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# THE WEEK IN SPORTS



Sports Section  
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## WIDMAN SCORES ON LINDER ASST.; 'KOS' NAILS 'PK'

### Raiders Shut Out Red Devils In Boys Soccer Struggle, 2-0

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

Midfield control on the part of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood boys soccer team kept the visiting Hunterdon Central defenders on their toes until they were finally cast off balance when the Raiders found the net midway through the second half then added a successful penalty kick 16 minutes later to secure a 2-0 victory in the struggle between two Group 4 powerhouses on October 18.

Raider sophomore center back Joey Linder launched a free kick all the way from midfield and it landed in the box where junior Ryan Widman won a scramble with some defenders and goalkeeper John Padavano in front of the net and tapped it in for the first score with 22:20 left in regulation.

"I understood that there was a lot of

wind in the game today and I knew if I got a good spin off on the ball that it would be hard for the keeper to get a hand on. I saw Widman in the box. It was great in the box and it just happened, scored the goal," Linder explained.

"We were aware at halftime the coaches made us aware of the wind. Just knock it in, see if we can get balls to bounce around a little bit. The goalie dropped it. I just got my foot on it, tapped it right in front of the goal and it went in. The ball was on the ground. I poked it back a little bit and tapped it in," Widman described. It was his third goal of the season.

The icing on the cake arrived when a Red Devil defender got his hand on the ball in the box and the Raiders were awarded the penalty kick (PK) with 6:01 on the clock. Senior Jon

Koseoglu lined up to take the PK and planted it into the net just to the right of Padavano.

"We started off. We got a great run, got the ball. They got a hand in the box, got a PK. When I go up to take the PK, I watch what the goalkeeper is doing and put it where he is not. He went left and I put it right," Koseoglu answered without revealing what he calls his specialty.

But there was much more to the game than just the two goals. The 11th-ranked Red Devils came into the game with an 11-1-1 record but they were immediately pressed with the fifth-ranked Raiders' midfield push consisting of co-captains Alex Ferrara, Mike Ferrara, Owen Murphy and Rock Valian.

"Me and my brother and Owen

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MIXING IT WITH A RED DEVIL...Raider Ryan Widman, Blue No. 6, mixes it with Red Devil Chris Vinella, No. 6, during the game in Scotch Plains against Hunterdon Central on October 18. Widman scored a goal and the Raiders won 2-0.

## SMITH INTERCEPTS; McCAULEY SACK, 2 THROWS FOR LOSS

### Minutemen's 'D' Shuts Down Blue Devils in Grid Clash, 12-0

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

Bigger, stronger personnel on the defensive line plus two long plays on offense enabled the Elizabeth High School Minutemen to earn a 12-0 victory over the Westfield Blue Devils at Gary Kehler Stadium in Westfield on October 20. The 5-2 Minutemen held the 2-5 Blue Devils' running game to minus 26 yards on the ground and their furious pressuring of junior quarterback Hank Shapiro permitted just 56 yards passing.

Shapiro was sacked six times, five times in the second half, and completed just five of 18 pass attempts. Senior co-captain Emmett Smith had two receptions for 22 yards, senior Griffin Aslanian had an eight-yard

reception, senior Justin Chambliss had a 16-yard grab and senior Jacob Saltzer had a 10-yard reception. Junior running back Timmy Alliegro had only 12 yards rushing in the first half and only four more in the second half.

"It was a rough one today. Definitely got close to a lot of their guys on the ground but I got to make better plays. I got to make better throws, better decisions. It's a team sport. It doesn't fall on anyone individually. We got to get better in the ways our coach said. We are not making good plays, we are not making our blocks, getting open. We are not doing a lot of things and if we don't do most of those things, we can't win games," Shapiro said.

"You got to do your job. It's pretty

simple. If everybody does their job, you win games. Kids not doing their job every play, there is no one to blame. We got to work as a unit," Smith said.

"Basically in the plays, we didn't have all 11 guys doing what they were supposed to do on every play. If we finally do that, we will click but today we definitely did not have all 11 guys working together on every play," Blue Devil junior lineman Declan McCauley expressed.

The Blue Devils' defense, however, fared relatively well against the nearly exclusive Elizabeth running game that featured Javon Wacter, who carried 31 times for 132 yards. Most of Wacter's runs were limited to just

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A HANDS ON SITUATION...Blue Devil Griffin Rooney, No. 17, and Minuteman Emmett Smith, No. 1, both have their hands on the pass during the game between Westfield and Elizabeth in Westfield on October 20. West was credited with a catch.



AWESOME COUGAR TRIO...Senior gymnasts Gabby Markase, left, Erin Infante, center, and Bee Iosso spearheaded the Cougars' victory at the Union County Tournament held at Cranford on October 19. More photos at Ballyhoo Sports

## IOSSO ALL-AROUND, INFANTE FLOOR, AZZARETO BEAM

### Cougars Win Third Straight UCT Gymnastic Title, WF 2nd

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

Competition has definitely increased in Union County gymnastics with four teams consistently obtaining team scores of 105 or over and two more pushing 100, so the Union County Tournament (UCT) was expected to be a thriller, and it was. After Westfield made a super showing on the balance beam, the hosting

Cranford Cougars trailed the Blue Devils by just .005 going into the final event, the floor exercise, on October 19. The Cougars hit their routines well and gathered enough points to win their third straight UCT crown with a 108.425, while Westfield took second at 106.125.

A strong Scotch Plains-Fanwood squad placed third with a 105.4 total just ahead of the Summit Hilltoppers

at 105.24, Union Catholic took fifth at 98.1 and Jonathan Dayton (D) took sixth at 96.75.

Cougar senior Bee Iosso repeated as the all-around champion and also repeated as champion in the vaulting and the uneven bars. Iosso had an all-around total of 37.2, followed by Blue Devil Kaela Azzaretto at 36.9, Cougar Erin Infante at 36.325 and

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