earlier in the tournament.

At the end of the tournament, Okazaki was named the team's Most Valuable Player.

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