

Max Priest against Stuart South Fork. The two played the longest championship game since 1997.

"It was a little nerve-racking, but we have so many bats in this lineup that we knew we had a chance," Kreuter said.

But this game was won with defense and pitching.

The Falcons had a two-run lead then watched it disappear when the Bulldogs scored a run each in the third and fifth innings to tie it.

In the seventh, South Fork (27-6) had runners on first and third with no outs. The Falcons walked the next runner to load the bases.

At that point, Dunedin was desperate to win—and keep its state title hopes from vanishing.

"We were on the edge of our seats at that point," Dunedin coach Tom Hilbert said. "Our backs were against the wall. But we were able to maintain our composure."

Slowly, the Falcons (26-6) found a way to wiggle out of the jam.

Alex Norris, who came on in relief of Clay Kollenbaum, got the first and only batter he faced to ground out.

Jake Rogers came in next and got the next two batters to strike out and fly out.

"It was just incredible to come out of that the way we did," Rogers said. "I had so much adrenaline going."

Beneath the noise, tension and pressure, Rogers emerged more as a survivor than a closer.

With so much at stake, Rogers knew he couldn't afford to make mistakes. He escaped unharmed, throwing 3½ innings after pitching just three before Thursday's appearance.

"Jake was just phenomenal," Hilbert said. "It was a real gutsy performance."

It remained scoreless through the next three innings.

Then the Falcons, after squandering so many chances, made something happen in the 10th. Priest led off the inning by drawing a walk, then moved to second on a sacrifice bunt by Mike Kumbat and advanced to third on a wild pitch. Priest scored on Kreuter's single.

Rogers then finished things off. The moment Fisher caught the ball, Rogers sprung off the mound, shook his fist, twirled in a crazy leap and came down to earth knowing he would be able to sleep.

"I think all of us are going to pass out on the bus on the ride home," Rogers said. "It was such a draining game, so full of emotions."

"But it was so worth it to win like this."

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL CHRISTINE ROLAND

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Christine Roland, recently awarded the title of 2007–2008 Harford County Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Roland has been a teacher with Harford County Public Schools for five years, teaching Biology and Forensic Science at Edgewood High School.

Born and raised in Switzerland, Mrs. Roland earned a degree in advertising and public relations and became fluent in three languages before she moved to the United States. She has since earned a bachelor's degree in Biol-

ogy from Towson University, a Certification in Education, and is currently working on her master's degree in Biology.

Thanks to her unique background and teaching style, her bright, inviting classroom and original lessons keep her students active and engaged in the classroom. Using her background in advertising, Mrs. Roland packages her lessons and activities in an appealing and creative way. Her enthusiastic teachings inspire and motivate her students to put effort into their work and truly absorb the class material.

Mrs. Roland goes the extra mile when it comes to helping her students succeed. Appreciating that biology can be a difficult subject, Mrs. Roland acknowledges all student achievement. She evaluates student understanding and provides immediate feedback. Her students know that she will not move on until there is a basic understanding of every concept. The projects and activities she assigns are challenging and diverse so every student can feel a sense of accomplishment. Mrs. Roland makes herself available to students and parents before and after school, as well as through e-mail in the evenings should a student need assistance with an assignment.

Mrs. Roland is eager to attend relevant conferences and meetings to enhance her professional development. She plays a major role on the Technology Steering Committee and is actively involved in the curriculum writing for many subjects. She initiated a new course in forensic science for Harford County, received approval and wrote the entire curriculum. The course is now part of the county curriculum and she is working on staff development for the teachers.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Christine Roland in her acceptance of the 2007–2008 Harford County Teacher of the Year Award. Her legacy as a dedicated, enthusiastic teacher will be forever remembered by the appreciative students who walk through her classroom doors. It is with great pride that I congratulate Christine Roland on her exemplary career in education and her outstanding performance at Edgewood High School in Harford County.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. WELLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD votes I would have cast had I been present for rollcall votes 388 through 390. I was absent on Monday, June 9th, due to flight delays caused by severe weather.

If I were present I would have voted, "yea" on rollcall vote 388, "yea" on rollcall vote 389, and "yea" on rollcall vote 390.

CELEBRATING HOW STANLEY MICHELS GAVE NORTHERN MANHATTAN A POWERFUL VOICE IN CITY POLITICS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a champion of environmental health and a stellar legislator, Stanley Michels, a 24-year New York City Council member whose birthday we honor today. Three decades ago, he set for himself an ambitious task: to render visible the invisible, to—as he put it—"convince City Hall that there is life in Manhattan above 96th Street." A lifelong resident of northern Manhattan, he felt it imperative that he and his neighbors in West Harlem, in Washington Heights, in Inwood, in Morningside Heights, in Central Harlem, be given a voice. After an illustrious career on the Council, it's safe to say he has succeeded, and then some. The litany of legislative achievement attached to his name speaks to his political and personal philosophies: Prioritize the quality of life of everyday people. Hold steadfast to the guiding principles of fairness and pragmatism. And always, always stand by those who need most defending.

An environmentalist at heart whose driving motivation was consistently the health and well-being of his constituency, Michels led the charge for cleaner air and the protection of the area's water supply. He advanced a precedent-setting law aiming to protect children from lead poisoning in apartments. He spearheaded an expansion of the city's recycling and waste-reduction programs, requiring the weekly collection of recyclables and granting the Council the power to approve the city's Solid Waste Management Plan. He railed against smoking and excessive noise in public places, limiting both in his time on the Council.

Two short months after the attacks of Sept. 11, he held the first public hearings on air quality and the environmental impact of the World Trade Center collapse. For nearly a decade, he chaired the Committee on Environmental Protection, early in his tenure bringing together at-odds parties in the battle over the city's watershed and succeeded in creating the dialogue that led to the Watershed Memorandum of Agreement, still effectively safeguarding the city's water-supply system today. A master of both policy and relationships, he is as good at legislating as he is at bringing people together.

He fought then—and continues to fight—for the little guy. He required that there be public hearings before annual increases to rent-stabilized apartments. He was the motivating force behind a provision that exempted seniors from certain rent increases. He closed loopholes in the deregulation of apartments, allowed the city to foreclose on individual properties in tax arrears, and eliminated the parking garage surtax for Manhattan residents.

For a quarter of a century, he served tirelessly for the public. His home—too often forgotten, overlooked, disregarded—had finally a voice in city government. And what a powerful and distinct voice he gave them. He optimistically noted that his tenure sent the city a clear message: that "no city agency can ignore us" ever again.