IRON MOUNTAIN—Iron County's Major League (11-12 years old) all-star team reached the semifinals of the Little League tournament early last week before the team was eliminated.

Kingsford defeated Iron County 7-4 on July 9 at the East Kingsford sports complex after Iron County got in front early. Kevin Ballinger doubled and Steven Nelson singled to drive in runs, putting Iron County in front 3-0.

__PUBLIC__

They still led 4-1 before Kingsford scored one run in the third inning and five in the fourth, including back-to-back Kingsford home runs.

That put Kingsford ahead, and their pitchers slammed the door shut, not giving up any hits in the final four innings. For Iron County, Connor Bortolini and Bryant Schram gave up 12 hits.

Meanwhile, Kingsford defeated Iron Mountain North in nine innings July 10 to advance to the Major League district tournament, which started July 13. Unbeaten Norway also took part in the district tourney.

Iron County was one of Norway's victims, getting flattened 10-0 in July 7. Norway scored two runs in the third and added six in the fourth. Kevin Ballinger got Iron County's only hit in the game.

But Iron County battled back July 8, earning a dramatic 9-4 win over Schaffer in Sunday action. Caden Pellizzer and Trey Bociek combined to strike out 10 Schaffer hitters and only gave up one walk.

Iron County trailed 4-2 going into the sixth (final) inning before the team put together a seven-run rally to pull out the win.

Neil Tomasoski and Bociek singled, Pellizzer bunted to load the bases. After a fielder's choice, Ballinger singled in two runs, an error allowed two more runs to cross the plate, and Giuliani doubled off the right-field fence.