



Staff photo by Ric Dugan

Brunswick catcher Jack Rhodes, left, attempts to tag North East runner Hudson Crockett at the plate Monday in an elimination game of the Maryland State Little League Tournament in Hagerstown. Crockett was safe on the play.

LITTLE LEAGUE

Rough end for Roaders

Brunswick eliminated after North East ekes out extra-inning victory

■ **State Tournament:**
North East 5, Brunswick 4

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HAGERSTOWN — Step for step, beat for beat, inning for inning, Brunswick Railroaders Little League and North East Little League matched each other.

When Brunswick scored three runs in the top of the third inning, North East matched in the bottom half. The same was true when Brunswick pulled ahead in the sixth, only for North East to bounce right back, plate the tying run and force extra innings.

That's when the pattern broke.

With one out in the top of the seventh, Brunswick attempted to swipe the go-ahead run on a wild pitch. But North East cut it down on a bang-bang play at the plate.

In the bottom of the inning, North East automatic runner Jaxon Williamson attempted to scamper home on a wild pitch, too. This time, Williamson slid safely and ended Brunswick's brief run at the Maryland State



Staff photo by Ric Dugan

Brunswick pitcher Brantley Mobley, right, reacts to North East's Jaxon Williamson scoring the winning run Monday.

Little League Tournament.

Brunswick fell 5-4 in walk-off fashion Monday evening at Halfway National Little League, capping an evenly matched game that was the final entry in

a litany of close contests for the Railroaders during their run to this point.

"We knew it was gonna be tough to get through here," Brunswick manager Cory

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Rhodes said. "Two extremely tight games, and just ended up on the wrong side."

It was Brunswick's fourth straight one-run game spanning the district and state tournaments, three of which went to extra innings.

That includes both games at the state tourney, following Saturday's 8-7 defeat to Berlin Little League in the opener.

"I was proud of the way that our guys battled," Rhodes said. "We had a chance at the end, and it just didn't fall our way."

Indeed, Brunswick never trailed until North East scored the walk-off run but couldn't bury its opponent to keep its season alive.

After the Brunswick runner was thrown out at the plate in the seventh, left fielder Camden Smith blasted a triple to give his team another shot.

(See **ROUGH B2**)