



Jim O'Connor (www.njsportpic.com) for The Westfield Leader and The Times
LAST LINE OF DEFENSE... Blue Devil lacrosse goalie Jackie Burns made eight saves against Bridgewater-Raritan.

Bridgewater Erupts to Beat Blue Devil Lady Laxers, 13-6

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"There were four shots that went off of me and into the goal which is very frustrating," said Burns. "They were really great on the rolls. We just need to get the double teams there and I need to work on some of my stuff, but overall our team played so well."

Panther Megan Fenton scored six goals while Krista Fieselmann netted four. Goalie Kim Imbesi came up with 14 big saves.

The game featured several momentum shifts that appeared to be ruled by which team scooped up the most ground balls. Bridgewater took the initiative early with respective goals by Fenton and Fieselmann. Blue Devil Trimble, assisted by Schor, retaliated by scorching the Panther cage at 23:13 off a transition from the midfield. Fenton netted her second goal to put the Panthers up, 3-1, but Masel fired back with a goal.

The Blue Devil defense seemed to get a bit out of position as the Panthers added five unanswered goals to extend the lead to 8-2 at the half.

"We were down a little, but never gave up," said Siwulec. "We had better transitions. At first we were not

getting the ground balls but then we started running through them, settled it down, passed it around the goal and got our shots because of the cuts."

In the second half, the Blue Devils stepped it up and Masel scored at 22:46. However, less than 60 ticks later, Bridgewater scored. Siwulec, assisted by Tucker, mangled the Panther cage at 20:36. The Panthers roared back and notched three successive goals powered by Fenton and Fieselmann to extend the deficit to 12-4. Not to be denied, Siwulec, assisted by Luker, powered her way through a host of defenders and fired off a shot into the goal with 4:08 remaining. Two minutes later, Trimble was awarded the final goal off a feed from Santoriello.

"It hit off my defenders stick and found it's way into the goal," explained Trimble. "I think we really put some pressure on them, especially offensively. Whenever we had the ball we worked it down field, used each other as cuts and took good shots. We just need to work on hustling for ground balls and maintain possession."

KONCEN, 2 RBI; HONEYMAR, 3 HITS Lion Baseball Boys Rip Viking Baseballers, 11-3

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

Costly mistakes causing an 11-3 setback at the hands of visiting Roselle Catholic temporarily put a damper on the Union Catholic High School baseball team's fine season on April 13 in Scotch Plains. Four errors and four hit batsman allowed the Lions to creep seven runs across the plate in the decisive fifth inning.

"We actually have been running a nice streak here until today," said Viking Head Coach Jim Regan. "We're surely glad we got all of this one out of our angst and out of our system. We got a little sloppy. We hit a couple of guys and were unable to make the plays when we needed to. During the past few weeks, we have made those plays but today it did not happen."

All was not bad, however, as Viking junior pitcher Dave Klimowicz (1-2) fanned six Lions, yielded five hits and walked two in four-and-two-thirds innings and sophomore Anthony Marsall burned three Lions and yielded one hit in his two-and-one-third innings. Offensively, shortstop Mike Honeymar whacked three hits, including an RBI single and a double and Andy Koncen clubbed a two-run single. Matt Oliveto, Chris Whittemore and Chris Esperon each thumped two hits.

Lion pitcher Bob Tretola scattered nine hits, struck out nine and walked one in seven innings. Catcher Pete Arce had two RBI and scored twice, leadoff hitter John Eger and desig-

nated hitter Matt Perlmutter each scored two runs.

Three Lions crossed the plate in the second inning. Perlmutter singled, Don Gould doubled and Arce ripped an RBI double then scored on a throwing error. Union Catholic tied the score with three runs in the third. Oliveto singled, Rob Downer hopped a single over second and Whittemore stung a single to load them up. The stage was set for a Lion disaster when Honeymar lined an RBI single, however Tretola countered by striking out two Vikings. Koncen then stepped to the plate and rapped a two-run single.

"I thought we showed a lot of resiliency and did a nice job coming back after we were down 3-0 today," said Regan.

The Lions added a run in the fourth when Gould reached safely on a Viking infield miscue, advanced on a sacrifice bunt and scored on Eger's fly ball to center. But the Lions sent 10 batters to the plate in the fifth and amassed seven runs, which included an RBI single by Eger.

"Klimowicz, I thought did a real nice job for us until he got into that fifth inning," said Regan. "His pitch count went up to about 80 pitches. He started to get fatigued and got a little sloppy. We now have a nice chunk of time available for us to practice. Not having to play for a week, we will be able to play over some basic fundamentals. We have a 5-2 record, which is a pretty good start."

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Fred Lecomte for The Westfield Leader and The Times
SLIDING SAFELY INTO THIRD... Viking Christian Cortizo face slides into third and gets the "safe" call from the ump.



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
SAFE AT SECOND BASE... After ripping an RBI single, Raider Lauren Mains slides safely into second base in the fourth inning after the Cougars pulled off a "Cranford Cut" pickoff play in an attempt to catch Raider Taylor Cianciotta between third and home base. Cianciotta was safe with the eventual winning run.

Raiders Rally in Fourth, Top Cougar Lady Softballers, 2-1

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yielded only one walk while fanning seven and allowing six hits.

Raiders Melissa Sette and Taylor Cianciotta each went 2-for-3 and scored a run. Catcher Lauren Mains, a sophomore, had an RBI single and a stolen base and Lauren Benovegno had a single and a stolen base. Morge and Jillian Berkowitz each went 2-for-4 for the 3-2 Cougars while Sarah Capodise had an RBI single.

Moore ran into a little trouble in the first inning, giving up two singles but freshman third baseman Nicole Colineri made a heads-up toss to nail Morge heading to second for the second out and second baseman Cianciotta ended the threat by grabbing a grounder and tossing to first for the out.

Moore, once again, got into a wobbly situation in the second inning when she gave up a single and two walks to load the bases with two outs. Again, Cianciotta ended the threat by grabbing a sharp grounder and tossing to first for the out. Afterwards, Moore settled down, allowing only two walks over the next four innings while Benovegno in right and Kaskiw in center made several fine catches. Throughout the game, Mains led nothing get by her behind the plate.

"Our outfielders were really on today. They were reading the ball well in the sun. Kelli is a really good outfielder and 'Beno' is a solid right fielder and a solid first baseman as well," commented Raider Head Coach Kelly Covert. "I don't think Mains gets the credit she's due. She holds us together. Normally I call pitches but today Mains would look at me and I said, 'You go!' Because she's behind the plate and can see what is coming in from Jess."

The Raiders have had the good fortune of having two fine pitchers to present on the mound this season, Moore with her flame throwing style, and Elaine Piniat, a control pitcher who faced the Cougars on opening day.

"Mentally, she is so strong," said Covert of Moore. "You would think, after a couple of innings like that, she could easily go down. Every single time I would think about changing (pitchers) she would come back strong. On April 1, we had just seen Cranford, so Piniat was still fresh in their minds. Elaine has a lot of movement, Jess has power and you can not teach that firing in."

Sette led off the fateful fourth by beating out an infield single. Cianciotta, who hit the ball hard in every at bat, drilled a single down the right field line as Sette settled at third. Mains skid her RBI single past short and Cianciotta pulled into third. With a first-and-third situation, Mains dashed toward second to draw a throw from the catcher who attempted a "Cranford Cutoff" play in an effort to catch Cianciotta between third and home. The ball dropped, Cianciotta scored and Mains slid into second.

"Sette is a smart base runner. Taylor is going to contact, Sette is going to go and we try to get that first and third situation going," said Covert.

Cranford's final offensive began with an infield single by Tara Scaramuzzi who moved to second on Berkowitz's single, advanced to third on Morge's two-out infield single and scored on Capodise's single.

"It was a huge win," expressed Covert.

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