

See it all in color at!  
www.goleader.com

# THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section  
Pages 11-17

**DINIZO GETS 4 HITS, 5 RBI; READE RIPS 3 HITS, 4 RBI**

## St. Nicks Nick Annes, 21-20, In St. Bart's Softball Thriller

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

Individual and team batting averages skyrocketed after a St. Bart's Oldtimers Men's Softball League game at Brookside Park in Scotch Plains ended in a 21-20 victory by St. Nick over St. Anne on June 16. After an in depth tally, the two teams combined for a total of 49 hits, which

included five triples and four doubles.

The lack of a pitchers' duel was due mostly because neither team featured their ace pitcher, so the victory came as quite a sigh of relief for the Nicks who were licking their wounds after losing their first five games. The loss came as an eye slumper for the Annes who had visions of evening their record to 3-3.

As it turned out, "Ironman" Nick DiNizo figured to be a key ingredient to St. Nick's success both offensively and defensively. Not only did he go 4-for-5, including two doubles, with five RBI and three runs scored but also he knocked in what turned out to be the winning run in the seventh inning. Although he was not perfect

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



NOT A TOTALLY PERFECT EVENING...St. Nick slugger Nick DiNizo, left, had a big night at the plate with four hits and five RBI but he did get caught in a rundown between third and home by St. Anne third baseman Ron Virgilio.

## Softball Blue Devils Finished Season in Top Notch Fashion

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

Starting in a mediocre fashion, a youthful Westfield High School softball team came on super strong and provided plenty of clout finishing the season with a 14-10 record.

In the Union County Tournament, the Blue Devils stunned top-seeded Brearley, 7-0, then gave Cranford a run for its money in the semifinals. Westfield defeated Union, 3-0, in the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 4 quarterfinals, then walloped Watchung Hills, 5-0, to face top seed North Hunterdon in the title game where the Lions snatched a 3-2 come-from-behind triumph.

"We are all disappointed as we had the win within our grasp," said Blue Devil Head Coach Tara Pignoli. "These young women came ready to play and I am exceptionally proud of their effort and performance in the final round of the sectionals. We played one of our best games all season, and this is what you're looking for in tournament play."

Lindsay Brown, a junior lefthander, came on strong at the end and finished with an 11-8 record, including four shutouts. Brown's fearless pitching earned her a 1.61 ERA. She yielded just 27 walks and 80 hits in 123 innings while striking out 135 batters and holding opponents to a .154 batting average (BA).

"We got more out of Lindsay this season than we ever could have expected for a first year varsity pitcher," said Pignoli. "She pitched like a veteran by the end of our season, keeping very strong hitting teams off balance."

Freshman pitcher Alyson Moskowitz was quite proficient with a remarkable 1.06 ERA and a 3-2 record in 33 innings. She scattered 23 hits, sat down 36 batters and walked six.

"Alyson's composure on the mound

is remarkable. She is an intense player who never wants to give up anything to the opposing team. I put her in some tight jams this season and she responded with the grace of a seasoned player," said Pignoli.

Senior Tri-Captains Kristina Fietkiewicz, Mary-Kate Flannery and Jillian Olsen were major influences not only as team leaders, but also as offensive forces.

"Mary Kate and Kristina have been leaders for four years and Jillian has really developed into a vocal catcher that takes charge of the defense over the past two seasons," said Pignoli. "After losing to Cranford in counties, this team easily could have succumbed in the states and allowed their season to come to an end. These three seniors,

however, do not accept mediocrity and pushed their teammates and themselves to raise their expectations and level of play for the states."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



BRINGING HOME THE COUNTY CROWN...The Blue Devil baseball team won its 12th Union County championship after defeating Roselle Catholic, 9-0, in the title game at Linden. Tom Ricciuti raises his arms in joy as his teammates smother pitcher Craig Ellis.

**MURRAY, DIAZ, RICCIUTI BREAK 'O', 'D' RECORDS**

## Blue Devil Baseballers Broke WHS Records, Won UCT

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

This year's Westfield High School (WHS) baseball team may not have won a sectional title, but the Blue Devils, featuring 10 seniors, shattered a multitude of WHS offensive records, battered the two teams that did play for the sectional crown, won the Watchung Conference title and the Union County Tournament (UCT) title.

The Blue Devils, who finished with a 20-7 record, came up with big time double digit wins over high profile teams - Kearny (15-5), highly ranked Newark East Side (15-1) and North Jersey, Section 2, Group 4 finalists Union (15-6) and Elizabeth (14-4).

However, the most memorable moments played out in the Blue Devils' dramatic march to the UCT championship. Battling back from a 10-4 deficit and facing virtual elimination in the quarterfinals against Dayton,

the Blue Devils got a fortunate break to tie the game in the seventh then Mike Diaz belted a two-run home run for a 12-10 victory. Also, senior pitcher Josh Gerckens came in relief and slammed the door on Dayton with three scoreless innings.

"Dayton was a finalist from the year before and they went ahead, 10-4. From that point, Gerckens came in and it was just an awesome display. I kept saying, 'we got to get people on to get Diaz and Murray up.' When Ellis got on base, Diaz came up and just crushed it," said Blue Devil Head Coach Bob Brewster.

Next, senior Craig Ellis pitched a masterpiece, Mike Murray drilled two doubles and a single, with an RBI, and scored twice and Dave Kaplow whacked a two-run double to surge the Blue Devils past Cranford, 6-3, in

the semis.

"We hit the ball very well. We had a lot of big hits. None bigger than David Kaplow's bases-clearing double! Ellis just pitched his heart out," said Brewster.

In the quest for their 12th UCT crown, Ellis tossed a three-hitter and the entire Blue Devil starting lineup contributed to a 13-hit attack that stunned top-seeded Roselle Catholic and pitching ace Nick Nolan, 9-0.

"It might have been one of the finest games of any team I've ever coached played that day," Brewster added. "We did all the little things. One of the most impressive things was that we had a base hit from every guy in the lineup."

The power-hitting Blue Devils rocked the WHS record books in al-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

### GOLF INSTRUCTION AVAILABLE

- Private Lessons
- Group Lessons
- Gift Certificates
- Video Swing Analysis

Call Derek McDonald PGA Teaching Professional.  
Tel: 908 232 4288 derekmcdonald92@pga.com

- 2004 New Jersey PGA Assistant of the Year
- Top 10 in New Jersey Player of the Year Award 2005



Echo Lake Country Club

## ACES SUMMER TENNIS CAMP

at the Westfield Indoor Tennis Club

225 East Grove Street, Westfield, NJ 07090 908-233-9480

[www.westfieldaces.com](http://www.westfieldaces.com)



Directed by top rated U.S.P.T.R Tennis Professional  
Adam Borr

Our Philosophy uses the "Games Approach." All drills and activities are based around games. We have fun and learn basic athletic movements at the same time. We incorporate basketball, football, soccer and rhythmic gymnastic ribbons to generate basic athletic movements.

Weekly Sessions Beginning June 26<sup>th</sup>

June 26 - June 30 July 17 - July 21

July 10 - July 14 July 24 - July 28

Mornings 9:00am - 11:00am (age 4-6).....\$199.00 per week

Full day 9:00am - 1:00pm (ages 6-16).....\$399.00 per week



Adam Borr uses "Dartfish Software", which analyzes strokes through slow motion video

## Coldwell Banker moves.com

Coldwell Banker®, Since 1906, America's Premier Real Estate Company

### Congratulations



Hye-Young Choi



Susan Checchio



Frank D. Isoldi

Coldwell Banker has been helping families buy and sell homes for nearly a century. Since 1986, the Westfield Office has been recognized as one of the best in the nation. These are three of our agents who exemplify our commitment to the highest standards of professionalism, integrity and service.

Westfield Office  
209 Central Avenue  
(908) 233-5555

Coldwell Banker Mortgage Services  
1-888-317-5416  
The fastest, simplest, most convenient way home



© 2005 Coldwell Banker Real Estate Corporation. Coldwell Banker® is a registered trademark of Coldwell Banker Corporation. An Equal Opportunity Company. Equal Housing Opportunity. Owned and Operated by NRT, Inc.

## TWO STELLAR AGENTS

Representing the Burgdorff Philosophy of

"Anticipating the needs of our clients and exceeding their expectations... every time."



Patricia Connolly  
Sales Associate  
908-233-6156

patricia-connolly@burgdorff.com



Jill Skibinsky  
Sales Associate  
908-233-6841

jill-skibinsky@burgdorff.com

Extraordinary Agents. Dramatic Results.



Owned and Operated By NRT Incorporated.

WESTFIELD OFFICE  
600 North Ave. West • Westfield, NJ 07090  
908-233-0065



"The only local camp not held in a park"

JULY 24-28

## 2006 Raider Soccer Camp at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School

### CAMP FEATURES:

- Goal Keeper Training
- Indoor Facilities Available
- Novice to Advanced
- Lunches & Drinks Available to Purchase
- Ability Grouping
- Safe & Secure Environment

HOURS: Grades 1-4: 9:00am-12:00am  
Grades 5-11: 9:00am-3:00pm

In Association with Brazilian Soccer Academy and Dutch Soccer Academy

### DIRECTORS:

Tom Breznitsky: Head Boys' Soccer Coach  
Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School  
Pascal Clerigo: Brazilian Soccer Academy  
Roger Bongaerts, Director: Dutch Soccer

### TO CONTACT CAMP:

Please call: (908) 322-6102  
Email: [Raidercamp@comcast.net](mailto:Raidercamp@comcast.net)  
[www.spfraidersonline.com](http://www.spfraidersonline.com)

OPENINGS SECOND SESSION ONLY