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THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section
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J. SCHNEIDER GETS 3 HITS, MEISELMAN 2-RBI DBLS

Mountainside 10s Roll in 4th, Defeat Westfield White, 11-4

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

Opportunities knocked in the fourth inning and the Mountainside 10-year-old baseball team took advantage with seven runs in the fourth inning to grab an 11-4 victory over Westfield White in the second round of the Cal Ripken District 12 Tournament at Booth Field in Scotch Plains on June 24.

Mountainside pitchers Nick Cocchia and Cole Schneider combined for 10 strikeouts and limited Westfield to seven hits, while yielding just four walks. Mountainside's Jake Schneider went 3-for-4 and scored two runs. Cole Schneider had

a two-run double and scored once. Alex Friedenberg ripped an RBI single and scored a run. Sam Messler rapped a pair of RBI singles and Connor Sottosanti provided an RBI double, a single and scored a run. Mountainside was also effective on the base paths.

"The kids did come out to play. We played well as a team. The kids pitched well, hit well and they ran the bases extremely well. This is only their fifth game as a team, so this is kind of a new for these guys as far as aggressively stealing all different bases and stealing home. They're starting to get in tune to what they need to do and

being aggressive, so I'm really proud of these guys," said Mountainside Head Coach Tom Haydanek.

Westfield White starting pitcher Alex Pansini found the goings a bit tough in his three-inning appearance, allowing three runs on four hits and eight walks, while striking out three. Relief pitcher Matt Varano yielded eight hits, walked four and sat down two batters.

Jack Meiselman led Westfield White with a pair of RBI doubles. Ian Humphrey banged out two singles and scored a run and Hannah Liddy tapped an RBI single.

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SLIPPING INTO SECOND SAFELY...Westfield first baseman Jack Meiselman slides safely into second base as the ball reaches the glove of Mountainside shortstop Cole Schneider during the second inning. Meiselman repeated the feat in the fifth inning.

AUMENTA RIPS 2-RUN 3B, CARLUCCI FIRES 6-HITTER

Deegan Roofers Slam Door On Caffrey Tree Service, 12-0

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

Ace pitcher Rick Carlucci tossed a six-hit shutout and Billy Aumenta provided a two-run triple and scored the final run in a 12-0, five-inning Deegan Roofing rout of Caffrey Tree Service in the first game of a double-header in Scotch Plains Men's Softball League action at Jerseyland Field in Scotch Plains on June 24.

The Roofers, the only team so far to cash in with one victory over the league-leading Investors Savings titans, remained only a game behind in the lost column with the victory.

In his three plate appearances, Aumenta also added an RBI sacrifice fly. Third baseman Kevin Spellman

contributed to Deegan's 10-hit total with a pair of singles and a pair of runs scored. Carlucci singled then added a two-run single in his two at bats, second baseman Jeff Bendix doubled, scored twice and had an RBI, and first baseman Oscar Perez walked and scored in his first at bat then ripped an RBI single and scored in his other at bat. Mike Parkhill singled and scored and Rich Banasiak ended the game with his RBI single that scored Aumenta.

But the additional catalysts that contributed to the swift victory were the Roofers' ability to make good use of their six walks and a pair of Caffrey errors to go with their three sacrifice flies. Pat Nigro, who reached base

twice on errors, tapped a difficult grounder, which caused Caffrey's second baseman to throw errantly into the outfield, allowing two runs to score. Steve Brainard (1-for-1) brought Nigro home with a sac fly to left. Mike Juchnik walked twice and scored both times, and Kevin Woodring also had an RBI sac fly, walked and scored.

Caffrey shortstop Brian Kaden and Mark Giordano each went 2-for-2, while James Pizzichello and Pat Noonan each added a single. Giordano also made several fine plays at second base. First baseman Rob Janis absorbed a wicked grounder for an out and Noonan made a fine running

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MAJOR FACTOR IN THE GAME...Raider catcher Kyle Berwick blocks the plate as Blue Devil Brett Johnson attempts to score in the second inning. Johnson was called out. The Raiders won 3-0.

BLUE DEVILS NUGENT, RUSSO, WHITE TOSS 2-HITTER

Raiders Nip Blue Devils, 3-2, In American Legion Baseball

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

Three unearned runs in the first inning was just enough to give Scotch Plains-Fanwood a 3-2 victory over Westfield in American Legion Senior baseball at Park Middle School in Scotch Plains on June 25. The 2-2 Raiders' other victory was also over the Blue Devils, who slipped to 2-2 but had a big victory over a stacked Roselle team.

Blue Devil pitchers Tripp Nugent, Phil Russo and Justin White combined for a two-hitter, while striking out seven and allowing just two walks. Nugent, who pitched the first three innings, yielded the two hits but walked none and fanned four Raiders. Russo pitched two innings of no-hit ball, struck out three and walked one. White yielded just a walk in his one inning of relief and faced only three batters when second baseman Max Fusaro turned a double play.

"Our pitchers did a really great job. The first inning, we just didn't catch the ball. That's how they scored their runs then we shut them down the rest of the way. Tripp threw three great innings then Phil Russo threw two great innings and Justin came in and got the double play," Blue Devil Head Coach Ken Miller said.

Raider starting pitcher Jordan

Bayroff allowed six hits and one run, while striking out two and walking three in five innings. Reliever John Howarth pitched two innings of no-hit ball, fanned three and walked four.

"Jordan Bayroff and John Howarth are two guys, who are fighting for playing time next year on the varsity level. They battled and did what they had to do to win the game. We must continue to that and continue to have that winning attitude," Raider Head Coach Tom Baylock said.

The unsettling first inning began with a benign groundout to first. Raider Brian Dempsey chopped a single to center then Mike Henkels' grounder to short was muffed. Mike Lauricella lofted a fly ball to center that was dropped and Dempsey seized the opportunity to score. Two straight wild pitches resulted in Henkels and Lauricella scoring to give the Raiders a 3-0 lead.

"I knew A.J. Murray wasn't behind the plate today, so they had a backup JV catcher. Seeing those balls go by, I thought we were going to have a real big inning. We got two breaks on wild pitches then their pitchers shut us down after that. Luckily, we got those two wild pitches or I don't know if we would have scored," coach Baylock said.

With one out in the top of the second, Blue Devil Steve Forgash walked and dashed to second on a passed ball. Brett Johnson dribbled an infield single toward third and stole second a few pitches later. Russo hit an RBI sacrifice fly to center for the second out. Kevin Clancy ripped a single to left and Johnson rounded third and headed for home, but Raider catcher Kyle Berwick blocked the plate and made the tag.

Another huge opportunity fizzled

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