

Blue Devil V'ballers Enjoyed Successful, 25-4, Net Season

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

Not much has changed for the always strong and competitive Westfield High School volleyball team. As in past years, there is no real place to hide for opponents when they step on the court as the Blue Devils have played at a superior level to stand out above the rest.

The senior-dominated Blue Devils finished 25-4, won their first Union county championship since 1998, downing rival Union Catholic, cap-

ments of victory came when the Blue Devils defeated Cranford, always a big rival, in three games in Cranford. When asked about disappointment, Torok replied, "Our very last match against Southern. We were very evenly matched. We were down with a ten-point deficit in the first game and came back to tie it. We had a couple of opportunities to take the match but we could not swing that. We just did not have our best showing that day and of course we were disappointed with that."

the games without Anna's defense," said Torok. "The week of the county finals, she had perfect serve-receive positioning whereby she passed the ball perfectly to the setter and we had our choice of attacks. That is an above and beyond stat to have and she kept it in every single game."

The Blue Devils will return junior outside hitter Caroline Fallon and powerful junior middle blocker Paige Roudebush.

"They definitely will be our offensive attackers. They already have strong experience and have a lot of playing time under their belt," said Torok.

Sophomores Cyndil Matthew and Gabby Jakub, who have experienced plenty of playing time, will look to improve and become mainstays in the lineup.

"We had a freshman, Diana Venezia who is very athletic and got some good playing time in along with sophomore Katherine Payne who also learned a lot this year. They will be players next year."

Juniors Olympia Gaglioti and Laryssa Borkowsky will also be in the mix and counted on heavily.

"Laryssa came in and had some quality serves and played some defense for us," said Torok. "Every year it's a different year so at this time I just don't know what to expect. I hope the kids improve and get better over the summer, willing to put it all together, have the ability to work together and have that chemistry to be able to continue the tradition of winning."



BLUE DEVIL LEADING SCORER...Senior Erin McCarthy, No. 13, led the team with 17 goals, while adding four assists. McCarthy has also been nominated for All-American consideration.

MCCARTHY, PARKINSON, HANDZA LED IN SCORING

Blue Devil Soccer Girls Made Huge Leap, Finished 15-4-2

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

Finishing with a 9-7-3 record in 2005, the Westfield High School girls soccer team seemed not much more than another face in the crowd when it came to tournament time. But the 2006 Blue Devils made a huge leap to become one of the toughest teams in the state, were Co-Champions with Scotch Plains-Fanwood in the Union County Tournament and finished with

a 15-4-2 record.

The Blue Devils pulled off a big, 2-1 win over nemesis East Brunswick, a team they have not beaten in 16 years, early in the season and also defeated the Raiders, 2-1, in a regular-season meeting.

"A big factor in our success was our team chemistry," said Blue Devil Head Coach Katie Wertheimer. "They jelled together. For many of them, this was their third season together. We had

strength and speed all over the field this year. The scoring power was there, as well as the defense."

Ten girls received All-Union County Coaches Poll recognition and four received New Jersey Girls Soccer Coaches Association (NJGSCA) recognition. Senior Co-Captains Gillian Kape and Erin McCarthy have been nominated for All-America consideration.

As sweeper, Kape literally flew all over the field to become an unrelenting master of defense. She also managed to score a goal and have three assists.

"She is one of the best defenders in the state. Part of her strength is her speed and her ability to position herself between the player and the ball. She has good foot skills to be able to get the ball out of pressure," said Wertheimer who added, "She has a good supporting cast around her in Lindsay Sauerwein who is very fast and very scrappy. I would usually put her on the other team's strongest player. She also had Catherine Cognetti and Steph Cortinhal. They were able to play off each other better."

Offensively, the Blue Devils outscored opponents, 72-15. McCarthy punched in a team-leading 17 goals and added four assists. Jun-



GOING OVER STRATEGY...Blue Devil Head Coach Bev Torok discusses strategies with her team during a county game.

tured their conference title, but, unfortunately, fell to Southern Regional in the semifinals of the NJSIAA Group 4 State Tournament.

"That was a nice improvement having accomplished becoming another perennial county powerhouse, something that we have not been for a long time and be able to take it to that point," said Westfield Head Coach Beverly Torok.

The only other time that the Blue Devils were at the state championship was in 2002. "We played 29 matches, entered four major tournaments, county tournament and state, so our schedule was jamb packed," said Torok. "Some of our highlights included winning the Livingston tournament. We played in the finals of 'Heal the Children' tournament then won both the semifinal games of the Northern Valley tournament and the Jersey Classic tournament. We kept on getting stronger and stronger as we went on."

With five seniors on the team this season, two of them, Tri-Captain outside hitter Tara Daly and setter Molly Williams, were four-year letter winners.

"They have been setting and passing and were the quarterbacks of the team that set up our offense. They performed their duties very well and got better and better every year," said Torok. "You cannot have a quality team without a quality hitter and that was outside hitter Erin Roudebush who took that spot. She was a power hitter and a go-to player, front and back row. I will be very sorry to see her go."

The fourth go to player was senior middle player Kristen Dilzell. "She constantly improved, her timing was very good in getting key blocks and she was a very quality player," said Torok.

Westfield's line of defense was led by senior Tri-Captain Anna Koehler in the libero position.

"We would not have been in half of

Field Hockey Blue Devils Bid Farewell to Coach McFadden

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

Westfield High School Physical Education Coordinator, former softball and field hockey Head Coach Maggie McFadden felt that the time was ripe to redirect her energies and ultimately have more leisure time to dabble on the golf course after coaching in the school system for more than two decades. McFadden has also retired as field hockey head coach.

McFadden, a 1982 graduate of

Rutgers University started her teaching, field hockey and assistant softball-coaching career under Carol Donner at the high school that same year. After Donner retired from field hockey McFadden was the logical successor and accumulated a 179-162-70 record, including appearances in the Union County Tournament (UCT) finals in 1989, 1999 and 2002 and winning the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 4 Championship in 1992.

"I can still remember every single one of the teams as vividly as if they were my last team," said McFadden. "We were a very small program at the time because the soccer program in Westfield was really taking off and attracting a lot of girls. I remember coaching my first couple of teams that numbered just seventeen to twenty-two kids, including junior varsity."

McFadden recalled some of her

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