

THE WEEK IN SPORTS

CLARKE RETURNS FUMBLE FOR 15-YD TOUCHDOWN

Raiders' Hopes Get Blocked; Farmers Take a 'Lowe' Road

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

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School football team had its hopes of ending the season with a victory blocked, 22-7, by the Union High School football team in Scotch Plains on Thanksgiving Day. A blocked punt late in the second half set the stage for the Farmers to shatter a 7-7 tie.

Before the homecoming game, introductions and presentations of flowers were given to the parents of the senior cheerleaders and football players. The homecoming queen was Jaimie Langevin and the king was Donald Patterson.

The Farmers were to receive the opening kickoff by senior Adam Baumwoll sailed into the end zone and

the Farmers got the ball on the 20-yard line. After getting only one first down, the Farmers were forced to punt from the 36. The ball rolled dead on the Raider 29.

Delmar Patterson swept right but was brought down for no gain. Quarterback Eddie Williams dropped back to pass, but no one was open. Williams tucked the ball under his arm, scooted up the middle, then was finally tackled; but not until he got the first down at the 40. Two plays later, Maurice Dockery slanted left for a first down at the Union 47.

On the next play, Williams kept again and exploded to the 40. The Raiders were unable to advance the ball on the next two plays and had to face a fourth-and-three situation and decided to go for it. Williams rolled left to the 35 for the first

down. Afterwards, the Farmer defense dug in and stopped the Raider invasion. Baumwoll's punt bounced into the end zone and, again, the Farmers offense started on their own 20.

A two-yard keeper by quarterback Damien Lowe and a five-yard gain by halfback LaForest Knox gave the Farmers a third-and-three at the 27. Fullback Nygiem Calhoun blasted through the middle for a first down at the 30, then Knox ripped around the right side and was finally knocked out-of-bounds by Lay' renn McDaniel at the Raider 30.

The Raider defense got tough. Calhoun was gang tackled; Knox was knocked flat by Raider junior James Feeley for no gain, and an incomplete pass caused a fourth-down situation. Lowe kept the ball and zoomed right, but was banged out of bounds at the 34 by junior Joe Franzone.

The Raider offense stalled and Baumwoll's punt rolled dead at the Farmer 48. Brian Yawnick slashed left for a first down at the Raider 37, then carried again to the 30. Yawnick ran again, but was smashed by Franzone and La'Marr McDaniel; however, Calhoun blasted to the 25 on the next play for the first down.

Calhoun continued with another explosion through the Raider defense and was stopped by Mark Barredo of the Raiders at the 13. Two plays later, Yawnick sliced left to the one. Lowe kept low and plunged over the goal line for the touchdown with 5:57 left in the half. Calhoun's kick was good and the Farmers took a 7-0 lead.

With time running out in the half, the Raiders altered their offensive tactics. After Franzone received the kickoff on the 12 and returned the ball to the 26, Williams whipped up a potent batch of offense. Williams took to the air and found Jon Winkler at the 44-yard line of Union. Two plays later, the Raiders pulled off a slick, inside double reverse and Dockery darted to the 11 to put the Raiders in great scoring position.

A killer came, however, just at the end of the play when the Raiders were penalized 15 yards for unsportsmanlike conduct and the ball was moved back to the 26. The Raiders were pushed back to the 32. From there, Williams fired complete to Dockery at the 14 for a first down.



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
RAIDER DEFENSIVE RAMPAGE... The tough Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School front line overwhelmed the Union High School running back for a loss. Mark Barredo, No. 15, Dan Morris, No. 63, Jim Feeley, No. 77, Joe Franzone, No. 5, and Jon Horn, No. 76, get in on the tackle. The Farmers beat the Raiders, 22-7, in Scotch Plains on Thanksgiving Day.



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
BIG PASS COMPLETION... Jon Winkler, No. 84, makes a big gain to the Farmer 44-yard line in the second quarter. The Raiders nearly scored on this series; however, an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty stopped their chances.

Four Blue Devil Boys Make 1st-Team, All-County Soccer

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

The Westfield High School boys' soccer team completed the 1997 season with a 13-8 record. Four senior members of the Blue Devils squad were named to the first-



David B. Corbin for The Leader and The Times
DYLAN DUPRE... Senior Blue Devil Dylan Dupre was selected First-Team All-Union County

team All-Union County boys' soccer list. Midfielders Dylan Dupre and Jason Corcoran, along with backs Mike Baly and Kevin Mansfield, received the honors as first team. Senior striker Peter Lau, senior back Dan Todd, junior goalie Mike Idland and sophomore midfielder Ralph Rapuano were named to the second-team list.

Junior back Bob Stroud, junior goalie Mike Idland and sophomore Frank Ianni were named as Honorable Mentions.

The Blue Devils had 23 letter winners and will graduate 13 seniors: Baly, Dupre, Mansfield, Todd, Corcoran, Lau, Nick Pino, Scott Mann, Andrew Cambria, Jeff Kivetz, David Geissler, Adam Cohen and Matt Coltrera have played their last official soccer game for Westfield High School.

The Blue Devils lost some closely-contested games to second-ranked Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School and top-five ranked Kearny High School. The Devil boys made it to the semifinals of the Union County Tournament, where they were edged, 2-1, by a determined Elizabeth High School squad.

After qualifying for the state sectionals, the Blue Devils defeated rival Randolph, 1-0, then lost a tough, 1-0, game to Montclair in the championship game. The Blue Devils had a respectable and competitive soccer season.

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David B. Corbin for The Leader and The Times
THREE POINTS... Blue Devil Jason Krieger lofted a 32-yard field goal. Bob Baykowski was the holder.



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
55 + 7 = 68-YARD TOUCHDOWN... Blue Devil senior Brendan Hickey, No. 55, clears out a path for senior Jason Osborne, No. 7, who soared 68 yards for a touchdown against Plainfield High School in Westfield on Thanksgiving Day.

OSBORNE SOARS TO 68 YD TD; LEE PERFORMS MAGIC

Blue Devils Fly Like Eagles; Feast on the Cardinals, 22-7

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

A very determined and confident Westfield High School football team proved to a near-capacity Thanksgiving Day crowd that they would be the predators, as they plucked the 13th-ranked Plainfield High School Cardinals, 22-7, at Gary Kehler Stadium in Westfield. The Blue Devils avenged a 38-7 thumping inflicted by the Cardinals last year.

In a series which dates back to 1903, the Blue Devils hold a 45-39-6 edge over the Cardinals.

The wind was blowing favorably for the Blue Devils in the first quarter when Plainfield punter/quarterback Darryl Kennedy's kick was blown backwards for a two-yard loss. From there, the Blue Devils marched to the four-yard line, where Jason Osborne spurt forward for the touchdown. Jason Krieger kicked the extra point, and the Blue Devils led, 7-0, with 3:36 left in the first quarter.

Blue Devil quarterback Bob Baykowski showed his moxie in the second quarter when he passed into the wind and hit Lamont Turner, who turned the completion into a 15-yard touchdown

play. The extra-point kick was blocked. Westfield led, 13-0, with 9:39 remaining in the half and the Cardinals were chirping in a confusing manner.

The Cardinals were still able to get some velocity from their wings. On what seemed to be a harmless pecking for a short first-down attempt midway through the second quarter, Kennedy squirmed two yards, then spread his wings and flew 42 more yards for a touchdown. Kennedy also kicked successfully for the extra point and the score tightened to 13-7.

Later, in the quarter, the Blue Devils got good field position and moved the ball to the Cardinal 12. After Baykowski was driven out of bounds at the 15, Krieger set up for a 32-yard field-goal attempt. The kick against the wind floated softly over the crossbar and between the uprights. With 2:55 remaining in the half, the Blue Devils, with a 16-7 lead, had the Cardinals shuddering.

Plainfield received the kickoff at the 27 and returned it to the 39. Even with their talent, the Cardinals self-destructed. Illegal procedure penalties neutralized fine runs by back Jason Edwards and great defensive plays from Greg Gorski,

Hawks, Brendan Hickey and Turner along with pressure from Gabe Perez, stopped the Cardinals as the half ended.

Westfield got the ball on the 20 to open the second half. Tom Lee boomed forward for nearly a 5-yard gain, Plainfield was penalized five yards for encroachment, then Baykowski kept to the 32 for a first down. Osborne swept left to the 36, but the drive soon ended. Baykowski's punt sailed out of bounds at the Plainfield 38.

Devils Gorski and Kyle Martinowich squashed Edwards on the 41; Hickey sacked Kennedy on the 40, then the Cardinals got a five-yard delay of game penalty. After another Gorski tackle, the Cardinals were forced to punt. The punt flew into the end zone and the Blue Devils got the ball on the 20.

Lee burst to the 28, then slanted to the 32 for the first down. Now, Osborne got the handoff from Baykowski, swooped to the left, then screamed 68 yards down the side line for a touchdown. After an off-sides penalty moved the football half-way to the goal, the Blue Devils tried for a two-point conversion. The handoff to Turner was stopped, and with 4:58 left of the third quarter, Westfield led 22-7.

Anthony Davis of the Cardinals picked up the kickoff on the 28 and returned it to the Westfield 49, where he was dropped by Brandon Doerr and Krieger. Next Gorski and Turner crunched Kennedy for a loss of four yards, but the Cardinals got a big play when Edwards broke loose and glided to the Devil 16, where he was tackled by Doerr.

Kennedy hooked left on a keeper and was brought down on the three by Hickey. Davis was stopped for no gain, then Joseph Epps was crushed by Lee for a one-yard loss. After Edwards got the ball to the one-foot line, the Cardinals were penalized 10 yards for holding. A fourth-down pass into the end zone was broken up by Turner, and the Blue Devils took over at the 13.

A five-yard penalty and a five-yard

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SHUTTS SHOOT FOR THE WINNING TOUCHDOWN

Junior Girls Stun the Seniors; Claim the Powder Puff Title

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

Gary Kehler Stadium in Westfield was packed with exuberant fans who witnessed a stunning, 6-0, upset pulled off by the Westfield High School junior girls over the highly-talented senior girls in the Annual Powder Puff Flag Football Game on November 26. There was no lack of enthusiasm on the part of either team.

Adding to the charisma of the game was the unbiased announcing of senior sportscasters Jason Osborne, Robert McCullum, Greg Freisen and Phil Orsini, who also claimed the juniors were 20-point underdogs. Coach Bob Brewster and Coach Gerry Benaquista were the competent referees. The game was to consist of 10-minute quarters.

The hopeful juniors stormed onto the

field followed by the highly-confident seniors. The seniors won the toss and elected to receive. Kijrstin Taylor kicked off for the juniors. Senior Amy Coccaro picked up the football on her own 28 and returned it to the 45.

Quarterback Amelia Hammond handed off to Becky Hamilton, who slanted left for a two-yard gain. Next, Hammond's pass attempt fell incomplete. The game got rough on third down when Hamilton tucked her flag under her shirt and had to be tackled. The senior girls decided to go for the first down and a pass to Shannon Wagner was complete, but was shy as the stingy junior defense held up.

With the ball on the senior 45, quarterback Liz McKeon handed off to Megan Shutts, who swept left to the 33. Speedy Nikki Hester hooked right, then left, then right for a four-yard gain. Next, the juniors tried a little chicanery of their own, but were caught and penalized by the vigilant referees. On a fourth-and-very long, Sue Phillips, now quarterbacking, passed complete but too short to Kay Martinson and the ball was turned over to the seniors at the 40.

The flag football game virtually turned

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David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
HIGHLY CONFIDENT SENIORS... Prior to the opening kickoff, the senior girls, with the inclusion of some senior boys, showed their confidence that they could defeat the junior girls in the Westfield High School Powder Puff Game held at Gary Kehler Stadium in Westfield on November 26.

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