

Vernonia Hosts Little League Baseball Tournament

The Junior Baseball Organization (JBO) Midget National District Championship Tournament was held in Vernonia at Titus Field on July 8-9.

JBO is a statewide youth baseball organization in Oregon. JBO Westside is the 32 team league that Vernonia Youth Baseball participates in. It extends from Wilson High School down to Sherwood High School and all the way to the coast. "Midgets" are the age group of 10 years and under and "National" is the skill level. There are two skill levels above National - American and Federal.

The tournament was won by Sherwood Bailey, who came in as the #3 seed, lost their first game against #6 seed Yamhill Carlton and progressed through

the losers bracket to meet Yamhill Carlton again where they played two double-elimination championship games to claim the district title. Sherwood overcame a 9-15 deficit in the bottom of the 5th inning to win 16-15. Sherwood Bailey played 7 games in total and 4 on Sunday to win the district title.

JBO Westside President Alex Skelton said it was the most competitive Midget National tournament that he could remember in recent history and also said he was impressed with the way the Vernonia baseball organization ran the tournament.

"We run nine district tournaments around the westside area and I have never had a host be so excited to host a district championship," said Skel-



ton. "The crew here in Vernonia have done an absolutely wonderful job. The field, the facility, the snack shack, and the volunteers here have all been great. Everybody has been amazed at how well it has gone. We're starting to talk about coming back here sometime in the next few years and hosting some state championship games."

"I think the tournament was a

huge success and we received a lot of positive feedback for both how the tournament was run and our facilities," said Vernonia's Robert Bentley, who helped organize and run the tournament along with Jason Busch.

Bentley and Busch both expressed thanks to Dick Titus and Ken Smejkal, for making Titus Field possible.



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