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# THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section  
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## LAVELLE NETS 5 RBI; PEPE, MASSIMINO 3 HITS EACH

### Renda Roads Flags Brew Crew For Union Co. 50+ Title, 17-8

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

Friendly rivalries do not always end after high school. That point was proven in the Union County Senior 50+ Softball League A Division championship game in Linden on August 26 between top-seeded Renda Roads, comprised predominantly of players from Westfield and Scotch Plains, and third-seeded Brew Crew, comprised mainly of players from Cranford and Roselle Park.

Renda Roads was seeking an unblemished 27-0 record and appeared to be cruising in the proper direction, but had to endure a late-inning threat

from the Brew Crew to secure a 17-8 victory. Even more importantly, the win allowed Roadman Tony Williams, who has moved to Davie, Fla., to depart New Jersey as a winner.

"I couldn't have done it without the guys behind me. It was a total team effort. I am just happy that I am a part of it," said Williams, who was standing with Cranford resident and Brew Crew veteran leadoff hitter Ron Kulik.

"Tony is a great guy and an excellent ball player. You can't ask for a better guy. I am really going to miss him, [with] the camaraderie on the field and after the games," Kulik said. Tony Williams had also been play-

ing in the St Bart's Oldtimers Men's Softball League since the mid 1990s, as have most of his Renda Road teammates.

"I came in as a rookie with Dom Deo. He nurtured me. I also learned from this guy [Kulik]. I watched him play, so I followed his lead," Williams said.

While Renda Roads traveled a relatively easy route to the title series, the Brew Crew had to battle tooth and nail with Awnings Galore and SMC to reach the finals.

With reference to the Brew Crew, Kulik said, "We have a good crew."

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LOOKING TO SENIOR LEADERSHIP...The Blue Devil seniors are looking forward to their season-opening showdown with Scotch Plains-Fanwood on Saturday, September 11, at 1 p.m. Pictured, left to right, are: front row; Mitchell Young, Tony Mastrocola, Pat Bergin, Craig Callahan and Chris Mannino; back row, Alex Gordon, Ryan Hess, Danny Kerr, AJ Murray, Jesse DeMartino and Nick Matthews. Missing: Garrett Pryor.

## A.J. MURRAY, DeMARTINO NAMED TEAM CAPTAINS

### Blue Devil Footballers Make Shifts on 'O' Line, Backfield

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

A few necessary strategic shifts in the offense may pave the way for the Westfield High School football team to have another successful season.

Last year, the Blue Devils captured the Watchung Conference Division crown, played in the North Jersey, Group 4, Section 2 title game and defeated Plainfield in the annual Thanksgiving Day showdown, to finish 9-3. But some strong offensive linemen, a gritty running back and a super receiver have graduated, and adjustments must be made.

Senior second-year starting quarterback Danny Kerr should add stability to the multiple pro shotgun offense.

"Danny had a very productive year last year. He stepped in as a fulltime starter midway through our third game and led us when we were really rolling," Blue Devil Head Coach Jim DeSarno said. "I am excited for what he brings in terms of leadership, athletic ability, knowledge of the game, and he's really progressed."

Senior co-captain A.J. Murray will start at tailback.

"We split the carriers last year, but this year, he is going to be our num-

ber-one guy. Big, strong kid! He brings a lot to the table," said coach DeSarno, who added, "everywhere else, we are inexperienced."

Last year, Murray was used primarily in short-yardage situations where first downs were needed. He would physically pound his way through the opposition.

"This year is a little different. He's got to be a little smarter with the way

he takes care of himself. He doesn't have to blow everyone over. He can go around and through. He's pretty fast," coach DeSarno said.

Senior Garrett Pryor, who is also a very good defensive end, will get an opportunity to play fullback.

"We feel putting he and AJ in the backfield is really going to help us," coach DeSarno said.

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UNION COUNTY 50+ CHAMPS...Renda Roads defeated the Brew Crew, 17-8, to claim the Union County Senior 50+ Softball League title. Pictured, left to right, are: front row; Joe Massimino, Ed Belford, Keith Gibbons, Frank Pepe and Tom Straniero; back row, Larry Esolda, Pat Nigro, Tom Baldowski, Dave Lavelle, Tony Williams, Brian Williams and Lou Balestriere.

## ADD DEL. V., VOORHEES, SOMERVILLE, N. PLAINFIELD

### SPF Raiders Add Experience, New Teams to Grid Schedule

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

Lumps came in large portions last year to the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School football team, but with those lumps came first-hand experience for the returning starters.

Last year, the Raiders finished with a 2-8 record, with their only victories coming over Cranford on opening day and Belleville on the final game of the season. This year, four new teams and one old team (Elizabeth) have been added to the schedule, replacing Phillipsburg, Linden, Immaculata, North Hunterdon and Summit. The new teams will be Delaware Valley, Somerville, North Plainfield and Voorhees.

To fill the shoes of quarterback Gary Binkiewicz, who has graduated, junior Steve Alleman has been battling with senior Connor Thompson and junior Brett Kovacs, but so far, Alleman appears to be a step ahead.

"He got some experience last year when Gary sprained his ankle. Between he and Connor, he's probably a step ahead of him after our first scrimmage. We have another scrimmage, which we will evaluate again, but every practice a kid gets evaluated," Raider Head Coach Steve Ciccotelli said.

Senior running back Quintin Blackwell should prove to be an offensive asset, as well as at cornerback on defense. Junior Anthony Byers will also see time at halfback.

"Quintin had over a 1,000 yards for

us last year. He is one of our better players, and we think he has a chance to be real good on both sides of the ball. I think he will be one of the better running backs around," coach Ciccotelli said.

Senior fullback/inside linebacker (ILB) Neville Hall has been getting leaner and meaner for the upcoming season, and junior Anthony Letteiri (ILB) could add depth.

"His weight is down. He's playing quicker. He's playing faster than he did last year. We expect him to be a much better player on both sides of the ball," coach Ciccotelli said of Hall.

To go with seniors Mousa Channaoui and Sean Colony, the Raiders have added a nice touch with junior Matt Jegede at the wide-receiver position.

"We have strength at wide-out, which is going to open up the running game. We have the ability to throw the ball and to run the ball," coach Ciccotelli added.

Senior Alex Daboub and junior

Andrew Miller will work at tight end. Senior guard Matt Manns is expected to start at center.

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**ALL-CORBIN TEAM ARRIVES SEPT. 9**

The 13th annual All-Corbin Team will appear in the September 9 issue of *The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*.

*Probitas Verus Honos*

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