

St. Bart's Championship Story
In September 13 Edition

THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section
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***** Welcome to The 21st Annual "You Don't Have to Be a Hero" All-Corbin Team: *****

The All-Corbin Team is dedicated to the Adult Softball Leagues, Girls Softball and Youth Baseball Leagues. The selections are based entirely on neat-looking plays, fan participation and interesting positions.

- 1. **Best Gotcha** – Westfield 11U catcher Zach Korr on Chatham's Gavin McEvoy. 2. **Most Protective** – Nash Warfield St. Joseph 3. **Most Closely Watched at Home** – Yogi's Boy catcher Jeff Poulston on John Campanella Awnings 4. **Best Blocking of Home** – Tyler Muccigrosso Cranford 10U Mid-Atlantic Championships 5. **Closest 50+ play** – Dennis Maluchnik (Riverside Inn) & catcher Vic Trindade (Advance Financial) 6. **Best Stretch at 1st** – Dennis McCaffery Cranford 12U 7. **Best Concentration by First Baseman** – Joe DiMattino Westfield Black 8. **Best Pitching Form -1** – Chris Shinnars Westfield 12U 9. **Best Opposite Field Hit** – Howie Bialos St. Bart's League
- 10. **Best Pitching Form -2** – Sean Woodruff Cranford 12U 11. **Best Stretch at 3rd** – Charlie Saccetti SPF Raider 8U 12. **Most Stylish Slide at 3rd** – Chris Kennedy SPF 12U 13. **Best Standup Triple** – Joe Massimino Yogi's Boys UC 60+ League 14. **Most Classic 50+ Play** – Joe DeRosa (Contact Lens & Vision) & Joe DiFabio (Deegan Roofing) 15. **Best Gun Down at 2nd** – Cranford 12U Sean Grady on Westfield's Gavin Andretta 16. **Sickest Steal of 2nd** – Mike Donahue Mountainside Ripken 8U State Tournament 17. **Most Loyal Fans** – Charlie Brown's 18. **Best Dance Step** – Tony Wargo Charlie Brown's 19. **Team Supreme** – Charlie Brown's Scotch Plains League Champs

BLUE DEVILS' CAPTAINS ARE SIMPSON, LEVY, SMITH; SHAPIRO AT QUARTERBACK, ALLIEGRO RUNNING BACK

Football Blue Devils Return Offensive 'Skill', Young on 'D'

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

This year's Westfield High School football team may have a bit of a jump on offense with the return of several fine athletes in the skill positions but the Blue Devil coaching staff has been in the process of organizing a new offensive line and, with the exception of three returning starters, a defense that will present a lot of fresh faces at the varsity level.

"We got a lot of our returning skill players back. We are excited about that. But we are breaking in a brand new line, so that's really where we are at right now. We are working on building an offensive line. [Junior] Declan McCauley is our only returning starter up front. We can have all the great skill guys we want. If we don't block, that doesn't mean much," Blue Devil Head Coach Jim DeSarno said.

In addition to McCauley (left guard), junior Jacob Harnisher will be at left tackle, senior Luke Bigosinski will be at center, and juniors Matt O'Connor and John Bracco are expected to be at right guard and right tackle, respectively.

As he had last year, junior Hank Shapiro will take the snaps. Shapiro was quite impressive as a sophomore completing 107 of 189 passes for 1,423 yards, including 13 touchdowns

(TD) and four interceptions, so more could be expected from him this season.

"Hank's got to take the next step. He's doing a very good job in terms of a leadership role and he's got to take the next step in understanding what's out there and taking control of things on the field," Coach DeSarno stressed.

Assisting him on the right steps could be junior Tim Alliegro at running back. Last year Alliegro carried 178 times for 920 yards, including eight TDs.

"He rushed for over 900 yards last year splitting time. We expect great things from him. He's worked very hard over the summer. He's ready to go," Coach DeSarno said.

Senior Griffin Aslanian will also be in the backfield at fullback. Seniors Emmitt Smith (co-captain) and Tommy Norris may line up at the tight end position, while juniors Justin Chambliss and Griffin Rooney, along with senior Jacob Saltzer could be the wide receivers.

The defensive line will consist of ends Colin Freer (junior) and sophomore Johnny Heard. The tackles will be co-captain Noah Levy, McCauley or O'Connor. The outside linebackers are expected to be juniors Will Kessler and Reid Colwell and the middle linebackers will be junior

Koury Kania and sophomore Dan Shikal. Senior co-captain Jordan Simpson will be at cornerback, along with junior Dan Varano and senior Devon McLane. Junior Nick Martini will be the safety. Due to the success of the defense the past three years, this year's revamped defense has its work cut out.

"We had the last three years of graduating good players. It's time for some new guys to step up. We graduated basically almost the whole defense. We only return one starter at the line position, Noah Levy. We return only one linebacker in Will Kessler and we return only one secondary player in Jordan Simpson, so it's going to be a completely different unit. They are going to have to follow in the footsteps of some really good football players," Coach DeSarno revealed.

As to the progress and coordination of the entire 11 players on defense, Coach DeSarno said, "They are figuring it out right now. They understand how much hard work goes into being a good defense and they try to put that on the practice field every day. When we are tackling someone, we want to see all 11 helmets. It's about getting all 11 helmets in the picture."

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BLUE DEVIL TEAM CAPTAINS...Pictured, left to right, are: Jordan Simpson, Noah Levy and Emmitt Smith, who have been selected as team captains of the Westfield Blue Devil football team this season. The Blue Devils will open their regular season against the Linden Tigers tomorrow night, September 7, at 7 p.m. in Linden



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