



READY TO FIRE THE BALL DOWN FIELD...Blue Devil sophomore laxer Ryan Yarusi, No. 4, prepares to fire the ball down field in the game against the Moorestown Quakers.

## BIALICK, PATELLA NET BLUE DEVILS' ONLY GOALS

# Blue Devils Collapse in Second Half, Quaker Laxers Win, 9-2

By DAVID B. CORBIN  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

One fine half of lacrosse became just a memory after the Westfield High School boys lacrosse team seemed to self destruct in the second half, allowing sixth-ranked Moorestown to go on a scoring frenzy and depart from Westfield with a 9-2 victory on April 14. The 1-1 Quakers, whose loss was to national power Springfield, Pa., scored five unanswered goals in the third quarter and outscored the Blue Devils, 2-1, in the final quarter.

The Blue Devils got a goal from junior Mike Bialick, who scooped up a backhanded shot from sophomore attacker Joe Simone and stuffed it in the net in the second quarter, and their final goal from senior Mike Patella on a furious 25-yard sidarm flick with two minutes remaining in the game. Seven Quakers scored at least a goal and were led by Stelios Wilson and Sean Delaney who netted two goals and an assist each. Chris Andreola contributed a goal and two assists and Andrew Kraemer added a goal and an assist.

Initially, the Blue Devils were on their game in the first half of the first quarter, kept the ball in Quaker territory and just missed a few scoring opportunities — one a nullified goal from Ryan Sharkey who was inside the crease on a wraparound. With less than two minutes remaining in the quarter, Delaney,

assisted by Tim Healey, penetrated the middle and scored.

After continued pressure, the Blue Devils tied the score on Bialick's goal late in the second quarter but the Quakers answered within a minute with Mike Darling's goal. Just before the half, Simone, on a wraparound, tried to stuff the net but just missed left. Westfield finished the half with 18 ground balls and 16 shots on goal while the Quakers had 17 ground balls and nine shots on goal.

Disaster struck in the second half as the Blue Devils' synchronization crumbled while the Quakers' teamwork peaked. Wilson flicked in the first two goals of the third quarter followed by Andreola, Kraemer and Kyle Hadden to give the Quakers a 7-1 lead.

Rob Hartman added a goal early in the fourth quarter and Delaney barreled through the middle for another score to increase Moorestown's lead to 9-1. Patella's goal finalized the scoring. Both teams were even in faceoffs, 6-6, but the Quakers outshot the Blue Devils, 15-4, in the second half and totally dominated the ground balls. Blue Devil goalie Chris Zaffuto finished with 11 saves, including four fine blocks, and Quaker goalie John Gilfillen also made several fine saves and finished with 12.

In the second half, "We didn't play as a team. We didn't win ground balls. We didn't shoot. We didn't play la-

crosse. We were out there running around," expressed a disappointed Blue Devil Head Coach Gerry Benaquista. "The thing that gets me is when you are not hustling on the field. You've got to love the game. If you are out there, you should want to be out there. You should want to go 110 percent. Until that happens, we are going to struggle."

But Lauren Gelmetti pitched a solid game, the infield defense was sparkling, with 3B Ann McGrath, SS Kris Fietkiewicz and 2B Katie Smith, and Mary Kate Flannery had several nice catches in centerfield.

Third-year coach Tara Pignoli should be commended for searching out top-notch tournaments for her team. Gelmetti, Fietkiewicz and Flannery play travel ball all summer, so they're used to this type of compe-

Moorestown 1 1 5 2 9  
Westfield 0 1 0 1 2



JUST CHECKING...Blue Devil laxer Brian Bottini, No. 16, checks Quaker attacker Stelios Wilson, No. 20.



### Devil's Den

## WHS Girls Face Stevens In Big Game Tomorrow

By BRUCE JOHNSON  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

The WHS softball team made the long trip Saturday down to Eastampton, Burlington County, to play in the first-year Rancocas Valley Elite Tournament. While WHS came up short against New Egypt, the trip is the kind a team has to make if it wants to be competing for county and sectional titles when late May and early June roll around.

New Egypt, while only a Group 1 school, will be considered among the favorites to win that title this year, led by super talented shortstop Shannon Houston, a junior who has already committed to the University of California. Also in the field Saturday was defending Group 4 champion Steinert, defending Group 3 champion Montgomery, plus solid teams like the host, Washington Township, Conwell Egan Catholic of Pennsylvania, Cherokee, J.P. Stevens and several others.

Speaking of top competition, the Blue Devils will be hosting J.P. Stevens tomorrow at 4 p.m. The Hawks of North Edison have been a powerhouse team for years. Last year, coach Pete Catenacci's team was beaten by Westfield 1-0 in 12 innings for the North Jersey Section 2 Group 4 title. That was WHS's first sectional softball title since 1990, and first title of any kind since the 1998 Union County Tournament.

NOT GIVING UP  
The WHS baseball team might have come up short Saturday against Watchung Hills in the Carl Riccio Memorial Tournament, but that doesn't make coach Bob Brewster's club any less of a threat when the county and state tournaments arrive. The 1-2 pitching punch of Billy Hearon and Tom Ricciuti will keep them in most games. Mike Murray is one of the top catchers in the state, Mike Diaz is a very good all-around player, and first baseman Alex Zieler has made the adjustment from jayvee to varsity in a big way — tying the school record for home runs in a game (two, by Dick Myers, Skeeter MacCloskey, Kevin Stock, Ron Nobile and Lamont Turner) and RBI in a game (eight, by Nobile and Jay Cook) last week. He also is believed to be the first Blue Devil to hit two grand slams in one game, albeit in a 17-16 loss to Bridgewater.

Speaking of the baseball team, is it possible Jayshawn King could break the school record for runs in a season, without getting an at-bat? King, who is the designated runner for catcher Murray, turns almost every Murray walk into at least a double and sometimes a triple with his ability to steal bases. The record for runs in a season is 38, shared by Chuck Mueller, Drew Keehn, Ryu Saito and Brian Ciemniecki.

One final thing about WHS baseball for this week. If anybody has final statistics for the 1966 team, the one that went 22-4 under coach Norm Koury, I'm trying to find out how many innings Frank Tokash pitched during his sophomore season. His record was 5-1 and he struck out 30 batters, but the amount of innings is what I need.

THE OL' BALLPARK  
Did you know that the main baseball field in Westfield used to be located at Recreation Park (now Recreation Field, or Kehler Stadium)? From looking at old pictures, home plate was near what is now Westfield Ave.,

next to the old Lincoln School. A very long home run to dead center would put the ball somewhere in the bleachers of Kehler Stadium. There were no houses on the third base side, so that was used for parking cars and for fans to line the foul (fair?) lines.

There are several very cool pictures at the Westfield Historical Society (third floor, Elm Street School) of the beautiful field and the big crowds that used to follow the local teams.

Among the other fields that WHS used to play home games on were at Unami Park in Garwood, Nomahegan Park in Cranford and Tamaques Park, Westfield. The last 40-plus seasons have been played behind Edison.

DEN TRIVIA  
What is former major leaguer Al Ferrara's connection with Westfield?

CATCHING UP WITH ...  
Former WHS swimmer Justin Byrnes (WHS 78) is now a triathlete living in Fountain Hills, Ariz. Byrnes, who swam on the winning 400-free relay at the 1977 state finals, is still a competitive swimmer in Arizona Masters meets. The former WHS sprinter reports he can still go "about 5:25 in the 500, which is competitive for a 46-year-old!" He and his wife, Judi, another triathlete, have two Rhodesian Ridgebacks.

IS IT JUST ME ...  
Or did the Rolling Stones come up with the perfect title for the album "Sucking in the '70s"? The world's most overrated rock 'n' roll band hasn't been the same since Brian Jones, the group's founder, died in 1969. Outside of the song Beast of Burden, and maybe Angie, there hasn't been anything memorable in 3 1/2 decades!

REMEMBER WHEN ...  
April 21, 1958: WHS's Frank Bell scores an eagle 3 on the par-5 fourth hole at Echo Lake during a match against West Orange.

April 22, 1930: Carl Blank strikes out 16 batters in a 16-1 WHS win over Rahway.

April 24, 1937: Roselle Park's Ray Schmidt fans 16 in Roselle Park's win over WHS.

April 24, 1985: The WHS boys lacrosse team is ranked No. 1 in the state for the first time.

April 27, 1948: WHS is no-hit by Linden's W. Brightwell, but wins the game 3-2. It is the first known no-hitter against the Blue Devils.

TRIVIA ANSWER  
Ferrara shared a 1964 Dodgers rookie baseball card with former WHS captain and All-Stater Jeff Torborg. Devil's Den appears Thursday in the Westfield Leader. Contact me with comments or suggestions at bjl019@aol.com.

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