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THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section
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CHRISTIANO 4 TDs; OBLACHINSKI, EMENDO, KOBE 1 EA.

Cougars' Circus Catch Stuns SPF Raider Gridders, 34-14

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

Cranford High School quarterback John Oblachinski, facing a fourth-and-eight situation, after both teams' offenses had been neutralized during the third quarter and most of the fourth, decided to go for it and found success when wide receiver Dan DeLayo made a spectacular leaping circus catch at the Scotch Plains-Fanwood eight yard-line, which totally changed the complexion of the showdown between the Cougars and the Raiders during Homecoming in Scotch Plains on October 19.

Oblachinski followed up on DeLayo's heroics with a five-yard run and a three-yard touchdown (TD) plunge to give the 4-2 Cougars a two-

touchdown advantage with 3:33 remaining in the game to force the 2-4 Raiders' offense into a desperation mode that failed then running back Luke Christiano drove the nail in the coffin with a 65-yard TD sprint with 1:11 remaining to give the Cougars a 34-14 victory.

"He has the best hands. The most ridiculous catches and that's exactly what happened. If I am winging one up there, I want DeLayo. He makes spectacular catches," Oblachinski said.

"We did neutralize each other. We were bouncing back-and-forth. Number 26 [DeLayo] made a play. Emendo [Thomas — quarterback] makes plays, Rashan [Gary — lineman] makes plays, Kobe [White — run-

ning back] makes plays for us. We have to get a guy like 26 to make a play. I never saw him on film. I knew number 21, 36, 12, but he came and made a play. That was the game," Raider Head Coach Jon Stack said.

The Cougars totaled 152 rushing yards on 21 carries in the first half and added another 131 on 19 carries in the second half to total 283 yards. Oblachinski (No. 12), who finished with 89 yards rushing, completed five of 10 passes for 68 yards in the first half, including a 15-yard TD strike to Christiano (No. 21), and tacked on that fateful 22-yard completion to DeLayo in the second half. In addition to his 65-yard victory-sealing TD, Christiano, who also had a

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Courtesy of Charles Mulrooney for The Westfield Leader and The Times

CLOSING IN FOR THE KILL...A host of Blue Devils close in on a Warrior running back to assist Brendan Collum, No. 64, in the Blue Devils' 40-14 rout of Franklin Township on October 19. See more photos at www.goleader.com Ballyhoo Sports.

HOGGE 9-13-206 YDS, RAWLES 4 TDs, ELLIOTTS 1 EACH

Blue Devil Footballers Bomb Franklin Twp Warriors, 40-14

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

Senior quarterback Chris Hogge took to the air on the Blue Devils' first offensive series and struck gold with a 30-yard touchdown completion to flanker Dylan Elliott, which set the stage for a potent combination of running and passing in the Westfield High School football team's 40-14

triumph over the Franklin Township Warriors at their brand new stadium on October 18.

Hogge completed eight of 10 passes for 181 yards, including TD passes to Dylan Elliott and Sean Elliott, then added a 25-yard completion to tight end Dave Kane in the third quarter for 206 total yards in just three quarters on the field. Dylan Elliott fin-

ished with three receptions for 85 yards, Sean Elliott had three receptions for 24 yards and Kane had three receptions for 97 yards.

Hogge's early success in the air also set up early success on the turf by senior running back Eugene Rawles, who carried 13 times for 81 yards, including three TDs in the first

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David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times

BREAKING UP THE PASS...Cougar Niko Cappello, No. 32, managed to get a piece of the ball to prevent Raider Ryan Jensen, No. 11, from making the reception. The Cougars defeated the Raiders, 34-14, in Scotch Plains on October 19. See more photos at www.goleader.com Ballyhoo Sports.

PROSUK 2; IRVING, MORGAN, KUHN, DUMONT 1 EACH

Soccer Blue Devils Disrupt Cranford Cougar Boys, 6-1

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

Cougar goalkeeper Dominic Meliado experienced a barrage of shots from beginning to end as the Westfield High School boys soccer team found the mark three times in the first half and another three times in the second half to earn a 6-1 victory over Cranford at Gary Kehler Stadium in Westfield on October 17.

The Blue Devils delivered 14 shots on goal in the first half and 10 shots in the second half, forcing Meliado to make 12 saves, several requiring impressive athletic ability. Meliado also

added some wise intercepts from corners kicks or strong throw-ins. The Cougars managed only three shots on goal in each half. Blue Devil keeper Koryn Kraemer needed only to stop one shot in the first half, and keeper Teddy Mebane made two in the second half.

The first goal came just after five minutes into the game when senior Mate Landeka fed junior midfielder Kevin Irving, who pushed the ball past Meliado. Thirty seconds later, Irving whizzed another shot just over the net.

Next, midfielder Loukas

Carayannopoulos ripped a shot and Meliado dove to his left for the save then junior midfielder Mike Prosek launched a shot that forced Meliado to make a leaping save. Moments later, junior midfielder Dereck Amadye lined a shot that Meliado tipped out of bounds, setting up a corner kick. The corner kick went into the box, but Cougar defender Erik Monteagudo booted the ball away.

With 15 minutes remaining in the half, senior forward Alik Morgan demonstrated some fancy dance steps

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David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times

LEAPING INTO THE AIR...Blue Devil Mike Prosek, No. 14, leaps high to kick the ball in the game against the Cougars on October 17 in Westfield. The Blue Devils won, 6-1. See more photos at www.goleader.com Ballyhoo Sports.

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