



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
HAMMERING A SINGLE...St. Nick batter Tom Ulichny hammers one of his three singles that he hit against St. Anne.

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

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

at his shortstop position, he was, however, on the last two plays of the games when he extinguished a bases-loaded with one out situation by scooping two hot sizzlers in a row, throwing home for the force out for the second out and flicking to third for the final out.

Nick man Damon Roth (3-for-4, 2-run triple, RBI single, 3 runs scored) plated the seventh run in a 10-run sixth inning to tie the score at 17. Mike Walch (3-for-4, 3 runs scored, RBI) scored the winning run. Jeff Friedlander went 2-for-3 and drove in the 19th and 20th runs with a two-run triple. Joe Scarfuto had two singles and scored three runs, while Ken Blaes, Al Weber and Steve Polak each singled twice and scored twice. Glen Walz had a pair of RBI and a single. Jim Reilly and Phil Vellucci each singled and scored.

Of Anne's 26 hits, Chris Giordano ripped a pair of triples and a pair of singles, scored three times and had two RBI. Tom Reade hammered a triple and two singles and had four RBI. Second baseman Bob Gittleman (3-for-4), who became wide-eyed after snagging a wicked line drive off the bat of Blaes in the fourth inning, thumped a three-run triple and an RBI single. "Milk" Monroy drilled a pair of doubles, scored twice and had three RBI. Ron Virgilio and Tom Ulichny each went 3-for-4 with three runs scored. Scott Freidrichs (3-for-4, 2 runs scored, RBI), Paul Leso (2-for-3, 3 runs scored), John DeVito (2 singles, RBI), Art Hobbles (2 RBI, single) and Joe McEvoy (run scored) contributed in the lower half of the batting order.

Roth hopped an RBI single and Walz lofted an RBI sacrifice fly to give the Nicks a 2-0 lead in the first but Anne quickly tied the score on

back-to-back RBI singles from Reade and Giordano. With the help of Roth's two-run triple, the Nicks took a 6-2 lead in the third but the Annes answered immediately with seven runs on 10 hits, which included two triples and a double.

Intent on getting their third win, the Annes opened fire with six more runs in the fourth, highlighted by Gittleman's three-run triple and Reade's two-run single, to command a 15-6 lead. DiNizo's two-run double highlighted a four-run fifth for the Nicks, while the Annes took advantage of three errors to answer with two runs.

Anne's 17-10 lead disintegrated in the sixth when the Nicks pelted them with 10 runs on 13 hits, capped by Friedlander's two-run triple to right-center. After three Annes scored in the bottom of the inning, the Nicks took a slim one-run lead in the seventh when DiNizo brought home Walch with his RBI single.

Virgilio hopped a leadoff single and Ulichny followed with a walk to keep Anne's hopes alive. Both tagged up and advanced to scoring position after Monroy flied out to remote center. Reade was intentionally walked to load the bases then DiNizo worked his defensive magic to end the game.

St. Nick	204	04 (10)	1	21
St. Anne	207	62	3	20

St. Nick/St Anne Dunellen Hotel/ACI On www.goleader.com

Photos of the above men's softball games are now on the web. Click "photos" in upper right. When page changes, Click "photos" on left and scroll down the list.



Devil's Den Graduating WHS Seniors Will Leave Some Big Shoes to Fill

By BRUCE JOHNSON
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Tonight we bid adieu to the Class of 2006, with former Blue Devil football and track standout Harold (Butch) Woolfolk (see: Fastest 220 Ever? below) the guest speaker at the final WHS graduation ceremonies for outgoing principal Dr. Robert Petix.

All in all, it's been a pretty decent year if you're a WHS sports fan. Not a great year, because there weren't as many sectional (boys cross country, girls tennis, bowling and girls swimming) and state (girls tennis) titles as anticipated. But it was still a pretty darn good year. There were eight Union County championships (Cranford was second with four), and there were some amazingly talented senior athletes, too.

Three of the best ever at WHS leave a legacy that will be difficult to match: runner Jeff Perrella, swimmer Pat Daurio and baseballer Mike Murray. Perrella and Murray had senior years where they staked their claim to be WHS's best ever in their respective sports. And Daurio might've done the same if not slowed down by a mid-season shoulder injury; still, he was a two-time All-American.

And there were others, like Cowles Stewart (football), Andrew Shaffer (wrestling), Lauren Sinnenberg (soccer, lacrosse), Kris Fietkiewicz (volleyball, softball), Mary-Kate Flannery (softball), Mike Diaz (baseball), Tom Ricciuti (baseball), Josh Gerckens (basketball), Tom Taylor (soccer), Jimmy Arbes (golf), and Jessica Bender and Lisa Aliche (tennis).

A team is usually as good as its seniors and leaders. And so the baton is about to be passed, from the graduating '06 seniors tonight to those who will be entrusted with continuing the outstanding athletic traditions of one of New Jersey's top sports schools (oh, and academic too).

Let's take a quick look at the possibilities for 2006-07:

Football: Jim DeSarno is the new coach, and he inherits what appears to be a very talented team, led by captains Will Harbaugh and Ryan Yarusi. There's no team on the schedule that shouldn't be beatable if this group plays to its potential.

Boys soccer: There's plenty of talent back in Nick Barba, Kevin Hennessey and goalie Greg O'Brien, plus guys moving up from a solid jayvee team.

Girls soccer: It's tough to lose players like Sinnenberg, Miriam Becker-Cohen and Andrea Hollander, but coach Katie Egan does have two standouts returning in Gillian Kape and Erin McCarthy.

Boys cross country: Veteran coach Jack Martin will have some major graduation holes to fill, with Perrella, Kevin Devaney, Jay Hoban, Kris Kagan, Tyler Maccubbin and Ameer Rogers leaving.

Girls cross country: Despite heavy losses, Thom Hornish returns some top

runners, plus outstanding members of the county champion jayvee and freshman teams. The legacy will continue.

Field hockey: It's been a while since Maggie McFadden's club made some noise, but that could change next fall. Goalies Natalia Mavrogiannis and Katherine Taylor return, along with standout out jayvee 'keeper Maureen Hughes. Agustina Healy and Chrissy Isabella (attack) and Leigh Weissman (defense) are standouts.

Gymnastics: Claire MacDonald is the key returnee for coach Melissa Bryan's squad, which was third at the county tournament.

Girls tennis: Ed Tirone returns all three singles players — Nikki Reich, Lindsay Goldberg and Lane Maloney — plus Kim Morawski at doubles from last year's 23-1 squad. And the jayvee team went 12-1.

Volleyball: This is a year-in, year-out solid team, and despite some tough graduation losses, the return of Tara Daly, Anna Koehler, Lindsay Brown, Caroline Fallon and the Roudebush girls, Erin and Paige, will keep coach Bev Torok's squad a contender.

Boys basketball: Veteran coach Kevin Everly returns two of the most exciting players around, point guard Tom Bonard and guard/forward Mike Venezia. Dan Pritzker, Santo Nardi, Pete Antonelli, Davon Wise and Mike Lessner all contributed last year.

Girls basketball: Upcoming juniors Erin Miller and Gabby O'Leary get most of the ink, but the team could use the return of classmate Stephanie Slodyczka, who had 251 points and 188 rebounds as a freshman before an injury sidelined her last year.

Bowling: The No. 8 team in New Jersey this winter, coach Mike Tirone always turns out a winner. And with Eric Curiale, Arley Rojs and Brett Ettinger leading the way, it should be another good team next winter.

Ice hockey: High scoring Sal Esposito and rugged Jason Anderson must be replaced, but Brian and Seth Davidson, Craig Esposito and James Bender return, along with goalies Adam Becker and Eric Zagorski.

Boys swimming: With Luke Baran, P.J. Harley, Phil Anton, Colin Sullivan, Matt Green, Matt Bluffield, Chris DeLaFuente, Matt Morgan and Max Blum all solid returnees, and key newcomers Matt Meserole and Mike Oster, a 21st state championship is not out of the question.

Girls swimming: Coach Jaime Ruzsala's club is 1-0-a-d-e-d, with Julie Cederroth, Kyle Fraser, Chrissy Isabella, Lauren McCurdy, Katie Morgan, Brittany Reyes and Darrell Ann Smith heading an amazing senior class. Liz Hawkins, Alexi Kuska, Stephanie Albright, Catherine Maguire and Lauren Sullivan are all battle-tested, and there's some super freshmen com-

ing in, too.

Wrestling: Upcoming seniors Colin MacKay and Mark Boyd were district champions, and Andy Castrorao, John Falzon, Matt Shaffer, Nick DeFreitas, John Barnes and Sam Reichbach were all regulars.

Baseball: Graduating the heart of the school's best hitting team ever, coach Bob Brewster may have to return to the "small ball" of his youth, scratching out runs with speed, bunts, steals and then the big bat of Justin Olsen.

Softball: Coach Tara Pignoli has two solid pitchers, Lindsay Brown and Alyson Moskowitz, three returning infield starters (Jen LaSpata, Kim Townsend and Erin Scialabba) and the talented Cyndil Mathew.

Golf: Arbes can't be replaced, but you know coach John Turnbull will find a way to make WHS into a strong team again, led by Dan Liebowitz, Tim Jacob, Adam Becker, Nick LiVolsi and Caroline Steller.

Tennis: Along with the swim teams, this could be WHS's top team, with Kevin Shallcross, Ravi Netravali, James Chu and Dean Thompson all solid returning singles players, plus Jack Trimble, Evan Eisenberg, Matt Gralla and Greg Luppescu at doubles.

Boys lacrosse: Ryan Yarusi, Joe Simone, Luke Baran, Chris Mattes, Harry Bernstein and goalie Ben Thomas will be key players for coach Jerry Benaquista.

Girls lacrosse: With high-scoring Julie Shelman back, along with goalie Michelle Zaffuto, another good year for the commuting Liz Coulson.

Boys track: Like cross country, there are major holes to fill, but none bigger than the loss of Perrella.

Girls track: Jennifer Danielsson figures to be the top gun for coach Nancy Carpenter's squad.

And, with today's column, it's also time to bid adieu to the Devil's Den, which will be taking the remainder of the summer off to recharge the batteries.

JUST WONDERING ...

As awesome as the WHS baseball team was offensively this year, completely shattering almost every existing single-season and all-time record, what would it have been like if Matt Sulentic hadn't moved to Dallas five years ago. Sulentic, arguably the most talented youth player in town as a pre-teen, earned all-state honors in Texas as a pitcher/shortstop, signed to attend Texas A&M, and was drafted in the third round (No. 98 overall) of the recent Major League Draft by Oakland as an outfielder. "He would've been our leadoff guy and center fielder," WHS coach Bob Brewster said. "Can you imagine that lineup?"

PERRELLA IS 12TH

WHS senior Jeff Perrella finished 12th in the two-mile run at last weekend's Nike Outdoor Nationals in

Greensboro, N.C. Perrellan ran a 9:09.98 in his final race for WHS.

FASTEST 220 EVER?

There have been some memorable "match races" in sports over the years, but most of them involved horses — Man O'War vs. Sir Barton (1920), War Admiral vs. Seabiscuit (1938) and Nashua vs. Swaps (1955) were three of the most famous. The last one was July 6, 1975, when unbeaten Ruffian took on Kentucky Derby winner Foolish Pleasure. Sadly, Ruffian broke down and had to be put down and that was the end of "match races" among horses.

But on May 4, 1977, there was a classic race during the WHS-Scotch Plains track dual meet at Recreation Field. SP-F featured Renaldo (Skeets) Nehemiah, one of the greatest hurdlers in American history. WHS had the state's two premier sprinters, Frank Kelly and Butch Woolfolk. The trio met head-on during the 220-yard dash that day. And the results ... in a blurring finish ... Kelly third in 21.9, then Woolfolk in 21.8, with Nehemiah first in 21.4. Those are fast-as-hell times for a regular-season dual meet on a basically dirt track. (Oh, WHS won the meet 82-49.)

MEMORABLE MUSIC

You know how when you hear a certain song it reminds you of something, usually something very good? Like your first time "submarine race watching" at Echo Lake? Or your first visit to Staten Island for a beer pickup? For me, the greatest summer song will always be Mongo Jerry's "In the Summertime."

It's a catchy tune, and it always reminds me of the 1970 New Jersey American Legion championships at Mennen Field, Morris Township. Westfield, which included Scotch Plains players on its roster that summer, was playing Morristown, led by big lefty Pete Helt. The teams were allowed to pick their music to play during their infield/outfield warmup, and Westfield chose Mongo Jerry's classic. Despite two solo home runs by SP-F's Jeff Frey, Morristown and Helt won 3-2 over Westfield and Skeeter MacCloskey.

DRESSING FOR THE OCCASION

The 100th year of the annual Phillipsburg vs. Easton, PA football rivalry will be televised live on ESPN2 on Thanksgiving Day 2006. Even cooler, the two teams will wear "throwback" jerseys for the game: Easton going with a late 1930's uniform, while P'burg will dress as it did back in 1928.

The Devil's Den appears during the scholastic sports season. This is the final Devil's Den for the 2005-06 season, but you can still contact us with comments, suggestions, story ideas or trivia questions at bj1019@aol.com. See you in the fall. Go Devils!

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