



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
ACTIVE IN THE MIDFIELD...Blue Devil midfielder Claire Cassie, No. 21, moves the ball downfield against Glen Ridge.

LIDDY, PAOLETTI LED IN SCORING

Lady Blue Devils Finish Lacrosse Season, 10-10

This year's Westfield High School girls lacrosse team faced a number of highly ranked teams, won several squeakers and lost several squeakers to finish with a 10-10 record. The Lady Blue Devils also finished 3-2 in the Stars & Stripes South Division. Some of the Blue Devils' key wins came against Morristown, Kent Place, Shore Regional, Immaculate Heart Academy, Glen Ridge, Mountain Lakes, Mendham and West Morris. Some of their burning defeats came at the sticks of Summit (9-8), Montclair (10-8), West Essex (7-6) and Ridge (9-6) at the end of the season. Sophomore midfielder Hannah Liddy led the Blue Devils in total

points with 46 goals and 28 assists. Senior attacker Sam Paoletti led the team in goals with 49, while adding nine assists. Midfielder Julia Gretskey notched 24 goals and four assists, and attacker Hallie Rosenburgh netted 20 goals and three assists. Midfielder Lauren D'Amico put in 15 goals and added seven assists, attacker Sophie Bass scored 10 goals and Maria Nemeth notched 10 goals and a pair of assists. Midfielder Gwyn Devin had six goals and three assists. Syd Paoletti scored six goals, while Parker Yarusi and Katie McDonald each netted two goals and an assist, and Natalie Bond scored two goals. Goalkeeper Mallory Weisse made 212 saves.

UC Viking Boys/Girls Win Three Events Each at MOC

The Union Catholic High School boys and girls track teams won three events each and had several individuals place in the top-8 at the Meet of Champions held at Frank Jost Field in South Plainfield on June 3. Viking Taylor McLaughlin easily captured first in the 400-hurdles, crossing at 51.93. Anthony Okolo (Union) finished fifth at 54.38 and Raymond Clarke (Roselle) finished seventh at 54.89. McLaughlin, Perry Christie, Anthony Dawson and Trae Robinson finished first in the 4x400 with a time of 3:15.46. Viking Sean Brennan of Westfield took top honors in the discus with a toss of 183-7. Viking Brian Sagendorf placed third in the javelin with a toss of 194-3. Governor Livingston Highlander James Ruggierro had a toss of 165-7 and Blue Devil Mitch Bryk had a toss of 158-3. Brennan placed 10th in the shot put with a shove of 53-9. Christie took fourth in the triple jump with a distance of 47-5. Blue Devil Theo Brunson tied for 10th with numerous individuals, including Sebastian Camacho (New Providence), in the pole vault with a height of 13-0. Summit Hilltopper Leland Jones finished fourth in the 3,200 with a time of 9:04.76, while Blue Devil Matt Russo finished in 9:34.83. Plainfield's Alistar Aaron finished sixth in the 200 at 22.24, while Raider Kobe White finished 12th at 22.38. Aaron also placed sixth in the 100 finals at 11.09. White placed fourth in his heat at 11.09 and Raider Merlin Edmond finished his heat in 11.01. Vikings Nate Papachristos, Justin Cadas, Greg Gibbs and Jakell Henderson finished 10th in the 4x800 at 7:58.68, while Blue Devils Nick Antonelli, Coston O'Brien, Chris Prasek and Will Chandler finished in

8:06.67. Raider Quincy Sanchez recorded a time of 15:07 in his heat of the 110-hurdles. Blue Devils Josh Capistrano, Jelani Pierre, Ishmael Glasco and Sid Douglas recorded a time of 43.53 in the 4x100. Summit's Mitchell Booth finished 12th in the 1,600 at 4:19.47. Deshawne Bunion (Rahway) placed sixth in the 400 at 48.77, while Viking Anthony Dawson finished 17th at 49.97. Jaleel Simmons (Plainfield) placed eighth in the high jump with a clearance of 6-4 and Dante Waldron (Linden) took 11th at the same height. For the girls, Viking sophomore Sydney McLaughlin crossed first in the 400-hurdles with a time of 57.39, which happened to be an Age-Group National Record. McLaughlin, Jordan Coverson, Alana Herran and Tia Livingston won the 4x400 in 3:44.2. Viking Amari Onque-Shabazz finished first in the 800 at 2:10.03 and teammate Chandhi Piiru took seventh at 2:13.95. Haisha Bisiolu of Union won the 100 in 12.04 and Summit's Emma Osborne finished seventh in 12.74. Bisiolu also won the 200 in 24.3. Osborne took 12th at 25.64 and Summit's Claudia Piron finished 14th at 25.66. Viking Livingston finished third in the 100-hurdles at 14.54. Vikings Cassandra Lamadieu, Piiru, Shabazz and Asia Johnson finished fourth in the 4x800 at 9:18.3, while Blue Devils Noelle Blackford, Kelly Morrison, Julia Myers and Brooke Schaeffer finished ninth at 9:28.83. Cranford Cougars Amanda Bush, Bella DeSimone, Anna Fitch and Kiera Hurley recorded a time of 9:41.58 in the 4x800.

Probitas Verus Honos



Devil's Den

All Things Must Pass: Long Live the Streak!

By BRUCE JOHNSON
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

The Pope called the Plainfield Courier-News on Friday night, Nov. 5, 1971. "Big B, what time you picking me up tomorrow?" he said. "You want to go to the Cranford-Berkeley Heights game?" I said. "That's the game (sports editor) George (Govlick) has me covering." "Cranford? Clee Heights?" he said. "When the Blue Devils are playing Montclair? With the streak on the line? C'mon, B." After thinking it over for two seconds, maybe less, I relented. "Be ready at 11." We moved to 712 Embree Crescent in August 1959. And by 1971 WHS sports had me hook, line and sinker. My friends "grew up" to liking pro sports. But for me it was all Blue Devils, all the time. There was always another championship to win, a winning streak to be added to, or a "biggest game" of the season, the year, the decade, sometimes ever! In 1971 football coach Gary Kehler's juggernaut was in the middle of what would be at the time a state-record 48-game unbeaten streak. The Nov. 6 game would hopefully be No. 31, against powerful Montclair on its home turf - Woodman Field. Joe Sullivan ('70) - a.k.a. the Pope - had played football at WHS through 10th grade. That's when he got the sports writing bug; 33 years later he became sports editor of the vaunted Boston Globe. But back then he was "The Pope," a college sophomore at Saint Joseph's in Philly, and a big Blue Devils fan home for the Montclair game.

Westfield was 6-0 and had allowed just one touchdown all year. But the Devils were big-time banged up after a 7-0 slugfest with Nutley a week earlier, where the only score was a fourth-quarter punt return by Keith Davis. The all-senior starting backfield - quarterback Alan Deombeleg, halfbacks Brad Pederson and Kurt Stiefken and fullback Eddie Morton - was injured, and replaced by an all-junior backfield of quarterback John Brown, halfbacks Davis and Fred Boss, and fullback Dave LiSooney. Westfield won 7-6 that day. Montclair recovered a blocked punt for its touchdown, and the Devils won when, after Chris Vejnoska recovered a fumble, Brown hit Neil Chamberlin for a 31-yard touchdown and Pete Parken converted the PAT. Montclair battled to the end, and reached the 2-yard line in the final minutes before John Kerr stuffed a fourth-down run. "The Streak," as it was called locally, lasted two more seasons. On Nov. 3, 1973, before a crowd of just under 10,000 at Woodman Field, Montclair won 21-15. The Westfield fans cheered their warriors all the way to the buses. Three seasons later the football team steamrolled 21 straight following a season-opening tie with Summit, and wouldn't lose again until 1978. WHS has won 14 sectional titles and had more than 125 all-state players in football. Stuff like that happens maybe once-in-a-lifetime at most schools. But it's not so rare at WHS, which has earned stories in the *New York Herald Tribune* and the *New York Times*. The boys tennis teams of 2007 and '08 put together a 61-match win streak. The netters have worn the state crown 18 times. The girls tennis team was 68-2 in a four-year stretch of the late 1970s, winning two of their 10 state titles. The boys cross-country team routinely goes unbeaten for years at a time. There have been streaks of 49, 48 and 34, which are great but pale next to the current streak of 74 that they'll take into the 2015 season. They've won 15 state titles. Thom Hornish's girls cross-coun-

try teams had the school's longest-ever win streak - 92 in a row from 1994 to 2003. The boys swim team lost to Pingry in 1962, ending a 59-meet win streak that had started in 1957. That was immediately followed by a 45-meet win streak that lasted until the Princeton freshmen beat them late in 1965. Much later a string of 42 consecutive Union County swimming championships ended in 1999. The team "recovered" and has won nine of the 16 state championships this century. All told there have been 25 state team titles, including 10 straight from 1961-70. The girls swim team of 2013-14 went almost four full years without a loss, winning 64 in a row and three state championships, before falling to Hunterdon Central in the sectional final. That was an unbeaten streak of 69 in a row - but that's just second best in program history to the 74 in a row that were won between 1984 and the 1990 state final loss to Camden Catholic. They've captured states 15 times. The two swim teams have also combined for 136 individual and relay state titles. The boys track team won 54 in a row in the 1970s. They've won 10 team state championships and another 100 individually or relays, counting winter and spring track. And the beat goes on. But "All Things Must Pass," as ex-Beagle George Harrison said in the title of his awesome 1970 triple album. Westfield athletes and teams have won more than 400 state titles, the most of any Group 4 school and second only to Group 1 Haddonfield. But when the current sports year ended last week with no WHS state championship teams or individuals, it was the first time that had happened since the 1955-56 school year. What does one do at a time like this? Is it a time to weep over some-

thing lost, or a time to celebrate a surreal run? Think about it. Fifty-eight years with at least one state champion team or individual. The parents of most, if not all, current WHS athletes hadn't been born in June 1956. In fact, grandma and grandpa, the parents of the current parents, might not have even met yet. To win on the state level for 58 straight years, mostly against the big boys and girls in Group 4, is mind-boggling. And it's not like the Blue Devils didn't come close this year. So, oozing confidence, I wandered over to Mercer County Park last Tuesday for the quarterfinals of the state Doubles Tournament. Jack Siegel and Ben Cymbala were WHS's last hope. The seniors, both two-year captains, are one of the best doubles teams in school history. They forced top-seeded Livingston into a third-set tiebreaker before losing. The streak was over. But it somehow came up in conversation with Wayne Richardson, my 27th (and likely final) sports editor. "Fifty-eight years?" he said. "That's crazy. That's not even comprehensible." But the beat will go on again. And think about this: when it starts up next school year, and when it lasts another 58 in a row, it will be the school year 2073-74.

IN THE GENES
Junior midfielder Katie Bourque was one of the standouts for the Ridgewood girls lacrosse team that won the Group 4 title before losing to Summit in the Tournament of Champions semifinals. Katie is the daughter of WHS football-wrestling-lacrosse star Harry Bourque ('80) and his wife Amy, a soccer and track athlete at Ridgewood ('86). Katie is a three-sport (soccer-basketball-lacrosse), while brother Ryan is a senior lacrosse player, and Tommy is in seventh grade. Harry earned five letters in football and lacrosse at Dartmouth, where Katie is likely headed. Danny Harcourt, a senior at St. Peter's Prep, finished fourth at the golf Tournament of Champions, shooting a 72. The Fanwood native was also fifth at the Non-Public A North Sectional golf tournament, shooting a 77. Danny, the son of Billy Harcourt ('80), will be going to Gettysburg. He is the grandson of the late Jim Harcourt, who was quite the golfer in his day.

A NEW ADDITION(S)
The swimming Smith family of East Broad Street added another grandchild on April 21, when Mike Smith ('02) became the father of Anabelle, a 7-pound, 13-ouncer. She is the 11th grandchild for Jeff and Ginny, a.k.a. "Granny Smith," from sons Jeff, Tim ('93) and Mike, and daughters Jill ('95) and Brooke ('99). And No. 12 is due June 17, when Brooke delivers a sibling for 14-month-old Gus.

IN THE E-MAIL
Faithful Reader Bill from Westfield noted Saturday night that the regional and national LaxPower rankings rated the WHS boys lacrosse team No. 5 in New Jersey (out of 199 teams) and No. 29 in the country (out of 3,967 teams).

WHOOOPS
Last week we listed 21 Westfield athletes who had played on an NCAA championship team or won an NCAA title. We overlooked Jake Kaplan, a freshman defender on the Tufts men's lacrosse team that won the Division 3 title.



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KERBY BECAME ALL-TIME RAIDER POINTS LEADER

Raider Boys Found Scoring In Short Supply in Lacrosse

By ALEX LOWE
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

It certainly cannot be said that the performance of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School boys' lacrosse team was offensive this season. The Raiders managed just 163 goals on their way to a 6-14 overall record. That translated to just over eight goals a game. Compare that to the 224 points scored in 2014 and it becomes clear where Scotch Plains needed to improve. It is hard to win when you cannot find the back of the net. The Raiders' scoring woes were particularly pronounced during the early portion of the season. Through their first 10 games the Raiders scored just 63 goals. Not coincidentally, they started off the season 2-8. "About halfway through the year we started playing much better as a team," said Head Coach Nick Micelli. "We made some changes, including moving Jack Gerrity to midfield and we started to get better production on offense." Gerrity, a senior who will play next season for Susquehanna, finished the year with 31 points and racked up 13 assists, while collecting 59 ground balls. One player who had no trouble scoring for the Raiders was senior Kevin Kerby. His 72 points on 26 goals and a team-leading 46 assists was good enough to earn him First Team All-Division recognition and

Honorable Mention on the All-State Team. Kerby leaves as the All-Time Career leader in points for Scotch Plains-Fanwood and will play lacrosse next season for Widener. Another senior who will depart is Ryan Connors. The Raiders will have to figure out a way to replace his team-leading 101 ground balls and 58 percent rate on face offs. Connors will play at Drew University next year. "Those are big losses and Kevin Kerby will be a huge loss," said Micelli. "But we will bring back a lot of other players who will be solid, particularly at midfield." Scott Nizolak is one of those players who will return next season for his senior campaign. This year Nizolak racked up 46 goals and five assists while winning 50 ground balls. Joe Griffith who scored 45 points (27 goals, 18 assists) will also return for his senior year. David Walker, named Second Team All-Division this season (60 percent on face-offs, 98 ground balls) will return as an experienced junior next season. Together with Nizolak and Griffith, the Raiders figure to have their trio of leaders for 2016. With freshmen like midfielder Cooper Heisey and defenseman Harrison Parada having gained a year of starting experience under their belts, the Raiders figure to start off next year with a solid foundation in place.

As mentioned, the Raiders began to play better lacrosse around the mid point of the season. Over the final 10 games, they improved their scoring from 6.3 to 10 goals a game. They won twice as many games in the second half of the season (4) as they did in the first half (2). The Raiders scored perhaps their most impressive win in the second half of the season. "The win against Voorhees was our best effort of the season," said Micelli. "We were down by three heading into the fourth quarter and we came from behind to win, 9-8. I think that was the game where we showed what kind of a team we can be when we are playing well." There were eight games decided by three goals or less during the season. Scotch Plains-Fanwood posted a 3-5 record in those close decisions. Overall, the Raiders were a pretty tough team to score on this year. Goalkeepers Chris Duffy and Cole Weber combined to allow 178 goals. Duffy a junior, recorded 155 saves. Weber, an inspirational senior leader, stopped 94 shots. Weber will go on to play for Union County College next year.

SARAH, HANNAH ROSS LED SCORING

Lady Cougars Complete Lacrosse Season at 12-7

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

The Cranford High School (CHS) girls lacrosse team stepped up another rung on the ladder of success by finishing with a 12-7 record this season, the best in CHS history. The Lady Cougars also finished second with a 5-1 record in the Independence South Division, losing only to the New Providence Pioneers, who finished 6-0. "I am proud to say that the girls lacrosse team finished with the best record in Cranford High School history," First year Cougar Head Coach Carlee Dragon said. Senior twins Sarah and Hannah Ross, both midfielders, also made their mark this season. Hannah led the team with 60 goals, while adding 37 assists for 97 points. She also led the team with 73 ground balls. Sarah led the team in total points (110) with 50 goals and 60 assists, while scooping 71 ground balls. "I would like to congratulate Hannah and Sarah Ross for scoring their 100th career goal this season. That is a great accomplishment, but it does not happen by chance. Without unselfish teammates, this accomplishment would not have been possible,"

Coach Dragon said. Impressive contributions did come from teammates. Junior center midfielder Megan Power put in 43 goals, while adding 15 assists, and scooped 56 ground balls. Senior midfielder Kristin Leu scored 42 goals with 18 assists and had 34 ground balls. Sophomore attacker Jeannie Padden notched 41 goals and 17 assists, while scooping 21 ground balls. Senior attacker Elyse Mackenzie totaled 17 goals, one assist and 23 ground balls. Coming off the bench, senior Tara O'Reilly scored nine goals and freshman Maggie Roman netted five goals and three assists. Sophomore goalkeepers Niamh O'Donavah and Mary Rose Thompson made 58 saves and 32 saves, respectively. Marissa Dankowsky, Melissa Stone and Moya Plant provided defensive stability. "Every player has grown tremendously over the past three months. We began the season ranked 105th in the state and we finished being ranked 67th. With hard work and dedication in the off-season, Cranford could win in our division next year, compete for a county championship and continue to move up in the state rankings," Coach Dragon said.

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