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LADY CAPTS - MORGAN, SACCO, LaMASTRA, McLAUGHLIN

Blue Devil Boys/Girls Looking To Take the Extra Step in X-C

By **DAVID B. CORBIN**
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times
Pack mentality has earned the Westfield High School boys and girls cross-country teams numerous Union County Tournament (UCT) championships and some sectional titles throughout the years but this year the Blue Devils are seeking to take the

a bad taste in our mouths. Group 4 is the most challenging in the state. You have the big public schools and there's a lot of motivated kids, a lot of smart coaches. They work hard all summer long to make November a possibility. It's about having the right guys, it's about having the right work ethic, it's about being a little bit better."

McKinney and Maggie Cassidy and newcomers Emily DeSarno, Aden Brooks and Ava Pravlik."
The freshman class also brings promise. Coach Buccino commented, "We have a solid cast of freshmen this year, led by Stacey Salz, Melissa Fiorentino Jaylin Goncalves, Lauren Booher and Claire Flag. They did



David B. Corbin for *The Westfield Leader and The Times*

BLUE DEVIL X-C TOP 7...Pictured, left to right, are: Jon Givelber, Zach Spergel, Kevin Yucetepe, Will McGlynn, Jack Maranz, Will Loggia and Alex Maurillo.

extra step to glory. The Blue Devil boys return six of their top-7 runners with seniors Jon Givelber, Zach Spergel, Kevin Yucetepe and Jack Maranz, and juniors Will Loggia and Will McGlynn. This season senior Alex Maurillo will snuggle into the pack and sophomores Ben Hacker,

Coach Tafelski is aware of what is needed to take another step up and win a Group title.
"If we want to turn the corner and be different, we are going to need not to rely on just being a strong pack. We are going to need to get some in the really low [top] six. You can't really

their homework this summer and we are excited to have them in our program."
With all the returning top runners plus talented underclassmen, the Blue Devils are looking for big results.
"Thus far the team has shown that they are committed to making this a



David B. Corbin for *The Westfield Leader and The Times*

BLUE DEVIL X-C CAPTAINS...Pictured, left to right, are: Jackie LaMastra, Greta McLaughlin, Grace Morgan and Grace Sacco.

Charlie Stock and Colman Scanlan will be close behind.
Last year the Blue Devil boys captured their third straight UCT title and have virtually ruled the UCT for the past decade. Yucetepe was the first Blue Devil in with a third place finish, while McGlynn, Givelber and Loggia finished 5-6-7 and Maranz and Spergel came in 10-11.
"We lost the counties in 2008, we lost the counties in 2014. Other than that we've won nine times in the last 10 years," Blue Devil Head Coach Chris Tafelski pointed out.
The Blue Devil boys went on to take top honors in the sectional tournament and this time Loggia took top honors with McGlynn and Yucetepe taking 5-6, and Spergel 10th, Maranz 14th and Givelber 19th. So the competition within the pack has been tight.
"Will was the sectional champion but if you rewind back to 10 days prior, he might have been our fourth guy in the counties. Having that type of versatility among the group is a nice thing. It kind of makes you bullet proof if one guy has a bad day. In the sectional race it was too muddy and one guy fell in the race. With seven in the race who are interchangeable and can cover when something goes wrong, it's a luxury to have," Coach Tafelski said.
The Blue Devils ran well in the Group 4 race but placed a very close second to Kingsway. Coach Tafelski recalled, "We were second in the Group 4 Championship by a very narrow margin to Kingsway. That left us with

be successful at the state level unless you have some single digit guys in the top-5-6 in the Group 4 meet. If your top guy is finishing 12, it's a lot harder to score. That's what we really need this year to take a step up from last year. We will see how things play out in the next couple of months," he said.
The Blue Devil girls also return five of their top-7 runners with senior co-captain Grace Morgan and juniors Sammy Salz, Caroline Collins, Grace Endy and Elizabeth Bielen. Other returning varsity runners are senior co-captains Grace Sacco, Greta McLaughlin and Jackie LaMastra, and juniors Maddie Lerner and Molly Stogner. Junior newcomer Louis Sur could also fit into the mix.
But there are more. According to Head Coach Jen Buccino, "Jordyn Ament was one of our top freshmen last year. She worked very hard over the summer and it is clear she is high on our list of prospects this season. Other sophomores that have caught our eye thus far are returnees Erin

successful season. We are very pleased with how training has been going and if the girls continue in this manner they should achieve all of their goals and aspirations," Coach Buccino said.



David B. Corbin for *The Westfield Leader and The Times*

BLUE DEVIL GIRLS SOCCER SENIORS...Pictured, left to right, are: front row; co-captains Carley Sherman, Faith Dobosiewicz and Sofia Carayannopoulos; back row, Ana Fowler, Mikaela Buoscio, Grace Friedberg, Erin Harris, Megan Raftery, Riley Ciarletta and Catherine Miller.

CPTS - DOBOSIEWICZ, SHERMAN, CARAYANNOPOULOS

Lady Soccer Blue Devils Work To Get into UCT, State Mode

By **DAVID B. CORBIN**
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times
Positives can definitely come from some past negative experiences and this season the Westfield High School girls soccer team plans to do just that and they have good reason to feel that way. Since graduating a senior-heavy squad from the year before and fielding only a handful of seniors, last year's Lady Blue Devils were forced to play 18 underclassmen, so that should be a positive sign for this year.

The road to success was a bit rocky last year and Head Coach Alex Schmidt was faced, not only with replacing all the vacancies; but also moving personnel around to find the best fit. The result was a 4-6 record in the Watchung Division of the Union County Conference and 6-9-1 overall record.
"Last year's seniors were the perfect example of guts, will and drive. Although we took our bumps last year, the team always competed. Youth combined with some very unfortunate injuries took its toll on the team throughout the middle of last season, but ending the way we did against Bridgewater, who was the eventual runner-up in the Group IV State Tournament, really left this year's team hungry for the season," Coach Schmidt expressed.

Charlotte Dursee, Kelly Eagan, Julia Johnson-Milstein (JJ), and Maddie Silva, who will all look to compete for playing time.
Senior Erin Harris, who was the backup for Caitlin Amman, may be the starting goalkeeper this season but she will have stiff competition from senior Megan Raftery and junior Sara Perlin.
According to Coach Schmidt, "Caitlin Amman, who has been our goalkeeper for the past three years graduated, but we are super excited for the trio of goalkeepers looking to take over the reigns. Erin Harris looks to be our frontrunner for starting goalkeeper, while Megan Raftery and Sara Perlin will fight for that second position."
Dobosiewicz will be joined in the midfield by senior returner Riley Ciarletta and juniors Grace Lanza, Kelly Sullivan and Julia Weinstein.
"Faith Dobosiewicz and Riley Ciarletta will anchor our midfield in both experience and game intelligence. Lanza, Sullivan and Weinstein will also be competing for playing time in the middle of the field," Coach Schmidt explained.
The Lady Blue Devils are loaded in the attack positions with the return of seniors Mikaela Buoscio, Grace Friedberg and Catherine Miller. Joining the trio of seniors will be juniors Amanda Cerrachio and Jane Sullivan, sophomores Kim Defillippo, Ellie Sherman and Izzy Gauthier and freshman Allyssa Martinez.
"I love what our forwards have given us this pre season. We are very deep on the front line and all players have really competed fiercely to earn their starting role or for playing time," Coach Schmidt pointed out.
The Lady Blue Devils will open their regular season on Saturday, September 7, at 1 p.m. when they travel to East Brunswick. Their next game is slated at Oak Knoll on September 10.
"Although we aren't in UCT or State Tournament mode yet, we plan to be by the time late October and early November roll around," Coach Schmidt promised.

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