

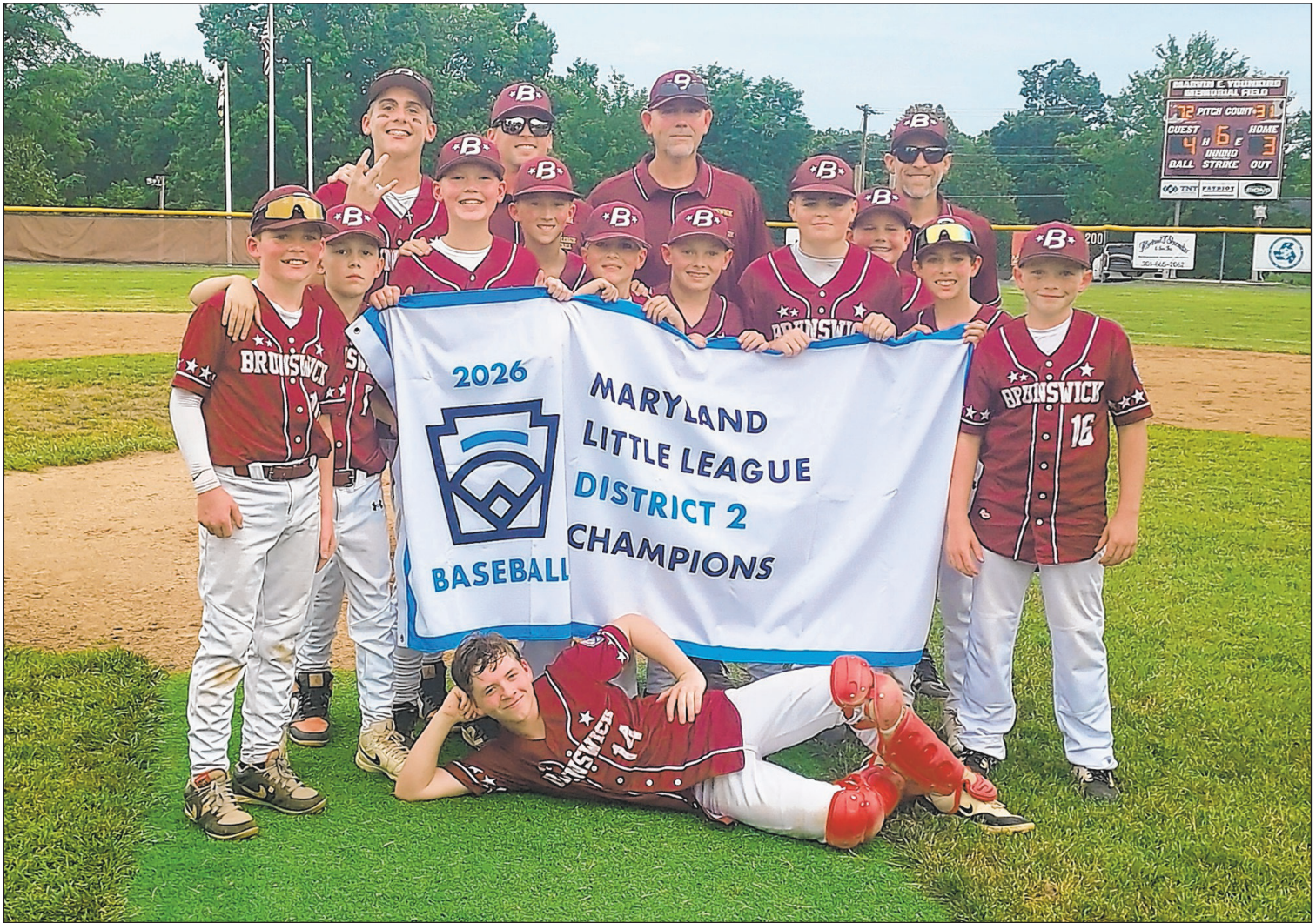


Photo by Bill Cauley, for the News-Post

The Brunswick Little League team poses Saturday after winning the District 2 Tournament championship at Marvin Younkens Memorial Field.

LITTLE LEAGUE

CHAMPIONSHIP FORMULA

Pitching, defense send Brunswick to District 2 crown with win over Montgomery County Lower

■ **District 2 Tournament championship:** Brunswick 4, Montgomery County Lower 3

By **BILL CAULEY**
Special to the News-Post

BRUNSWICK — The bottom of the sixth inning may have seemed like it took forever for Brunswick Little League pitcher James Kraus on Saturday even though it was only a few minutes.

His team was clinging to a one-run lead, and Kraus needed to keep Montgomery County Lower off the basepaths, getting three quick outs to end the game. He could've tossed a variety of pitch-

es at what was the bottom of the batting order, but he wasn't taking any chances.

"Fastball, fastball, fastball. That's all I was thinking. Get them out," Kraus said. "Man, that inning felt so long, but we got out of it."

His line of thinking worked. Kraus retired all three Montgomery County Lower batters in order. With a strong defense behind him, Brunswick held on for a 4-3 win at Marvin Younkens Memorial Field for its first District 2 10-12 Little League championship since 2022, when

they also defeated Montgomery County Lower for the title.

"That's how it's always been with us, pitching and defense," Brunswick manager Cory Rhodes said. "We emphasize the defense especially. Pitching is absolutely a part of that."

It was no surprise that Saturday's game ended up close. The Brunswick and Montgomery County Little League programs have become strong rivals over the years. On Saturday, both squads were locked again in a tight battle, with Brunswick hold-

ing the advantage heading into the bottom of the sixth.

Kraus clamped down hard, striking out William DeSantis on a 2-2 count, then coaxing Andrew Jones into a ground out to third baseman Waylon Fouché. Kraus struggled a bit on his final batter, Brady Wenk, going to a full count. But Wenk popped out on Kraus' fastball to second baseman Parker Rhodes, who called off his buddies to snare that final out.

Then came the celebration, both on the field and in the bleachers.

"I just wanted to blow that

(See **CHAMPIONSHIP B2**)

