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No. 1 Lady Panthers Shut Out Raiders in Soccer Semis, 2-0

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

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School girls soccer team was defeated by top-seeded and top-ranked Bridgewater-Raritan, 2-0, in the NJSIAA North 2, Group IV sectional semifinal match played November 5 in Bridgewater. A pair of lightning quick first-half goals by Panther star Morgan Winchoc put Scotch Plains-Fanwood in catch up mode and on a day when the weather was windy and rainy the stifling Bridgewater-Raritan defense took care of the rest. With the win, the Panthers were slated to meet Watchung Hills in the sectional final.

"We're excited," said Winchoc. "It is just another team that we have to beat. Three times, I think we can do it."

For Scotch Plains-Fanwood, the 2018 season has been one of unexpected success. The Raiders entered the campaign with a lot of youth on their roster. Rather than serving as a detriment, the enthusiasm and athleticism fueled this team to exceed expectations. But on this day, the difference in experience may have finally caught up with the Raiders.

Seven minutes into the contest, Bridgewater-Raritan scored a pair of

goals within one minute of each other. Winchoc was responsible for both. The first came on a header set up off of a corner and the second moments later on a laser shot after a free kick. In each instance, the Raiders appeared to have made fundamental errors.

"The corner kick was a lapse and then on the free kick, everybody just sat back," said Scotch Plains-Fanwood Head Coach Kevin Ewing. "We've got to learn from our mistakes. Unfortunately, they had to occur in the last game."

Armed with a two-goal advantage, the Panthers showed why they are the top-rated team in the state. The Panther defense kept the very quick and potent Raider offense from making any serious runs into the scoring area throughout the rest of the first half. Although the Raiders may have had a slight quickness edge on the wings, the Panthers did a great job of smothering that aspect of the game.

"We've always had a very tough defense," said Winchoc. "We knew some of their players and just being able to know who we had and being able to mark them as efficiently as we can, I think that was just really important."

Bridgewater-Raritan could do little

on offense the rest of the way as well as Scotch Plains-Fanwood played its own brand of smothering defense. But the damage had been done.

The Panthers controlled the rest of the contest, fending off any threats from the Raiders in the second half and cruising to victory. Panther goalkeeper Maggie Ousoujoglou needed to make just four saves on the game. Raider goaltender Maya Kessler stopped six shots. The Raiders were left to ponder what might have been had they not given up the two quick goals early in the contest.

"You know, take back the first eight minutes of the game, it was a pretty even game," said Ewing. "I mean, I think Bridgewater had a little better of the play but our kids fought hard all game. We didn't create too many chances for ourselves but they fought hard. We had two mistakes in the early part of the game and that hurt us. You can't give mistakes to a good team like Bridgewater."

The game was played under horrendous conditions with a steady, cold rain arriving in Somerset County ahead of schedule and pouring down on players throughout the contest. Still Ewing was not using that as an excuse.

"Both teams had to play in the same conditions. If anything I just think Bridgewater is a very tough team defensively and it had a big impact on us."

His thoughts were echoed by Winchoc.

"It was pretty tough. The ball was skipping a lot but it is just one of those things you have to deal with. Both teams had to adjust to it."

For the Raiders, the season did not end as they would have hoped but it ended a lot later than many would have expected. With a youthful, deep and talented lineup, the Raiders figure to be right back in the hunt for a sectional title next year.

"We only have four seniors," said Ewing. "We are going to miss their leadership and experience but we have a lot of talented young kids coming back."

Sc PI-Fanwood	0	0	0
BrH2O-Raritan	2	0	2

Probitas Verus Honos



BATTLING FOR POSSESSION OF THE BALL...Cougar senior Kenzie Butler, right, and Millburn Miller Melissa Gates, No. 21, battle for possession of the ball in the North 2, Group 3 semifinal game in Cranford on November 9.

Cougars Rout Millers, 7-2; Fall To Middletown No. in Final, 3-1

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

The second-seeded, No. 10 Cranford High School girls soccer team erupted with four goals in the first half and added another three to rout the sixth-seeded Millburn Millers, 7-2, in the semifinal round of the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 3 Tournament in Cranford on November 6. Then on November 9 in Middletown, the Cougars' season came to an end with a 3-1, rain-soaked defeat to the top-seeded Middletown North Lady Lions.

In the rout against the Millers, which is normally very unusual for a section semifinal game, the Raiders got off to a very quick 2-0 jump. Senior attacker Lauren Williamson netted a hat trick (3 goals) and junior Maggie Murray scored twice and added a pair of assists. Junior Brooke Swandrak scored twice and senior Grace DiGiovanni added two assists, while seniors Kenzie Butler and Sofia Ambrosia each contributed an assist for the 18-3 Cougars. Carly Bernstein

scored in the first half and Chloe Zegas scored in the second half for the 11-7 Millers.

"We came out on fire! From the opening whistle, we pressed high and shut down their passing lanes forward. I knew they had a lot of talent and speed in Chloe Zegas, so our game plan was to now allow her to even receive the ball that often. Going up 2-0 within eight minutes definitely helped our mentality and momentum, and we were able to carry on our consistent play throughout the game. Very proud of how we executed our plan against Millburn," Cougar Head Coach Andrew Gagliardo expressed.

In the championship game, it was the Lady Lions, who turned the tables on the Cougars with two quick goals. Ashley Dietrich, on a quick assist, scored half way through the first minute then 13 minutes later Lioness Darien Rinn made the score 2-0. With 10 minutes remaining in the half, Cougar Williamson, assisted by Claire Ganley, netted a goal.

"I think it was tough going down a goal within the first 30 seconds of the game. We didn't come out with the energy we needed to; with the energy we usually bring. Not sure why," commented Coach Gagliardo. "It was even tougher going down 2-0. But then we switched it on, and in my opinion, dominated the rest of that game. I have to praise our girls' resiliency in that game. Not many teams can battle

back and keep fighting in that scenario. The rain, their home field where they haven't lost all year, fans, I was very proud with how we carried ourselves."

Dietrich nailed her second goal 10 minutes into the second half off a corner kick that deflected off a Cougar defender to put the Lions up 3-1. Throughout the game the Lions were keying on Murray, putting the pinch on her with a double team.

"We got back to 2-1, and showed really good signs of coming back and potentially getting a win. Possession was really favorable for us. I think we just lacked that final urgency to finish the game off. Lauren, Sofia and Maggie had good games. They all had their moments of good play. Maggie and Lauren were still beating girls end line, getting balls into the box, taking shots. They just weren't falling for us. Some opportunities didn't get finished, and unfortunately, it wasn't our game," Coach Gagliardo said.

The 21-1 Lions were set to face Northern Highlands in the Group 4 semifinals on November 13. The Lady Cougars completed their season with an outstanding 18-4 record.

"Overall, it was a fantastic season for us. We had a lot of firsts, one of the best seasons in program history, and plenty of standards set high that will hopefully carry on to next season," Coach Gagliardo said.

Blue Devil Boys Take 2nd, Girls 5th At Group 4 X-C Championships

The Westfield High School boys placed second at the Group 4 Cross-Country Championships and the Blue Devil girls placed fifth in their race at Homdel on November 10. Kingsway took top honors for the boys with a total of 91, while the Blue Devils finished just behind with a total of 97. North Hunterdon won the girls title with a total of 60, followed by Ridgewood at 91, while the Blue Devil girls had a total of 201.

The first-five Blue Devil finishers had an average time of 16:52. Senior James McCutcheon finished ninth with a time of 16:36 and sophomore Will McGlynn finished 14th at 16:42. Scotch Plains-Fanwood

Raider Ben Fleischer crossed 18th at 16:47. Blue Devils Kevin Yucetepe at 16:55, Will Loggia at 16:58 and Zach Spergel at 17:08 finished 25-28-40. Raiders Drew Burfeindt at 17:13 and Max Cardarelli at 17:23 finished 46-58.

Senior Sarah Hacker was the first Blue Devil girl to cross, placing 11th at 19:32. Caroline Collins crossed 40th at 20:23, followed by Raider Sara Greene at 20:24. Raider Olivia Zambrio finished 49th at 20:37, followed by Blue Devil Sammy Salz at 20:38. Blue Devils Elizabeth Bielen at 20:44, Grace Endy at 20:59, Brianna Hatch at 21:34 and Grace Morgan at 22:16 finished 54-62-86-109.

P-Burg Stops Cougars, 21-0, In Sectional Grid Semifinal

After a scoreless first quarter, the top-seeded, 12th-ranked Phillipsburg Stacheliners scored a touchdown in the second quarter then added two fourth-quarter touchdowns to defeat the fifth-seeded Cranford Cougars, 21-0, in the semifinal round of the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 4 Tournament in Phillipsburg on November 10.

Quarterback Jack Stagaard connected with receiver Sterling Walker for an 87-yard touchdown in the second quarter to give P-burg a 7-0 lead. Late in the third quarter Nasir Ball intercepted Cougar junior quarterback Connor Katz's pass at the Stacheliner 22 yard line to set up the next touchdown when Joe Green scooted into the end zone from the 11 yard line on the first play of the fourth quarter. P-burg's final touchdown came on a 19-yard reception by Walker Sutton.

P-burg totaled 380 yards (253 passing, 127 run), while Cranford had a total of 287 (136 passing, 151 run). Katz completed 12 of 21 passes for 136 yards, including two interceptions. Cole Blazek had seven receptions for 72 yards. Mike Kalnins had two receptions for 48 yards and Tom Korzeneski had three receptions for 16 yards. Rob Schork carried 23 times for 122 yards and Katz carried 13 times for 29 yards.

Defensively, Dante Cassaro was involved in 16 tackles and Jake

Chapman, who recovered a fumble, was involved in 12 tackles. Matt Doran recovered a P-burg fumble and had five tackles. Jamelle Harper had eight tackles, including a sack and a throw for a loss. Zach Blevins made eight tackles, including a sack and a throw for a loss. Ahmad Rasheed made seven tackles and Chris Guiditta had five tackles. Blazek added an interception.

The Cougars finished their season with a 6-4 record, while the 9-1 Stacheliners would face Irvington for the title on November 16. The third-seeded Irvington Blue Knights defeated second-seeded Randolph, 20-17, with a field goal in the second overtime

Cranford	0	0	0	0	0
Phillipsburg	0	7	0	14	21



LINING UP AGAINST THE SCARLET KNIGHTS...Michigan Wolverine defensive lineman Rashan Gary, No. 3 from Scotch Plains, lines up in the game at Rutgers on November 10. Fourth-ranked Michigan defeated Rutgers, 42-7.

Lions Top Westfield In Group 4 V-ball

The 17-6 Westfield High School girls volleyball team's season came to an end with a 25-13, 25-18, set-back to the top-seeded, 31-1 North Hunterdon Lions in Annandale on November 7. Samantha Colucci had nine assists, three digs, a kill and a service ace. Jenna Miller recorded nine digs and three kills and Stephanie Margolies had two kills, five digs, an assist and a service point.

Anne Friel had five digs, an assist and two service points. Julia Becker had five digs and a service point and Nora Brindle had two service aces. Uzi Ijoma notched seven kills and a dig. Grace Gruters had two blocks, a kill, two digs and a service point. Giana Mangiamela had a block and Abby Zidel added a dig.

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS/PROPOSALS

The Township of Cranford is soliciting proposals through a fair and open process in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.

Sealed RFP responses will be received by the Township Clerk on Friday, December 7, 2018, at 10:00 a.m. in the office of the Township Clerk, Municipal Building, 8 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey 07016, at which time and place responses will be opened for:

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS/PROPOSALS FOR PLANNING SERVICES FOR THE PLANNING BOARD

Submission packages may be obtained at the Township Clerk's Office, (908) 709-7210, during regular business hours, 8:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays, or by downloading the documents on the Township's website: <https://www.cranfordnj.org/bids>. Registration on the Township's website is required.

Respondents shall comply with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 10:5-31 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 17:27. A copy of your New Jersey Business Registration Certificate shall be included with your proposal.

Patricia Donahue, RMC Municipal Clerk
T T - 11/15/18, The Leader Fee: \$30.60

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