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# THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section - Pages 11-16

## BUTTS GRABS WINNING TD WITH 1:07 LEFT, ADAMS SCORES 3 TDs

### Devil Gridders Keep Fans on Edge; Pass Raiders, 21-19, in Final Minute

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

Heroes emerge when it counts. In a game that really counted, as far as a high school rivalry goes, the Westfield Blue Devils, with their backs seemingly to the wall, and with the help of some of those heroes, pulled out a successful 55-yard touchdown march in the waning moments of the game to edge a very talented Scotch Plains-Fanwood football team, 21-19, in Scotch Plains on September 22.

passes. The stubborn "Devils' Brigade" defense, led by linebacker Matt Andzell and end Matt Brinkman, put plenty of pressure on Raider quarterback Brian Schiller, forcing him to flee the pocket and throw off-course to his prime receivers Steve Williams and Ray Williams. Additionally, the Devil defensive backs lined up deep to contain the dangerous receivers.

"They are a good defense. Let me tell you!" said Blue Devil Head Coach

Raiders' second TD. Senior fullback Matt Daly, who was the Raider killer in last year's game, punished the Raiders with 69 yards rushing on 11 carries, including consecutive bursts of 18 and eight yards to set up the winning TD. Another Daly, junior linebacker Pat, made a crushing hit on Raider receiver Ray Williams in the final minute to force an incompletion.

"It was a great football game. Somebody lost, somebody won, but nobody gives a darn because of all the troubles in the world," suggested Tranchina. "You don't beat a team like this unless everybody on your team steps up. That's a great football team we just beat. They will be in the Group 3 state finals. They had a lot of weapons and they are well coached."

third-and-five, Schiller found Josh Finkelstein for a 26-yard reception. Fullback Andrew Pavoni plowed forward 12 yards to the Blue Devil 49

**PARAPHRASE**  
"Winning a game lies in the hearts of the players. It's not whether you get knocked down, it's whether you get back up."  
Vince Lombardi

then added another six-yard rush before Adams jettied 43 yards into the end zone with 2:10 left in the half.



DAVID B. CORBIN FOR THE WESTFIELD LEADER AND THE TIMES  
PILED UP BY "WILD DOGS"...Blue Devil halfback Diano Reavis, No. 2, finds himself among a pack of Raider "Wild Dog" defensemen.



DAVID B. CORBIN FOR THE WESTFIELD LEADER AND THE TIMES  
PURSUED BY THE "DEVILS' BRIGADE"...Raider halfback Kyle Adams is pursued heavily by the "Devils' Brigade" defense, especially Diano Reavis, who tries to strip him of the ball.

Blue Devil junior Brian Butts became a thorn in the side to the Raiders' "Wild Dog" defense as he had three key receptions for 57 yards, including the game-winning eight-yard touchdown reception in the right corner of the end zone with 1:07 left in the game. Senior quarterback Louie Mercer found his receivers when it was needed and completed seven of 15 for 126 yards and two TD

Ed Tranchina of the Raiders' "Wild Dogs". "But the 'Devils' Brigade' was tough today."

On the other hand, junior halfback Kyle Adams recorded all three of the Raiders' TDs on jaunts of 43, 4 and 95 yards, respectively, totaling 172 yards on 17 carries. He also had a six-yard reception and made two key fumble recoveries, one in the third quarter that set up the

The Raiders appeared to be on their way when Schiller connected with receiver Steve Williams for a 47-yard gain to the Blue Devil 29, but the march stalled on the 19. After a modest one-yard gain, Mercer hit wide receiver Jay Cook, who galloped 41 yards to the Raider 39. Seven rushing plays later, on the first play of the second quarter, halfback Diano Reavis - nine carries for 78 yards - bashed in from the four and Andrew Lessner added the point after.

Ray Williams received the kick-off and returned it 35 yards to midfield but the Raiders were forced to punt. Westfield took over on the 11. On second-and-eight, Reavis, on a reverse, streaked 61 yards before being chased down by Ray Williams. A personal foul against the Raiders moved the ball to the 13. From there, with 8:43 left in the half, Cook hauled in Mercer's pass in the end zone. Lessner's PAT jumped the Blue Devils' lead to 14-0.

Fortune continued with the Blue Devils as safety Pedro Ruiz picked off Schiller's pass at midfield but Adams returned the favor with an interception at the Raider seven. On

## MENDES GETS ALL-AROUND, GRABEL WINS VAULT

### Young Raider Gymnasts Sink Bridgewater, 100.85-93.4

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

Youth came through to earn the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School gymnastics team a 100.85-93.4 victory over Bridgewater-Raritan in Scotch Plains on September 21. After a 102.275-98.425 setback to Somerville on September 13 and a tune up victory over hosting Elizabeth on September 19, the Raiders were in full strength against the Bridgewater Panthers.

"We had a girl out sick (against Somerville) and had several routines in question, so we took it as a prac-

tice meet to see what we had," explained Raider Head Coach Tracy Brown.

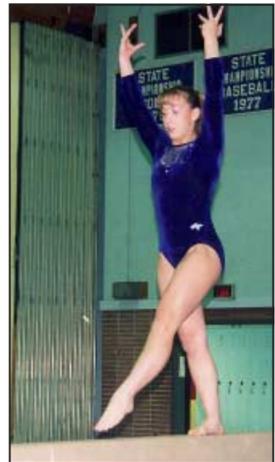
Featuring just one senior, Megan Grabel, the Raiders needed their underclassmen to come through; and they did. The Raiders' bread and butter, sophomore Kyla Mendes, grabbed first in three of the four events and won the all-around with a total of 34.2. Grabel set the pace by capturing first in the very first event, the vault, with a score of 8.75. Grabel also placed third in the uneven bars at 8.4.

Mendes took top honors in the balance beam with an 8.45, the uneven bars with an 8.8 and the floor exercise with an 8.7. On the beam, she demonstrated strength and balance with a stride handstand, had fine elevation on her leaps and was graceful with her full twists. On the uneven bars, she was smooth on her giant swings and stuck her flyaway

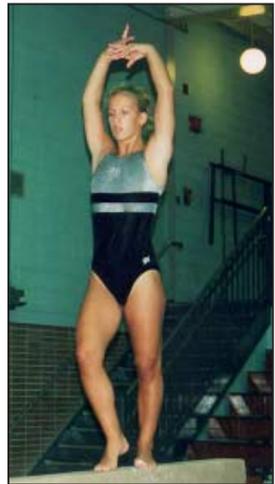
dismount. Mendes was dazzling on the floor with her two, full-twisting back somersaults.

"She's looking great this year. She's finally confident with herself. She is putting harder stuff in her routines but we still need to add a straddle back (transfer from high bar to low bar) in her bar routine," said Brown of Mendes. "She did two (twisting) fulls (somersaults on the floor). I wasn't sure that I wanted her to do them but she said 'I'm doing them' and she did."

Freshman Jackie DeJohn placed second in the all-around with a total of 33.3. Featuring giant swings, a half-twisting overshoot transfer and a flyaway dismount, she earned second in the uneven bars with an 8.45. Highlighted by a half-twisting back somersault, she took second on the floor with a score of 8.6. DeJohn also placed third on the beam at 8.05.



DAVID B. CORBIN FOR THE LEADER AND THE TIMES  
Sophomore Kyla Mendes



DAVID B. CORBIN FOR THE LEADER AND THE TIMES  
Freshman Jackie DeJohn

## SAM 'B-T' SERVES 8, AIDS 12; N. LEBLANC KILLS 7

### Lady Blue Devils Hold Down Raider V'ballers, 15-0, 15-13

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

Slamming the door on what seemed to be a walkover turned out to be a bit more difficult than expected for the Westfield High School girls' volleyball team. After rolling easily (15-0)

12 assists - had nine and eight service points, respectively, while the Raiders relied offensively on sophomore Nina Baker, who garnered eight service points. Blue Devil junior outside hitter Nikki LeBlanc had a heavy hand in the victory, notching

Four of Nikki LeBlanc's kills kept the ball in Blue Devil hands. Jill Woodbury served up the first four points, senior Sam Sa ran off six service points and Bourque-Trieff added the finishing touches with five.

This season, Bourque-Trieff has adjusted very well as a setter. "She was an off-setter last year and stepped right into the shoes. She's our team quarterback and she's doing just fine," pointed out Blue Devil Head Coach Bev Torok.

Nikki LeBlanc emerged onto the varsity level in a big way. "She is our number 1 outside hitter, our best passer and can really hammer the ball. We are looking to her. It's a big position to fill, there is a lot of pressure and she's handling it well," said Torok.

Baker, with the help of a kill from Gillooly, changed the momentum and served up the first five points in game 2. But Woodbury, with the help of solo kills from Jackie and Nikki LeBlanc, brought the Blue Devils back to within one.

Moments later, two more stuffs from Nikki and another from sophomore Ali McMahon pushed the Blue Devils to a 9-6 lead. Just as the breeze of victory appeared to flow Westfield's way, back came Baker with three more service points, knotting the score. With the assistance of Feeley's second kill and senior Lind-



DAVID B. CORBIN FOR THE WESTFIELD LEADER AND THE TIMES  
MAJOR BLUE DEVIL WEAPON...Senior Sam Sa, No. 17, had six-straight service points against the Raiders in game 2.

in the first game, the Blue Devils had to come from behind to defeat the determined Scotch Plains-Fanwood girls in game two, 15-13, in Scotch Plains on September 20.

Blue Devils Jill Woodbury and senior setter Sam Bourque-Trieff -

seven kills while Raider outside hitters sophomore Katie Feeley and senior Erin Gillooly hammered two each.

With only two interruptions, the Blue Devils breezed to victory with service streaks of four, six and five.

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**W B A BASKETBALL CLINICS AND TRAVELING TRYOUTS**

**CLINICS**  
FOR STUDENTS INTERESTED IN PLAYING TRAVELING BASKETBALL THIS WINTER.

Where: **Westfield High School, 7:30PM to 10:00PM**  
When: **Tues. Oct. 9 - 8th Grade Boys**  
**Wed. Oct. 10 - 6th, 7th & 8th Grade Girls**  
**Thurs. Oct. 11 - 6th & 7th Grade Boys**

Where: **Edison Intermediate School, 7:00PM to 9:00PM**  
When: **Wed. Oct. 10 - 4th & 5th Grade Boys**  
**Thurs. Oct. 11 - 4th & 5th Grade Girls**

**TRAVEL TRYOUTS FOR WINTER WBA BASKETBALL**

(ALL TIMES ARE PM AND ATTENDANCE AT BOTH SESSIONS IS REQUIRED.) TYPICAL TIME COMMITMENT WILL BE 4 SESSIONS PER WEEK. PRACTICE, 2 GAMES AND SATURDAY IN-TOWN.

**BOYS:**  
**8th Grade** - Wednesday October 24 at WHS from 7:30 - 10:00 and Friday October 26 at WHS from 8:30 to 10:00  
**7th Grade** - Thursday October 18 at WHS from 8:30 - 10:00 and Friday October 26 at WHS from 7:30 - 8:30  
**6th Grade** - Wednesday October 17 at Edison from 7:00 - 9:00 and Tuesday October 23 at Roosevelt from 7:30 - 9:00  
**5th Grade** - Tuesday October 16 at Roosevelt from 7:30 - 9:00 and Wednesday October 24 at Edison from 7:00 - 9:00  
**4th Grade** - Thursday October 18 at WHS from 7:30 - 8:30 and Tuesday October 23 at Roosevelt from 6:00 - 7:30

**GIRLS:**  
**8th Grade** - Tuesday October 23 at WHS from 7:30 - 10:00 and Thursday October 25 at WHS from 8:30 - 10:00  
**7th Grade** - Tuesday October 23 at WHS from 7:30 - 10:00 and Thursday October 25 at WHS from 8:30 - 10:00  
**6th Grade** - Thursday October 18 at Roosevelt from 7:30 - 9:00 and Thursday October 25 at Edison from 7:00 - 9:00  
**5th Grade** - Tuesday October 16 at Roosevelt from 6:00 - 7:30 and Thursday October 18 at Roosevelt from 6:00 - 7:30  
**4th Grade** - Thursday October 18 at Edison from 7:00 - 9:00 and Thursday October 25 at WHS from 7:30 - 8:30

The WBA is also looking for women and men interested in being Coaches and Assistant Coaches for travel squads.

For questions feel free to call the WBA at (908) 654 - 6361, or you can contact Tom Pickert at pickert@home.com