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Memorial Day Weekend Classic at Gumbert



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MAKING CONTACT...Westfield's Gavin Dwyer makes contact in the sixth inning during the 11U Championship game against the Cranford 11U Cougars. The Blue Devils defeated the Cougars, 10-8, at Gumbert 1 Field on Memorial Day. The photo below has Cougar Tyler Veltre stealing second base in the sixth inning.

Section Tournaments:

Warriors Top Westfield In Boys Lax Semifinal

The Watchung Hills boys lacrosse team scored 11 of its 17 goals in the second half to overcome the Westfield Blue Devils, 17-8, in the North Jersey, Group 4 Tournament in Warren on May 23. Matt Rittendale scored three goals and Devon McLane had two goals and an assist for the 12-6 Blue Devils. Nicky Bond, Jake Engelke and Jake Wornow each scored once. Goal-keeper Jack McCauley made three saves, allowing three goals, and Theo Dardia made three saves.

Gavin DeForia netted four goals and two assists for the Warriors and Joe Rica had three goals and two assists. The Warriors went on to defeat Hunterdon Central, 10-4, for the championship.

Westfield	2	1	4	8
Watchung Hills	3	3	6	17

Mt. Olive Raps Raiders In Boys Lax Semifinal

The second-seeded Mt. Olive boys lacrosse team defeated third-seeded Scotch Plains-Fanwood, 15-9, in the semifinal round of the North Group 3 Tournament on May 23. Aidan Guma and Anthony Porter each had a pair of goals and a pair of assists for the 12-7 Raiders. Noah Costanzo netted three goals and Tommy Nakonechny added a goal and an assist. Jack Brady scored once and Alex Osliho had an assist. Tom Bruckman made nine saves.

Sc Pl-Fanwood	4	2	2	1	9
Mt. Olive	3	3	5	4	15

GL Highlanders Stop WF Blue Devils, 17-8

The hosting Governor Livingston Highlanders erupted for nine runs in the third inning and added five more in the fourth en route to a 17-8 victory over the Westfield Blue Devils softball team on May 22. Jen Murowski went 4-for-4 with four RBI for the Highlanders and Jaime Belfer had two singles, a double and two RBI. Janey Moribito tripled, singled and had two RBI as did Alyssa Lombardi.

Erica Lawrence homered, singled, scored twice and had two RBI for the 12-12 Blue Devils. Jordan Sacher had two RBI, a triple and a run scored. Ally Gulla (2 RBI), Natalie Patterson (RBI), Kayla Tupper and Bridget Hyland each singled and scored once. Julia Gagliardo had an RBI. Julia Romano scored once and Emma Pietrewicz singled.

Westfield	400	400	0	8
Gov. Livingston	129	500	x	17



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Blue Devils Top JP Stevens For Section Title, Fall in Group

The top-seeded Westfield High School boys tennis team defeated JP Stevens, 4-1, for the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 4 Championship in Mountainside on May 21. The showdown with the Hawks was, however, much closer than it appeared with three tightly contested matches.

Blue Devil senior Damien Ruparel's first singles match turned out to be the smoothest with a 6-2, 6-0, win over Ruhana Waghmire. Blue Devil Matt Barkok defeated Ashwin Saraswatula, 6-3, 6-1, at third singles. Blue Devil Matt Su dropped a very tough 7-5, (7-3) first set to Akshay Khanna at second singles but had to retire early in the second set.

Robbie Faktor and Dave Sprung had to endure three sets to settle Hawks Hrish Bopalkar and Sujay Sayini, 6-3, 1-6, 6-3, at first doubles. Jacob

Raider Nine Disjoint Union in Quarters, 9-1

The fourth-seeded Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School baseball team defeated fifth-seeded Union, 9-1, in the quarterfinal round of the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 4 Tournament in Scotch Plains on May 24. Jake Friedman tossed a one-hitter, while walking five for the Raiders. Dean Kirian went 3-for-3 with two RBI and three runs scored for the 16-10 Raiders. Anthony DiNizo tripled, doubled, scored once and had two RBI.

Wily Gale and Sam Schetelich (RBI) both went 2-for-4. Josh Canavan went 2-for-3 with an RBI. Jon Ramos went 1-for-2 with an RBI and a run scored. Matt Syvertsen had an RBI single and Tyler Stines scored once.

Union	000	000	1	1
Sc Pl-Fanwood	111	510	x	9

Tananbaum and Brad Hornbeck stopped Hawks Krit Kannan and Akshat Kulkarni, 7-5, 6-3, at second doubles.

Even without the services of Matt Su, the Blue Devils had an easier time in a 5-0 shutout of Lenape in the Group 4 semifinal round on May 23. Ruparel defeated Jack Lavin, 6-1, 6-2, at first singles. Bartok jumped up to second singles and defeated Sreejith Nair, 6-2, 6-0. At third singles, Sebastian Wroe stopped Jimmy Li, 6-4, 6-1. At first doubles, Faktor and Sprung beat Brett Chow and Brandon Hsiao, 7-5, 6-0. Hornbeck and Tananbaum topped Marc Ignarri and Jeremy Spigel, 6-2, 6-2, at second doubles.

In the Group 4 Championships on May 23, No. 2 Montgomery prevailed, 4-1, but not without a battle. Ruparel was the only Blue Devil to emerge victorious with a 6-4, 7-5, win over Ishaan Ravichander at first singles. Jim Hopper topped Matt Su, 6-4, 6-1, at second singles and Phil Szkudlarski stopped Bartok, 6-4, 6-4, at third singles. Will Camper and Chris Guo took three sets to stop Faktor and Sprung, 6-0, 4-6, 6-4, at first doubles, and Andy Li and Rahit Vadodaria defeated Hornbeck and Tananbaum, 6-3, 6-2 at second doubles.

Panthers Nip Westfield In Section Softball, 2-1

The 11th-seeded Bridgewater-Raritan Panthers nipped the hosting sixth-seeded Westfield Blue Devils, 2-1, in eight innings on May 21 to advance to the quarterfinal round of the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 4 Tournament. Samantha Mazzagatti tossed a one-hitter and had the winning RBI in the eighth inning for the Panthers. Julia Romano tripled and scored for the Blue Devils.

Devil's Den
Chambliss Should Be 'Lata's All-time Scorer



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

Jared Chambliss, a four-year starter and three-year team captain, finished his career at Immaculata High with 1,523 points, including 37 against Holy Spirit in the state tournament.

He scored 202 as a freshman followed by years of 431, 523 and 367. Despite an injury-plagued senior year, he earned second team all-Skyland Conference.

You might be wondering why the Devil's Den is writing about someone who lives in Hunterdon County and attends a Catholic school in Somerset County. Well, Jared is the son of former WHS track captain Barron Chambliss, the grandson of the late Flip Chambliss, and the nephew of ex-WHS football star Dondi Chambliss.

The closest Spartan to Chambliss in career points would appear to be Mike Parenti with 1,363. But Immaculata considers Gamal Mohamed its all-time leading scorer. He scored approximately 1,150 points in three years for the Spartans after scoring "about 500 points" as a freshman at Kearny Christian.

"Gamal Mohamed has always been considered the school's high scorer," Immaculata coach Ryan McKeever told Barron Chambliss. (Athletic director Tom Gambino did not respond to an e-mail for comment. Immaculata reportedly hired an attorney who advised the school to cease all contact with the Chambliss family. The attorney did tell the Chambliss family that Gamal Mohamed is considered the school's "high point earner.")

But Mohamed wasn't considered the record holder when his Immaculata career ended. The Star-Ledger named Mohamed its 2009 Somerset County Player of the Year, and the story clearly notes that he will graduate as the No. 5 all-time scorer at Immaculata, with about 1,200 points, facts the writer would have had to get from the coach.

Somewhere along the line - perhaps when Chambliss passed Parenti? - Immaculata decided to recognize those "about 500 points" that Mohamed scored, while wearing another school's uniform, and playing against a schedule that - to be very kind - is less than Skyland Conference caliber.

And that, according to the Immaculata powers, should be the end of the story.

But...The banner in the school's gym clearly says, "Immaculata High School's 1,000-Point Club." Mohamed should get credit for every point he scored for 'Lata. But the banner has 1,681 points next to his name, which would include the "about 500" he scored for another school. That total infers that he is the school's all-time leading scorer, yet he was never formally recognized as such.

What am I missing? This looks like the reason the asterisk (*) was invented.

Of course, when contentious situations like this pop up, the cause of the problem is usually one of two adult categories: a) parents or b) administrators.

"It's a big deal to a lot of people; the parents want their kids to be honored," Westfield Supervisor of Athletics Sandy Mamary said. "It's a question that a lot of schools have been having, especially in basketball, and especially with all the transfers, back and forth. I can see both sides."

I can't, although some others can. "I've talked to a lot of people, maybe 80, about this very subject," Plainfield sports historian Martin Cox said. "While opinions vary, most of the parochial schools I've talked to think

they should be counted together. I'm not saying I agree, but that's what they say."

But the banner at Immaculata isn't ambiguous. It doesn't say, "The Most Points Scored By An Immaculata Player In Their Career, Including Points Scored For Another Team During Their Freshman Season Only."

What if Mohamed, who reportedly grew up in North Plainfield, had played his freshman year at Watchung Hills before transferring to Immaculata? He would be getting points TOWARD his Immaculata career total for points he scored AGAINST Immaculata.

Huh? St. Joseph of Metuchen AD Mike Murray, a 2006 WHS graduate, said he is considering having two banners: one for 1,000-point guys who transferred, the other a "St. Joe's-only list" of 1,000-point scorers, to "incentivize

major league baseball. Babe Ruth hit 714 career home runs, 659 with the New York Yankees, 49 with the Boston Red Sox and 6 with the Boston Braves. The Yankees correctly list Ruth as their career home run leader with 659. MLB's career home run list correctly gives him 714 for his three-team career.

Since Immaculata wouldn't respond to our e-mail, we can only guess what they would have done if, let's say, Jared Chambliss had scored 1,156 during his first three years at the Somerville school, then transferred for his senior year to his father's alma mater and scored those final 367 points? Or spent his senior year at his hometown Delaware Valley Regional and scored them there? Would Immaculata still have added them to his Immaculata total for the school's "1,000-point banner"? (Kinda doubtful.)



Jared Chambliss, with his parents Kathy and Barron, after scoring his 1,000th career point during his junior year at Immaculata.

kids to understand the importance of just (playing at) one school," he said. "It's a great question, and something that's come up a lot here recently with all the transfers."

"But in terms of record-keeping, the all-time leading scorer in a school's history HAS TO be based on what they produced at the school."

Let's throw out a couple of other hypotheticals. Say a basketball player scores 902 points in three years at WHS. But upon further review, the parents note that their child played their freshman year at, say, Jibibsville Tech and scored "about 100 points." If you added that to the 902 at WHS said player would have "about 1,002" career points. Should they be listed on the banner at WHS, which clearly reads, "Westfield High School's 1,000-Point Club"? You don't need Capt. Obvious to tell you the correct answer is no. The player had 902 points at WHS. End of story.

What if a football player transfers to their home town's public high school after their freshman year, and finishes 80 yards short of being the school's all-time leading rusher? Then it's discovered that he ran for "over 100 yards" during that freshman year at Jibibsville Tech. Should they be considered the public school's all-time leader? They most definitely should not.

On a grander scale, let's look at

However this plays out, the 6-foot-3, 180-pound Chambliss will be playing in the fall at Millersville (Pa.) University on a basketball scholarship. And undoubtedly someone will one day break the Immaculata school record.

In a truly Christian world, politics would never enter into this. There wouldn't be a hypothetical situation like, say, an AAU coach with deep high school ties holding a grudge against a high school kid.

This isn't subjective, like somebody's opinion of their school's five best players ever; voting for or against someone on your school's Hall of Fame ballot based on personalities; or arguing whether Van Halen was better with David Lee Roth (no) or Sammy Hagar (yes).

This should be strictly objective; by the numbers with no Electoral College b.s. Whoever has the most points wins. In this case, it's who scored the most points wearing an Immaculata uniform.

The numbers don't lie. They say it's Jared Chambliss.

THIS AND THAT
Third-seeded WHS beat top-seeded Gov. Livingston 1-0 last Friday in the Union County Jayvee Tournament final. Ken Miller's squad finished 16-8.

MJ Catanzaro, who no-hit second-seed Summit in the semis, pitched a two-hitter with seven Ks in the title game. Christian Pansini created the run in the fifth when he walked, stole second, advanced to third and then beat the throw home on a grounder to third.

Congrats to Joe SanGiacomo, who captured the javelin at the North 2 Group 4 sectional track meet last Saturday.

DEN TRIVIA ANSWER
The answer to the question of home baseball fields that WHS has used over the years was, f) all of the above. The Blue Devils played at Recreation Park, Army Field, Nomahegan Park, Unami Park and Tamaques Park before Edison became their permanent home field in 1961. Steve Merrill, from Redmond, Ore., had the only correct guess.

ON THIS DATE
1935: Bob Wilkinson shot a 79-68-147 to win the state individual golf championship at long-defunct Locust Grove Golf Club in Clark.

AROUND THIS DATE
May 30, 1914: Harold Crutenden struck out 17 batters in a 5-2 win over Pingry.

May 30, 1914: Steamboat Cowperthwaite fanned 18 as the Westfield Cubs beat the Garwood A.A. 4-2 at Recreation Park.

June 2, 1970: Richie Anderson and WHS outlasted Harry Linderthand Cranford, 1-0, on an unearned run. Both pitchers went all 12 innings.

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