

Flynn is feared at the plate

■ Patriots senior has power — and a whole lot of walks

■ HR distance turns heads, but he also shows patience

BY GREGG SARRA

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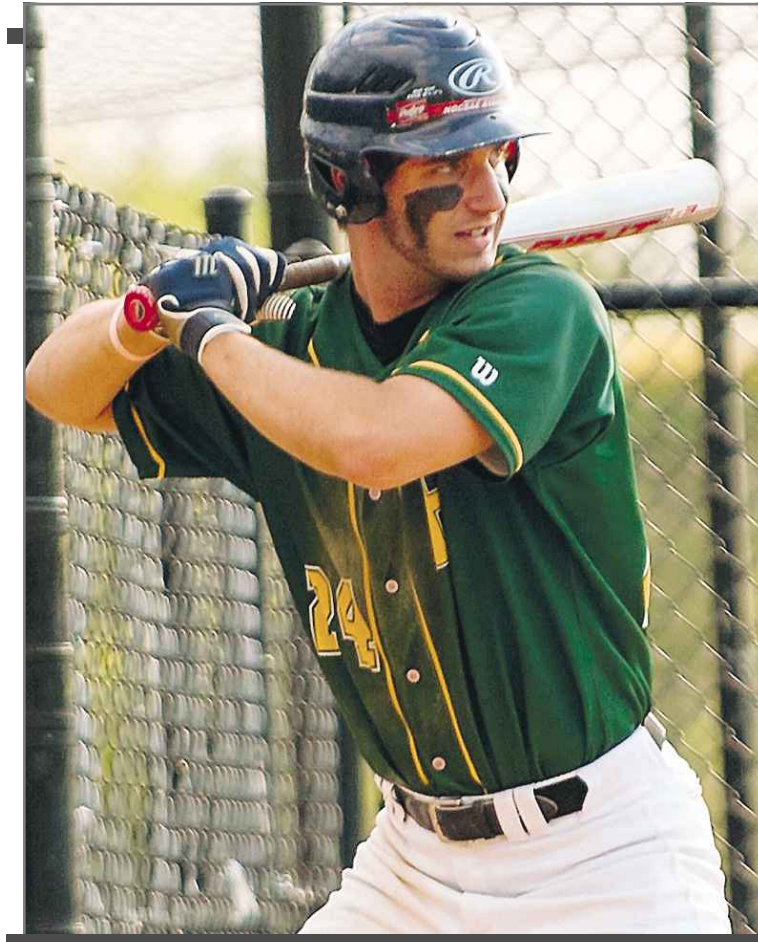
As Joe Flynn walked to the batter's box last week, the chant of "Flynn! Flynn! Flynn!" in the Ward Melville dugout rose in intensity.

While his teammates turned up the volume, Suffolk's most feared hitter found a comfortable place in the box.

He walked on four pitches — again. It was the 23rd free pass of his senior season.

Understandably, no one wants to pitch to Flynn. His home runs are epic. They are bombs that light up social media. His singles and doubles are usually smoked through the infield or into the outfield gaps.

"Patchogue-Medford chose to intentionally walk him four times in a game, including the final at-bat when they were down five runs in the sixth inning with two outs," Ward Melville coach Lou Petrucci said. "He has earned the respect of opposing coaches who choose not to let him beat them. They know if the pitcher leaves a pitch out over the plate he's going to drill it somewhere into



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the outfield or over the fence.”

Flynn, who bats righthanded, has been walked a school-record 57 times in his career. Eleven of the 23 this season were intention-

al. He has been on base 54 times in 79 plate appearances for an on-base percentage is .684.

Flynn's four home runs this season have been dubbed

“nukes” for their flight and distance. His shot over the administration building at Patchogue-Medford won't be forgotten.

“It was crushed,” Patriots as-

sistant coach Ron Muscarella said. “It was well over 400 feet. He hit one at our field that cleared the 20-foot fence on the football field, some 440 feet away.”

But while many choose to compare Flynn's talents to former professional players such as East Hampton's Ross Gload and Connetquot's Dominic Ambrosini, you have to go beyond the surface when looking at Flynn's numbers.

Gload hit a Long Island-record 21 home runs in 1994 and Ambrosini hit 19 in 1999. Coaches choose to pitch around Flynn so often that his numbers suffer.

“I am speculating here but I can only imagine how many more homers he'd have if they pitched to him,” Petrucci said.

Flynn, who is hitting .465 with 18 RBIs and 26 runs scored, points to patience and maturity as the key to success.

“I've learned to be patient and not swing at bad pitches when they're pitching around me,” Flynn said. “I work with Joe Francisco at the Performance Factory and we don't just swing it — we talk about the mental part of the game and how to be a great hitter.”

Flynn, a third baseman/pitcher, is also a champ in the classroom. He scored a 33 on the ACT and will attend Princeton.

“None of the stats matter,” Flynn said. “Winning the county title is all that counts.”

Losee's walk-off hit in 14th lifts Oyster Bay

James Losee's two-out RBI single in the bottom of the 14th drove in Matt Santos with the winning run in No. 4 Oyster Bay's 7-6 win over No. 1 Cold Spring Harbor in a Nassau B baseball semifinal yesterday. After Cold Spring Harbor took a 6-4 lead in the top of the 13th, three straight Oyster Bay two-out hits in the bottom of the inning tied it at 6. Harrison Treble went 5-for-7 with two doubles and two runs. The game was stopped after 11 innings on Tuesday due to darkness. Oyster Bay (9-10) will face No. 3 Carle Place in Game 1 of the best-of-three Nassau B final at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday at Hofstra.

Southold 5, Pierson 4: Liam Walker hit a walk-off, two-out RBI single up the middle, scoring Greg Gehring to give No. 1 Southold a 5-4 victory over No. 2 Pierson in Game 1 of the Suffolk C final. Pat

ROUNDUP

McFarland had a two-out, two-run single that scored Gehring and Shane Johnson in the sixth to tie it at 4. Southold (19-2) plays at Pierson in Game 2 at 4 p.m. today. **Mattituck 9, Port Jefferson 4:** Jon Dwyer doubled home Mike Onufrak to give No. 1 Mattituck (20-1) a 4-3 lead in the fourth inning of its win over No. 4 Port Jefferson in Game 1 of a Suffolk Class B semifinal. Will Gilbertsleebe went 2-for-4 with a double and two RBIs. Mattituck plays at Port Jefferson in Game 2 at 4 p.m. tomorrow. **Babylon 13, Southampton 1:** Zack Carmody struck out 10 and allowed only one hit in five shutout innings to lead No. 2 Babylon past No. 3 Southampton in Game 1 of a Suffolk B semifinal. Ken Gordon went 3-for-3 with two RBIs and

Brandon Beierle went 2-for-2 with two RBIs. Babylon (17-4) plays at Southampton in Game 2 at 3 p.m. tomorrow.

Wantagh 5, Island Trees 4: Jimmy Joyce hit an RBI double with the bases loaded in the fifth inning to give No. 14 Wantagh (12-7-1) a 4-3 lead over No. 6 Island Trees in the third round of the Nassau A playoffs. Anthony Testa scored Mich Derham on a suicide squeeze in the eighth for the win. Wantagh will visit No. 3 North Shore for a fourth-round playoff game today. **Shoreham-Wading River 7, Westhampton 3:** Brian Morrell had 11 strikeouts and allowed no earned runs in six innings to lead No. 5 Shoreham-Wading River over No. 4 Westhampton. Matt Fox went 2-for-4 with two doubles and two RBIs and drove in pinch runner Patrick Biemer to break a scoreless tie in the sixth. Shoreham-Wading

River (12-7) plays at No. 1 Glenn tomorrow at 4 p.m.

SOFTBALL

Islip 4, Miller Place 3: Taylor Helmke's three-run home run in the sixth inning gave No. 4 Islip a 4-3 lead over No. 5 Miller Place in the first round of the Suffolk A playoffs. Sam Seeger (2-for-3) hit an RBI single in the sixth to begin the scoring for Islip (15-4). Islip plays at No. 1 Mount Sinai in the second round at 4 p.m. today. **Longwood 3, Whitman 1:** Madison Rappold went 2-for-3 with a double and an RBI in No. 11 Longwood's Suffolk AA quarterfinal win over No. 14 Whitman. Jenna Beekman went 1-for-3 with a double, an RBI and a run. Longwood (13-9) will face No. 7 Sachem East in a semifinal at 4 p.m. tomorrow. **Patchogue-Medford 7, Deer Park 1:**

Cait Burgbacher went 3-for-4 with a two-run homer and three RBIs to lead No. 5 Patchogue-Medford over No. 13 Deer Park in a Suffolk AA quarterfinal. Patchogue-Medford (17-5) will play at No. 1 Eastport-South Manor in a semifinal at 4 p.m. tomorrow.

Eastport-South Manor 13, East Islip 1: Christina Rizzi went 4-for-4 with three RBIs and two runs in No. 1 Eastport-South Manor's Suffolk AA quarterfinal win over No. 9 East Islip. Kailah Konkel went 3-for-4 with three RBIs and two runs for Eastport-South Manor. **Sachem East 12, Half Hollow Hills West 1:** Allie Laird went 2-for-3 with five RBIs, and Amanda Fitzgerald and Marissa Wilson each hit solo homers to lead No. 7 Sachem East (17-5) past No. 15 Half Hollow Hills West in a Suffolk AA quarterfinal. Jamie Butalewicz struck out seven and pitched seven innings of one-run ball.