

RAIDER CASTORE WINS SHOT PUT EVENT, BLUE DEVIL FAGAN WINS POLE VAULT AT 13-6**Vikings Get 1st, at UC Track; Westfield 3rd, Cougars 7th**

By DAVID B. CORBIN

Specially Written for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*

Senior Allen Eke won the 1,600 meters and the 800 meters as the Union Catholic High School Viking boys won six events to easily capture the team title at the Union County Championship at Hub Stine Field in Plainfield on May 17-18.

The Vikings totaled 122 points, well ahead of second-placed Governor Livingston at 71 and the Westfield Blue Devils, who finished third at 54. The Cranford Cougars placed seventh with a total of 22.5 and the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Raiders finished 12th with 10 points.

The Vikings took top honors in four of the eight events on May 17 and held a commanding lead in the team total over Governor Livingston, 59-37, with Westfield being a distance sixth at 19.

The eye-opening race of that day came in the 1,600 meters, which was spearheaded by Eke, New Providence Pioneer Everett Price and Blue Devils Jack Leahy, Matt Luppino and Dan Luzzi.

After the first lap, Eke and Price began to distance themselves from the rest of the pack. Eke drafted Price but turned on the burners and crossed first with a time of 4:11.69, just shy of the meet record, but it was the fourth-best time in the state this season.

"I honestly did not know. I had no clue I would run a 4:11. My goal was to stay with him and then maybe kick. I had more left too. I didn't really want to look back, but I looked back and thought how could he be that far behind? Then I thought, 'what did I just run?' I was very ex-

cited. It's just amazing," Eke said.

Eke, whose previous best time was 4:21, began his kick with about 300 yards remaining and used his experience as one of the top runners in the 800 to beat Price (4:18.43) by nearly seven seconds. Leahy finished third at 4:20.04, followed by Luppino at 4:22.03. Luzzi finished sixth at 4:30.85.

"I saw his hands open up, and I thought, 'awe he's tired!' Then I went inside of him and just made my move. The 800 is definitely my strong side, but I ran a huge PR, so the mile could be

there too. I was coming into the race working and trying to get second and run, at least 4:14 or 4:16. You never know yet," Eke said.

Viking Tom Fried won two events, the discus with a toss of 133-3 and the javelin with a toss of 181-8. Cougar Rob Kessler placed fifth in the discus at 123-10 and third in the javelin at 159-8. Blue Devil Joe Rinaldi took fifth in the javelin at 151-11. Viking Christophe Scott won the long jump with a distance of 22-6. Blue Devil Chris Jimenez took sixth at 21-7.5.

Blue Devil Mike DePaolo tied for third in the high jump with a clearance of 6-0. Scott took fifth at 5-10. Vikings Obafemi Animashaun at 54.44, and Taylor McLaughlin and Zach Ghizzone both at 56.84 placed 5-6 in the 400 hurdles. Viking Darryl Costello finished fourth in the 400 at 49.9. Viking Jordan Jimerson finished fourth in the 100 meters at 11.2.

On May 18, Eke crossed first in the 800 with a time of 1:54.07. Blue Devil Luppino finished sixth at 1:59.21. Cougar Carl Lieberman finished 11th at

2:01.81.

Blue Devil Peter Fagan took top honors in the pole vault with a height of 13-6. Teammate John Stelmach took second at the same height. Cougar Pat Lynch tied for fifth at 12-0. Cougar Mike Helmstetter and Raider Joe Desiato tied for seventh at 11-6.

Last week at the conference meet, the Raiders demonstrated their influence in field events, especially the shot put.

"In the conference, we had our first 50 of the year registered by Jamie Kaiser. He's built so much confidence from the beginning of the year until now. Billy Castore is keeping him honest. Billy hit 49 in the winter, so we are hoping to get big numbers out of him. I think Kaiser jumping ahead of him is going to fuel the fire. And, of course Chris Burke has always been consistent," Raider field coach Ken Hernandez said.

Castore was indeed fueled up as he won the shot put with a shove of 51-4.75. Cougars TJ Nichols at 44-2 and JD Foye at 44-0.5 finished 6-7. Burke and Kaiser placed 8-9, respectively.

"This week, I had a couple of good practices, and performed. I had a 51-4.75 a personal best. My last personal best was 49. I just went after it on that throw. I had an extra push. I even screamed a little bit. Kaiser, my teammates pushed me. I think that's a reason why I threw a 51 this week," Castore said.

Highlander Anthony Bucci and Blue Devil John Kirna were having quite a race in the 3,200. Kirna headed the pack for several laps, but in the end, Bucci kicked hard down the stretch to cross first at 9:39.62, while Kirna finished second at 9:45.6. Cougars Tom Feeney at 9:50.26 and Connor McMahon at 10:14.36 fin-

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TAKING THE LEAD...Blue Devil John Kirna, No. 2, keeps ahead of Cougar Tom Feeney, No. 1, and GL Highlander Anthony Bucci, left, during the first several laps of the 3,200. Bucci finished first, Kirna took second and Feeney took third.

David B. Corbin for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times***Probitas Verus Honos**