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THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section
Pages 11-17

Chatham Stops Raiders, 3-0, For Boys Soccer Section Title

By JOSEPH SCHACKMAN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Even though the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School boys soccer team lost the North Jersey, Group 3, Section 2 championship to No. 12 Chatham, 3-0, in Chatham on November 11, the Raiders have reason to hold their heads high. They played

a good game against the Cougars, but mostly they should be proud to just be in the game.

Halfway through the season the Raiders, a very young and inexperienced team, was just 2-6-3. A winning record seemed like an unreachable goal. But the Raiders turned the corner and started to reel off wins,

advancing to the county championship game, an overtime loss to Westfield, and the sectional game against Chatham.

The Chatham game, unfortunately, put an end to the run but the Raiders put up a strong fight.

In the first half, it was all Cougars.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



ATTEMPTING TO OUTMANEUVER A COUGAR...Raider junior Phillippe Kwamir, left, attempts to maneuver around a Chatham defender in the sectional title game. The Cougars won, 3-0.

BLACKWELL GETS 2 TDs, CHANNAOUI 2 TD CATCHES

Raider Footballers Trample Millburn Miller Boys, 38-12

By JOSEPH SCHACKMAN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

There have been few positives for the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High

It was the only touchdown the Raiders could mount in the first two quarters, and they went into the locker room trailing, 12-10, after place-

downs on 16 carries. Byers had 98 yards and a touchdown on just nine carries, good for an average of 10.6

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



FINISHING THE SEASON WITH A VICTORY...Head Coach Steve Ciccotelli addresses the Raiders after they defeated Millburn, 38-12, in Millburn on November 12.

School football team this season, but for the first time this year, the Raiders marched off the field with the win against the hosting Millburn Millers, 38-12, on November 12.

"It's really a testament to the kids," Head Coach Steve Ciccotelli said. "You know they never gave up."

On the first offensive drive, Scotch Plains-Fanwood moved the football well on the ground. Senior running back Quentin Blackwell picked up 15 yards on his first carry. But the Raiders lost their starting quarterback, Connor Thompson, after a big hit. Backup Brett Kovacs came in and on his first pass attempt found wide receiver Moussa Channaoui for a 24-yard touchdown pass to give the Raiders a 7-0 lead.

kicker John Murphy added a field goal.

In the second half, the Raiders' offense exploded, thanks to great running efforts from Anthony Byers and Blackwell.

Blackwell was the first to find the end zone, with a four-yard scamper. He would add 25-yarder later in the half. Byers, to not be out done, had a 37-yard touchdown run of his own.

"It has been tough this season," Byers said after the game. "You know we just wanted to go out with a win, and we accomplished just that. Coming out for the second half, we made some adjustments on defense, but overall we just wanted to play harder."

Blackwell led the way on the ground with 160 yards rushing and two touch-



LOOKING FOR A BREAKTHROUGH...Blue Devil running back A.J. Murray, No. 9, looks to sweep around the outside of the Hunterdon Central defense that effectively plugged the middle all evening.

McCREA, BERGIN, JOHNSON INT; HESS TD RECEPTION

Red Devils' Stubborn Defense Ices Blue Devil Gridders, 21-7

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

Top-seeded Hunterdon Central relied heavily on its mobile defense to limit the eighth-seeded Westfield High School football team to 39 yards on the ground and 59 yards in the air in its 21-7 victory in the first round of the North Jersey, Group 4, Section 2 playoffs in Flemington on November 12.

The quick-reacting Red Devil defense held Blue Devil running back AJ Murray to 20 yards rushing on 11 carries. The Blue Devils' front line was banged up somewhat and was

without tight end John Lanzano, who suffered a concussion from the Immaculata game the week before.

"It made it hard for us to do what we do. We couldn't really get two backs and run the ball. We couldn't make the short yardage," Blue Devil Head Coach Jim DeSarno said.

"They were all over the field. Their inside linebackers were making good tackles, making good reads, and their linemen were forcing the plays. That's what you have to do on defense," Murray said.

The 9-1 Red Devils totaled 188 yards on the ground and 118 yards in the air, including two touchdowns. Running back Brandon Brocklehurst

rumbled 114 yards on 24 carries, which included a one-yard touchdown run. Quarterback Chris Ibrahim added 38 yards on 14 carries.

"The were very physical up front. They had a good running back. He ran hard the whole game, and the quarterback ran hard the entire game. We stopped them most of the game, but they capitalized on our mistakes. They are a good football team, and they are going to do well," Murray said.

Although Hunterdon Central's offensive stats were somewhat more impressive, the Blue Devils' defense intercepted Ibrahim three times and recovered one of the Red Devils' two

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

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