

Eaton Captures District 3 Title

The Eaton American Legion baseball team Wednesday captured the 1961 District 3 championship by defeating the Greeley Legion B-team, 5-2, at Forbes Field.

Lefty Norm Blehm set down the tenacious Legionnaires on two hits, both coming in the seventh inning. The Eaton team concludes the district campaign with eight successive wins.

The district champions found the Legion a tough customer, particularly in the seventh when an error sparked a 2-run spree.

Blehm held Greeley scoreless and hitless until the seventh. After Alan Gettman reached first on Alan Beede's error, Ken Haggard broke Blehm's spell with a single. Max Haskett followed with another single for a run, then Haggard scored on a fielder's choice.

Blehm settled down to strike out the next two batters, his 14th and 15th whiff victims of the game.

Little Jack Steele pitched an admirable 2-hitter for Greeley, but one of the Eaton hits was most timely. It was a 3-run homer by Blehm in the third inning.

Eaton manufactured the only run it needed in the first inning when Beede walked, was sacrificed to second, advanced to third on a passed ball and scored on an infield out.

Steele walked only two batters, but the other one figured in Eaton's 4-run third. With one out Jack Brunz was hit by a pitched ball. He stole second and took third on a passed ball. An error allowed Brunz to score. Then Beede walked for the second time. John Busch and Beede were safe on a fruitless fielder's choice play. And Blehm clobbered his home run.

The other Eaton hit was a single in the fifth by Beede.

Blehm walked only two. Legion Coach Bob Pratt was not disappointed in the loss. He said, "The boys played their hearts out. This was the best game they have played all year. Steele pitched a tremendous game, and they came back strong at the end."

The Legion has a 2-4 District 3 record with two games to be played. The Legion entertains Wellington at 8 p.m. Sunday at Forbes

Field, while Eaton meets the Greeley Elks at 8 p.m. Monday at Forbes Field in an exhibition game.

Eaton (#)	ab	r	h	bi
Beede, ss	1	2	1	0
Busch, 1b	2	1	0	0
N. Blehm, p	3	1	1	3
Whitham, c	3	0	0	0
Miller, lf	3	0	0	0
Bass, cf	3	0	0	0
D. Blehm, 3b	2	0	0	0
Rhoades, 3b	1	0	0	0
Kindsfater, 2b	3	0	0	0
Brunz, rf	1	1	0	0
A. Meyer, rf	1	0	0	0
	23	5	2	3

Legion (2)	ab	r	h	bi
Sorenson, cf	1	0	0	0
Wheeler, 2b	2	0	0	0
Gettman, 1b	3	1	0	0
Haggard, lf	3	1	1	0
Haskett, rf	3	0	1	1
J. Meyer, 3b	3	0	0	0
Steele, p	3	0	0	0
D. Meyer, ss	3	0	0	0
a-Basey	1	0	0	0
Sargent, c	2	0	0	0

	23	2	2	1
a struck out for D. Meyer in 7th.				

Eaton	104	000	0-3
Legion	000	000	2-2

E. D. Meyer, Beede, POA.
 Legion 21-7, Eaton 21-5. LOB: Legion 3, Eaton 1. HR: N. Blehm. SB: Beede 2, Brunz, Sorenson, S. Musch, Wheeler.

Pitching	ip	h	r	er	bb	so
Steele	7	2	2	3	2	10
N. Blehm	7	2	2	1	2	15
HBP: Brunz (by Steele), PB: Sargent 2.						



DISTRICT 3 LEGION B CHAMPIONS—The Eaton American Legion B baseball team Wednesday captured the district title by defeating Greeley Legion 5-2. The win was Eaton's eighth straight without defeat. Members of the state playoff bound Eaton team are front left to right, Coach Russ Harrach, Jack Brunz, Chuck

Bass, Greg Springston, Rick Witham, Norm Blehm, Dave Rhoades and Warren Miller; back, Mark Springston (manager), John Busch, Ron Kindsfather, Alan Beede, Kelly Witham, Art Meyer, Chuck Nelson and Don Blehm. Tribune photo by Paul Moloney.

Eaton Quests State Legion B Diadem

EATON — Eaton's District 3 champion American Legion B team will entertain Jefferson Transit and Mix this weekend in a best-two-of-three-game series.

The first game of the series will be at 2 p.m. Saturday. The second game is scheduled for 1 p.m. Sunday with the third game, if necessary, to start shortly after the second contest.

Jefferson Transit and Mix, a Clear Creek team, will take an 18-1 won-lost record into the sectional playoffs. Eaton has a 13-4 mark, winning all of its games since dropping an exhibition contest at the start of the year.

Eaton copped the District 3 championship by winning eight successive games. It closed the regular season with a stunning 6-4 victory over the Class A Greeley Legion-Elks.

Jefferson Transit and Mix will be paced by a 4-man pitching staff, all righthanders. Top pitchers are Steve Zihantl and Don Alley, the scheduled starters in the first two games Saturday and Sunday.

Leading Eaton will be lefthander Norm Blehm, the top pitcher and hitter. Norm, winner of 9-of-10 games, will share pitching responsibilities with brother Don, winner of four games.

Norm Blehm has supplied the top bat in the Eaton lineup. He is hitting .490 (28 hits in 57 at bats) and leads in runs batted in with 30.

Norm has slugged 5 home runs, 6 triples and 3 doubles among his hits. He has scored 26 runs.

All the other batting averages:

Alan Beede 542, Art Meyer 500, Chuck Bass 406, Warren Miller 390, Don Blehm 353, John Busch 327, Jack Brung 319, Rick Whitham 318, Ken Masterson 300, Ron Kindsfater 286, Chuck Nelson 222, Dave Rhoades 214, Greg Springson 143 and Kelly Whitham 125.

Norm Blehm has pitched 69 innings, allowed 36 hits, 23 runs, 15 earned runs, 28 walks and has struck out 134. He has compiled a 1.53 earned run average and pitched a perfect game.

Don Blehm has pitched 27 innings, allowed 12 hits, 7 runs, 3 earned runs, 9 walks and has struck out 41. He has an 0.78 earned runs average.

Stolen base leaders are Brunz with 12 and Kindsfater with 10.

The Eaton scores:

3	La Salle	5
11	*Longmont	2
26	Frederick	1
8	*Loveland	0
24	*Wellington	2
26	*Windsor	1
6	*La Salle	4
13	Longmont	1
3	*Greeley Elks	0
10	*Frederick	4
2	Loveland	1
5	*Greeley Legion	2
9	Greeley Elks	3
6	Greeley Legion-Elks	4

*District 3 games.

Eaton Cops Last Two Tilts, Wins Playoff

EATON — Younger brother in trouble — so naturally — big brother to the rescue!

Norm Blehm, Eaton's ace left hander, came to his brother's aid, put down a late Clear Creek uprising and slammed the door in the final inning to give Eaton a thrilling 5-4 win over Jefferson Transit Mix and to send the State Class B Legion quarterfinals into the third and deciding game Sunday here.

Clear Creek had won Saturday's pitchers duel, 7-0.

Jefferson's Transit Mix threatened to win Sunday's opening game after Zinanti, Benjamin and Alley hit consecutive singles in the bottom of the sixth inning to creep within one run of Eaton, 5-4.

Norm Blehm then came to the side of his brother and struck out two of the four men he faced with his blazing overhand fast ball to put a stop to the Mixer's further scoring efforts.

Eaton's chances of winning the third and final game appeared to be going down the drain in the second inning. The Mixers scored seven runs and took a commanding 7-3 lead. With one out, Paul Grull reached first on an error. Dave Kehl and Joe McMaster each drew a walk to load the bases.

This brought about Alan Bee-

★ ★ ★ Saturday's Game

Clear Creek (2)	ab	r	h	bi
Neeley, 2b	3	0	1	0
Lawson, ss	3	0	0	0
Zinanti, p	3	1	1	0
Benjamin, 1b	3	1	1	0
Alley, c	3	0	2	2
Cluck, cf	2	0	0	0
Granz, cf	1	0	0	0
Newsom, lf	3	0	0	0
Grull, 3b	3	0	1	0
McMaster, rf	2	0	0	0
Norton, rf	1	0	0	0

Eaton (0)	ab	r	h	bi
Beede, ss	2	0	0	0
Busch, 3b	4	0	1	0
N. Blehm, p	3	0	1	0
Whitham, 3b	3	0	0	0
Miller, lf	3	0	1	0
Bass, cf	3	0	1	0
D. Blehm, c	3	0	1	0
Kindsfater, 2b	2	0	1	0
Brunz, rf	3	0	0	0

Clear Creek	26	0	6	0		
Eaton	000	002	0-2			
E. Neeley, PO-A:	Clear Creek					
21-12, Eaton 21-7.						
2b: N. Blehm, D. Blehm, Benjamin, Neeley, SB: Grull, Brunz						
Pitching	ip	h	r	er	bb	so
N. Blehm	7	6	2	2	0	10
Zinanti	7	6	0	0	3	6
PB: Alley, WP: Zinanti.						

de's early retirement and Don Blehm relieved for Eat.

Harvey Neeley hit a slow roller that got through Beede and two runs were across. A single by Rex Lawson, a double by Alley and a booming triple by Pete Benjamin pushed across three more runs. Things looked gloomy for the Eaton nine.

Jack Brunz, Ron Kindsfater and Chuck Bass drew walks to open up the fourth inning. Dave Rhoades smacked a sacrifice fly to shallow leftfield, scoring Brunz. Clear Creek's leftfielder threw the ball wild and Kindsfater scored as the fans sensed a rally.

Clear Creek held a slim 7-5 lead.

Three consecutive singles by Alan Beede, John Busch and Norm Blehm and a sacrifice fly by Rick Whitham accounted for four more Eaton runs and put the District champs ahead to stay. Eaton tallied two more runs in

the top of the seventh inning on a two-run triple by D. Blehm.

Blehm received credit for both of the Eaton victories.

Steve Zinanti of the Mixers and



Eaton Comes Back

Eaton (5)	ab	r	h	bi
Beede, ss	4	0	0	0
Busch, 1b	5	1	1	0
N. Blehm, rf-p	5	1	2	1
Whitham, c	4	1	1	0
Miller, lf	2	1	1	0
Brunz, 3b	2	0	0	0
D. Blehm, p	4	1	1	0
Rhoades, rf	0	0	0	0
Kindsfater, 2b	2	0	2	1
Bass, cf	3	0	1	1
	31	5	9	3

Clear Creek (4)	ab	r	h	bi
Neeley, 2b	4	0	1	0
Lawson, ss	3	1	1	0
Zinanti, lf	4	1	2	0
Benjamin, 1b	4	1	2	1
Alley, p-rf	3	1	2	1
Chuck, cf	3	0	1	0
Newsom, 3b	2	0	0	0
Grull, c	2	0	0	1
Cowles, rf	1	0	0	0
Norton, p	2	0	0	0

Eaton	202	100	0-5			
Clear Creek	110	002	0-4			
E: Bass, Kindsfater, Norton, Benjamin, PO-A: Eaton 21-3, Clear Creek 21-8, DP: Newsom, Neeley to Benjamin, LOB: Eaton 10, Clear Creek 6.						
2b: Lawson, Busch, N. Blehm, SB: Miller, Neeley, Lawson, SF: Grull.						
Pitching	ip	h	r	er	bb	so
D. Blehm (W)	5	8	4	4	1	6
N. Blehm	1	0	0	0	3	
Alley (L)	2	3	4	2	2	0
Norton	5	6	1	0	6	1
D. Blehm pitched to 3 batters in 5th, Alley pitched to 2 batters						

Norm Blehm of the Eaton pitched sound ball in Saturday's opening game. Zinanti won the game when he and Pete Benjamin scored in the sixth inning on a bloop single by Don Alley.

Norm Blehm pitched a fine game in losing as he struck out 10 Clear Creek batters and walked none.

Don Blehm scored the winning run in Sunday's first game when he opened the fifth inning with a line single. A walk and a Mixer error scored Blehm. Blehm was the winning pitcher.

Eaton will go to Denver Saturday for the semi-finals.

The Championship

Eaton (11)	ab	r	h	bi
Beede, p-ss	4	2	3	1
Brunz, 3b	3	2	1	2
N. Blehm, rf	4	1	1	1
Whitham, c	3	0	0	1
Miller, lf	2	1	1	0
Brunz, 3b	3	2	1	2
Kindsfater, 2b	2	2	2	0
Bass, cf	2	1	0	0
Nelson, 3b	0	0	0	0
Rhoades, ss	1	0	0	0
D. Blehm, p-ss	2	0	1	3

Clear Creek (8)	ab	r	h	bi
Neeley, 2b	5	1	0	0
Lawson, ss	5	2	4	2
Alley, p-cf	5	1	4	1
Benjamin, 1b	4	1	1	2
Norton, cf-p-cf	3	0	0	1
Newsom, 3b	4	0	0	0
Grull, c	4	1	0	0
Kehl, lf	1	1	0	0
Grull, lf	1	0	0	0
McMaster, rf	2	1	1	0
Zinanti, p	0	0	0	0
	34	8	10	6

Eaton	300	600	2-11
Clear Creek	070	001	0-8
E: Brunz 4, Beede, D. Blehm, Busch 2, Newsom, Norton, Kehl, PO-A: Eaton 21-7, Clear Creek 21-9.			

2b: Alley, 3b: Alley, Benjamin, Busch, Brunz, D. Blehm, SB: Brunz, Neeley, Alley, SF: Norton

Pitching	ip	h	r	er	bb	so
Beede	3½	4	4	1	2	1
D. Blehm (W)	3½	6	4	0	2	2
Alley (L)	3	3	6	6	5	1
Norton	2	3	3	3	0	1
Zinanti	2	3	2	2	1	3

Alley pitched to 3 batters in 4th, Beede made two pitching appearances.

WP: Beede, PB: Grull.



Eaton Legion Faces North Denver Bank In State B Semis

EATON — The Eaton American Legion baseball team will encounter North Denver Bank in the semi-finals of the 1961 Colorado American Legion B playoffs Saturday and Sunday at 26th and Decatur in Denver.

Eaton gained the semi-finals by defeating Clear Creek last weekend, North Denver Bank drew a first round bye.

The two teams meet at 1 p.m. Saturday in the first game. The second game of the best-of-three-game series will be at 3 p.m. Saturday. If a third game is necessary, it will be at 2 p.m. Sunday.

North Denver Bank compiled a 10-1 record in league play and is made up of mostly Regis High School players. Eaton will take a 15-2 record into the semi-finals.

Eaton defeated Clear Creek 5-4

and 11-8 last Sunday after losing the first game of the series 2-0.

Eaton's top pitchers will be Norm Blehm (9-2) and Don Blehm (6-0). Alan Beede may also see mound duty.

Eaton Beats Denver Team To Gain Legion Finals

DENVER — Eaton's American Legion baseball team did it again the hard way!

Over the weekend Eaton recoiled from a first game defeat by North Denver Bank to win the next two games — the same feat it accomplished last week against Clear Creek in the State Legion B quarter-finals.

Sunday Eaton defeated North Denver Bank, 8-2, to win the best-of-three-game playoff. Eaton now plays Ent Air Force Base American Legion for the State Legion B championship.

In Saturday's games Eaton lost the first game, 7-6, then won the second, 1-0.

The games were played on the North Denver High School baseball field at Decatur and 26th.

In the finale Eaton shelled three dumfounded North Denver Bank pitchers in the bottom of the sixth inning. It broke a 1-1 tie and assumed an 8-1 lead before a capacity crowd of Eaton-dominated fans.

Hits Key Blow

Ron Kindsfater's clutch, two-out, two-strike base hit in the sixth inning with teammate Rick Whitham aboard plus the brilliant pitching efforts of southpaw Norm Blehm, gave Eaton an exciting 1-0 uphill win Saturday to throw the tournament into the third and deciding game Sunday. Blehm struck out 13.

North Denver Bank won the first game Saturday as Eaton suffered a case of jitters, committing six errors and handing Denver the game 7-3, after taking an early 6-0 lead.

Sunday's Final Game

After one was out in the bottom of the sixth inning of the finale, third baseman John Busch rapped out a single to start things humming for the farm kids.

Denver's starter, Xavier Nady, was relieved in favor of lefthander Neal Rudolph.

Norm Blehm then hit a slow roller to Rudolph, Rudolph, in his anxiety to get a double play started, threw wild to second and all hands were safe.

With men on first and second, Don Blehm socked a double down the first base line scoring Busch and Eaton took a 2-1 lead.

Bases Loaded

Warren Miller beat out an infield hit and the bases were loaded.

A high-bouncing ball hit over the pitcher's head between second and short shoved one more run

across for Eaton and Witham was at first with another infield hit.

Kindsfater coaxed a walk, forcing in another run and Eaton now led, 4-1.

That was all for Rudolph and Tracy Cross, Saturday's first-game winner for Denver was summoned. Rudolph hadn't retired an Eaton batter.

Center-fielder Chuck Bass watched a couple of Cross's offerings go by and then picked out a fast ball and blasted high over Denver's center-fielder's head and three more runs were across as Bass pulled up at third with a booming triple.

Eaton now had a commanding 7-1 lead.

Bass scored run number eight on an infield out.

Beede Wins First

Don Blehm pitched five sound innings of baseball for Eaton and was only in trouble in the third inning when North Denver scored one run due to an Eaton throwing error.

Alan Beede relieved as Blehm had used up his allotted nine innings.

Beede did a masterful job in picking up his first tournament win, striking out three and walking none in the two innings he pitched.

Denver Bank scored one unearned run in the third when Mike Kellogg reached first via an error and scored on a base hit by Tim Carabello. The other runs were scored in the seventh.

Saturday's Second Game

With two out in the sixth in Saturday's second game, Whitham punched out a single to start the Eaton rally.

A pick-off attempt by North Denver's Rudolph went astray and Whitham was in scoring position at second.

This set the scene for Kindsfater's clutch single, scoring Whitham with what was to be the winning run.

A one-run lead was all the extra bolster that hard-throwing Norm Blehm needed.

The fire-balling lefthander showed no mercy for North Denver as he struck out the final three men in a blaze of glory.

Blehm had to survive a shaky start in the first two innings but after the initial two, Blehm slammed the gate and retired the next 13 batters in a row.

North Denver took advantage of

six Eaton errors, two walks and some costly mental errors to win Saturday's opening slugfest, 7-6.

Eaton tallied five runs in the first inning and appeared to be on the verge of an easy victory.

After Beede had singled, Busch was safe on a fielder's choice.

Bankers Win Opener

Eaton (8)	ab	r	h	bi
Beede, ss	3	1	1	0
Busch, 1b	4	1	0	0
N. Blehm, p-rf	4	0	2	0
D. Blehm, 3b-p	4	1	1	1
Miller, lf	3	1	1	0
Whitham, c	3	1	1	0
Kindsfater, 2b	3	0	1	3
Brunz, rf	3	0	0	0
Rhoades, 3b	1	0	0	0
Bass, cf	3	1	0	0
	31	6	7	4

Denver (7)	ab	r	h	bi
Thorpe, rf	3	2	0	0
Carabello, 2b	3	1	3	1
Sweller, cf	4	1	0	0
Paulson, ss	3	0	1	1
Loehr, lf	3	1	0	0
Golden, 3b	3	0	0	0
Beard, 1b	3	1	0	0
Kellogg, c	2	0	1	0
Cross, p	3	1	0	0
	27	7	5	3

Eaton	420	000	0-6
Denver	011	032	x-7

E: Beede 2, Busch 2, Rhoades, PO-A: Eaton 2, Denver 18-5. LOB: Eaton 3, Denver 5.

2b: Kindsfater, Carabello.

Pitching ip h r er bb so

N. Blehm 2 3 1 1 0 4
D. Blehm (L) 5 4 6 1 1 3
Cross (W) 7 7 6 4 1 8
WP: Cross (2); BK: N. Blehm, D. Blehm.

Eaton Stages Explosion

Denver (2)	ab	r	h	bi
Thorpe, rf	4	0	2	0
Carabello, 2b	4	0	2	2
Mueller, cf	4	0	1	0
Paulson, ss	4	0	0	0
Cross, 3b	3	0	1	0
Learned, 1b	2	0	1	0
Loehr, lf	3	0	0	0
Kellogg, c	3	1	0	0
Nady, p	2	0	0	0
a—Golden, 3b	0	0	0	0
b—Rudolph, p	0	0	0	0
c—Marone	1	1	0	0
	30	2	7	2

Eaton (8)	ab	r	h	bi
Beede, ss-p	4	0	1	1
Busch, 3b	3	1	1	0
N. Blehm, 1b	3	1	0	0
D. Blehm, p-ss	3	1	2	1
Miller, lf	3	1	1	0
Whitham, c	3	1	2	1
Kindsfater, 2b	1	1	0	1
Bass, cf	3	1	1	3
Brunz, rf	3	1	1	1
	28	8	9	9

a—Played 3b for Cross in 6th; b—pitched for Nady in 6th; c—batted for Rudolph in 6th.

Denver	001	000	1-2
Eaton	001	007	x-8

Singles by Norm Blehm, Don Blehm and Miller and a smashing double by Kindsfater accounted for five Eaton runs.

Things were going along smoothly for the Eaton nine going into the fatal 5th and 6th innings. Then the roof fell in.

A single and a double, six Eaton errors and a balk later, Eaton was looking from the short end of a 7-6 score.

Don Blehm was the loser, taking over the mound duties from his brother Norm in the third as things at that time appeared to be going very favorably for Eaton. Coach Russ Harrach wanted to save Norm for the second game.

Eaton will journey to Colorado Springs this Saturday for the State Class B Legion championship. It will meet the Ent Air Force Legion at 2 p.m.

Blehm Gets Shutout

Denver (8)	ab	r	h	bi
Thorpe, rf	3	0	0	0
Carabello, 2b	2	0	0	0
Mueller, cf	2	0	1	0
Paulson, ss	3	0	0	0
Learned, 1b	3	0	1	0
Loehr, lf	3	0	0	0
Nady, 3b	2	0	0	0
Kellogg, c	3	0	0	0
Rudolph, p	1	0	0	0
	23	0	2	0

Eaton (1) ab r h bi

Beede, ss 3 0 0 0
Busch, 1b 2 0 0 0
N. Blehm, p 3 0 1 0
D. Blehm, 3b 3 0 0 0
Miller, rf 3 0 0 0
Whitham, c 2 1 1 1
Kindsfater, 2b 3 0 1 1
Brunz, rf 3 0 0 0
Bass, cf 2 0 1 0

24 1 4 1

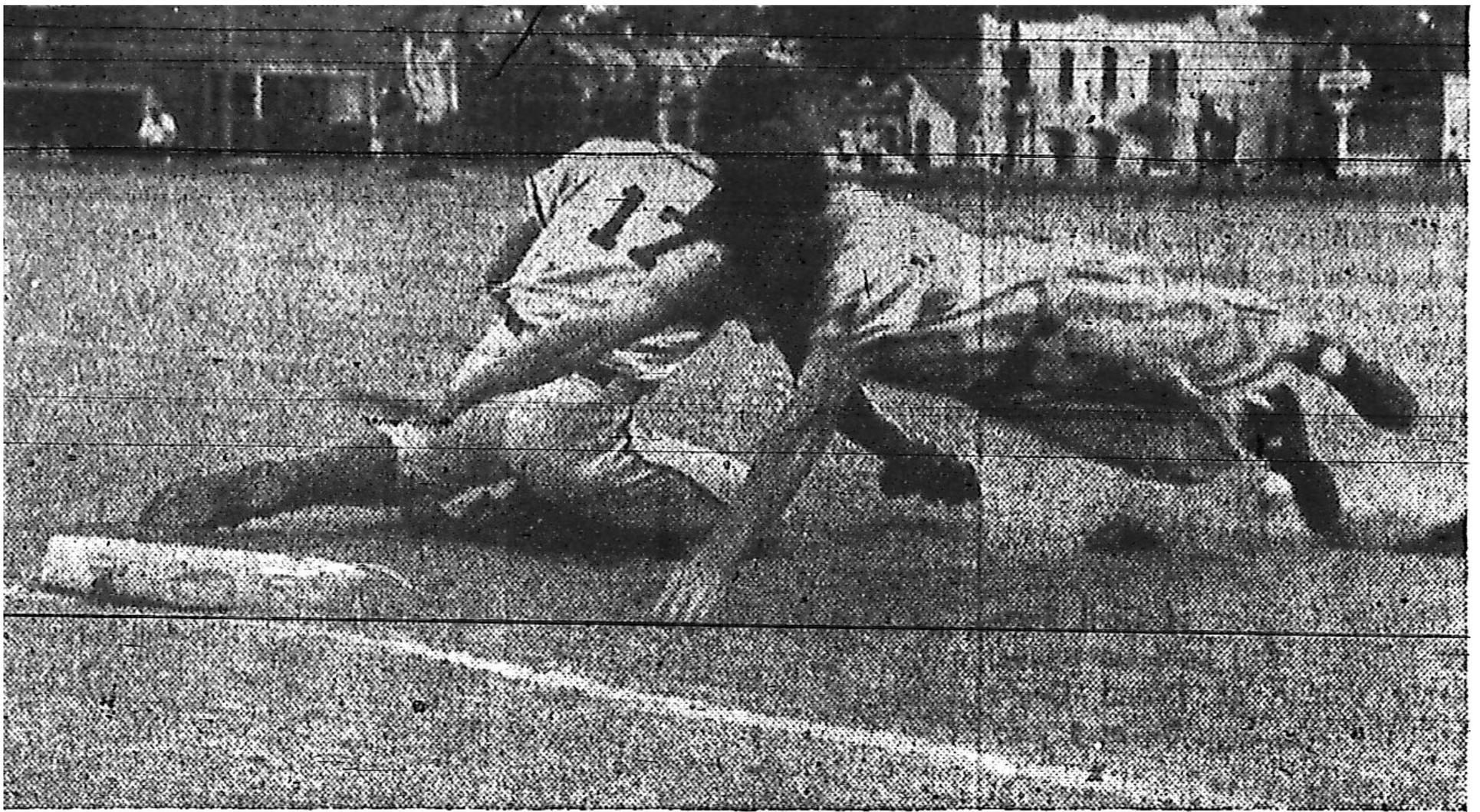
Denver Bank 000 000 0-0
Eaton 000 001 x-1

E: Thorpe, Learned, PO/A: Eaton 21-5, Denver 18-6. LOB: Eaton 5, Denver 5.

SB: Whitham 2.

Pitching ip h r er bb so

Rudolph (L) 7 4 1 1 2 4
N. Blehm (W) 7 2 0 0 3 18



THE BALL SCOTS AWAY from Eaton's first baseman Norm Blehm on a pickoff attempt by his brother Don in the second inning of Sunday's final game. Ball can be seen just under North Denver Bank's Joe Paulson who dives

back into first base. Eaton's explosive 7-run sixth inning buried Denver 8-2 and gave it the right to meet Ent Air Force Base Legion for the State Class B Legion championship Saturday at Colorado Springs. Tribune photo by Bob Scales.

Eaton Bids for State Legion B Crown

By **BOB SCALES**

EATON — "This team has more heart than any team I have ever

coached or have ever seen," said Russ Harrach, coach of Eaton's championship District 3 American Legion baseball team.

Saturday is "D" day for the Eaton nine.

Eaton makes its bid for the State Class B American Legion championship when they tackle Ent Air Force Legion at Colorado Springs.

The first game of the best two-out-of-three-game series begins at 1 p.m. and the second is scheduled for 3 p.m. If a third game is necessary it will be played at 2 p.m. Sunday.

According to reports from several "oldtimers" in Eaton, the last time an Eaton ball club battled for a State championship was way back in 1925. During that year Eaton lost the State title to La Junta in football.

Eaton, a hard fighting determined bunch of ball players, will be out to stop a 10-game Ent Air Force winning streak. Ent goes into the State playoff with a 14-1 record while Eaton boasts a 17-3 record.

It took two brilliant come-back wins in the quarter and the semifinals to give Eaton a shot for the State title.

Eaton advanced to the semifinals by winning two from Clear Creek, 5-4 and 11-8 after losing a 2-0 game in the series opener at Eaton.

The Eaton nine again lost an opener to North Denver Bank in the semis 7-6, at Denver, but stormed back in the final two games 1-0 and 8-2 to win and advance to the State finals.

Over a three-year span the team has won 29 and lost four District 3 league games.

John Busch has seen action at every position except the pitching rubber during his three years with the club.

Jack Brunz, the fastest man on the club, hit 346 last year and has batted most of this season with his left arm in a cast. Brunz has stolen 63 bases in 66 attempts over the three year span.

"These guys keep plugging away and never lay down and die," said Harrach.

This type of play has been very evident as Eaton has come back time after time to win league contests after falling behind early in the game.

Leading Eaton into the finals will be its top pitcher and hitter Norm Blehm. Norm, winner of 10-of-12 games, will share the

pitching responsibilities with brother Don, winner of six games while dropping one.

Norm, the leading hitter on the Eaton ball club, sports a .452 batting average. He leads the club in the homer department with five. He and John Busch have each rapped out six triples and Norm leads in the rbi department with 35.

Besides being the top batter Norm has an excellent pitching record to match his slugging. The fire-throwing lefthander has a 1.45 ERA, struck out 164 batters and has walked 31.

Don Blehm has a 1.40 earned run average and has struck out 54 enemy batters. Eaton's other pitcher, Alan Beede, who incidentally pitched his first game this season in the quarter finals has a 1-0 record.

All the other batting averages: Art Meyer .500, Alan Beede .330, Chuck Bass .370, Warren Miller .349, Don Blehm .321, John Busch .277, Jack Brunz .268, Rick Whitham .313, Ken Masterson .300, Ron Kindsfater .286, Chuck Nelson .222, Dave Rhoades .214, Greg Springston .143 and Kelly Whitham .125.

This will be Harrach's final series as a coach at Eaton. He has taken a superintendent job at Big Springs, Neb.

Eaton's Bats Boom for 1st State Championship

By BOB SCALES
COLORADO SPRINGS — Bells are ringing in Eaton — the big reason—Eaton's American Legion baseball team just won the first state championship in the history of the town here Saturday.
 The new State Class B champion's, combinational, one-two punch of brother's Norm and Don Blehm, sparked Eaton to two straight triumphs over Ent Air Force Legion, 10-3 and 7-3 for the title.
 Eaton left no doubt whom the

state champs were going to be. They out-hustled, out played and did everything but knock the cover off the ball with their hitting feats in defeating the Ent nine.
 The Eaton wrecking crew, consisting of a mixture of two Blehms, sprinkled with Rick Whitman and Chuck Bass, a dab of Ron Kindsfater and the guiding mixing spoon of coach Russ Harwell proved too potent for the Air Force Legion to handle.

Eaton smashed a 10-game Ent winning streak.
Two-Hitter Between Them
 The brother's two, Norm and Don, shot down 14 Air Boy's via the strike out and allowed only two hits between them in Eaton's rousing 10-3 first game win.
 It was the first time in this year's playoff series that Eaton had won the first game.
 Ent Air Force drew first blood in the opening game with two runs in the bottom of the second inning.

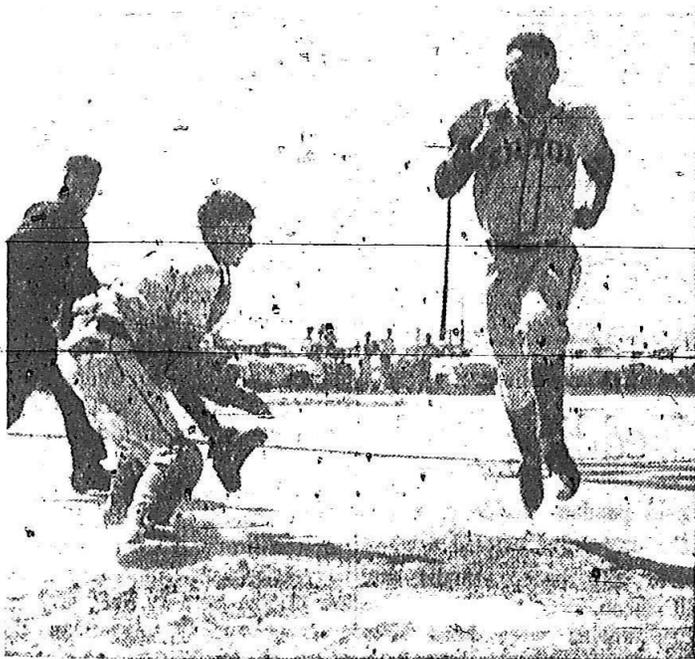
A walk, a wild pitch plus an Eaton error and Ent took a 2-0 lead.
 Eaton came roaring back with two runs in the top of the third, inning to tie it up at 2-2.
 Jack Brunz walked, stole second — his first of three thefts — advanced to third on an infield out and came home on a wild pitch. Norm Blehm tied the game with a line-shot home run to deep center field.
 Eaton clipped Ent for two more runs in the top of the fourth on

Ron Kindsfater's triple down the first base line and Alan Beede's single.
Ent's Nightmare
 Eaton flexed it's muscles in the sixth inning with a tremendous display of power.
 Norm Blehm started the fireworks for Eaton with a double and brother Don drove him home with a smashing triple to right center field.
 This action sent Ent's starter LeRoy Porterfield to the show-

ers and Steve Harwell came on in relief.
 Harwell was greeted with a single by Warren Miller and another Eaton triple by Rick Whitman and the to-be state champs led, 6-3.
 The Eaton fans, about 75 strong, whooped it up as they liked what they saw.
 Ent Legion, amazed, stunned and shell-shocked, tried to figure a way to silence the Eaton bats.
 Ent finally retired Eaton in the

sixth after two more singles by Brunz and Beede. Eaton led 9-3.
 Eaton scored it's 10th run in the seventh when Brunz scored first on an error and reached in the same fashion.
 With a six run lead, Eaton's one-two B-B- punch, Norm and Don Blehm, stopped Ent cold.
 Norm fanned nine batters in the four innings he pitched while Don whiffed five. They each gave up one hit.

terfield as he smacked his third pitch to left center for a double.
 Beede reached first via a wild pitch after striking out.
 John Busch struck out...and Norrie Blehm followed with his fifth consecutive hit of the afternoon.
 Miller knocked in Blehm with a single and Eaton took command, 7-0.
The B-B- Combination
 The Blehm boys fanned 11 more



EATON'S NORM BLEHM LEAPS home with a home run in the top of the third inning to tie Saturday's opening game at 2-2. Blehm's home run occurred in the State Class B playoffs Saturday as Eaton won the State title, defeating Ent Air Force Legion in two straight games, 10-3 and 7-3. Tribune photo by Bob Scales.

TOM GREEN OF ENT AIR FORCE Legion steals third base in the Ent-Eaton game held in Colorado Springs, Saturday. Getting the ball is third baseman Don Blehm. Eaton went on to win, 7-3 for the State championship. Tribune photo by Bob Scales.

Eaton Bats Boom Again
 Eaton put a damper on any Ent hopes of winning the second game with an explosion in the second inning.
 Eaton's bats were still loaded with T.N.T.
 Whitman lit the fuse, blasting out his second triple of the afternoon. Kindsfater singled and Bass took the hint and unloaded another Eaton triple to deep center field.
 That was all for Ent's starter Harwell. Porterfield came on in relief.
 Brunz wasted no time with Por-

terfield as he smacked his third pitch to left center for a double. Beede reached first via a wild pitch after striking out. John Busch struck out...and Norrie Blehm followed with his fifth consecutive hit of the afternoon.
 Miller knocked in Blehm with a single and Eaton took command, 7-0.
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Not The Hard Way!

Eaton (10)	ab	r	h	bi
Beede, ss	5	0	2	2
Busch, 1b-3b	5	0	1	0
N. Blehm, p-1b	4	2	3	1
D. Blehm, 3b-p	4	1	2	1
Miller, lf	3	1	1	1
Whitman, c	3	1	1	1
Kindsfater, 2b	4	1	1	0
Bass, cf	3	0	0	0
Brunz, rf	2	4	1	2
K. Whitman, c	1	0	0	0
Meyer, ss	1	0	0	0
Rhoades, lf	1	0	0	0
Nelson, rf	1	0	0	0

State Championship!

Eaton (7)	ab	r	h	bi
Beede, ss	3	1	1	0
Busch, 1b-3b	4	1	1	0
N. Blehm, p-1b	3	1	2	2
D. Blehm, 3b-p	4	0	0	0
Miller, lf	3	0	1	1
Whitman, c	3	1	1	0
Kindsfater, 2b	3	1	1	1
Bass, cf	2	1	1	1
Brunz, rf	3	1	1	1

Eaton (10)	35	10	12	8
ab	r	h	bi	
Free, 3b	3	0	1	0
Ferguson, lf	3	0	1	0
Green, 2b	3	0	0	0
Teague, ss	1	2	0	0
Lancaster, cf	1	1	0	0
Sherman, 1b	3	0	0	0
Maddox, c	3	0	0	0
Miswonger, rf	3	0	0	0
Porterfield, p	2	0	0	0
Harwell, p	1	0	0	0

Ent Legion (3)	28	7	9	6
ab	r	h	bi	
Free, 3b	4	1	0	0
Ferguson, rf	4	0	2	1
Lancaster, cf	4	0	1	0
Teague, ss	2	0	0	0
Green, 2b	3	0	0	0
Harwell, p	2	0	0	0
Kyle, lf	3	1	0	1
Sherman, 1b	3	1	1	0
Maddox, c	3	0	0	0
Porterfield, p	0	0	0	0

Eaton	002	250	1-10
Ent	020	100	0-3
E: Teague 2; Lancaster 2;			
Sherman, Free, PO-A: Eaton 21-2;			
Ent 21-9; LOB: Eaton 8; Ent 2;			
SB: Brunz 3; Lancaster 3.			
HR: N. Blehm, 3B: R. Whitman, Kindsfater, 2B: N. Blehm.			

Ent Legion	000	020	1-3
Eaton	160	000	x-7
E: D. Blehm, Beede, Bass, PO;			
A: Eaton 21-3; Ent 18-7; LOB:			
Eaton 7; Ent 9. SB: Beede, Green 2.			
3B: N. Blehm, Whitman, Bass.			
2B: Brunz.			

Kids Give Eaton A Record to Remember

By Paul Moloney

Eaton's American Legion combined the finer abilities of baseball to capture the Colorado State Class B championship Saturday, beating Ent Air Force Base of Colorado Springs, 10-3 and 7-3.

Norm and Don Blehm enjoyed the success on the mound and cornered much of the acclaim, but the triumph belongs to the entire team.

The Eaton kids will be remembered for their State championship. They are the Blehms, Rick and Kelly Whitham, Alan Beede, John Busch, Warren Miller, Ron Kindsfater, Chuck Bass, Jack Brunz, Dave Rhoades, Ken Masterson, Greg Springston, Art Meyer and Chuck Nelson.

* * *

There were disgruntled sounds around District 3 when it was announced the high-powered Eaton team would participate in Class B instead of Class A.

It was Coach Russ Harrach's prerogative, and he chose Class B. The net result for his time and

financial support was the State championship. Eaton would not have been a better than a 500 club against Aurora, the State Class A champs, or against many other teams made up of the older boys.

Eaton loses no one if it fields a Class A team next summer. And if it fields a Class B team again, the only graduates would be Norm Blehm, Miller, Rhoades and Rick Whitham. It would be a shame if Eaton does not continue with the American Legion team in 1962.

At any rate, it was a wonderful final bow for Harrach to join with Norm Blehm in receiving the state championship trophy. Harrach left Eaton Monday for a superintendent's job at Big Springs, Neb.