



SCRAMBLING FOR THE LOOSE BALL...Blue Devils Liz Healy, No. 14, and Carley Farella, No. 17, attempt to scoop the ball away from a Laker at Kehler Stadium on April 3. The Mountain Lakes girls rallied in the second half to win 9-6.

RADICE SCORES THREE GOALS; HEALY GOAL, ASSIST

Blue Devil Laxers' Lead Slips In 9-6 Loss to Mountain Lakes

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

Mountain Lakes awakened to defeat the Westfield High School girls lacrosse team, 9-6, on April 3 at Gary Kehler Stadium in Westfield. The Blue Devils squandered a 5-3 halftime advantage and were outscored 6-1 in the second half by the Lakers. Kate Carolanza scored five goals for the victors. Paige Radice led Westfield with three goals.

The Blue Devils dropped to 0-2 on the season with a loss to Northern Highlands in their season opener. It is

not the kind of start they were hoping for on the heels of the sectional title they earned last season. So far, Westfield has not been able to put together a complete, consistent game.

Against Mountain Lakes, the Blue Devils fell into an early hole, allowing three goals to the visitors in the first five minutes of play. Trailing 3-0, Westfield Head Coach Abigail Cohn had seen enough and she called a timeout to rally her troops.

"We started out slow," said Coach Cohn. "We talked about how we needed to get out and get on top. We

had a very poor first five minutes to the game, so we called a timeout and the girls came out of it with a lot of enthusiasm throughout the rest of the half and played very well. We took a lead into the half."

The move worked wonders as Westfield came out of the timeout like a different team. The Blue Devils dominated the rest of the half, outscoring Mountain Lakes, 5-0, to take a 5-3 lead into the break.

"I think when we put the first three goals in we were feeling pretty good."

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Lady Raiders Nip Cougars in Lacrosse, 10-9

Trailing, 9-8, with less than nine minutes remaining, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School girls lacrosse team tallied two unanswered goals to nip the Cranford Cougars, 10-9, at Memorial Field in Cranford on April 3. Maggie Lapolla netted three goals and three assists, while adding five ground balls, and Carly Walker scored three goals and added a pair of assists

for the 1-1 Raiders. Hailey Kinard and Catherine Buren each had a goal and an assist, while Elle Priesing and Francesco DiLollo each scored once. Goalkeeper Libby Daniskas made six saves.

Junior attacker Grace Power, who scored her 100th career goal in the season opener against Morristown-Beard, upped her total to 107 with

five first-half goals for the 0-3 Cougars. Sylvie Fernandez scored twice and had an assist, Alyssa Gesslein had a goal and an assist, and Delaney Bertrand scored once, while Karena Andreassen contributed a pair of assists. Goalkeeper Anna Horne made 10 saves.

Sc Pi-Fanwood	8	2	10
Cranford	7	2	9



UP FOR GRABS...As the ball pops loose, Raiders Kate Jackman, No. 4, and Hailey Kinard, No. 16, look to grab it before Cranford Cougar Sylvie Fernandez, No. 26, can get to it. The Raiders nipped the Cougars, 10-9, in Cranford on April 3.

HOBSON TOSSES 4-HITTER, HRS; PIETREWICZ HOMERS

Blue Devils Avenge UCT Loss; Down Roselle Park Girls, 11-1

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

Michaela Hobson blasted a three-run home run and allowed just one run in five innings to lead the Westfield High School softball team to an 11-1 season-opening win over the Roselle Park Panthers on April 2 in Westfield. Hobson struck out five batters, walked one and scattered four hits in five innings of work. Teammate Emma Pietrewicz launched a two-run walk-off home run in the bottom half of the fifth inning that caused the 10-run rule to take effect, giving the Blue Devils a particularly satisfying victory.

Last season, Roselle Park scored a 2-0 victory over Westfield in the Union County Tournament Championship game held at Kean University. There

offense battered Hummel for 11 runs on eight hits, which included the two titanic home runs.

"I think you always want to give credit to the team when they do well," said Cheddar. "She is an excellent pitcher. We just happened to hit the ball really well today. We know she will be back strong the next time for them. So will we."

Westfield shined in all aspects of play on this day. The Blue Devils were hitting the ball well and Hobson got stronger as the game progressed. Westfield also looked sharp in the field, turning in a number of nice plays in the infield.

"I'm pleased with the way we played defense today," said Cheddar. "We made the plays we needed to make. In the first inning there, we got caught up

bases full with two outs when Gen Howell delivered an RBI single to center, making it 4-1. Erica Lawrence followed that by lacing a line drive single to center that plated two more runs.

Then Hobson came to bat and promptly launched a high, towering drive that cleared the leftfield fence with room to spare for a three run homer.

"Really, I didn't think it was going to get over the fence," said Hobson. "I knew I hit it well but the wind was pretty strong today so you couldn't be sure of anything."

Hobson was in total control as a pitcher as well. She held Roselle Park scoreless in four of her five innings. Pietrewicz then sent everyone home early with her two-run home run in the



BIG TIME VICTORY...The Westfield Blue Devil softball team recorded an impressive 11-1, five-inning victory over the Roselle Park Panthers in Westfield on April 2. Last year the Panthers defeated the Blue Devils, 2-0, at Kean University for the Union County Tournament Championship.

was a lot of buzz coming into this season's opener with standout pitcher Madison Hummel in the circle once again for the defending UCT champion Panthers.

"We knew they were going to be a very good team," said Westfield Head Coach Caitlin Cheddar. "Our returning players remember them from last year, very, very well. We know they have an excellent pitcher and some really, good, talented underclassmen playing for them this year. We just wanted to come out and do what we do well. Hit the ball hard, move runners around and use our speed and athleticism. I think we did all those things today."

But the anticipated pitching battle never materialized as the Westfield

in a rundown that I think we could have executed a little better. Then the run they scored was a ball that went off of our third baseman's glove and just happened to bounce into an area where nobody was playing. But overall I thought our defense was really good. Hopefully we'll see more of that."

After falling behind 1-0 in the top half of the first inning, the Blue Devils rallied to tie the game by posting a run in the bottom of the second. Pietrewicz had the big hit with a triple to right.

Westfield scored two more runs in the third to take a 3-1 lead. The Blue Devils broke the game open with six runs in the fourth to take a commanding 9-1 lead. Westfield worked the

fifth that traveled a nearly identical path as Hobson's four bagger.

"I was just trying to jump on the first strike and hit the ball hard somewhere," said Pietrewicz. "We had a great pre-season and we definitely wanted to come out and get some revenge against them for what happened last season. We knew our season wouldn't be determined by what ever happened in this game but still we definitely wanted to come out and play a great game against them."

Pietrewicz finished with a home run and a triple, while driving in two runs. Lawrence had a pair of hits and two RBI, while Kalea Calugay scored three runs for Westfield.

Roselle Park	100	00	1
Westfield	012	62	11

Blue Devils Muzzle Rumson-Fair Haven, 12-7

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the defensive unit and goalkeeper Theo Dardia held up particularly strong, especially in the second half when they limited the Dawgs to just a pair of goals from Chris Bockelmann, who finished with three goals.

The Dawgs won the war of face-offs, 12-7, but of his 14 saves, Dardia made eight big-time stops, four which were in the third quarter when the Dawgs were on the verge of capturing the lead.

"I thought I was pretty zoned in today. That's all I can say just sticking to the script. I just felt myself today," Dardia answered.

Aslanian turned momentum in Westfield's direction several times with key takeaways, knock downs and an intercept.

Dardia with 10:28 on the clock. Blue Devil defender Sebastian Birse stopped another Dawg attack with a takeaway then Prybylski knotted the score with a left-hand wraparound slam with 6:45 left in the first quarter. A knockdown by defender Colin Freer, a takeaway by Alfano and a key save



IRON MAN ON 'D'...Blue Devil Griffin Aslanian, right No. 44, made a number of takeaways, scoops and interceptions against the Dawgs.

As to his team's solid defensive effort, Aslanian said, "In the first half of the game, we got a little excited and there were a lot of back-and-forths, lot of loose balls near the 50 [yard line]. But then we settled into our six-on-six defense. That's when they had a lot of problems. We did really well on our one-on-one match-ups. It was just a couple of compromising positions that we got ourselves into. That was a result of our out-broken ride."

The Dawgs scored the first goal of the game when Tom Russo charged from the left side and fired one past

by Dardia put the Blue Devils back on the attack and Prybylski made the Dawgs pay with a short wraparound goal.

"They were really trying to key on Devon and Jake, so it freed up the field early in the game for me to showcase because I haven't really been playing well in the early season. Today was a good day to break out and put in some goals. After I put in those two goals, they kind of stopped locking off Jake and Devon, so we got into our offense and it settled down so

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