

# VALLEY NEWS

THE NEWS SOURCE OF THE UPPER VALLEY

Published 7/29/08

VALLEY NEWS HOME
SUBSCRIBE
ADVERTISE
CONTACT US
WEB EXTRAS
VALLEY CALENDAR
CLASSIFIED ADS
EMPLOYMENT ADS
ABOUT THE UPPER VALLEY
COMMERCIAL PRINTING
AP WIRE & VIDEO



Jordan Levin of Thetford and the Connecticut Valley South Little League All-Stars moves to center field after pitching the sixth inning of the Vermont championship game yesterday in Brattleboro, Vt., as the game slips away from his team. After leading, 10-8, in the sixth inning, CVS saw its season end with a 11-10 loss to Williston.

(Valley News — Veronica Wilson)

## Title Hopes Over for All-Stars But Connecticut Valley Team Will Head to Cuba Next Month

By Jared pendak

Valley News Staff Writer

**Brattleboro, Vt.** -- The Connecticut Valley South Little League All-Stars would have chosen not to attend the Eastern Regional championships next weekend, even with a win yesterday in the Vermont state final. That, however, did little to lessen the sting from an 11-10 loss to Williston at Brattleboro Little League Field.

Two home runs, including a grand slam from Norwich seventh-grader Evan Greenwald (six RBIs), and a 10-3 lead in the fourth inning were not enough for the East Thetford-based All-Stars, who fell to Williston for the second

straight day to miss a chance at the program's first state championship.

CVS coach Ted Levin said yesterday the team would have deferred its invitation to Bristol, Conn., for the Eastern Regional championships because of its commitment to play early next month in Cuba. Under the moniker Twin Valley Peregrines, the entire team will depart Aug. 8 for a series of contests in Havana and at other sites on the island nation, which would have interfered with part of the Little League tournament.

Still, a state championship would have been a nice sendoff.

“The kids are excited about the Cuba trip, but I don't think the fact that we wouldn't have gone to Bristol makes this any less disappointing,” said Levin. “We were up 10-3 and seemingly coasting. It's hard for us to think about anything right now other than we just lost the state title game.”

Greenwald's grand slam in the second inning gave CVS a 7-2 lead before his two-run blast in the top of the fourth made it 9-3. The Richmond Middle School student's fourth and fifth long balls of the summer both went to the bushes in straightaway center.

“I was really just going for a single, both times,” said Greenwald, who also made a charging over-the-shoulder catch in center field to rob Chris Reiss of extra bases in the sixth.

“I think whenever you're at bat, you're just trying to get on base. Home runs can happen, but that's never really what I'm looking for when I'm at the plate.” After Jesse Cutting's base hit scored Matt Bach-Lombardo (walk) to make it 10-3 in the top of the fourth, Williston's rally began in the home half of the same inning.

The catcher Bach-Lombardo made a sprawling catch in foul territory for the first out, but slugger Davis Mikell (3-for-3, two doubles, two intentional walks) began the momentum shift with a double to right field off CVS starter Cyrus Rothwell-Ferraris (2<sup>nd</sup> innings, nine hits, six runs, two earned). Mikell and Ryan Schneiderman (hit by pitch) both came home on an infield throwing error to make it 10-5, with Erik Bergkvist landing at third base. Connor Stankevich's RBI double prompted the entrance of reliever Jordan Levin, who gave up a run-scoring single by Williston catcher Hayden Smith to make it 10-7 before a Williston runner was caught stealing to end the inning.

“There's a big difference between being down by seven runs going into the late innings, and being down three runs like we were,” said Williston coach Will Mikell, himself a former Little Leaguer for the town.

“I think that fourth inning was really the most important part of the game for us.”

CVS stranded a runner at third in the top of the fifth, and Schneiderman's two-out base hit in the home half plated leadoff man Tommy Fitzgerald (4-for-5, two runs) to make it 10-8.

After surrendering a lead off single to Bach-Lombardo in the sixth, Williston reliever Stankevich retired the side in order to leave the runner stranded at

second.

The trouble for CVS started in the first at bat of the Williston sixth when a fly ball by Stankevich popped in and out of the left fielder's glove for a two-base error.

Smith followed by drawing a walk, and both runners came home on Fitzgerald's one-out double to right center to tie the game, 10-10. With Peter Scrimgeour (walk) on third base, Greenwald took the mound and posted a strikeout for the second out.

The game was one strike away from extra innings when a pitch sailed wide right to bring Scrimgeour in from third for the walkoff score.

It wasn't the first resounding comeback of the summer for Williston, which overcame a 13-5 deficit in the District 1 semifinals against Colchester, winning, 16-13.

“People ask me how this stuff happens, and the answer is that it's Little League baseball,” said Will Mikell.

“Anything can happen at this level when there's runners on base and you put the ball in play. That's why these all-star teams are put together not only on playing ability, but on things like sportsmanship.”

Cravero (2-for-2, two runs) took the first pitch of the game deep over the right field fence to give CVS a quick 1-0 lead, and the locals scored six times on five hits in the second to take a 7-2 advantage. Cutting (lead off double) scored on an error at shortstop with Levin reaching, and Nathaniel Eastman (fielder's choice) and Cravero (walk) came home with Levin on Greenwald's grand slam.

Yesterday's tough-to-swallow loss will ultimately do little to tarnish a CVS campaign that saw the All-Stars win a second consecutive District 2 championship, and appear in a winner-take-all state title game for the first time, Levin noted.

“It will take a couple days to settle in after this, but the kids played really well together and have been very supportive of each other,” the coach said. “There'll be a lot of lasting friendships from this group.”

***Jared Pendak can be reached at [jpendak@vnews.com](mailto:jpendak@vnews.com) or (603) 727-3306.***

[Back to the story index](#)

---

[Valley News Home](#) [Subscribe](#) [Advertise](#) [Contact Us](#) [Web Extras](#) [Valley Calendar](#)  
[Classified Ads](#) [Employment Ads](#) [The Upper Valley](#) [Associated Press](#)