

***RUTMAYER, WILLIAMSON 1-2 PUNCH, FOLINUSZ PROVIDED POWER WITH 9 HRs, 48 RBI*****Cougars Won Group 3 Title, Finished Baseball Season 22-4**By **DAVID B. CORBIN***Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times*

Two quick losses brought this year's Cranford High School baseball team to its senses and the result was a 10-game winning streak at the right time, which led to a sectional title, a Group 3 title and a 22-4 record.

The Cougars, who received the top seed for the Union County Tournament, were stunned in the quarterfinals by Union, but their championship journey began after suffering a setback to South Brunswick a few days later.

On June 1, the Cougars regained their North Jersey, Section 2, Group 3 title with a 7-0 win over West Morris. Their next step was a 7-4 victory over West Milford in the Group 3 semifinals then the Group 3 crown belonged to them when junior Ryan Williamson tossed a two-hitter in a 4-1 victory over Freehold Borough on June 9.

"The kids worked extremely hard. They pitched and played defense almost every game, which were the key components to the team's success. Good old fashioned baseball," Cougar Head Coach Dennis McCaffrey said.

Senior right-hander Kurt Rutmayer and Williamson, a lefty, became the most fearsome 1-2 punch on the mound. Rutmayer

recorded a 9-1 record and a 2.02 ERA in 52 innings. He recorded 44 strikeouts, while walking 15, hitting eight batters and allowing 55 hits. Williamson finished 6-0 with two saves in 47 innings,

allowing only four earned runs for a 0.60 ERA. He yielded just 12 walks and a hit batter, and 24 hits, while striking out 66.

"Rutmayer! Williamson! The two were extremely successful.

years. We were 13-1 in state games," Coach McCaffrey pointed out.

Senior pitcher Vinnie Colaneri, a three-year letterman, added an additional punch to record a

His success is a credit to his hard work," Coach McCaffrey said.

At the plate, Williamson finished with a .392 batting average (avg.) going 31-for-79 with three doubles and two triples. He also had 21 RBI and 18 runs scored.

Power numbers could not get much more impressive for junior catcher Chris Folinusz, who belted nine home runs, including two in the Group 3 championship game, drilled 13 doubles, had a 1.026 slugging percentage and went 39-for-77 for a .506 avg. Additionally, he scored 29 runs, and led the team with 48 RBI and six sacrifices. Folinusz also pitched five innings, struck out six, walked none and allowed three hits to finish 1-0 with a 1.40 ERA.

"Chris had a fantastic year hitting and catching. This was his first year behind the plate and nobody ran on him. He was on a championship football team. He can do a lot of different things," Coach McCaffrey said.

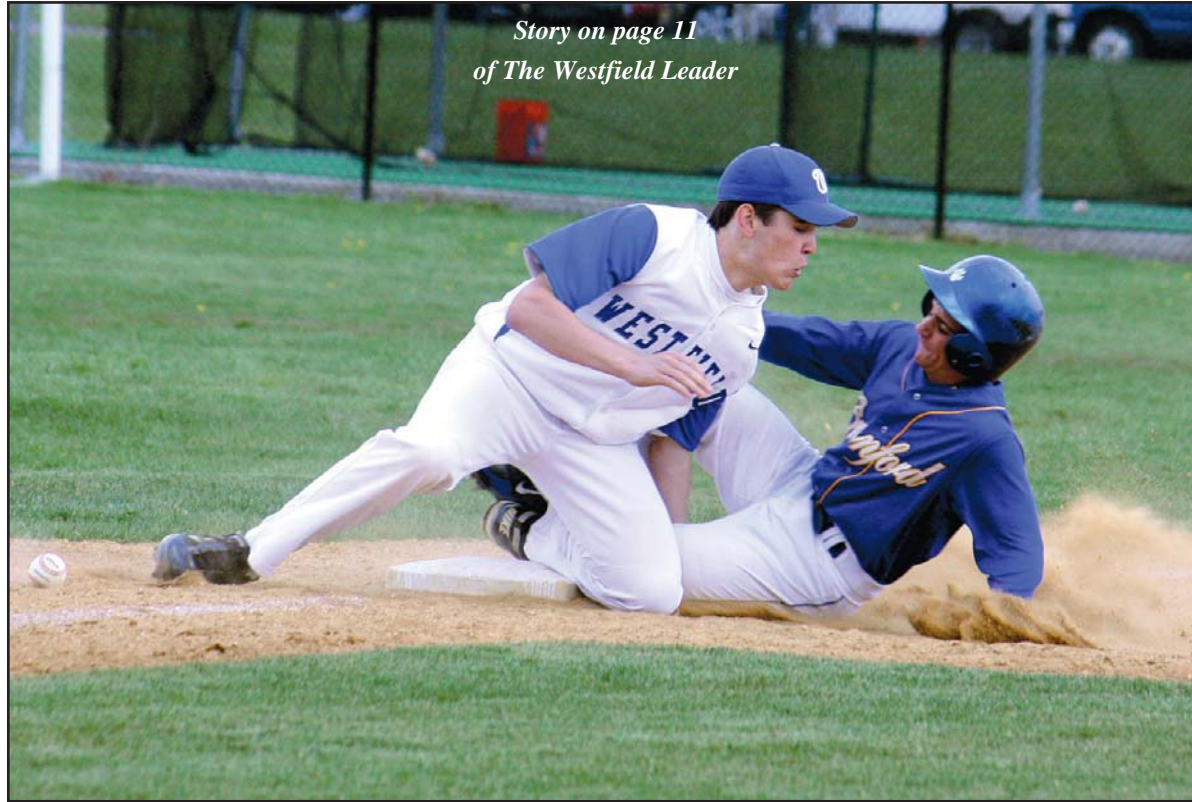
Junior right fielder Andrew Difrancesco led the team with 42 hits (10 doubles, 2 triples) for a .483 avg. He finished with 29 RBI and 30 runs scored, while striking out only four times.

"Andrew had a great year offensively, defensively and running the bases," Coach McCaffrey said.

Senior second baseman Eric Garguilo led the team with 11 stolen bases, which also led to a team-leading 34 runs scored. He finished 29-for-90 (.322 avg.) with four doubles and three triples and struck out only five times.

"He is a very fast athlete. He made things happen. When on base, he created havoc," Coach McCaffrey said.

*Story on page 11  
of The Westfield Leader*



David B. Corbin (Spring 2012 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*  
**NOT AFRAID TO TAKE CHANCES...Andrew Difrancesco, right, and many Cougars were not afraid to be aggressive on the base paths this season. Difrancesco led the team with 42 hits for a .483 batting average.**

***Probitas Verus Honos*****BALLYHOO**

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They are both multi-sport athletes. Two years ago, we rode on their ability. The two pitched in every state game the last three

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2.40 ERA and a 2-2 record in 35 innings. He fanned 34 batters, while walking 10 and allowing 36 hits.

"He worked hard over the summer to prepare for this season.