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THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section
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PIETREWICZ, STOGNER, 'GAG' ADD 'O'; CR's HEIM HR

Blue Devils Fight Off Cougars In UCT Softball Semifinal, 8-5

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

Rain may have delayed the Union County Tournament (UCT) semifinal showdown between the top-seeded Westfield High School softball team and the fourth-seeded Cranford Cougars at Kean University in Union on May 7. But one day later at the same location, the Blue Devils stormed home plate with five runs in the fourth inning but needed to shower the plate with more runs in the fifth and sixth innings to fight off the battling Cougars in an 8-5 victory.

Blue Devil sophomore pitcher Michaela Hobson allowed six hits, while walking no one and striking out seven batters. Cougar sophomore pitcher Morrigan Gardiner also allowed six hits, while walking four, hitting two batters and striking

out five. Underclassmen played a major role in providing the offense for both teams. Junior Julia Gagliardi and sophomores Emma Pietrewicz and Molly Stogner were instrumental in getting all of the Blue Devils' runs across in the fourth inning. Gagliardi added an RBI in the fifth inning and Pietrewicz singled and scored on Stogner's big double in the sixth. Cougar sophomore Emma Ingraham rapped a hard RBI double in the second inning to bring home Gardiner's courtesy runner Mia Markase. Sophomore Morgan Heim (2-for-3) hammered a two-run home run in the fifth inning and Ingraham's difficult blooper into shallow centerfield accounted for both Cougar runs in the sixth inning. Cougar leadoff hitter Elizabeth

McCaffery reached first on a throwing error in the top of the first but Hobson fanned the second batter then got the next two batters to ground out to shortstop Julia Romano. Gardiner walked Blue Devil leadoff hitter Kalea Calugay in the bottom of the inning but buckled down to strike out two batters and get one to pop up to short. The Cougars took a 1-0 lead in the second. Gardiner (2-for-3) beat out an infield dribbler down the third baseline then Ingraham drilled her RBI double to center. The lead held until the Westfield fourth inning. Gardiner hit the leadoff batter, Erica Lawrence (1-for-3, 2 runs). Romano bounced a single off the shortstop's glove and Gen Howell loaded the bases when her grounder was mishandled. Gagliardi ricocheted

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BANG UP PLAY AT HOME...Blue Devil Gen Howell looks at the umpire's call as Cougar catcher Erin Schwerdtfeger holds the ball and pitcher Morrigan Gardiner observes during the UCT semifinal game at Kean University on May 8.

LORENZETTI 'BIG' BUNT; 'CUCCU', SMITH KEY HITS Raiders 'Small Ball' GL; Win UCT Baseball Semifinal, 6-2

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

Small ball turned big results for the sixth-seeded Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School baseball team in its Union County Tournament semifinal game against the second-seeded Governor Livingston Highlanders at Kean University on May 11. Dallas Lorenzetti's perfectly placed bunt earned him a single and forced the hand of Highlander pitcher John Grill which resulted in an overthrow and two Raiders scuffling home plate in the second inning en route to a 6-2 victory.

Senior pitcher Danny Wilkinson limited the GL power machine to just three hits, while striking out 10 batters. The big hit he did allow was a leadoff solo home run to Chris Bruno

in the fifth inning. "I am pretty sure I had him with a 1-2 count. We have been trying to mix up the pitching sequence I have been throwing throughout the game. Coach Lucarelli and I were really trying to get inside their heads. I just put a fastball right down the middle and he poked it," Wilkinson explained. "Bruno is a good hitter. He hit one against us before. I think Danny had a good sequence but he had a good swing." Raider Head Coach Joe Higgins added. The blast definitely awakened Wilkinson as he struck out the next three batters to end the inning. "Everything felt good. My fastball felt good, the curveball was dropping very well. I have a 12-6 curveball but

today I had like 10-4 because I knew they had a couple of lefty batters. When they would dive across the plate, that's when I would get them with the sweeping curveball. Then for the righties, I would make it drop straight down," Wilkinson described. "It was more about the batters that I was facing." The 13-8 Raiders scored all of their runs off Highlander starter Grill, who was relieved by Joe DeFeo with two outs in the third inning. Their first run came in the top of the first when Willy Gale reached on an error, stole second, tagged up on Dean Kirian's fly ball to center and scored on a pitch in the dirt. The Highlanders quickly answered. Drew Compton was hit by a

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OUT AT SECOND BASE...Highlander second baseman Mike Shaffer put the tag on Raider Willy Gale as he attempted to swipe second in the sixth inning of the UCT semifinal game at Kean University on May 11. The Raiders won 6-2.



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LEADING FROM THE START...Raider Ben Fleischer, right, leads the pack in the 3,200 at the Union County Conference Championships in Berkeley Heights. Blue Devils Will Loggia, center, Will McGlynn and Jack Moranz follow closely.

LEIGH WINS 100, 400, HJ; OLSON 200; WF SWEEPS JAVELIN

Raider Boys 1st, Westfield 2nd At UCC Track & Field Meet

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

Scotch Plains-Fanwood, Westfield and Union Catholic battled until the end to determine which one would be the top team for the Union County Conference Watching Division boys Track & Field crown at Governor Livingston High School on May 9-10. In the end, it would be the SPF Raiders taking the top spot with a total of 109 just ahead of Westfield at 108 and the Vikings at 106. Linden won the Mountain Division with a total of 138 and the Cranford Cougars were sixth with a total of 38. The Raider boys won four events on Day 1 and Jacob Leigh won three of them. Leigh crossed first in the 100 with a time of 10.84, followed by Blue Devil Ajay Olson at 11.02. Raider Kyle Estivene finished fifth at

11.38, followed by Blue Devil Jake Saltzer at 11.39. Leigh also took first in the 400 at 48.58. Olson at 49.22 and Saltzer at 49.83 finished 3-5. Although he had cleared 6-4 in the past, Leigh needed only to clear 6-0 to win the high jump. Raider Cameron Adams took fifth with a height of 5-10, followed by Blue Devil Jack Cioffi at 5-8. Estivene won the 400 hurdles with a time of 57.06 and Raider Justin Williams finished third at 58.68. "Jacob had a really good meet yesterday," said Raider Head Coach Jeff Koegel at the beginning of Day 2. "He's really coming to his own this year. He PRed in the 100 and the 400. He's run under 11.0 before but this is his first under 0.9. He had already won the high jump on misses because he didn't have any misses. He came over to run the 400. He didn't come

out well in the [first] 200. He was back fairly far but he has the ability to strumming up those extra gears. He did a nice job of running the kid from Union down and powering past the line. We felt it wasn't necessary for him to come back to the high jump. He got his 30 points." In previous meets, Leigh has also anchored the 4x100 and 4x400 events, along with competing in the long jump. "He's got the 200 today. That's a good event for him. He's added more dimension to what he has been doing. He was a good 100 runner, a good 200 runner and now he's learning the 400. So running under 49 this early in the season puts him pretty high up in the state rankings, so we are feeling really good about where he is. As the weather warms up, it's good running

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KEEPING IT CLOSE...Blue Devil Julia Corba (left), Raider Kayla Paprocki (center) and Blue Devil Lauren Triarsi clear the 100 hurdle at the same time during the Union County Conference Championships in Berkeley Heights on May 10.

SPF's FLETCHER; WF's STRAVACH, HAMILTON EXCEL

Blue Devils 2nd, Raiders 3rd In UC Conference Girls Track

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

Union Catholic won 11 individual events to literally run away with the Union County Conference (UCC) Watching Division girls track & field title held at Governor Livingston High School on May 9-10. The Lady Vikings had a team total of 209 with Westfield a distant second at 98 and Scotch Plains-Fanwood third at 93. Kent Place won the Mountain Division with a total of 129 and the Cranford Cougars placed fifth at 52. SPF Raider Olivia Fletcher took top honors in the discus and shot put. Blue Devil senior Sam Stravach won the javelin event and sophomore Katie Hamilton set a WHS record in the 800. Last week at the Union County

Relays Stravach had the best throws in the discus and the javelin. "Javelin, honestly I had no idea that I did win until it was announced. It was my first throw. I wasn't thinking and just went for it. My second two throws, I was thinking too much and they weren't as good. It was a pretty good throw. I definitely think I am capable of a lot more for javelin. It wasn't my best throw technically, but I think this week, especially tomorrow I will do a lot better. I was very excited though," Stravach said on Day 1. Stravach tossed the javelin 105 feet at the UC Relays but her personal record in javelin was 112-0 last year. "My personal goal is about 120. In a perfect world, the school record in 128 if I would like to get the school

record but I don't think that is realistic this year. I have only thrown it about four meets this year," she revealed. Her toss in the discus at the UC Relays was a personal record (PR). "Discus, I had a rough start, so I kind of had to get into it. The last throw I really didn't think about it and went for it. It was a PR. It was a good throw. My personal best is 121. I feel like I can improve a lot. My goal is about 135. The school record is 122, so I want to try to hit that first and see where I go from there," Stravach said. For the Watching girls on Day 1, Stravach had little luck in the discus as Fletcher took first with a toss of 100-4, followed by Blue Devils Julia Rickert at 87-9. Stravach was off on her throws

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