

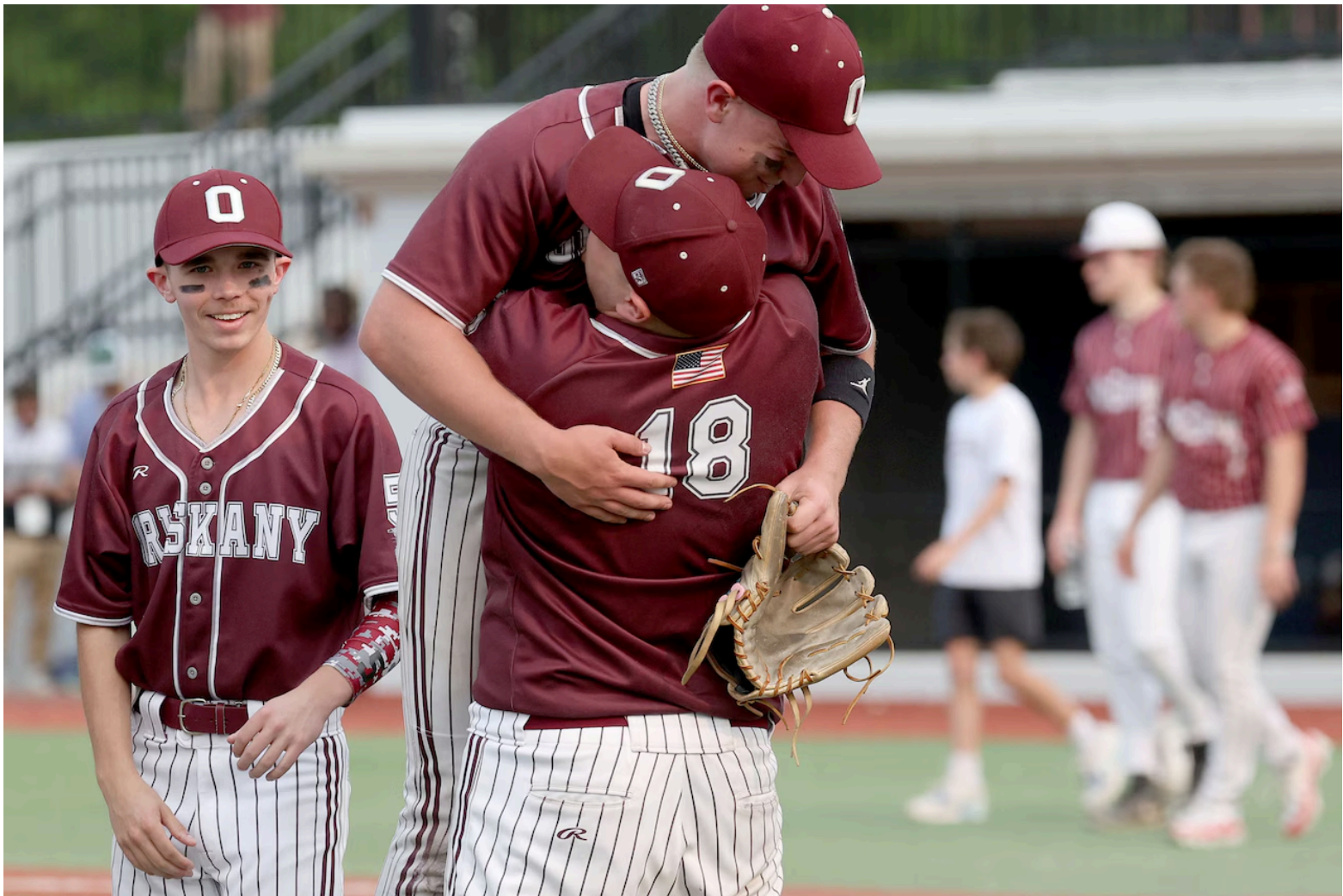
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‘Silly superstition’ helps Oriskany baseball rally to defeat McGraw in Class D section final (35 photos)

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Oriskany players hug in celebration after defeating McGraw in the Section III Class D baseball final at the OCC baseball fields on Tuesday, June 3, 2025. Dennis Nett | dnett@syracuse.com



By [Julianna Schwindt](#) | [Contributing Writer](#)

Syracuse, N.Y. — Oriskany’s baseball players were firmly planted in their dugout seats during the most critical part of their sectional championship tilt against McGraw on Tuesday.

The team was down 2-0 in the bottom of the third inning, but a rally started with a one-out single by Oriskany catcher [Nicholas Hays](#).

A walk and a stolen base each for outfielder [Dean Koenig](#) and shortstop [Sean Graziano](#) followed by a balk by McGraw pitcher [Blair Mulcahy](#) tied the game at two.

“When the team starts doing well, everyone has to sit in the same spot until the rally ends. It might seem like a silly superstition, but it works,” Skyhawks pitcher [Eddie Wright](#) said.

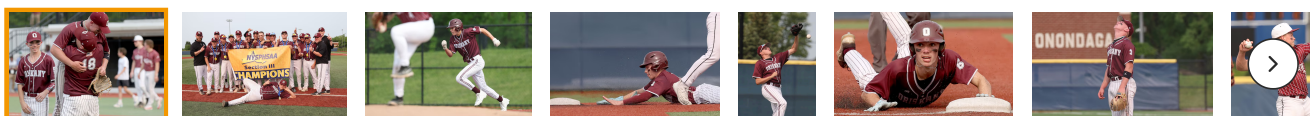
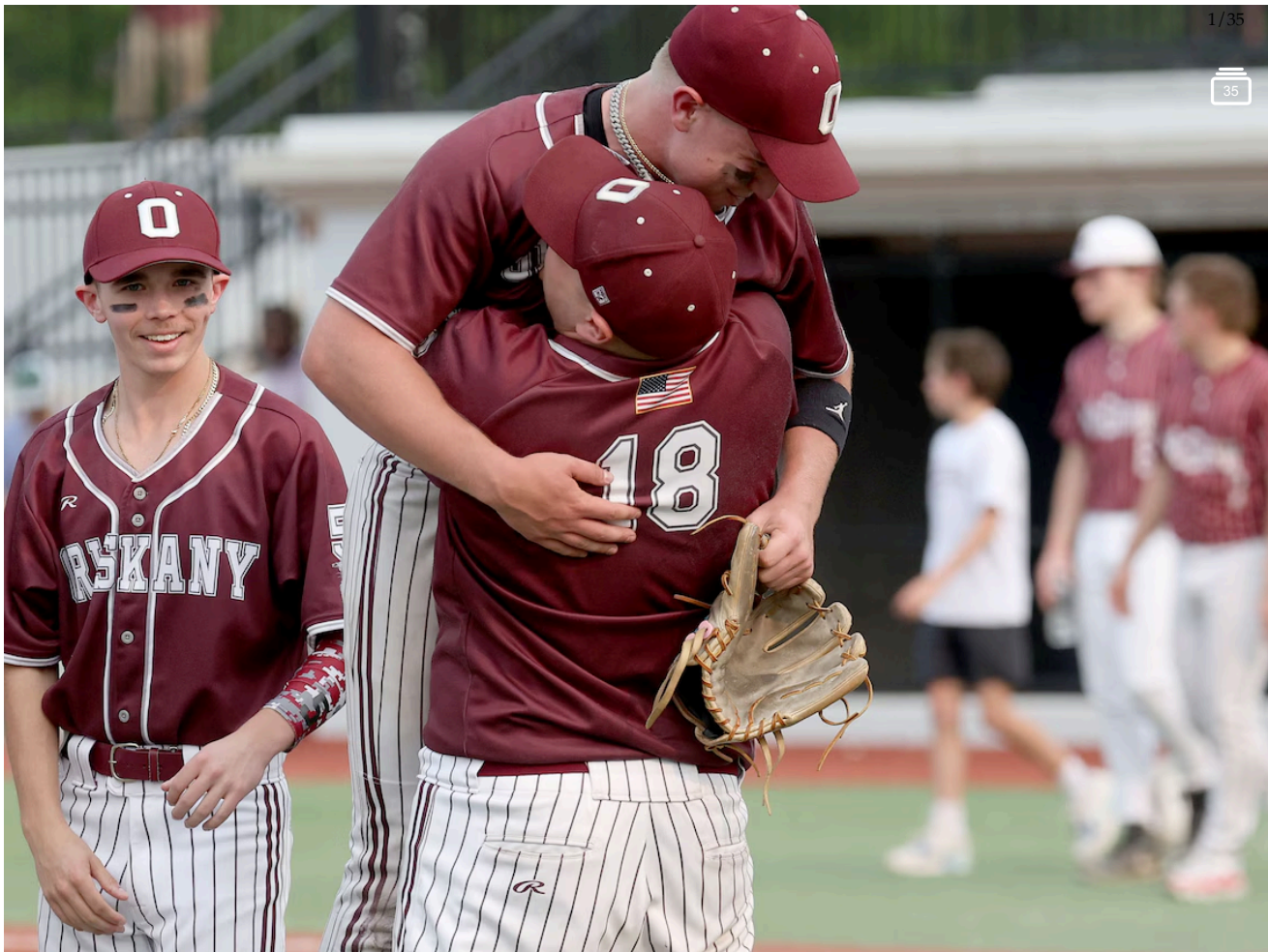
Reigning Section III champion Oriskany used that momentum to come out on top over McGraw, 6-3, in Tuesday afternoon’s Section III Class D championship.

McGraw started the game strong, capitalizing on Oriskany’s errors. Shortstop [Calob Sutton](#) hit a single and scored on a missed catch in the outfield in the top of the first. Mulcahy hit a single in the top of the third and was knocked in by catcher [Brennan Wilson](#).

“(Oriskany’s) been here four years in a row. That’s a tough team, and the pitcher pitches really well,” McGraw head coach Corey Wilson said. “We had them on the ropes there a little bit. They made a couple of mistakes, and we made a couple of mistakes that we normally don’t make. But that’s the experience of playing in a game like this. We’re gonna work really hard to get back here.”

6/3 - 4:00 PM Baseball	Final
<u>McGraw</u>	3
<u>Oriskany</u>	6

[Complete Box Score »](#)



High School Baseball class D Sectional Finals: Oriskany vs McGraw

Oriskany took the lead in the bottom of the fifth inning. Wright tripled, then tagged up on a shallow fly out to right to score. A hit by Graziano turned into another run due to two throwing errors by McGraw, making the score 4-2.

The Skyhawks tacked on two more runs in the bottom of the 6th off a pair of singles, an error and a triple by Chase Koenig.

McGraw tried to rally in the top of the seventh, drawing two walks and scoring on an error. Wright stayed calm on the mound despite the late run. Oriskany head coach Eric Enos then headed out for a chat with his ace.

“Just go get this, kid,” he said.

Wright regrouped and struck out the final batter of the game to clinch the sectional championship.

“He doesn’t get on his other teammates about (errors),” Enos said. “He portrays that he’s calm, and the team feels like we’re never in trouble because he’s calm.”

Wright dominated on the mound with 14 strikeouts. He struck out the side in the second and fourth innings and allowed just two hits. Wright pitched the complete game and earned the win.

“They got a good lineup, so I knew I had to keep my stuff mixed up,” Wright said.

He went 3-for-4 at the plate, scoring two runs. Wright has maintained a sub-1.00 ERA all season and frequently gets double-digit strikeouts each game, but he stays humble. As he steps up to the plate for the first time each game, he fistbumps the catcher and the home plate umpire.

“They’re a great team,” Wright said. “You gotta show respect for them, and it’ll go in your favor.”

It seems to have worked for him this season. With this win, Oriskany extended its 15-game winning streak.

Enos isn’t sure yet who he’ll have start the next game, which partially depends on how Wright’s arm feels after today. He believes in all his pitchers, but Wright has been exceptional this season.

“I have a ton of confidence when he’s out there, because he’s proven it,” Enos said. “Over and over again. Like how could you not have confidence?”

Enos’s goal all season has been to return to the state championship game after a loss to Arkport in the state final last year. Baseball is Oriskany’s best sport, as evident by the banners that line the walls of the high school gym, Enos said. So the community is invested in the team’s journey.

Oriskany (16-1) will play Section IV’s Elmira Notre Dame (9-9) in the state regionals. It’s a team they’ve never faced, but Enos has a plan.

“We’ll see what we can find out, get some stats on them,” he said. “I know their championship game was online, so you can probably watch a little bit of that. We’ll scout it out.”

Despite having four seniors from last year’s team graduate, Enos hopes the team’s ability to rally and run the bases aggressively, combined with strong pitching, will bring the team back to the championship. That and his own superstition: his helmet stays on until the final out.

“We have a great team, great lineup,” Wright said. “So I think we have just as good of a chance as ever. But we just have to stay confident and do what we do.”

Oriskany will play the regional championship at 4 p.m. on Saturday at Conlon Field in Binghamton.

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