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PATTERSON LED SCORING, NAMED FIRST TEAM ALL-UC

Cougars' Season of 'Almosts' In Boys Soccer, Finished 8-12

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

Grabbing a brass ring seemed to be just out of reach for this year's Cranford High School boys soccer team. Despite graduating a large number from last year's team that took top honors in the Union County Conference (UCC) Mountain Division, this season the Cougars were boosted up to the UCC Watchung Division, which included powerhouses Scotch Plains-Fanwood, Westfield and Elizabeth, along with Plainfield and Summit, and finished with an 8-12 overall record.

Cougars' 12 losses were by just one goal and on many occasions, the games were decided in overtime. "Of our 12 losses, six were by overtime and another three were by one goal. This included a very close 2-1 loss to Scotch Plains-Fanwood, an overtime loss to Elizabeth, and two overtime losses to Westfield in the last minute of the second overtime, which is how we were knocked out of the county tournament quarterfinals," Coach Campbell said. Adding to the strength of schedule was that the Cougars had to face each conference opponent twice, which

attacker Drew Patterson definitely had a nose for the ball around the opponents' goal areas and proved it by leading the team in scoring with 12 goals and seven assists. "Drew Patterson was our standout attacker, leading the team in both goals and assists. He earned himself First Team All-Watchung Conference and First Team All-Union County honors for his performance this year," Coach Campbell pointed out. Senior co-captains James Coleman and Mike Carracino also provided plenty of offense. Coleman netted six goals and had two assists. From his attacking midfield position, Carracino, who was also a team captain last year, scored four goals and added four assists. "Carracino was also key for us as an attacking midfielder and was named All-Watchung Conference Honorable Mention," Coach Campbell noted.

Junior Cole Blazek put in six goals and added an assist. Senior co-captain Brian Nigro scored three goals and had four assists. Senior Kevin O'Donovan scored three goals and had an assist and senior Andrew Lahrheim scored three goals. Others scoring were seniors Antonio Mena with a goal and four assists, Gavin Bridgeman and Chris Rehbein each with a goal and an assist and Simon Levinstein with one goal. Junior Tyler Burns had one goal. Adding assists were senior co-captain Kevin Donovan, senior Chris Lijo, junior Kyle Lynskey and sophomore Colin Farley.

Since the Cougars did outscore their opponents this season, the defense also made its contribution. Also junior goalkeeper Andrew Iacovano made 72 saves and senior keeper Gavin Kellett made 29 saves.

"Our defense was our strongest element this year for keeping us in games and was recognized through postseason accolades for a number of players," Coach Campbell said.

Donovan a center back, and Farley were named All-Watchung Conference Honorable Mention. Farley, a holding midfielder, was named All-Watchung Conference Honorable Mention. Sophomore center back Drew Goldfeder received First-Team All-Watchung Conference and Second-Team All-Union County honors.

"It was a valuable season for gaining experience for our younger players, and we look forward to competing at a high level again in the Watchung Conference next season," Coach Campbell concluded.



David B. Corbin (October files) for The Westfield Leader and The Times
FIRST TEAM ALL-UC...Cougars senior Drew Patterson, right, led the team in goals with 12 and assists with seven. He earned himself First Team All-Watchung Conference and First Team All-Union County honors this year.

"While our end of season record was disappointing, we made real strides as a program and continue to improve each season. It was truly a season of 'almosts,'" expressed Cougar Head Coach Greg Campbell.

Six of the Cougars' eight wins were shutouts and their two widest margin victories were over Orange, 6-0, and North Plainfield, 5-0. Eight of the

resulted in two losses each to the SPF Raiders, Westfield Blue Devils and the Elizabeth Minutemen.

"Moving up to the Watchung Conference was a real challenge, but I am proud of the soccer our team played and of how our players handled the adversity," Coach Campbell said.

Despite their record, the Cougars outscored opponents, 42-32. Senior

Cougars Finished 6-4; Played P-Burg in Grid State Semifinal

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

With its only loss being to the Cougars, Summit went on to beat Rahway for the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 3 title and to earn a No. 20 ranking.

Immaculata was Cranford's next victim, 35-7, but undefeated Hillside was next and the Comets emerged with a 39-10 win. The 11-0, 14th-ranked Comets went on to win the Central Jersey, Group 2 title with a 36-10 win over Manasquan.

As the fifth seed, the Cougars played their best all-around game of the season against fourth-seeded Linden in the first round of the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 4 playoffs. Known as the Alpha/Omega game, the Tigers scored on the first play of the game and on the final play of the game. But the rest of the game belonged to the Cougars, especially the defense that limited Linden star running back BJ George to just 54 total yards, in a 30-12 triumph.

The Cougars' final game was against top-seeded Phillipsburg in a 21-0 loss. The 10-1, No. 9 ranked Stateliners went on to win the North 2, Group 4 title.

Cougar junior quarterback Connor Katz inserted a fine blend of running with passing. Katz completed 96 of 169 passes for 1,127 yards, including eight touchdowns and six interceptions. His leading receiver was Cole Blazek who had 26 receptions for 358 yards, including four touchdowns. Mike Kalnins also had 26 receptions for 354 yards, including one touchdown. Tom Korzenesky had 16 receptions for 167 yards, Anthony DeCostello had 10 receptions for 95 yards, including a touchdown and senior Rob Schork had eight receptions for 94 yards, including a pair of touchdowns. Matt Doran had three receptions for 24 yards, Jamie Shriner had two for 35 yards, Jake DeClerico had two for 22 yards, Cole Zuckerman had two for four yards and Chuck Fabian had an eight-yard reception.

Shriner was the leading rusher with 622 yards on 98 carries, which included 10 touchdowns. Shriner also had a punt return for a touchdown. Katz carried 86 times for 306 yards, including two touchdowns, and Zuckerman carried 39 times for 218 yards, including one touchdown. Kalnins carried 20 times for 125 yards, including two touchdowns and a two-point conversion.

Schork, who carried the ball from time to time, really stepped up his usage after Shriner got injured in the Linden game and finished with 442 yards and three touchdowns on 67 carries. Receiving some playing time, Marcus Johnson carried four times for 37 yards and one touchdown. Phil Marotta car-

ried four times for eight yards, Jake Chapman carried twice for 12 yards, DeCostello carried twice for 14 yards and DeClerico had a 17-yard run.

Jack McAleavey, who did kickoffs and punts, also kicked 28 points after touchdowns and two field goals.

Defensively linebacker Matt Doran was involved in 76 tackles (2 sacks) and had a fumble recovery. Dante Cassaro had 69 tackles, two fumble recoveries and an interception. Senior linebacker Chris Guiditta had 62 tackles (1 sack) and Ahmad Rasheed had 58 tackles (1 sack), recovered two fumbles and added a safety. Schork had 40 tackles, including four sacks, a fumble recovery and an interception. Senior Zack Blevins had 47 tackles (3 sacks).

Shriner made 35 tackles, Dan Accocella had 30 tackles (3 sacks), Owen Ballweg had 12 tackles (sack) and Chapman had 42 tackles, a fumble recovery and an interception. Jamelle Harper had 42 tackles (sack), Pat Blowe had 20 tackles, Dan Wessolock had 10 tackles and Dan Swanson had seven tackles with a sack. Owen Dowd had 17 tackles and an interception. Steve Shore recovered a fumble for a touchdown. Blazek had six tackles and an interception.



David B. Corbin (January 2018 files) for The Westfield Leader and The Times
EXPECTING TO HAVE GREAT SEASON...Raider senior Josh Cohen will look not only to defend his UCT meet records in the 200-freestyle and the 500-freestyle but also to break them.

COHEN, SHAO HEADING SENIOR STRONG BOYS SQUAD

Raider Girls, Boys Still Strong For Upcoming Swim Season

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

Graduation of several super athletes may affect the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School girls swim team this year but not as much with the Raider boys. In either event, both teams are expected to be quite competitive.

Last year, the Lady Raiders tucked away another banner year with the accomplishment of their fourth straight Union County Tournament (UCT) crown, a North Jersey, Section 2, Public B crown, a Public B semifinal victory and a 12-3 record. The Raider boys also had a fine season battling through a very rugged schedule to finish with a 7-6 record to go with a third-place finish in the UCT.

The names of standouts Rachel and Dee Dee Maizes, Erika Frazier, Megan Small and Anna Dunchus, who played a major role in the Raiders placing first in six of the 11 events, including all three relays, at the UCT last year will no longer appear on the roster due to graduation but the returning girls are prepared to step up and into the vacated spots. On the boys' side, the Raiders return a host of talented seniors, which includes standouts Josh Cohen and Alan Shao.

"[I] Think we will be pretty good on both the boys and the girls side this year. I think our depth has improved a little with our boys team with the addition of some very versatile freshmen. We have also had some nice additions to our girls team with some talented freshmen, and we will just

need a little time to find the right combination for meets," Raider Head Coach Jessica Hulnik said.

The girls will be led by seniors Caroline Warren, Aubrey Bagdonas, Rachel DiFabrizio, Kate Jackman and Eleanor Richard. The juniors include Juliana Blanco, Nicole Kenny and Chole Yang. The sophomores include Kaleigh Einhorn, Lilly Holston, Emma Route, Sofia Leonetti, Abby Ryan and Rachel Small.

The Lady Raiders have a large group of freshmen, which includes Julia Bonhote, Stephanie Brown, Camille Cooke, Sofia Corsaro, Sophia Gallahue, Katelyn Gaulin, Chloe Howell, Lily Hughes, Kaitlyn Lusk, Aislinn Mooney, Jessica Rojek, Julia Yick, Morgan Tsin and Julianna Warren.

Cohen and Shao will reap a multitude of points this season for the boys. Cohen broke the UCT meet records in the 200 (1:40.23) and 500 (4:32.77) freestyle events last year then finished second at the Meet of Champions in the 200 (1:39.55) and third in the 500 (4:34.29). Shao took second at the UCT in the 200-Individual Medley (IM) and third in the 100-butterfly.

Other seniors are expected to make huge contributions. At this point, Sean Hough's primary focus will be in backstroke and IM, Virenda Ghatte's will be

IM and freestyle. Christian Blanco, Drew Burfeindt, Dan Donaldson, Stan Kanu and Ethan Melville will add depth.

Sophomores Jason Mongiovi and Dave Riedell are expected to make a splash in freestyle and backstroke. Freshmen Luka Culjak and Corey He will show strength in freestyle. He could also compete in IM and butterfly.

The junior strength includes Prabvir Kukreja, Ethan Morrobel and Lucas Route. Other sophomores include Mike DePaola, Owen Ferrone and Matt London and the freshmen include Sean Merkel, Gavin Morrobel, Conor Reilly, James Sullivan and Aidan Trenery.

Both Raider squads will open their season against the Governor Livingston Highlanders at Morris Union Jointure Pool on Tuesday, December 4, at 7:45 p.m. Next will be a trip to Berkeley Aquatics to face the New Providence Pioneers on Monday, December 10, at 3 p.m. On Wednesday, December 12, the Raiders will entertain the Chatham Cougars at the Fanwood-Scotch Plains "Y" at 3 p.m.

"As always, our goals are to do well at the county meet and go deep into the state tournament with both teams. [I am] Looking forward to the start of the season on December 4th at Governor Livingston," Coach Hulnik said.

Blue Devil Boys Get 7th at XC MOC

The Westfield High School boys cross-country team placed seventh at the Meet of Champions held in Holmdel on November 17. The Blue Devil boys finished with a total of 191. Christian Brothers Academy took first at 93. The Blue Devil girls placed 14th with a total of 300 in their race that was won by North Hunterdon with a total of 93.

Will Loggia was the first Blue Devil to cross, finishing 38th with a time of 16:38. Will McGlynn finished 63rd

at 16:59. James McCutcheon at 17:03 and Kevin Yucetepe at 17:06 finished 72-74. Zach Spergel crossed 87th at 17:14 and Jon Givclber finished 98th at 17:24. SPF Raider Ben Fleischer finished 111th at 17:28 and Blue Devil Jack Maranz crossed 112th at 17:29.

For the girls, Sarah Hacker finished 26th at 19:28 and Caroline Collins finished 78th at 20:23. Elizabeth Bielen crossed 97th at 20:42. Grace Endy at 21:03, Sammy Salza at 21:19 and Brianna Hatch at 21:36 finished 120-131-142.



LETTERS OF INTENT...SPF Raiders Danny Wilkinson, going to Villanova for baseball, and Josh Cohen, going to Georgia Tech for swimming, signed Letters of Intent during a National Signing Day ceremony on November 14. Pictured, left to right, are: baseball coach Joe Higgins, Wilkinson, Athletic Director Ryan Miller, Cohen and swim coaches Jess Hulnik and Judy Sharkey.



BOSTON BOUND...The Westfield High School Blue Devils boys Ice Hockey team headed to Boston on the weekend of November 17 for their annual preseason road trip. The team played against Scituate, Mass. High School at the Harvard Rink.

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