

## Blue Devil Lax Men Advance With 11-7 Win Over Vernon

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Tom Bottini, Will Harbaugh and Kevin Maus who gets ground balls and sparks the offense. Usually it's offense but today it was the defense that came up big, bringing up ground balls. It's all fundamentals and it's reactions to the ball. You have to be ready to play."

The Vikings struck with a goal to pull to within two in the third quarter, but the Blue Devils settled down and took control of the game and scored two goals to carry an 8-4 lead into the final quarter. The first came by drawing a double team on the Vikings' right crease then Simone skipped a pass to Sharkey, who laced a shot from 12 yards out past Viking keeper Mark Glander. Bernstein, assisted by Bialick, tacked on the second goal with 20 seconds remaining.

The Blue Devils netted the first two goals of the fourth quarter on five shots. Simone smoked in a riser into the left side of the net and Bialick banged in his second of the game on

an assist by Simone at 10:13.

"On offense, we have so many guys who can play. We utilize everyone to the best of their ability and go straight to the goal. Behind the goal and we have guys cutting all over looking for an opening and we have Sharkey and others ripping the ball," said Simone.

Colvin and Rawson answered with back-to-back goals to pull the Vikes to within six. With time running out, Bernstein looked across the mouth and laced a pass to wide-open Sharkey, who beat the keeper to send Westfield to the semifinal round.

"Simone just did a great job creating for me. I had a lot of open looks in the crease. It's always someone on our team. If not me, someone else, because we can all finish," said Sharkey. Usually we try to isolate from behind. Once we beat one guy, they have to slide. That leaves someone open and that just happened to me and I could connect in back of the net."



WINNING HIS HEAT HANDILY...Blue Devil Tyler Maccubbin crosses the line to easily win his heat in the 400-intermediate hurdles. His time of 57.57 placed him seventh, just missing to qualify for the Group 4 championship.



PLACING THIRD IN THE POLE VAULT...Raider Erin Rossi clears 8'6" to place third in the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 3 girls pole vault event. Her placement in the top 6 qualified her for the Group 3 championship.

## SP-F Raider Boys Place Second, Raider Girls Finish Third; Blue Devil Boys Tie for Seventh at Sectional Track & Field

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11



COMING UP BIG...Westfield Head Coach Gerry Benaquista congratulates goalie Ben Thomas for getting the job done with 18 saves against the Vernon Vikings in the NJSLA quarterfinal round.



SOARING WITH THE EAGLES...Raider Max Carow finished second in the NJ Section 2, Group 3 pole vault event with a height of 12'6".

Harbor by placing fifth in the long jump with a distance of 19'9.25" - the top-six in each event qualify. Blue Devil Erik Brandman cleared 12 feet to place fifth in the pole vault and Adam Bergo cleared 5'10" to place sixth in the high jump. Blue Devil senior Tyler Maccubbin easily won his heat in the 400-intermediate hurdles, but his fine time of 57.57 put him in seventh place just behind Brian Monetti of Watchung Hills who ran in Heat 1 and crossed in 57.33.

"I ran a decent time, but definitely to have somebody to chase in that top heat would have been the motivation that would have gotten me to Egg Harbor," said Maccubbin.

In order to win their section, the Raider boys needed to get maximum efforts from their hurdles, jumps and field teams. On his first two events held on May 26, Rowbotham finished fourth in the 400-intermediate hurdles with a time of 55.61 and teammate Tom Pennella missed the top six, finishing seventh in a time of 58.19. On the last event of that evening, Rowbotham won the triple jump with a distance of 44'1.5" and teammate Nehemiah Burney-Porter placed fourth with a distance of 42'4.5".

On Saturday, Rowbotham placed second in the 110-hurdles with a personal-best time of 14.86 behind Ben Copeland of Montgomery who crossed in 14.71. Burney-Porter finished fourth with a time of 15.29. In the qualifiers, Pennella ran a personal-best 15.3 but did not duplicate that time in the finals.

"In the 400, I think I could have done better. I was really tired, maybe I'm burning out. That was a little

disappointment for me," said Rowbotham who was, however, pleased with his time in the 110-hurdles. "I can't ask for much more. I'm a runner who chases people. I don't like running alone. I'd rather have somebody in front of me to chase down."

In his final event, Rowbotham had a leap of 20'7" to place third in the long jump.

Raider sophomore Mike Alleman won the shot put event with a shove of 55'1.5", two feet better than Greg Tomezyk of West Morris who had a shove of 53'1". Alleman then placed third in the discus with a toss of 145'1" and teammate John Badala placed fifth with a distance of 137'6". Raider Max Carow finished second in the pole vault with a height of 12'6".

The Raider girls, as they did last week when they won the Union County Tournament title, needed to nickel and dime to cash in on the title, but, unfortunately, came up a few cents short. The Raiders' strongest contribution came in the shot put where Carlaya Jones placed second with a push of 37'3" followed by Lauryn Adams with a push of 36'1.25". Adams also placed fifth in the discus with a toss of 107'9".

Raider Tina Olsson placed third in the long jump with a leap of 16'11.25" and finished fifth in the 200 meter with a time of 25.95. Senior Meaghan Kelly finished third in the 400-intermediate hurdles with a time of 1:06.24 and placed sixth in the 400 meter with a time of 1:00.37. Natasha Celius, with a distance of 35'1.25", took third in the triple jump and Erin Rossi cleared 8'6" to place third in the pole

vault. Brittney Veeck finished sixth in the 1600 meter with a time of 5:16.83.

Another strong showing by the Raiders came in the 800 meter when sophomore Bridget Cornwell crossed third with a time of 2:21.47 and Veeck crossed fifth at 2:24.23. Cornwell, who placed first in the 800 meter at the Watchung Conference and the Union County meets, found herself in a different situation with Valerie Boothby of Voorhees jumping out with a very fast pace in the first lap.

"She went out too fast and she paid the price for it," said Raider Head Coach Jeff Koegel. "She was hurting in the second lap. The best she could have done was second. Third! I'm not upset with that at all. She's only a sophomore and she has a lot of learn-

ing to do about how to run races."

"I knew that her time was somewhere around 2:16. I wanted to stay with her as long as I could, but stay smart too. I went out really fast in my first lap, about a 65. My second lap, I had to stay strong and give it all I had left," said Cornwell. "Coach will tell me who to run with and who to get far away from."

Victoria Attanasio earned the Blue Devil girls team points by placing sixth in the pole vault with a height of 7'6". Blue Devil Tessa Schaaf finished 10th in the 400 hurdles with a time of 1:09.13 and Catherine Cognetti finished 12th in the 800 meter with a time of 2:28.95. Karolyn Cook placed ninth in the shot put with a toss of 31'8.25".



PLACING FIRST IN THE TRIPLE JUMP...Raider Kyle Rowbotham won the triple jump with a distance of 44'1.5".

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