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THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section
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HENSAL NAILS WINNER; 8 YELLOW CARDS GIVEN

Raiders Win Sudden Victory; Top Soccer Devils, 2-1, in OT

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

The sun appears yellow, bananas are yellow and daffodils are a pretty shade of yellow, but the eight yellow cards that were flickered during the Union County boys' soccer semifinal game between Westfield and Scotch Plains-Fanwood at Kean University in Union on October 28 were anything but pretty. What was pretty,

however, was the enthusiasm and determination of each team. Despite being the recipients of all eight yellow cards and one red card issued to Head Coach Tom Breznitsky, the Raiders endured a persistent Blue Devil attack to grab a 2-1 double-overtime, sudden victory, when junior striker Jeff Hensal ripped the net with 7:19 left.

"It was a great game. We didn't

come out as strong as we would like to but we got the results we wanted, maybe not the way we planned it but it's a win," said Raider spokesman Hensal.

"I couldn't be more proud of my guys," said Blue Devil Head Coach George Kapner. "We played a great game, a very skilled game. I hate this word but we were unlucky today. I've got to give the Scotch Plains kids a lot of credit. They played hard and made the best of an opportunity late in the game."

With just a few yellow cards given in the first half, the fervor intensified midway through the second half, blossoming six more. Added involvement and protesting from coach Breznitsky earned him his red card and rejection from the field of play.

If time of possession counted, the edge would have gone to Westfield but the ball must go in the net. Raider goalie Ricky Fleissner made five saves in regulation and saw to it that the only goal was made on a penalty shot - an obvious handball in the box - by senior Dan Caprario with less than three minutes remaining in regulation.

"Ricky definitely had a great game. He came up big for us today. He was unlucky with the penalty kick but there is nothing you can really do with that," explained Hensal.

The Raiders got off the most dangerous shots, especially toward the



DAVID B. CORBIN FOR THE WESTFIELD LEADER AND THE TIMES
TAYLOR COLE USING HIS HEAD...Raider Taylor Cole, No. 21, heads the ball back toward Blue Devil territory as Blue Devil striker Dan Lynes converges.

HALSEY RUSHES 159 YARDS FOR 1 TD, GRABS TD PASS

Minutemen Footballers Chill Stunned Blue Devils, 28-0

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

Minuteman Ibrahim Halsey proved that he is one of the premier running backs in the state and No. 2 Elizabeth lived up to its lofty status by stopping the Westfield High School football team in its tracks, 28-0, at Williams Field in Elizabeth on October 26. The 7-0 Minutemen amassed 250 yards rushing and 73 yards passing - Halsey accounted for 159 rushing yards with one rushing touchdown (TD) and a 49-yard TD reception.

The 5-2 Blue Devils' failed to establish any offensive punch, scraping up just 23 yards rushing and 26 yards passing in the first half and 39

yards rushing in the second half. Westfield managed only three first downs in the first half and had possession of the ball for only five plays in the third quarter. Junior tight end Brian Butts made the only impressive offensive play with a diving grab of quarterback Louis Mercer's pass, good for 25 yards.

"Their defense was tremendous," acknowledged Blue Devil Head Coach Ed Tranchina. "They are ranked number two in the state and, when you see them in person, you can understand why. They were very dominating. We couldn't generate any offense against them. They were so fast but it was not only their speed.

They were very physical and very well drilled, very fundamental. They don't do a lot of things different on defense. They have pretty much one look and they play it really, really well."

On the other hand, the Blue Devil defense got more than its share of playing time. Linebackers Terrence Jenkins and Matt Daly led in tackles with nine and defensive end Matt Brinkman had seven while linebackers Butts and Matt Andzell had six each. Defensive back Jim McKeon and safety Jay Cook each made five tackles.

With so much opportunity on de-



DAVID B. CORBIN FOR THE WESTFIELD LEADER AND THE TIMES
NECESSARY TO MAKE GANG TACKLES ON THE MINUTEMEN...To stop the mighty Minutemen, it was necessary for the Blue Devils to tackle en masse. Blue Devils Chris MacKay, No. 77, Matt Brinkman, No. 65, Bob Wilt, No. 81, and Matt Daly, No. 1, try to stop a Minuteman.



DAVID B. CORBIN FOR THE WESTFIELD LEADER AND THE TIMES
RAIDER 'WILD DOGS' GIVING CHASE...Raiders Matt Loomis, No. 53, and Andrew Pavoni, No. 33, chase after slippery Plainfield Cardinal quarterback Amir Dixon. The 15th-ranked Cardinals won a 34-27 thriller over the Raiders.

SCHILLER PASSES, RUNS, CATCHES TOUCHDOWNS

No. 15 Cardinals Grab 34-27 Win Over Raider Gridders

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

Take two well-coached football teams, two teams with very talented athletes and two teams that do not give up, and what do you get? You get a thriller.

Plainfield, ranked 15th, saw a 14-point half time lead extinguished by a determined Scotch Plains-Fanwood team, but caught the breaks at the right time to edge the Raiders, 34-27, in Plainfield on October 27. Failure to convert on a first-and-ten from the Plainfield 14-yard line with the score tied 27-27 shifted the momentum and cost the 5-2 Raiders a mild upset.

Raider quarterback Brian Schiller hit 14 of 27 passes for 190 yards, including one touchdown (TD) and two interceptions, ran for a four-yard TD and had a 13-yard TD reception. Halfback Kyle Adams, who had a 71-yard kickoff return, rushed for 82

yards on 20 carries and had a two-yard TD run. Wide receiver Steve Williams had a huge day with six receptions for 126 yards and Ray Williams had four receptions for 50 yards, including a fantastic 28-yard TD reception.

Josh Wexler had a fumble recovery, an interception and led the Raiders with 13 tackles. Andrew Pavoni made 11 tackles, Matt Loomis had 10 and Adam Bendik had nine. Wesley Warchol had a fumble recovery.

Credit must be given to the tricky Cardinal offensive led by deceptive quarterback Amir Dixon, who had TD runs of 16, 18 and four yards and passed for one TD. Dixon also had 17 rushes for 144 yards - 104 in the first half. Senior 240-pound fullback Kevin Wright needed no tricks as he bashed for 105 yards, including a 57-yard TD rumble, on nine carries. The

game clincher came when Jameel Griffin scooted 70 yards to set up the winning TD.

"We laid it on the line," said Raider Head Coach Steve Ciccotelli. "You don't always win. The thing that we look for is effort, and we played hard. I'm proud to be their coach."

The Raiders marched 81 yards to the end zone on five plays thanks to a 55-yard Schiller to Steve Williams reception which placed the ball on the Cardinal 25. After moving to the 13, chicanery came into play when Schiller pitched out to Adams, drifted to the end zone and caught Adams' pass with 9:30 left in the first quarter.

After the Raiders' offense went flat, the Cardinals took advantage two minutes into the second quarter when Dixon scored from the 16. The PAT failed. With 3:39 left in the half, Dixon scored from the 18. Wright

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