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THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section
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J. MEOLA'S BUNT BRINGS PLICK HOME WITH WINNER

Cougar Nine 'Squeezes' 6-5 Win Over Raiders in Opener

By DAVID B. CORBIN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times
"Small Ball" paid huge dividends in the bottom of the seventh inning for the hosting Cranford High School baseball team in its season-opening showdown with the Scotch Plains-

Fanwood Raiders at Memorial Field on an extremely chilly April 2. Trailing 5-4 Tyler Szczech plopped a leadoff single over first base and Aiden Plick drew a walk on Raider pitcher Pat Cuccurullo. Marcus Johnson's fake bunt set up a successful

double steal. Johnson then lofted an RBI sacrifice fly to centerfield as Szczech scored and Plick tagged up and sped to third. Joe Meola stepped to the plate and pulled off a perfect squeeze bunt as Plick came zooming

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SWIPING THIRD BASE...Cougar Jamie Shriner swipes third on a double steal in the first inning as Raider third baseman Tyler Stines prepares to get the throw. The Cougars pulled off a successful suicide squeeze in the seventh to win 6-5.

CATANZARO TOSSES 5 STRAIGHT SHUTOUT INNINGS

Somerville Plates Four in 9th; Tops Baseball Blue Devils, 8-4

By DAVID B. CORBIN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times
Eight strong innings by Blue Devil starting pitcher Mike Catanzaro was not quite enough as the Somerville Pioneers tapped reliever Mike Carlone for four runs in the top of the ninth inning to overcome the hosting

Westfield High School baseball team, 8-4, on April 6. Working with Mike Charlton behind the plate, Catanzaro held the 2-0 Pioneers scoreless in six of the eight innings. Five of those scoreless innings, which included denying hits or walks to 12 straight batters, came

after the Pioneers put together four singles and took advantage of a throwing error to score three runs in the second inning. Catanzaro worked his pitches well to allow no walks, while striking out two batters. "Mike was throwing a lot of off-

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FINISHING THE PICKOFF...Blue Devil shortstop Jack Bowman puts the tag on Pioneer Joe Brong, who got caught heading to second on a pickoff attempt in the sixth inning. Somerville scored four runs in the ninth inning to top Westfield, 8-4.

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GREAT GAME AT THE NET...Blue Devil goalkeeper Theo Dardia prepares to defend the goal in the game against Rumson-Fair Haven on "Senior Day" at Kehler Stadium in Westfield on April 4. The Blue Devils muzzled the Bulldogs, 12-7.

McLANE BECOMES WHS ALL-TIME SCORING LEADER

Blue Devil Lax Boys 'Muzzle' Rumson-Fair Haven Dawgs

By DAVID B. CORBIN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times
"Senior Day" at Gary Kehler Stadium in Westfield came early but the timing was perfect when senior attacker Devon McLane scored five goals and added three assists to break the Westfield High School All-Time boys lacrosse career scoring record with 217* points (goals plus assists -

See Devils Den numbers) in the Blue Devils' 12-7 victory over the Rumson-Fair Haven Bulldogs on April 4. McLane's record-setting goal came with 1:49 remaining in the game when he charged in from the right side, dove in front of Dawgs goalkeeper Ryan Croddick and delivered a knuckle-scraping, low shuffle shot into the netting.

But the heroics did not all belong to McLane. Although the offense also received ample production from senior attacker Jake Engelke (2 goals, assist), sophomore Matt Prybylski (2 goals), junior Nick Martini (goal, assist) and seniors Dylan Alfano and Griffin Aslanian with one goal apiece, along with senior CJ Duffy (2 assists),

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