

# Collision doesn't slow Latham

By KAT HASENAUER CORNETTA

## ALL-STAR BASEBALL

WALTHAM — It was a beautiful afternoon at Bentley University's DeFelice Field as Nick Latham of St. John's Prep jogged out to right field for the Eastern squad at the Massachusetts Baseball Coaches Association Junior Select Game.

With college coaches and Major League Baseball scouts lining the stands, Latham wanted to show his best. Then his best sent him into the fence.

When the game's second batter, Hudson's Ben Palatino, hit a ball that floated down the right field foul line, Latham took off after it. Latham wound up slam-

ming into the fence as the ball dropped over it in foul territory. Although he remained in the game after hurting his neck, Latham feared the injury might impact his batting.

"It hurts to turn my head to the right side, and I'm a left batter," Latham said.

With his team down 2-0 to Central/Western in the fourth

inning, Latham hit an opposite-field double to bring in Bishop Feehan's Alex Richardson and Millis' Matt Fogarty to tie the game, which the Eastern side would go on to win, 4-3.

The injury limited his time in the outfield, but Latham was still pleased with his performance.

"I was glad I was able to play through it," Latham said. "I was just glad I could get the hit to help the team."

After Latham's two-run double, Oliver Ames' Brendan Welch pitched a perfect fifth inning, earning him Most Valuable

Pitcher honors for the East.

In the sixth, Central/Western took a 3-2 lead when Wachusett's Connor Gill scored. In the home half of the inning, East Bridgewater's Connor Gavin hit a single down the third base line, dashed to third on a hit by Pope John Paul II's Matt Santos, then scored the tying run when Acton-Boxboro's Bobby Pedersen hit

a single up the middle.

In the eighth inning, New Bedford's Chandler Debrosse was hit by a pitch from Amherst Regional's Jamie Carey, stole second and moved to third on a wild pitch. Debrosse scored the go-ahead run when Lynnfield's Traverse Briana singled to left field.

Richardson was named the Eastern team's Most Valuable Player, going 2-for-2 and enjoying a stellar day in the outfield. Despite the scouts in attendance, Richardson did not let the pressure bother him.

"I put them out of my mind, and I just focused on having fun," Richardson said. "This time out here was to enjoy it and play with a group of great guys."

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| <b>EASTERN</b>      | <b>4</b> |
| <b>CENTRAL/WEST</b> | <b>3</b> |