



It's 'Deal or No Deal' for sports dept.

The most common question I hear at games or while out in the community is "What is your work week like?"

It's both exciting and crazy most of the time. The best way to explain my average work week is by using some popular television shows.

Everything starts on Monday. All the submitted stories and photos arrive over the weekend. When I open my computer and e-mails first thing Monday morning, I think I am a contestant on *Fear Factor*. Most e-mails are easy to figure out. Others need more work and finally there are a few that just jump out and bite you.

Early Monday morning, around 9:30 a.m., we have our sports staff meeting for planning, discussion and problem solving. I hope management sees this as *The Big Idea with Danny Deutsch*. However, after a busy weekend full of activity, the staff seems a little groggy at these meetings and more suited to be the show *Last*. I try to spice things up, but they tell me this isn't the *Last Comic Standing*.

Tuesday is pagination day. That is when we put the sports sections together on computers in Canandaigua. I call this *60 Minutes* because the clock is always ticking toward deadline and I can't call a time out. Because this is where the final choices are made as to what goes in the paper, it is better named *Deal or No Deal*. Thankfully, we have more deals each week than no deals.

Wednesday is the same pagination routine in Canandaigua. The whole production process looks sort of like the shop at *American Chopper*, complete with all the arguments.

If your story didn't get into a paper on Tuesday, you might be calling the final production day on Wednesday *Las Vegas*. Everyone is rolling the dice for that one last chance to get their stories into some of our 10 weekly publications.

Thursday is the day we work with interns who want to learn the finer points of sports journalism. Call that day *The Apprentice*. No, I haven't fired an intern, yet.

We also cover a lot of games and do feature stories and phone interviews on Thursday.

First thing Friday morning, we turn in our digital photos to the photo department for processing. They get a good chuckle out of our photos and call that period *Funniest Home Videos*.

Unlike most businesses, Saturday, not Friday is our last day of the week. Saturday is like *Survivor*. Yes, we have made it one more week (without getting voted off the island).

Sunday is my favorite day. I call it *Life of Reilly*. I watch sports on television, catch up on my reading, cook out and recharge my batteries.

There you have it. Our business is a week long television drama.

Tom Murphy is executive sports editor of Messenger Post Newspapers. tmurphy@mpnewspapers.com

Red Raiders win Section 5 crown

Fairport defeats Brockport for the third time this season to win Class AAA title.

By BRYAN SULLIVAN
Messenger Post Staff

The Fairport varsity baseball began the Section 5 Class AAA tournament with two close games.

The Red Raiders did not want to sweat out another close game in the championship.

Fairport defeated Brockport 6-1 last Friday in the championship game at Dwyer Stadium in Batavia. The Red Raiders scored all six runs in the first three innings to put Brockport in a hole they could not climb out of.

Fairport defeated Webster Schroeder 4-3 in the semifinals and Churchville-Chili 9-8 in the quarterfinals.

"I think that was what helped us," said Fairport head coach Pete Granger about the early lead. "Andy Gardner hitting that home run with two outs really helped us. It gave us confidence for the rest of the game."

While Fairport's offense took the lead, it was pitcher Brandon DeRosa who kept it for the Red Raiders.

DeRosa pitched a complete game and finished with nine strikeouts to earn the Tournament's Most Valuable Player Award. The Blue Devils lone run came in the top of the fourth as Nate Parrino scored on a fielder's choice.

The Fairport pitchers continued their mastery of Brockport this season, allowing two runs in three games. DeRosa improved to 2-0 on the season



STAFF PHOTO/ADRIAN KRAUS

The Red Raiders celebrate beating Brockport last Friday night for the Section 5 Class AAA championship.

against Brockport.

"(DeRosa) pitched a heck of a game for them," said Brian Jones, Brockport head coach. "He's got a quality fastball and it set up his off-speed stuff. We've had trouble with the off-speed stuff. They were a better team tonight."

Fairport took a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the first when Andy Gardner hit a solo home run over the right field wall off Blue Devils starter Joe Jen-

kins. The Red Raiders added four runs in the bottom of the second to end Jenkins start.

Nick Caligiuri and Aron Meindl lead off the second with singles. Caligiuri scored on a sacrifice fly and Brian Connell drove in Meindl with a single. Gardner drove in the final run of the inning with a two-out single.

Fairport finished their scoring with an RBI double by Corey Goeggelman in the bot-

tom of the third.

"I have confidence in my teammates and I know they are going to score runs," DeRosa said. "That confidence feeds down, and you feel like you can stop anyone."

The win was redemption for many players, who were on the 2005 team that was stripped of their Section 5 Championship in the off-season after using an ineligible player.

"It came as a big shock what happened," Granger said. "It was just one of these things that happened. These kids made it a goal that they wanted to repeat and they worked toward that goal."

Semifinal win

The Raiders earned their way to the finals with a 4-3 eight-inning win over Webster

See BASEBALL, 8B▶

Fairport captures Section 5 softball trophy

The Lady Red Raiders avenge last year's loss to Penfield in the finals.

By CRAIG POTTER
Messenger Post Staff

A year ago, the Penfield softball team captured its first Section 5 Class AAA championship with a 1-0 victory over Fairport in the final.

The two teams played once again for the Section 5 trophy on Wednesday at SUNY Brockport.

The Lady Red Raiders scored two runs in each of the first two innings and went on to notch a 4-1 victory.

Freshman pitcher Stacy Kuwik received the Most Valuable Player honors as she fired a one-hitter. Though she issued seven walks, Kuwik got herself out of trouble as she registered 15 strikeouts.

"I was really nervous but ready for the game," Kuwik said. "It was like, on no, what is going to happen, then yes, I did it."

"It was a lot of fun. It was pretty scary with a lot of walks, but in the end the strikeouts equaled out the walks."

Fairport, the No. 2 seed, was the home team as Penfield advanced to the finals as the No. 4 seed.

"We had a couple of great wins along the way," said Penfield coach Rob Young. "Things just didn't go our way at the end. Give all the credit in the world to Fairport."

The Red Raiders won both games during the regular season by scores of 3-1 and 5-2.

"We trailed 2-0 going into the top of seventh and scored five runs," said Fairport coach Amie Carr. "Offensively, they shut us down the last time we played them, so to come out early and put some runs on



STAFF PHOTO/ADRIAN KRAUS

Laura Sampson, left, and Amy Couch celebrate Fairport's win over Penfield in the Section 5 championship game.

the board was the key to victory for us."

Danielle Rappa led off the bottom of the first with an infield single. After a strikeout by Penfield hurler Lauren Bauerlein, Amy Couch drew a walk. With two gone, Colleen Curtin lopped a triple to right.

Fairport tacked on two runs in the second after Bauerlein retired the first two batters. Kuwik was hit by a pitch and Rappa lined a hit off charging third baseman Christa Colosi-

mo. Alison Thomsen's liner to right-center bounced over the fence for a ground-rule double as both runners scored on the play.

"I think that being able to score early put our team at ease defensively, and gave my pitcher a little confidence," Carr said. "That was key because we hit off them moderately during the season. To come on in the first inning and to be able to score runs was a real motivator for us."

Kuwik added, "It was great that my team was able to get some runs that I could just pitch and not worry about doing something wrong."

Penfield's lone run came in the fourth. Diva Caquias led off with a walk and was safe at second when Bauerlein's grounder was misplayed. The runners advanced on a passed ball and Meaghan Howard's bloop single to right scored Caquias.

Kuwik then struck out the

next three batters to end the threat.

"Stacy is probably one of the most focused and determined kids that I've ever coached at a very young age," Carr said. "She wants to go out there and perform her best, and if nothing else, she wants to win. She really carried us out there today."

"She can come back with the strikeout when she does

See SOFTBALL, 7B▶