

# 2007 Major League NY District 26 Champions



Forest Hills Travel Team Allstars (11/12 yr. old) after winning the NY District 26 Championship

**Players (L-R):** Greg Boyle, Michael Rogers, Chris Woo, Juan Vela, John Favara, Daniel Scarpulla, Yuval Sucov, Daniel Gaitan, Michael Kytka, Brett Wisner, Omar Zougari and Jorge Rodriguez Not in picture: Angelo Traina, Shawn Reddy

**Coaches (L-R):** Mike Rogers, Phil Fragale (Manager), Paul Woo, Lenny Wisner and Mike Polikoff

The Forest Hills Little League Travel Team Allstars comeback from the brink of elimination and take the 2007 Major League NY District 26 Championship Title! Even though they trailed in all but one game, they played tough, never gave up and came back to win. Their championship win earned Forest Hills a spot to compete in the 2007 New York Section 3 tournament and a chance to inch closer to the Little League World Series played in Williamsport, PA each summer. They will keep on playing but will face tough teams ahead where any team can be bounced out with only one loss.

## **NY District 26 Tournament - GAME RESULTS:**

Game 1.	Forest Hills:6	vs.	Bayside:5	played at Elmjack
Game 2.	Forest Hills:2	vs.	Elmjack:3	played at Forest Hills
Game 3.	Forest Hills:4	vs.	Bayside:3	played at Crocheron Park
Game 4.	Forest Hills:7	vs.	Elmjack:3	played at Elmjack
Game 5.	Forest Hills:7	vs.	Elmjack:6	played at Elmjack

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## NY District 26 Tournament - GAME RECAP:

- Game 1:** In the first game against Bayside, Forest Hills was trailing 2 to 0 in the 2nd when John hit a 3 run homer to give the team the lead. Michael R added to the lead in the 3rd with a solo shot. Brett got into the scoring mixed going 2 for 3 with a double and triple and Omar and Yuval went 1 for 1 with runs scored. John pitched 4 innings, struck out 6. Michael R pitched the fifth and Daniel G. closed it out with 3 strikeouts in the sixth. The Forest Hills Travel Team had their first victory 7 to 6.
- Game 2:** In the second game against Elmjack, Forest Hills was behind 2 to 0 in the 3rd when John smacked a 2 run shot in center field to tie the game. It stayed at 2 all, helped out by a good catch in deep left by Angelo with men in scoring position, until the bottom of the 5th when Elmjack was able to score an unearned run. Michael R pitched 4 innings, struck out 4 and Daniel G. pitched 1 inning with 2 strikeouts. Despite good pitching by Forest Hills, Elmjack won 3 to 2 and Forest Hills had their backs to the wall. One more loss and they were out of the District Tournament and into the second tournament.
- Game 3:** The third game was against Bayside and both teams needed to win to move forward. Forest Hills would score a run in the bottom of the first when Greg singled in Brett for a 1 run lead but Bayside would take the lead with 3 unanswered runs in later innings. Trailing 3 to 1 in the bottom of the 6th, Forest Hills did not give up. Brett started off with a walk and Michael R had the count 0 and 2 before he realized he needed sunglasses to block out the glare from the setting sun. Coach Mike P quickly gave Michael his shades and he hit a blast over the centerfield fence on the next pitch to knot the game at three. John started the game and pitched 4 1/3 innings, struck out 4 and walked none. Daniel G pitched 1 and Brett pitched 2 2/3. Brett allowed no runs against Bayside especially important in extra innings, helped out by a great running catch by Chris in a crowded foul territory. In the bottom of the 8th, John led off with a walk and was erased on a 5 to 4 fielder's choice on Brett's grounder. Michael R walked and Greg singled to center. Brett was waived home but fell rounding third when the base skipped out under him but managed to get back to third safely. Daniel G knocked him in as the winning run to give Forest Hills the 4 to 3 win.
- Game 4:** Forest Hills needed to win game four to force a game five both against a tough Elmjack team. They got off to a quick start when Brett, Michael R and Greg all walked with one out in the 1st. Michael K walked to force in one and Yuval singled with two outs to plate another, giving Forest Hills a 2 to 0 lead. In the 3rd, Michael R and Daniel G walked followed by two RBI singles by Michael K and Yuval to give Forest Hills a 4 to 0 lead. Elmjack made things close by coming back with 3 in their half of the inning, making the score 4 to 3. In the sixth, Forest Hills would get some insurance runs when Omar reached on an error, followed by two walks to John and Brett. With the bases loaded, Daniel G. got a two RBI double to center and Michael K drove in Brett with good contact. Michael R started and pitched 4 2/3, struck out 5 and reached his pitch limit. Daniel G came in and closed the game out to give Forest Hills a 7 to 3 win and force a game 5. The fact Daniel G had pitched less than twenty pitches this game was important because by Little League Rules he is eligible to pitch in the next game.

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**Game 5:** Game five was for the NY District 26 Championship and both Forest Hills and Elmjack wanted it. Forest Hills would draw first blood in the bottom of the first when Michael R started a two out rally with a homerun to right center. Greg and Daniel G followed with singles and Daniel S got credit for a 2 RBI double when his fly ball got lost in the sun. Elmjack roared back to tie it in the second with 3 runs and went ahead with 3 more in the third. John started the game and pitched 2 2/3 when Daniel G was given the ball with two outs and bases loaded. Daniel closed out the third inning without any more scoring but Forest Hills was behind 6 to 3.

By now Forest Hills had plenty of experience with coming from behind and had a never say die spirit. In the fourth Michael R hit his second homer of game, this one to left center and cut the deficit to 6 to 4. John singled to start the fifth, followed by a single by Brett. Michael R was walked (maybe intentional?) to load the bases. After one out, Daniel G lined a single to the fence in center to plate only one with Elmjack playing deep to stop any extra base hits. With two outs, Michael K hit a hard smash thru second to score the tying and go ahead runs. Forest Hills was ahead 7 to 6 but it was not over yet. Daniel G still had to pitch a scoreless 6th to seal the victory and bring the Championship to Forest Hills and he did just that! Great job everyone! Manager Phil had told the team before the game started that they needed to score 7 or 8 runs to win this game. He definitely called that right.

A big thank you to all the parents and fans that not only went to the games but got the kids to the many practices; your support was much needed and appreciated.

Williamsport, PA??? Who knows!! But Forest Hills Travel Team knows - it ain't over till it's over! See you in Pelham, NY when the NY Section 3 tournament starts on Friday, July 20th!

by Coach Paul Woo