



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
BLUEDEVIL GRID CO-CAPTAINS...Montell Glasco, left, and Jan Coccoziello have been selected Co-Captains of the Blue Devil football team and plan to have another very successful season.

Blue Devil Grid Men Present Bigger, More Physical Team

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

don Doerr. "Jan has a year under his belt now. He's doing very well," said Tranchina. "Jan breaks tackles. He runs hard. He has great hands. He is a very physical kid."

With his quickness and speed along with his passing ability, Coccoziello adds another dimension. "We're going to do whatever we have to do to move the ball. We know we can do both. It makes it tougher to defend us. We are not one dimensional," promised Tranchina.

Senior halfback Tyshon Blackmon "is great out of the backfield," commented Tranchina. "We have some

big backs. Blackmon packs a wallop!"

Senior Bart Walsh will fill the full-back position "He's had a good pre-season," mentioned Tranchina.

Other running backs will be juniors Marc Dowling and Tom DelDuca. Seniors Dan Clark and Jared Allman will share the wide receiver spot and junior Brian Power will play tight end.

"It's a good group of kids," said Tranchina.

Defensively, Glasco and senior Giuseppe Insinga will head the down linemen. Coccoziello, Blackmon (safety), DelDuca and Clark will be in the backfield and Dowling, Everett Donaldson, Brian Bigelow, Kevin MacDonald and Powell (outside linebacker) will fill the linebacker slots.

"I'm hoping that our defense is as good as I think it might be. I think the key word this year is very physical. The kids love to hit, attack and go to the ball."

With the graduation of Lessner, the kicking game has been placed on the feet of Insinga and junior Paul Goldweitz.

"That's something that we never had a loss for was kickers but this year we had tryouts. Field goals and extra points are so critical," Tranchina noted. "Goldweitz has good potential for kicking extra points and field goals and Insinga has been kicking off and punting."

Summing up, Tranchina said, "I think we are a better team than last year but then just about everybody we play will be better than last year. Scotch Plains will be better. They are big physical kids again, they have great speed and Steve (Ciccotelli) does a great job over there."

Westfield will host Randolph on Saturday, September 13 at 1 p.m. and Cranford on September 20. On September 26, Westfield will travel to Scotch Plains for a 3 p.m. appointment.

"I guarantee you everyone of those first three games will go down to the last minute," said Tranchina. "It will be a real test. It comes down to attitude and who wants to win more."



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
"KILLER B'S AND K"...Pictured, left to right, Raider football Quad-Captains, Kyle Baker, Travis Boff, Charlie Bachi and Tim Karis plan to stir up plenty of action this season on the turf.

SP-F Raider Grid Men Plan To Take One Step at a Time

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

"With Kyle as running back, we are very confident in him," said Ciccotelli. "Boff! Our fullback's first priority is to block, next, to catch the ball, then next, to run. He is capable of doing that, so we have confidence in him. He's a two-year starter. As an inside linebacker, I think he is one of the best in the county, if not in the state."

Additional offensive support will be junior back Lakiem Lockery, who also handled kickoff returns and punt returns and senior receiver/defensive safety Rob Maroney.

What really kept the Raiders in all the games, however, was their "Wild Dogs" defense that held a lot of teams under 100-yards rushing last year. Now, the Raiders, although somewhat sizable, do present mobility in their down line with senior Karis and junior Marc Fabiano.

"We are not huge, but we are not small. For example, our right tackle (junior Justin Evans) goes 255, Mark Gianacci, who played center last year, is at least 215, Karis is about 230 and left tackle is up for grabs right now," said Ciccotelli.

Maroney at safety, "seems to be

doing a great job there," added Ciccotelli.

Bachi, Boff and senior Ted Sensor (LB or line) are set as linebackers. Junior Leroy Anglin may play defensive end and Baker will occupy the corner, but some positions are still yet to be determined.

Junior Mike Baumwoll will handle the kicking duties. "He has been very, very pleasant. He has kicked several 37-yard field goals in practice," Ciccotelli revealed.

The Raiders host Newark East Side on Saturday, September 13 at 1 p.m., Shabazz on Saturday, September 20 and Westfield on Friday, September 26 at 3 p.m.

As to his outlook for the season, Ciccotelli answered, "I can't predict the future. All we can handle is what we do day by day. I told the kids that each day when we leave the practice field, we better be a better football team. That's what we can control. I think it's going to be a very competitive year with all the teams we play. We want to win the conference. We want to go to states and win the state championship. But to do that, we have to go one step at a time."

BARNES CRACKS 2-RUN HR FOR 4000TH CAREER HIT Elizabeth Sheriff Manhandles Westfield PD 1, 12-6, in Semis

By FRED LECOMTE
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

The Elizabeth Sheriff 1 softball team showed up at Memorial Field in Westfield with weapons ready and, after the smoke from the gunfire diminished, prevailed, 12-6, over Westfield Police 1 in the semifinals of the Union County Police League championship on August 27.

With guns a blazing, the Sheriffs triggered 20 rounds. Kenny Barnes singled twice and pumped a two-run homer in the sixth. Bill Sharkey cracked three hits and scored two RBI. Ernie Schmidt rapped a couple of singles and added four RBI. Bobby Smith and Jerry Green contributed with three hits.

"After your last article, the guys got a little pumped up, because we knew that it usually comes down to the Sheriffs Department and Westfield in the championship," said team captain Green. "You could see the intensity of the game was really high. It was just that we were able to put the ball in places where they weren't. Barnes, our seasoned vet hit for number 4,000 on that last single. Barney Tracy knows that Kenny doesn't swing at the first pitch. He surprised him and took the ball deep."

Except for Jim McCullough, Westfield Blue clearly forgot to check their ammo belts, as they ran out after firing just 11 rounds. McCullough packed some high caliber with solo home runs in the first and third innings. Dave Martinez banded two doubles. Barney Tracy, Ed Belford, Dave Wyman and Mike Smalls provided two rounds each.

"I give you three answers. Offense, offense, offense," said Westfield team captain Frank Padovano. "It didn't show up today. Usually we put 21 runs on the board, today, we put up six. Defensively, we have an awesome team and everyone is bound to make errors. We made a few today and they were noticeable because we didn't have our runs up there."

The most impressive Sheriff fielding plays came from first baseman Ernie Schmidt who hooked up with catcher Charlie Schmidt on a force at the plate. Then on the next play, he dove and crawled to the pad for a huge out. Mike Powers made a great putout on a relay from centerfielder Pat Grady.

Despite Westfield committing four costly errors, Belford was excellent at shortstop converting several leaping snags in the air and on the ground for outs, including a desperate but successful throw to first baseman Wayman for a double play. Smalls made several critical snags in rightfield, including a relay to Belford at second for a pickoff.

The Sheriffs plated a run in the first on an RBI by E. Schmidt, and added a run in the second when Warner doubled and scored on an RBI single by Sharky. Three more Sheriffs scuffed home in the top of the third. Smith and Green led off with singles and E. Schmidt cracked a two-run single. Grady then singled and Sharkey whistled a RBI single by second.

Down, 5-3, Westfield answered with two runs in the third. McCullough struck with his second

solo shot. Martinez doubled and Wyman whacked an RBI single.

The Sheriffs scored a run in the fifth on two miscues and added five runs in the sixth. Charlie Schmidt singled and Barnes hammered a two-run homer. Smith and Green both singled and Powers doubled them home. E. Schmidt added an RBI single, making the score 11-5.

The chant of, "We're still alive here; just like last time," fell on deaf ears as Westfield manufactured just one run in the sixth when Wayman and Smalls singled and Padovano ripped an RBI single.

Sheriff Green singled and scored in the seventh on Powers' RBI double. "It was a great season," concluded Padovano. "These guys come in and out every year. These guys are great. They play hard and I wouldn't ask for a better team. Sometimes you win some, other times you lose some. Today, we lost."

Sheriff 1	113	015	1	12
Westfield	302	001	0	6



Fred K. Lecomte for The Westfield Leader and The Times
DARING DIVE AT FIRST...Westfield PD1 player Mike Smalls defies the tag intimidating Sheriff 1 first baseman Ernie Schmidt. Despite a 12-6 setback in the semifinal game of the Union County Police Playoffs at Memorial Park in Westfield on August 27, Westfield 1 had a great season.

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