



Updated: Tue., May. 10, 2011, 6:55 PM

## Midwood pulls upset, hands top-ranked Grand Street first league loss

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Last Updated: 6:55 PM, May 10, 2011

Posted: 1:13 AM, May 10, 2011

Midwood entered Monday's action losers of three straight and four of five, a once-assumed playoff berth very much in doubt. Adding to the Hornets woes, Grand Street Campus was on the docket.

"I don't think anybody would've switched spots with us," Midwood coach Charlie Barbieri said.

His players, however, accepted the challenge and pulled off arguably the biggest upset of the PSAL's regular season, handing the high-powered Wolves, ranked first in New York City by The Post, their first league loss, 6-5, in eight innings on Joseph DiLeo's run-scoring single at Lindower Field in Brooklyn.

"We're so up and down, we only have two seniors on the field, a lot of guys it's their first time in these situations," Barbieri said after the Hornets improved to 6-5 in Brooklyn A East, one game ahead of Bushwick Campus for third place, which is an automatic playoff berth. "It's been a learning experience, but I tell them they can compete with anybody and games like this show it."

Jessy Nunez picked up the win with two shutout innings in relief of gutsy starter Daniel Kaye, who allowed three earned runs in six innings pitched. Jonathan Gonzalez had two RBIs for Midwood, Kaye scored once and also drove in a run and Matthew Croak had two hits and scored once.

The win was significant on several levels. It ended Midwood's recent losing streak and improved its postseason chances, but perhaps most importantly boosted the wet-behind-the-ears team's confidence.

"This was almost a must-win for us and to do it against the best team in the city, it makes it even better," Barbieri said. "It was a huge win in the standings, don't get me wrong, but it feels like a bigger win for the program."

Nunez and Kaye allowed 13 hits between themselves, but limited Grand Street's star duo of Williams Jerez and Jose Cuas to three harmless singles. Kaye's best work came in the fifth when the Wolves loaded the bases with nobody out, leading 3-2. But the junior got Elijah Rodriguez to ground into a double play and fanned Irving Galindez to retire the side.

"It totally changed the game," Barbieri said. "A team like that with the bases loaded and nobody out, they can blow you out."

Midwood took the lead in the following frame as Kaye drove in a run. Grand Street (11-1, Brooklyn A East) drew even in the seventh, but DiLeo drove in the winning run with an opposite-field single in the eighth. Hitless before the at-bat, he worked the count full before lining the game-winning base hit to set off a raucous celebration.

"Nobody thought we could beat them, but we came through," DiLeo, a junior third baseman, said. "We have five games left and I think we can win all of them."

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