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# THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section - Pages 13-16

## FIORINO SCORES 4, CAMPBELL CLOUTS COLOSSAL HR Mets Ground Cardinals, 18-8, In University Finals, Game 1

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

Getting an early jump can sometimes determine the lasting momentum of a sporting event – the early bird gets the worm! The Mets became the “early bird”, catching the Cardinals off guard, and scored 11 runs in the first three innings to gain

the momentum to win game 1 of the University League baseball final series, 18-8, at Tamaques Park in Westfield on Wednesday, June 13.

The top-seeded Mets banged out 20 hits, including two triples and five doubles, and were led by Vinnie Fiorino who thumped a triple, drilled a double, tapped a single and scored

four times, and Vinnie Tommaso who also cracked a triple, a double and a single while adding an RBI.

However, the Cardinals had some clout of their own, especially from powerhouse catcher Craig Campbell – with the upper torso of a wrestler – who hammered a solo home run in the fourth inning and scored twice. Also Ryan Cockren punched two singles and had two RBI.

Aggressive bats combined with aggressive base running enabled the Mets to score four runs in the top of the first, three in the second and four in the third.

“We teach these boys to be very aggressive at the plate, get on top in a hurry and hold onto our lead,” said Mets Head Coach Jack Walsh. “We wanted to get them on their heels and keep them there. That’s the way we do it!”

Despite the strong arm of Campbell, the Cardinal catcher, once on base, the Mets were in a “go” mode to steal.

“We had to be careful. They have a very good catcher. Craig Campbell really has a gun for an arm, but we picked our opportunities to run.”

Mets Fiorino, Walsh, Joe Buontempo and Jeff Pazzo crossed the plate in the first. Bob Mroz, who

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NOT GOING TO BE FOOLED...Met batter Danny Noonan does not go after a low pitch in the University League championship series against the Cardinals.



A VERY FORMIDABLE DEFENSE...The Westfield laxer boys defensive squad did not fool around if an opposing offensive player attempted to penetrate their wall of steel.

## GILLIN GETS ALL-STATE 1ST TEAM RECOGNITION

# Blue Devil Boy Laxers Plan To Be NJ State Contenders

By STEVEN KRAKAUER  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

The Westfield High School Blue Devils Boys Lacrosse team had a season filled with many highs and lows, as luck seemed to run sour for the Devils during the entire season. This season, the Blue Devils were slotted to be major state contenders, but with an array of injuries their hopes were cut short in the second round of the state tournament. Westfield did, however, finish respectively, with an 11-8 record.

The injury plague struck early, as they lost their star goalie, junior Kevin Riley, in the very first game to a broken leg. Riley was never able to return at full-strength for the rest of the season. Fortunately, senior Dan Morrissey stepped in and performed marvelously all season.

Also, in a tense game against Ridgewood mid-way through the year, senior Co-Captain Brad Gillin broke his leg and fractured his ankle. In that same fateful game, junior Dave Santoriello also went down. However, despite the injuries, the Blue Devils hovered around the top-10 in the rankings.

The Blue Devils won their season opener against local rival A. L. Johnson of Clark, 13-11. Then for the next several games, they bobbled back and forth between .500, but eventually ended up at 6-5 the day that they faced Ridgewood. The Blue

Devils did put together two three-game winning streaks during the year. Their longest losing streak was only two games.

Outstanding in their particular positions were seniors, attackman

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## Raider Williams Selected Boys Track Athlete of Year

Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School junior Ray Williams has been selected All-Area Athlete of the Year in Boys Spring Track and Field by the Courier News. Williams headed a group of nine Raiders, seven Governor Livingston Highlanders, six Westfield Blue Devils and one Union Catholic Viking to be named to the All-Area list.

This season, Williams was spectacular on and off the track. On the track, nobody could touch him in the 400 meters as he breezed to an undefeated season and placed first at the Meet of Champions with a time of :47.31, among the top times in New

Jersey High School history in the event. He also made the Second Team in the 200 meters. Off the track, Williams was The Westfield Leader and The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood Scholar-Athlete of the Month for May.

Raider senior Derrion Aberdeen (high jump) and junior Bob Walden (3,200 meters) along with Highlander senior Andrew Whitney (pole vault) also were selected to the First Team All-Area. Named to the Second Team were Raiders Williams (200 meters) and senior Mike Dixon in the 800 meters. Walden was also named to

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## THORNTON LED TEAM IN ALL-AROUND STATISTICS Blue Devil Softballers Expect Even Better Results in 2002

By SETH AUGENSTEIN  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Despite only two returning seniors and one other returning starter, the Westfield girls' softball team pulled off a 16-7 record, with a significant victory over Cranford in the total. A young, but definitely solid roster surrounded several outstanding players, and it won games.

Senior Co-Captain Courtney Thornton was the offensive weapon of the team throughout the season. She led the team in almost every batting statistic, including home runs (6), walks (14), runs batted in (31), runs scored (25), slugging percentage (.917), on-base percentage (.592), and batting average (.483), to name a few. Amazingly, she only struck out once in her 60 at-bats. Thornton also set the new school record for most stolen bases in a single season, with 29.

Head Coach Maggie McFadden could not have been more pleased with this production.

“Courtney really came into her own this season and hit well consistently,” McFadden said.

Just as Thornton dominated opposing pitchers, junior Caitlin MacDonald dominated opposing batters. In 112 innings pitched, she had an earned-run average of 1.31, struck out 142, and kept her

opponent's batting average against her at an abysmal .151. As a result, MacDonald went 12-6.

McFadden was thrilled with her ace.

“Caitlin improved a lot this year. If you look at her ERA and the opposing batting average against her, it is clear that she had a great year. She finished the season with 10 shutouts and five no-hitters, so if she continues to improve, she will contribute a

lot to our team next year again,” the coach said.

MacDonald also managed to help her own cause out in her plate appearances, by batting .306 in 62 at-bats.

Junior Sara Bobertz was the other Westfield pitcher. Although she did not see many innings (32), she still maintained a healthy 2.60 ERA and held opposing batters to a .244 bat-

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ONE OF MANY RETURNEES...Junior catcher Tara Dowling is one of the many Blue Devils who will return next year.

## 'POUNDING' PETE CHEMIDLIN LAUNCHES SOLO HR Joltin' St. 'Joes' Shoot Down Dangerous James Gang, 12-5

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

Guns were a blazin', but the heavy artillery came mostly from the metal “thunder sticks” of St. Joseph at Brookside Park in Scotch Plains on June 15. The Joe boys put together a legitimate 15-hit attack, including a home run, two triples and two doubles, to down the notorious St. James “Gang”, 12-5, in St. Bartholomew's Oldtimers Men's

Softball League action. Gerry Rites and Harry Semple slapped two hits and scored two runs each, and Malcolm Boone banded two hits and two RBI. But the big boom came in the bottom of the fifth when lefty “Pounding” Pete Chemidlin launched a solo blast to never-never land in right field.

The “Gang” had some pop of their own as they tapped 12 hits – 11 singles. “Kracking” Karl Grossmann

lined two singles and drove in three gang members. Leadoff batter Bob Stratton ripped two singles and scored twice and Dan Margolis mashed two singles.

However, a softball game is not all offense. Jaws dropped when the spectacular St. Joseph Dynamic Duo, third baseman Marty Bernstein and shortstop Dan Perrine, displayed their defensive brilliance, preventing several James Gang breakouts. Either Bernstein or Perrine figured in 12 of the 14 infield putouts.

Sanity prevailed early as each team scored just one run in the first inning. “Gang” man Stratton, who reached base on an error, later scored when Grossmann placed an RBI single to center. In the bottom of the inning, Rites doubled to left, scooted to third on a ground out and scored on Boone's sacrifice fly to center.

In the second, the Joe boys rocked the Gang on its heels with a four-run pelting. Matt Fugett patiently walked, Bernstein plunked a ball safely into right field and Don Rowbotham hooked a two-run single to right. Pat Enright tapped an RBI single and Dean Talcott followed with a single which also eluded the center fielder, allowing Enright to score.

With pride, the James Gang banged back with three in the third. Joe Murano reached on a fielder's choice, Stratton and Mike Brennan both singled and Pat Nigro lofted an RBI

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NOT JUST A POWER HITTER...“Pounding” Pete Chemidlin of St. Joseph proves that he can field as well as hit towering home runs against the James Gang.

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