

Blue Devil Gridders Visit Ridge  
In Sectionals Friday at 7 p.m.

# THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section  
Pages 11-16

**DELPRETE HITS WINNER, BUMILLER MAKES 11 SAVES**

## Raider Soccer Boys Stagger Mendham Minutemen, 1-0

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

A showdown between two talented boys soccer teams in the NJSIAA North Jersey, Section 2, Group 3 quarterfinals offered as much drama as could be expected on November 6 in Mendham. After a 0-0 deadlock in the first half, Joe DelPrete's quick strike hit the mark and slammed the door on top-seeded Mendham to advance the ninth-seeded Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School boys soccer team into the semifinal round.

Senior goalie Mike Bumiller made 11 saves, including eight spectacular leaping saves by game's end.

"I think we have them believing, I told them, 'Look, we're in a great half of the bracket. We get by Somerville, we'll go up to Mendham and take our chances because I believe we are going to be able to beat them'. They're a great bunch of kids. They buy into the coaching, they believe in it and they

work at it," said Raider Head Coach Tom Breznitsky. "A couple guys today were just unbelievable. Eddie Byron just had a great performance. Bumiller was unbelievable with some great, great saves and what of course can be said about the terrific coaching move to put Joe DelPrete in the game and he scores the game winner."

The Raiders ruled the game by beating the 17-3-2 Minutemen to the ball especially in the first half, taking a 7-2 shooting advantage at keeper Grant Talbot. For nearly 20 minutes, the Raiders were getting the ball down to the Minutemen corners but were unable to finish. Matt Greaney and Steven Bello fired off three shots each and Mike DelSordi triggered one shot on goal.

The Raiders ruled the second half with aggressiveness, won 55 balls and played the ball to feet, which provided more opportunities to visit their opponents' turf, and did get two

shots off; one by DelSordi, the other by junior Mike Henkels.

With 12 minutes remaining, the game winner came off a pass from Greaney around the box where DelPrete outmaneuvered a defender and mashed the ball into the left corner of the net.

Bumiller, who made the bulk of his saves in the second half, including several fine punch-outs and several fine goal preventing decisions, said, "Mendham is a great team with great players but this was a game where our defense really stepped it up big. As to the saves, there was one particular one that stuck out. It was a half-volley line shot from 18 yards out to the far post where I had to dive and touch it over the crossbar. Just a ridiculous shot! After we scored, my focus continued to do anything possible to keep the ball out of the net. I'm really happy with the result."

"I told him, 'I need you in there.' He's quick, he's fast and I knew as a senior he was going to give us the type of effort that we might need there. In fact, when we pressured their backs, we had some good opportunities there. Sometimes you have to believe in kids. Sometimes it's not necessarily how skillful they are but whether or not they have heart. DelPrete to come into a situation does," said coach Breznitsky.

SPF/Summit Result on page 12

Sc. Pl.-Fanwood	0	1	0
Mendham	0	0	1

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MAKING CRUCIAL SAVES...Raider goalkeeper Mike Bumiller made 11 saves, including eight spectacular leaping saves against Mendham.



GETTING ANOTHER TOUCHDOWN...Blue Devil Ricardo Johnson, No. 31, shoots through a hole in the Raiders' defense for a 19-yard TD. Johnson also had a one-yard TD run and a 51-yard TD run.

**DiIORIO, SHEEHAN, BREAK ALL-TIME WHS RECORDS**

## Blue Devils Roll Past Raiders In Big Football Rivalry, 35-12

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

Quarterback Tony DiIorio, receiver Chris Sheehan and running back Ricardo Johnson definitely brought their A-game in the Westfield High School (WHS) football team's 35-12 victory over Scotch Plains-Fanwood at Gary Kehler Stadium in Westfield on November 8. WHS is now 6-2 on the season.

DiIorio, who already owned the career completion mark, broke Dave Brown's career attempts of 269 set in 1986 with his total of 275 and also set the single-season completion record with 78. (See Devils Den on page 12). DiIorio completed 10 of 16 attempts for 173 yards, including TD pass plays of 19 and 57 yards.

DiIorio's favorite receiver was Sheehan, who had eight receptions for 134 yards, including the 57-yard sprint, which was set up with a crunching block by Jihaad Billups, who also had a 20-yard reception.

"They are a great combination. They are best friends. If we call their number, we always know the odds are pretty good," Blue Devil Head Coach Jim DeSarno said of DiIorio and Sheehan. "He's (Sheehan) not afraid to go in the middle. He's tough!"

"Jihaad is very good at blocking downfield," Sheehan noted.

"That's one of Jihaad's specialties. He's a good downfield blocker. He's done it all year," said DeSarno.

Sheehan's eight receptions in a game tied his own WHS record set last year but also increased his WHS career reception record to 57.

"We've (DiIorio) had chemistry

ever since we started playing football. It feels great that both of us can finish our career on top at home," Sheehan said.

"It's great, especially to break it with him because we have been playing football together since we joined the team in seventh grade. We're both captains. We're both captains in basketball. We're always together," DiIorio said.

The Blue Devils totaled 210 yards on the ground and Ricardo Johnson

tore up the turf with 166 yards, including TD runs of 1, 19 and 51 yards, on 23 carries. A.J. Murray carried twice for 15 yards and Jhakysse Williams had three carries for nine yards. Brett DeFazio concluded the first scoring drive with a 19-yard TD reception. DeFazio also returned a blocked punt, initiated by Mike Clark, to the Raider eight to set up a Blue Devil TD in the third quarter.

"We were in trips (3 receivers in the

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**FORGASH (ASST), SCHUSTER, MURPHY NOTCH GOALS**

## N. H. Boys Shock Blue Devils In NJSIAA Boys Soccer, 4-3

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

With senior backs Nick Breza and Todd Saunders on the sidelines the past five games, the third-seeded Westfield High School boys soccer team finally gave way when sixth-seeded North Hunterdon slid in a goal just before the half and added three more in the second half to grab a shocking 4-3 victory in the second round of the North Jersey, Group 4, Section 2 tournament at Gary Kehler Stadium in Westfield on November 6.

The 12-4-2 Blue Devils out-shot the 14-7 Lions, 7-4, in the first half and 8-5 in the second half. Blue Devil senior striker Mike Forgash netted the game's first goal and assisted on the second goal, made by junior Max Schuster. Senior Kevin Murphy put in the game-tying goal in the second half. Blue Devil goalkeeper Mike Lessner made four saves and Lion keeper Chris Smith made eight.

"We had plenty of chances to score, so I can't blame it on anything but it is very difficult to lose two of your four starting backs. We gave up three goals in the first 13 games. From that point, we've given up eight goals in five games. Injuries! That's the name of the game. You stay healthy it's great," Head Coach George Kapner said.

The Lions actually took the first three shots of the game in the first 10

minutes but, with strong efforts from midfielders Mike Irving, Andy Flood, Ryan Heine and Murphy, the momentum shifted to the Blue Devils, especially when striker Tom McManus directed a shot into the middle where Forgash ripped the net from seven yards away in the 11th minute. The Blue Devils continued pressing the Lion's den, then, with 4:40 on the clock, Forgash gave Schuster a great lead shot, which resulted in a 2-0 lead.

"Mike created a lot of chances," said coach Kapner. "I thought we

should have finished quite a few more. We had half a dozen break-ins on goal. Irving, Ryan Heine and Murphy! I thought our midfield played well."

Two minutes after Schuster netted his goal, Lion Dillon Ventura looped a direct kick into a mob near the Blue Devils' goal where Kenn Anderson emerged with a goal to make the score 2-1.

McManus and Irving continued to slip good leads into Forgash but Lion goalie Smith made the stops. Seven minutes into the second half, Lion

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