

Willowbrook site marked for ballfield

By JACK MINOGUE

The New Springville Little League, which squeezed its 1975 season into two hours of ballfield time a week, will operate on the wide open spaces of the Willowbrook Developmental Center in 1976.

Pending final arrangements, the league has been granted permission to build fields on the grounds of the state facility, Assemblyman Guy V. Molinari announced yesterday.

Molinari made the announcement after receiving a letter from Dr. Lawrence V. Kolb, commissioner of the state Department of Mental Hygiene.

In his letter to Molinari, Kolb said that the assemblyman's "request of Oct. 28, 1975, to use lands at Willowbrook Developmental Center for the New Springville Little League will be acceptable to me under circumstances approved by Mr. (Harold C.) Piepinbrink (Willowbrook director) and George Gray, director of mental hygiene planning."

In addition, Kolb said he was requesting Gray to set up a meeting to make the necessary arrangements.

According to Molinari, the meeting has been scheduled for next Wednesday at the Willowbrook facility, "providing the Legislature is not still in

session."

At that meeting, Molinari, Gray and Sal Candrilli, Little League district administrator, expect to draw up an agreement for the New Springville league's use of an estimated 20 acres on the edge of the center.

"The initial proposal was rejected by Dr. Kolb on the advice of counsel," Molinari revealed. "It seems the Department of Mental Hygiene allowed a Little League to use its property once before. When the state needed the land, the Little League balked, went to court — and won."

Kolb reconsidered when Molinari suggested it be written into the agreement that the league could be divested of use of the fields if the property were needed for public purposes by the state.

"But the league will also be guaranteed use of the property for a minimum number of years," Molinari explained.

Limited lease or no, Candrilli was "ecstatic" after he was advised of Kolb's decision.

"That entire league—87 boys — had one field at Willowbrook Park for two hours a week last summer," Candrilli said.

"We expect at least 150 boys next season. Now, the league will be able to accept them and to provide a program for them."