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THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section - Pages 11-15

WESTFIELD TAKES SECOND, RAIDERS GRAB FOURTH

Blue Devil Eisenberg Claims Union County Net Title

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

Conditioning, concentration and talent are among the many essential ingredients to become a success in athletics. But honor and integrity are especially brought to the forefront in high school tennis and golf. When golfing with acquaintances, a peculiarly good score sometimes arises when it seems apparent that it could not possibly be true. In high school tennis, a player must accept his/her opponent's ruling on a close call.

Not only did Westfield High School sophomore Dave Eisenberg win the Union County third singles tennis title by defeating second-seeded Will Sehnert of Summit at Tamaques Park in Westfield on May 4, but he also showed what the sport is all about when it comes to integrity.

With one champion and three third-places, Westfield had a total of 72 points, second only to Summit at 96. Scotch Plains-Fanwood tied for fourth with a team total of 28, by taking third at second doubles and fourth at second singles.

Prior to his championship match, Eisenberg rolled over Union Catholic Viking Drew Terpenning, 6-3, 6-0, then continued rolling with

a 6-4, 6-2 conquest of Brett Kraft of New Providence in the semis. "I lost a few games but I thought I had control of the match," said Eisenberg after his semifinals match. "He is a good player but I think I went through it pretty easily."

Considering his upcoming match

lot of factors to consider. He hits deep and hard, so I'm going to play my game and hope to beat him."

Eisenberg's considers his game to be a mixture of consistency and power. And, "I try to hit deep strokes, and when he hits the short ball, I will come in and try to put it away with a volley."

In the finals, although Sehnert was a very tough opponent, Eisenberg appeared to be in control in the 90 degree heat, winning the first set 6-1 and jumping to a 4-1 lead in the second set. But the stubborn Sehnert came on strong, won the next two games and won his first two serves in the next game. Facing a possible, 4-4, tie, Eisenberg mentally regrouped and won the game.

Next, Sehnert called for a rest period, and both agreed. Seeming a little out of rhythm, Eisenberg faulted his first two serves, talked to himself out loud and got into a long volleying war until he had Sehnert at match point. After some furious action, Sehnert looped the ball over the charging Eisenberg and the ball appeared to be heading out. Eisenberg responsively called "out" then quickly called "in," prolonging the game perhaps five minutes. People

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David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
Third Singles Champion Dave Eisenberg

with Sehnert, Eisenberg said, "I beat him once before. But it was a three-set match and indoors. So there are a



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
ABOUT TO SET A PERSONAL BEST...Blue Devil Adam Walker heads for the finish line in the 4x200. Laquan McCoy, Diano Reavis, Miguel Cruz and Walker recorded a team personal best in the event.



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
TIGHTLY CONTESTED RACE...Blue Devil Sara Mahrain, left, Raider Stephanie Heath, center, and Viking Rebecca Babicz stick close to each other in the distance medley relay.

BLUE DEVIL GIRLS GET 2ND, GL BOYS FINISH 6TH

Raider Boys, Girls Capture Union County Relay Crowns

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

Two first-places and a crucial third-place finish in the waning moments of the Union County Relays at Williams Field in Elizabeth on May 3 gave the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School boys track team its second-straight title. The boys totaled 70 points to edge the Elizabeth boys, who totaled 67. Governor Livingston placed sixth at 37 and Westfield finished eighth at 28. The Raider girls also successfully defended their title by out-pointing Westfield, 55-47.

Senior Derrion Aberdeen played a key role in all three of those crucial events. First, he cleared 6'2" in the high jump, and along with Mike Franzone and Mike Buffardi totaled 17'4.5" to take first. Moments later, Aberdeen soared 22'2" - a personal best - in the long jump, and along with Ray Williams (19'11.75") and Gary Fletcher (18'8.25") captured first with a total of 61'2".

Before the 4x400 - the final event - which involved Aberdeen, Mike Dixon, Franzone and Williams, a pumped up Williams shouted, "Come on! We have to do what has to be done!"

Going into the anchor leg, Williams found himself in sixth but passed up three runners, with a split of :47.5, to give the Raiders third with a time of 3:25.2. The Westfield foursome of Rich Miller (50.7), Earl Lambert (52.3), Diano Reavis (50.5) and anchor Adam Walker (49.5) finished second with a personal-best time of 3:23.7.

"We just cut three seconds off our personal best," expressed an elated Walker.

"But our baton passes were a little shaky, so I think we can do even better," said Miller.

Laquan McCoy, Reavis, Miguel Cruz and Walker turned in another Blue Devil personnel best by placing third in the 4x200 at 1:30.8.

Shot putters - Adam Powers, Tim Lee and Chris Feighner - gave the Raiders another crucial first with a combined distance of 135'4.5", edging Union by just two inches.

Equally important to the Raiders' success was the careful spreading of their athletes over many events to maximize their point potential. One example came in the boys 4x1,600 - the first event of the afternoon -

when Walt Biner, Matt Schimming, Zack McGuire and Bob Walden finished second with a time of 19:31.4.

"We are trying to win the meet, so we are spreading the guys out to maximize our points," explained Raider distance coach Jeff Koegel. "If we were a weaker team, we would try to load up to win some events. We may not run our best team in any event. It's to put the good of our team first."

Raiders Dixon, Williams, Andrew Elko and Walden came in second in the distance medley relay with a time of 10:50.1. The strong Cranford team grabbed first with a time of 10:45.7.

Dixon, who ran the first leg, commented, "I felt that I came out too strong and made my move too quickly. I knew Styler was behind me waiting for me to go, and he was going to go with me."

Andrew Whitney and Dan DeOliveira of Governor Livingston won the pole vault, totaling 25'0". Whitney had the best height in the meet at 13'0" but had his sights set on 13'7".

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MORRISSEY SAVES 9, FOUR DEVILS NET HAT TRICKS

Devil Boy Laxers Lambaste Reeling Red Devils, 15-9

By DAVID B. CORBIN
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Recently, Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde must have been playing for the Westfield High School boys lacrosse team. On May 2, a mild-mannered Dr. Jekyll got jostled around by the visiting Hunterdon Central boys in the first half, but Mr. Hyde took over and routed the Red Devils, 10-3, in the second half as the Blue Devils went on to win, 15-9.

Midfielders Matt Simone, Bill Schultz, Mike Debossy and attackman Chris Dodge all netted hat tricks and senior midfielder Brad Gillin stuffed in two second-half goals. Attacker Tim Mansfield also scored a goal.

It was true that the Blue Devils seemed quite tepid in the first half as they had been in the two previous games.

"A lot was just us. We weren't playing up to our ability in the first half," suggested Blue Devil Head Coach Gerry Benaquista. "We did the same thing last week against Delbarton. We played a half a game. The heat distracted us, but they came back in the second half. We are a close team, and when we are in tight games, we are going to pull them off (win) because of that."

The flame burned brightly in the second half and back they certainly came as the Blue Devils put together

two, five-straight goal runs. The first came with three goals in the third quarter and two more early in the final quarter. The second run came in the final eight minutes. The Blue Devils' passing skills were sharp around the

goal and their patience provided them with the opportunity to sight openings in the Red Devils' defense.

"We really settled down in the second half. We were throwing the

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David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
VERY QUICK CUSTOMER...Blue Devil laxer Brad Gillin, No. 3, concentrates on getting the ball. Gillin scored two lightning goals against Hunterdon Central.

LUDMER WHACKS 3-RUN HR., DUELKS BELTS SOLO

Devil Diamond Boys Muzzle Bears, 12-4, in UC Tourney

By DAVID B. CORBIN
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Blue Devil metal bats have been on fire recently. For the fifth-straight game, the Westfield High School baseball team has scored more than 10 runs per game and have done it with

the influence of the home run ball.

In the first round of the Union County tournament, the Blue Devils amassed 12 hits, including a three-run home run from junior catcher Josh Ludmer and a colossal solo shot from senior Mike Duelks, and muzzled

the 9-6 Brearley Bears, 12-4.

Ludmer, who has blasted home runs in three-straight games, has been equally and increasingly impressive defensively. In addition to his gunning down a potential base stealer in the second inning, he has controlled the defense magnificently.

"He's in a real nice streak now. He's hitting the ball right on the nose. It's not one of those long fly ball moon shots," - which could be caught in a field with no fences - said Blue Devil Head Coach Bob Brewster.

As to Ludmer's defense, Brewster emphasized, "I have been very pleased with what he has been doing behind the plate. I said before that he is a throwback to the old days. He made a comment to me, 'I wish that I could have played when the runners can run you over.' He is as hard nosed as they come. Being an old catcher myself, I can really appreciate that."

The Blue Devils seemed to be jumping on the first pitch delivered from Bear hurler Rich Sporer, and doing it effectively.

"That's not our usual strategy. Our usual strategy is to be more patient

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David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
HOLDING THE RUNNER ON...Blue Devil pitcher Nick Geissler tosses to first baseman Blair Richardson in an effort to hold the Brearley runner.

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