

# LEAHY, KIRNA FINISH STRONG; LEEPER TAKES 4TH

## Blue Devil XC Boys Capture Group 4 XC Championship

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

Junior Jack Leahy and senior co-captain Andrew Kirna turned in personal-best times to lead the No. 2-ranked Westfield High School (WHS) boys cross-country team to its second straight Group 4 championship at Holmdel Park on November 13.

The Blue Devils totaled 99 points, while West Windsor-Plainsboro South placed second with 120 points and Ridge finished third at 144 points. The Blue Devil boys also ran in a very tight pack to finish with a school-record 16:35.6, average time.

Leahy crossed the line fifth in his race with a time of 16:02 (fourth all-time WHS), and Andrew Kirna finished 13th with a time of 16:13 (fifth all-time WHS). But junior David Carville was the big surprise when he filled in for Evan Tarlow, who was ill, and finished 47th with a time of 17:01 to become the fifth Blue Devil to cross the finish line.

"We have confidence in all the boys we put in the championship races. David made the most of his opportunity and ran a great race to help us win," Blue Devil Head Coach Jack Martin said.

Senior co-captains Sam Tooley at 16:49 and Zach Lizmi at 16:53 finished 36th and 42nd, respectively. Kevin Smith crossed 82nd with a time of 17:28 and John Kirna took 101st at 17:43.

Following the Blue Devil boys' results closely, Blue Devil girls Head Coach Thom Hornish added, "This was a golden day for the boys cross-country team. Their defense of Group 4 in the field of competition is a testimony to their spirit, determination

and competitive excellence. Jack Martin and Chris Tafelski [boys Assistant Coach] are to be commended for their coaching and inspiration."

The Blue Devil girls also turned in an strong performance and finished 16th in Group 4 with a total of 359. Hillsborough took first with a total of 60 and Ridge took second at 153, followed by Hunterdon Central at 164. Coach Hornish was especially happy that the Blue Devil girls finished ahead of rival Phillipsburg that placed 17th with a 444 total.

The first Blue Devil girl to cross the finish line was Alyssa Hatch, who placed 40th with a personal-best time of 20:42 (12th all-time WHS). Anna Tanji finished 70th with a time of 21:20, Hannah McRoberts came in 88th with a personal best time of 21:41, and Danielle Grimes shaved 33 seconds off her best time to finish 93rd at 21:50. Alana Basil cut her best time by 30 to finish 95th at 21:52. Ellie Tanji crossed 102nd at 21:59 and Shannon Mooney crossed 115th at 22:20.

"I have seen 26 Group meet races for the girl's cross-country team. In several instances, there was a second and third place finish allowing us to move onto the Meet of Champions. Although this was not a second or third, this was one of the finest races for our team," Coach Hornish said. "The field was highly competitive and each member of the team rose to the challenge. 2010 is the foundation team for great seasons to come. These young women ran with pride and courage."

Hornish recalled that in 1976 on his wedding day, when he was an assistant to Walt Clarkson, the team won the Group 4 title and brought the trophy to the church as the wedding was about to begin.

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood girls placed 19th in Group 3 with a total of 465. Kathleen Leeper finished fourth with a time of 19:27. The Raider boys finished 20th in their group with a 412 total.

Tom Feeny at 17:18 and Elias Howard at 17:19 finished 18th and 20th, respectively, the help the Cranford Cougar boys place seventh in the Group 2 race with a total of 230. Haddonfield won with a total of 48, followed by Ramsey at 141. The Cougars' seven runners had an average time of 17:51.8.

Zach Fitzgerald finished 65th with a time of 18:09, Paul Cassaro placed 67th at 18:10, and Mike Zanfardino came in 76th at 18:23. Mike Cassidy was 77th at 18:23, and Connor McMahon at 20:26, finished 140th.

The Cougar girls placed 13th with 338 points and had an average time of 22:13. Megan Byrnes with a time of 21:03 finished 37th, and Katia Oltmann at 21:42 placed 59th. Veronica Miller crossed 88th at 22:31, and Megan Byrne finished 96th at 22:48. Rebecca Roman at 23:03 placed 99th, Ellie Truffa came in 126th at 24:21, Bridget Miller at 24:23 finished 127th.

"Very solid performance by both teams on a tough course! [We had] 11 PRs [personal records] on the day. We're very happy with how the season ended," Cougar Head Coach John Schiano said. "We had a great deal of individual and team success on both sides. We are looking to come back even stronger next year and will set our sights on the Meet of Champions."



EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS...Raider Christina Reiman, who was seeded seventh in the Union County Tournament at first singles, exceeded expectations and finished sixth.

## REIMAN TOOK 6TH AT 1S, SULLIVAN 5TH AT 3S IN UCT

# Raider Tennis Girls Qualified For Section, Placed 7th in UCT

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With three of the top-four positions vacant due to graduation and only two returning senior starters, the very young Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School girls tennis team definitely had its work cut out this season. The Lady Raiders battled through a ferociously competitive schedule to qualify for the North Jersey, Group 3, Section 2 tournament for the third straight year and to finish 8-11.

"This year was a very tough season for us, we lost three out of the top four girls on the team last season, and do

to the realigning of the conferences, the girls fought through the competitive schedule with an 8-11 record," Raider Head Coach Gary Wasserman said.

The Raider starters, which consisted of two seniors and five sophomores, endured a pair of face-to-face matches with Westfield, winners of the Tournament of Champions, as well as with powerhouses Governor Livingston, New Providence, Oak Knoll, Summit and a surging Cranford Cougar team. The Raiders lost to Warren Hills in the second round of the sectionals, but the most promis-

ing part of the season came at the end when the Raiders defeated Oak Knoll and Summit.

Competing against the cream of the crop, senior co-captain Christina Reiman finished 9-1 at first singles. Seeded seventh in the Union County Tournament (UCT) at first singles, Reiman exceeded expectations when she advanced to the fifth/sixth round after recording a 6-1, 6-1, win over Victoria Henry of Plainfield. In the showdown for fifth place, she lost by injury default to Holly Ream of Governor Livingston.

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### Millers Stun Raiders In Section Soccer, 1-0

The No. 14 ranked, 14-2-3 Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School girls soccer team suffered a stunning, 1-0, defeat at the foot of Millburn Miller Emily Beimfohr, who tapped in a feed from Katie Beimfohr late in the second half of the semifinal round of the North Jersey, Group 3, Section 2 tournament in Scotch Plains on November 9. Paige Della Badia made two saves for the Raiders.

### Warriors Nip Westfield In Sectional Soccer

After 100 minutes of scoreless play, the No. 6, 15-2-4 Watchung Hills High School girls soccer team recorded a 4-3 shootout victory over 13-5-2 Westfield in the semifinals of the North Jersey, Group 4, Section 2 tournament in Warren on November 9.

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