

Westfield Blue Devils Earn 30-14 *W* Over Columbia Cougar Footballers

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intercepted once.

"We had three sets of backs that we rotated in and out. And they are all capable. One thing! If you are going to be a running back, you are not just getting the ball, you have to block," said Tranchina.

Defensively, Vall-Llobera recorded seven tackles and Steve Markowski had six while Bob Mroz, Matt Ince and Kyle Zeitounian had five each.

Cornerback Willie Jenkins set up the Blue Devils' first TD by picking off quarterback Hadaxian Matthews' pass,

which was deflected by linebacker John Dugan, at the Columbia 36. Seven plays later, King sliced two yards for the TD with 6:09 left in the first quarter. Tom Bonard's kick was good.

Graham's first interception at the Blue Devil 43 set up Westfield's next TD. After nine plays, highlighted by an 11-yard run and an 18-yard run from Shaffer and Simmons, respectively, Shaffer bashed in from the one to make the score 13-0, with 1:40 left in the quarter.

Early in the second quarter, the

Blue Devils got the ball on the Cougar 34 and clawed to the 26 where DeRosa hit Ferro in the right corner of the end zone for his 26-yard TD reception. Bonard nailed the point after. Graham got his second interception at the Cougar 30. Five plays later, Bonard kicked a 23-yard field goal to give Westfield a 23-0 lead at the half.

Determined to re-establish dominance, the Blue Devils held the Cougars to three-and-out and answered with a 13-play, 72-yard scoring drive that was concluded with Simmons' one-yard plunge with 3:17 remaining in the third quarter.

"We had to come out in the third quarter and re-establish that we were the better team," said Tranchina. "It's difficult to be where we have been and still come out and practice as hard as these kids have. We played good solid football. We played good hitting football. There were some good sticks. Being physical hasn't been a problem with us. All year, they have played hard."

The Cougars scored their first TD on a 36-yard reception by Gilbert Roberts with 58 seconds left in the third quarter. Their last TD came on a 57-yard gallop from Matthews with 5:59 remaining in the game.

"We have the second hardest schedule in the state this year. It hasn't been an easy season, so we wanted to get a win going into the Plainfield game because we want to win out," said Shaffer. "We have been hitting a lot harder in practice."

Tranchina added, "Nothing would make us feel better than to win one on Thanksgiving Day!"

Columbia	0	0	7	7	14
Westfield	13	10	7	0	30



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
CHEWING UP A LOT OF YARDAGE...Raider tailback Greg Brand, No. 22, chewed up 169 yards and scored two touchdowns against Montgomery on November 12. The Raiders will host Elizabeth on Thanksgiving Day at 10:30 a.m.

Raiders Rout Cougars, 40-18 in Grid Game

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second TD, a gallop of 38 yards, finalized the scoring.

"Every year, we have had two tailbacks. We expect great things out of him next year. He is a good football player," Ciccotelli said of Brand. "Even the young quarterback threw a touchdown. We got some good kids. We play hard and that's all I can ask."

Another of those good kids, junior wide receiver Kyle Rowbotham, in his first year playing football, has been getting the hang of the game on both sides of the ball. Offensively, he had four receptions for 67 yards, including a 35-yard grab on the first play of the game. Defensively, he made several crushing tackles and read Cougar quarterback Chris Fisher's eyes well to make an interception that he returned 34 yards.

"He's a talented athlete and he played well," noted Ciccotelli.

Senior receiver Dan Ragan provided some impressive blocking and had a 21-yard reception. He also made a great diving catch on a 34-yard bomb that, unfortunately, was nullified due to a holding penalty. He also had a fumble recovery. Junior lineman Colin Campbell recorded a three-yard and a 10-yard sack. Brand recorded a six-yard sack and junior Tom Pennella dumped running back Dupree Wade for a seven-yard loss. Burney-Porter, at safety, broke up a potential TD reception in the end zone.

"He played a great game tonight," Ciccotelli said of Ragan. "Even the other coach said they thought he was a great player. He can block as good as anybody we have ever had."

After the Raiders marched 77 yards on four plays, concluded by Weber's 12-yard TD run around the right side with 10:15 left in the first quarter, the Cougars responded with a five-play, 47-yard jaunt, which ended with a 28-yard field goal by Gary Stefanski. The Cougars then held the Raiders to three-and-out and got great field position on the Raider 55. After some tricky option plays, Fisher connected with Wade for a 24-yard TD with 3:58 left in the first quarter to take a 9-7 lead.

The Raiders came back with a nine-play, 59-yard drive that ended with

Brand's two-yard TD. The failed two-point conversion attempt kept the score at 13-9. With 33 seconds left in the half, Stefanski added a 23-yard field goal to tighten the score to 13-12.

With 6:42 left in the third quarter, Huether put the Raiders in front 20-12 after his two-yard plunge capped a 10-play, 54-yard scoring drive. Burney-Porter capped a 72-yard drive with his 23-yard TD reception with 10:32 left in the game to put the Raiders ahead 27-12 but, three minutes later, Brand took a hit that caused the ball to squirt out of his grasp and Cougar cornerback Ryan Morris caught it and sprinted 72 yards for a TD.

The Cougars successfully pulled off an onside kick but Ragan smothered their drive with his fumble recovery. The Raiders answered with Chervenyak's 21-yard TD pass to Burney-Porter. With 1:46 remaining, Brand rumbled 38-yards to pay dirt.

"We got caught with the option early. We didn't have a feel for what their identity was on offense," commented Ciccotelli. "Once we did, we shut them out in the second half. Our kids stepped it up tonight. They are capable of playing tough."

Sc. Pl.-Fanwood	7	6	7	20	40
Montgomery	12	0	0	6	18



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
TOUCHDOWN RECEPTION...Blue Devil wide receiver Sean Ferro, No. 26, grabs a 26-yard TD pass in the end zone in the second quarter against Columbia.



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