

VANBENSCHOTEN WINS SHOT, DISCUS; GRANT TRIPLE JUMP, SPF'S RENFREE JAVELIN

Cougars Get Second, Raiders Fourth at UC Girls Track

By DAVID B. CORBIN

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Jen Edobi won two individual events and anchored the winning 4x400 relay to lead the Union High School girls track & field team to the team title at the Union County Championships at Hub Stine Field in Plainfield on May 17-18.

The Farmers had a team total of 105 to outscore the Cranford Cougars, who finished second at 80.66. Summit took third at 54, Scotch Plains-Fanwood took fourth at 49, Roselle placed fifth at 48 and Westfield took sixth at 45.33,

Edobi broke the meet record of 55.66 set by Cougar Natalie Engle last year in the 400 meters, crossing in 55.03. Cougars Ashley McGuire at 59.64 and Jenna Ellenbacher at 1:00.03 finished 5-6. Blue Devil Amanda Fischer finished seventh at 1:00.55.

Edobi won the 800 with a time of 2:17.75. Raider Erin Pierce finished fourth at 2:21.58, followed by Blue Devils Amanda Marcotullio at 2:22.44 and Ellie Callinan at 2:23.59. Edobi anchored the 4x400 that finished first at 3:57.84. Blue Devils Amanda Fischer, Amanda Marcotullio, Noelle Rosa and Eileen Cook finished fifth at 4:10.55. Raiders Isabel Crystal, Devora Ward, Justine Valdes and Pierce placed sixth at 4:20.89.

Union held a slight 53-47 lead over the Cougars on May 17, and the race of the afternoon came in the 1,600 meters. Raider Pierce was the frontrunner until midway through the third lap when Summit's Isabella Yozyi tempo-

rarily took the lead. Pierce regained the lead and kept it down the stretch, but Yozyi nudged past her at the line to grab first with a time of 5:09.69, while Pierce crossed in 5:10.36.

"My strategy, for the most part,

that I can go a little bit faster, so I try to push the pace a little bit more. I don't think I have the strongest kick at the end, so I went out hard and tried to tire out the other girls. It didn't quite work out today. She caught me

"We are pretty good friends. Last year, we were going at it in the same event, and I collapsed. We were talking about that, but it turned out [today] we both had a good day. I'm happy. It would have been nice for the win, but it was a good race except for the last 0.5 meters," Pierce said.

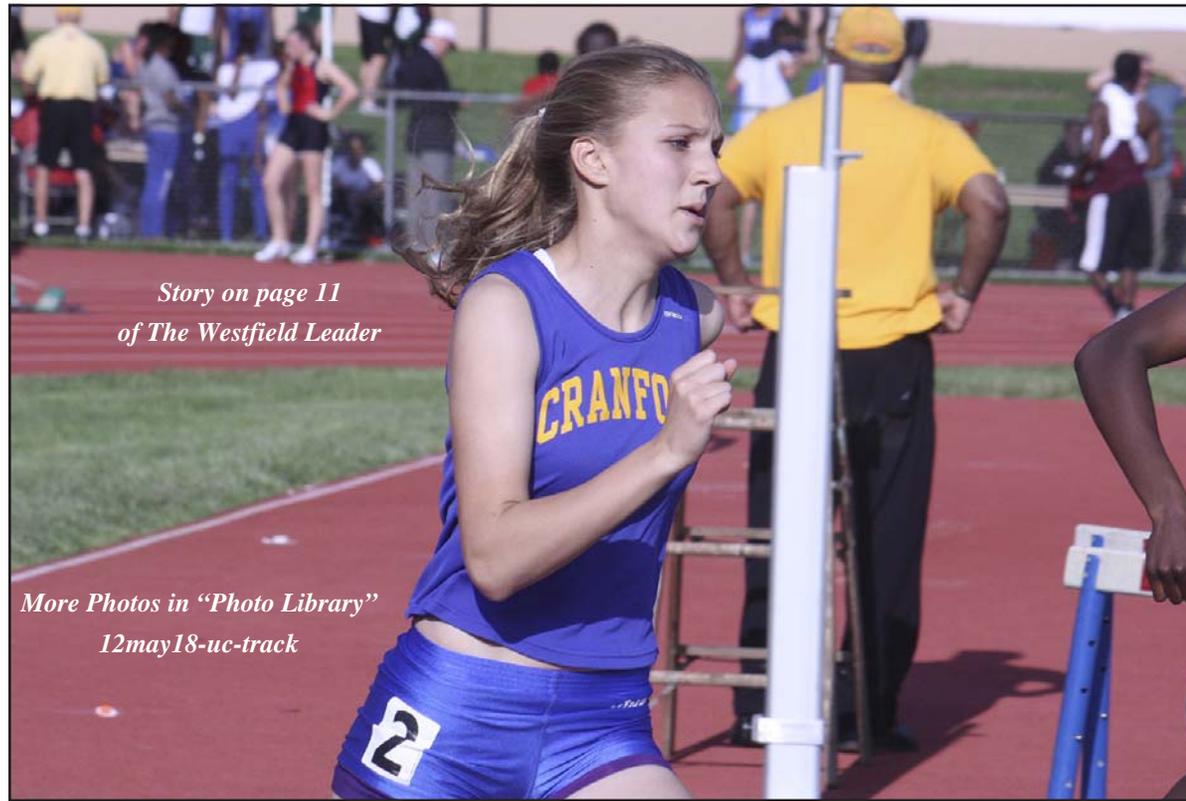
Blue Devil Kaitlyn Johnson also ran a smart race and drafted Summit Hilltoppers Bridget O'Brien and Kristy Gargiulo until midway through the final lap. She managed to pass Gargiulo and finished fourth with a time of 5:12.84 (personal record - PR), four seconds faster than her time at the conference meet last week.

"I tried to stay with them and do the best I can. I am more interested in my time more than I care about my place. There is really good competition in the counties, so I am just trying to improve myself," Johnson said.

The next day, Johnson finished second in the 3,200 at 11:34.45, followed by teammate Johanna Mermer at 11:44.56.

Cranford Cougars Bryanna Grant with a distance of 38-2, Gillian Burke with a PR 37-10 and Regine Hunter with a PR 37-8.5

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More Photos in "Photo Library" 12may18-uc-track

David B. Corbin for *The Westfield Leader and The Times*

FINISHING SIXTH IN THE 400...Cougar Jenna Ellenbacher placed sixth in the 400 meters at the Union County Championships at Hub Stine Field in Plainfield on May 18

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is to try to let someone else do the work. I just lag constantly behind them, but it never really works out. I guess I always feel



right at the end. Pierce and Yozyi also had a neck-and-neck race last year, but just before the finish line, Pierce collapsed and could not finish.

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