

# Morris hits second homer in division championship

By Rudd Hall

The North Kingstown Skippers took on rival Narragansett High this week for a win that would clinch the division title for the Skippers.

The Mariners of Narragansett came out quickly with hot bats, putting men on first and second. Jamestown's Ryan Morris saved a potential base-loading hit with some fancy glove work, keeping the Mariners at bay. But an error shortly after gave the Mariners an early 2-0 start. "It happens some-times, nerves maybe," Morris said later.

North Kingstown was not going quietly, however. With bases loaded, NK senior Nate Izzo ripped a single to left driving in a run, and teammate David D'Errico followed suit with a hard line drive past the Mariners shortstop, tying the game 2-2.

The Mariners had a hard time rallying due to the hard throwing right hander Cody Norman who

threw a complete game for NK, with ten strikeouts on the day.

Later, in the bottom of the fourth is when NK's hitters really came to play. Kevin Lorenz started the batting off with a double to deep center, followed by a sac fly by Nicholas Savickas, driving in a run.

D'Errico's hot bat struck again driving in another two runs. But it was Ryan Morris who really blew the game open; blasting the Narragansett pitcher, Nate Lindsley's, offering over the left field wall for a two-run homer, his second of the season, expanding the Skippers to a 7-2 lead.

"That felt good, it made me forget my error in the first," Morris said.

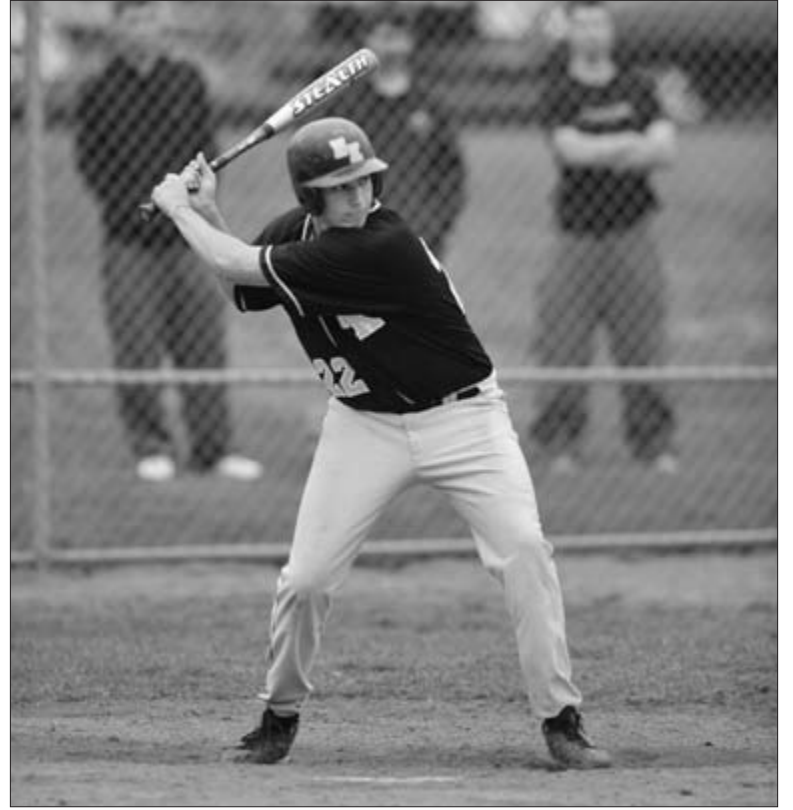
A pitching and catcher change did little defensively for Narragansett, and their offense couldn't seem to come together through the next few innings, so NK took full advantage. In the bottom of the sixth, with a man on, Morris struck yet again with another blast to the

warning track looking for his second homer of the game. Although the ball was caught, the sac fly did drive in another run, giving NK an 8-2 lead and quieting the boisterous Mariner dugout. Later that inning, hot hitter Jason Ferri ripped a line drive up the middle bringing in Edward Apice. Narragansett's last chance fell by the wayside as they couldn't produce a single run in the seventh, and the Skippers took the game 9-2.

"It feels good to be division champs. We've been working hard, the team's been playing well, and we're going to be strong next season even though we're losing a few good seniors," Morris said.

Head Coach Kevin Gormley commented on Morris' play this season saying, "He's really an all-star short stop, stepped up from third base when we needed him the most. He's a leader of our team as well as our co-captain. He's great because he leads by example. It was a great season."

The Skippers finished up with an impressive 15-3 division record.



Islander Ryan Morris belted his second homerun of the season to assist the Skippers to a 9-2 win over Narragansett for the division championship. Photo by David Zapatta

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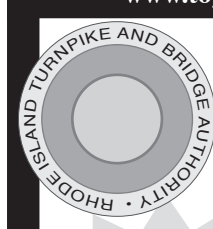
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