



YES Group Devours Herring 18-4 in League's Fourth Season Opener

The Softball Gods wear MSSL team jerseys because they love us. That love was evident on Tuesday morning, May 5, 2026, when they graced us with perfect weather for opening day at the Softball Complex.

The program started at 9:00 AM. Before the playing of our national anthem, Commissioner Bobby Harris began with his opening remarks, introduced the league's Board of Directors (Bob Zyontz, Rich Delvecchio, George Rothweiler, Mark Goldberg, and Ray Gwertzman), and called all attending players, decked out on their team uniforms, to line up on the 1st and 3rd baselines. He then introduced the league's special guests: the Honorable Steven Dalina, Mayor of the Township of Monroe, Monroe Recreation Department program director Tommy Glade, Phyllis and Laura Greenberg, and Nancy and Marisa Mazziotta.

It has become an opening day tradition for the league to hold a moment of silence for Richie Greenberg and Jude Mazziotta, both who passed in 2024. We celebrate their lives and remember them with love and respect.

Richie was a great friend of ours, and the league's best umpire. But most of all, he was just Richie. A fun-loving, stand-up guy with a big heart and larger-than-life personality who we were all proud to know.

A charter member of the league, Jude was a player and the man who stepped up to sponsor a team in 2024 when prospects were hard to come by. He played softball for the joy and love of the game.

Following the national anthem, the ceremonial first pitches were thrown out by Mayor Dalina, Richie's wife Phyllis Greenberg, and Jude's daughter Marisa Mazziotta. Then, it was time to play ball!

The first game of the 2026 season saw the YES Group, led by captain Fred Charleston, square off against The Pickled Herring, captained by Dennis Belzer, with co-captain Glenn Tringali running the show while Dennis was away.

Both teams were loaded with talent on offense and defense, and their rosters were filled with both veterans and new players making their MSSL debut. The teams appeared to be well balanced, and the odds were in favor of a closely contested game.

The Herring drew first blood and took a 3-1 lead into the bottom of the 3rd inning. YES answered with a 3-run burst to take a 4-3 lead and never looked back. They proceeded to tack on more 14 runs with a big 4-run 5th inning and a 7-run 6th inning before adding 2 in their half of the 8th before closing out the Herring for an 18-4 blowout.

The YES Group sent a strong message to the rest of the league with its 18-run outburst. According to captain Fred, it was the pitching and defensive that led the way. Rookie Brian Deneroff took the mound and pitched a solid game in his first outing. Defensively, two outstanding, diving catches by outfielders Tom Venanzi and Jack Litsky saved a few runs from scoring. The YES offense was led by Venanzi with 4 hits, and 3 hits each from Tony D'Angelo, Dominick Ciacciarelli, and Fred Charleston. Litsky, Scott Sokoloski, and Alan Steinberg chipped in with

2 hits each. Ciacciarelli had 4 RBI while D'Angelo and Sokoloski had 3 RBI each.

Pickled Herring was led offensively by John Watts with 2 doubles and 2 RBI and pitcher Glen Schoenig's 3 hits, including 2 doubles and an RBI.

All six other teams were in action on Wednesday, May 6th and Thursday, May 7th. With one week already in the books, the next 13 promise to be competitive and exciting.

To keep up with all league action, please visit monroeseniorsoftball.com for all information, including schedule, team standings, player stats, and our list of sponsors.



Pickled Herring's Alan Blumenthal pulls up as he is forced at 2nd by a throw from YES shortstop Tony D'Angelo to middle infielder Fred Charleston. Photo by Tom Cullen.



YES Group left fielder Tom Venanzi gets his uniform dirty as he makes a diving, run-saving catch. Photo by Tom Cullen.



Pickled Herring's Joe Grispino takes the throw to force Yes Group's Steve Jesselli at 2nd. Photo by Tom Cullen.



The Pickled Herring. From L to R: Glenn Tringali, Michael George, Pete Quaglierini, Alan Blumenthal, Randy Cohen, Michael Steinbach, Joe Grispino, Peter Gonzalez, John Mularczyk, Glen Schoenig, John Watts, and Larry Farina. Not shown: Dennis Belzer and Ben Levy.
Photo by Tom Cullen.



The YES Group. From L to R: Brian Deneroff, Mark Lippman, Fred Charleston, Tony Tepedino, Dominick Ciccicarelli, Peter Balling, Alan Steinberg, David Foreman, Tom Venanzi, Steve Jesselli, Tony D'Angelo, Scott Sokoloski, and Jack Litsky. Not shown: Ed Lacina. Photo by Tom Cullen.