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THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section
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MALONEY, BENDER, ALICHE, LOUIE, MORAWSKI TAKE TOP HONORS

Lady Blue Devils Win Three of Five Slots, Capture Union County Tennis Crown



UC CHAMP AT THIRD SINGLES...Blue Devil Lane Maloney wore down GL Highlander Paige Geiger, in three sets, 6-2, 4-6, 6-2, to claim the UC title at third singles.

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

Five Blue Devils – Lane Maloney (third singles), Co-Captains Jessica Bender and Lisa Aliche (first doubles) and Rachel Louie and Kim Morawski (second doubles) – won individual honors and two – Nikki Reich (first singles) and Lindsay Goldberg (second singles) – took third place to give the Westfield High School girls tennis team its first Union County crown since 2001. The Blue Devils beat out

Governor Livingston, 84-72, for the team title.

Maloney, UC champion at first doubles last year and champion at second doubles in 2003, tried her hand at third singles and shutout Union Catholic's Melissa Cortez, 6-0, 6-0. Next, she leveled Summit's Hannah Dickey, 6-1, 6-0, then advanced to the finals with a 6-3, 6-3, win over Amy Demoreuille of Oak Knoll. The last finalists to get off the courts, Maloney finally wore down her GL Highlander opponent, Paige Geiger, in three sets, 6-2, 4-6, 6-2.

"It felt really good getting to play singles," said Maloney. "It didn't force me to change my game because I had been playing both anyhow but it was definitely more tiring. The final was definitely the toughest match. The first day I was not very tired but the girl on the second day really stepped it up."

ing was consistent. I felt very confident. I'm so relieved. It's my first win. It's a fun year! Both senior captains playing doubles together! I really enjoyed it!"

toppled Raider Carly Heinz, 6-2, 6-2, to advance to the semifinals where she lost a tough match to Oak Knoll's Anna Burke. Heinz finished seventh with a 1-6, 6-2, 6-2, victory over



THIRD AT FIRST SINGLES...Blue Devil Nikki Reich defeated top-seeded Felice Trinh of Linden, 6-3, 6-4, to place third at first singles.

"I felt very comfortable with my ground strokes. Today, I think we really pulled through with her serving because I pulled a muscle in my stomach and I couldn't serve as well," chuckled Bender who earned her third UC crown – third singles in 2002 and first doubles in 2004.

Katie Bundy of Roselle Park. "She's a really tough opponent," Reich said of Burke. "I felt I played well. I made a few more errors than I wanted. My serve wasn't as powerful as it normally is and the other errors were forced by my opponent's strong shots."

After wins over Cranford and Summit, Bender and Aliche reached the finals by trouncing Pricilla Barletta and Danielle Purro of New Providence.

Reich came back to capture third place by defeating top-seeded Felice Trinh of Linden, 6-3, 6-4.

Competing in the cream of the crop group at first singles, Blue Devil junior Nikki Reich blanked Rana Moses of Roselle Catholic, 6-0, 6-0, then

"My serve was on and I just got every ball back. I hustled a lot. She's a good player and hits the ball very hard but I ran every ball down today," said Reich.

WEBER HITS ROWBOTHAM WITH TD, STRONG GETS 2 No. 20 Blue Knights Hold Off Raider Gridders' Surge, 21-19

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

Three weeks into the season, the young Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School football boys discovered that they could compete with the best when they put a scare into No. 20 Irvington,

alties, fumbled twice and quarterback Berjulet was intercepted twice by Raider wide receiver Nehemiah Burney-Porter.

Weber, who completed five of 10 passes for 117 yards and one TD with one interception, added a new dimen-

two TDs on 14 carries. Running back Greg Brand had eight carries for 28 yards and fullback Nick Giannaci carried twice for 11 yards. Rowbotham had two receptions for 79 yards, Jason Zelesnik had two

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GANG TACKLING A BLUE KNIGHT...Raiders Dan Ragan, No. 84, Tom Pennella, No. 34, Greg Brand, No. 22, and John Badala, No. 67, are involved in a gang tackle of Blue Knight running back Al-Tamar Knighton.

but came up a little short, 21-19, in Scotch Plains on September 24.

Raider junior wide receiver Kyle Robotham hauled in a long bomb from senior quarterback Colin Weber and added another 40 yards to complete a 74-yard scoring play and senior running back Rashawn Strong added touchdown (TD) runs of five yards and one yard, respectively. Irvington quarterback Osvaldo Berjulet completed TD passes of nine yards and 11 yards, respectively, to wide receiver Waynelle Gravesande and running back Al-Tamar Knighton scored the game's first TD on a three-yard slant.

Costly mistakes dictated the direction of the game and both teams had its share. The 2-1 Raiders had four fumbles – two that ended drives – a drive-ending quarterback sack and an interception to go with needless penalties. The 3-0 Blue Knights accumulated 50 yards in offensive pen-

sion to the Raiders' offensive attack by rushing 82 yards on four carries in the second half – one for 43 yards to the Irvington five to set up Strong's first TD and another for 23 yards in the final scoring drive.

"It's a quarterback keep play where you run inside the tackle. It just opened up and we got lucky with that," Weber said humbly. "Our line opened it up today and gave me a lot of time."

Weber added, "Overall, I feel good about our team but we are limiting ourselves with these little mistakes. We have some young receivers who are really good and both of our running backs really run hard."

"Web's going to be good! We got him doing things he is comfortable with. He's only going to get better and Rowbotham is only going to get better. I like this football team a lot," said Raider Head Coach Steve Ciccotelli.

Strong finished with 60 yards and

Big Football Games On Tap This Weekend

The Westfield High School football team will have its opening home game this Saturday, October, at 1 p.m. on the new turf field at Gary Kehler Stadium. The Blue Devils will face the Malcolm X. Shabazz Bulldogs in what should be a wild and exciting game.

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School football team will travel to Cranford this Friday, September 30, to face the Cougars featuring former Raider Athletic Director and Assistant football coach Eric Rosenmeier, along with former Raider quarterback Joe Franzone. Game time is 7 p.m. Come and enjoy the games!

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WESTFIELD BASEBALL LEAGUE (WBL)

ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11th - 8:00 PM

At the Westfield YMCA:
Room No. 107 / 108

The WBL would like to announce its annual public meeting for the 2006 baseball season. Anyone interested in addressing the board is welcome to attend the meeting or contact the board directly at westfieldbaseball@hotmail.com.

The following individuals have been nominated for the WBL Board of Directors for the 2006 season:

TITLE	NAME
President	Leo White
Vice President	Phil Russo
Secretary	Ron Greenberg
Treasurer	Frank Fusaro
Pony / Mustang League	Matt Isabella / Frank Fusaro
Major League	Phil Russo
International League	Andrew Thompson / Ron Greenberg
Registration	Matt Isabella
4th Grade	Ed Savickas
3rd Grade	Joe McHugh
2nd Grade	John Monaghan
1st Grade	Charlie Meyer
Kindergarten	Dan Eliades
Equipment / Uniforms	John Monaghan / John Githens
Sponsors	Jack Reilly
Safety Director	Steve Macri
Field Schedule / Umpires	Gary Fox
Summer Travel	AI Rabinowitz

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Open House: Sun. 10/2 1-5PM

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