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THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section
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SOFKA CRUSHES 2-RUN HR, BAKER SCORES RAIDER RUN

Blue Devil Baseball Boys Rip Raider Diamond Boys, 17-1

By ADAM TURNER
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

The Westfield High School baseball team has been determined to not let a 9-8 loss to rival Cranford put a damper on their fine season. And on April 8, the six runs let up in the bottom of the ninth inning in that game were far out of their heads.

On April 15, the Devils battered

host Scotch Plains-Fanwood 17-1, with the game ending after five innings due to the 10-run rule. Sophomore Kyle Baker became the only Raider to cross home plate, but not until the final inning.

It was apparent from the beginning, this would be Westfield's game. In the top of the first, senior third baseman Mike Sofka, after Jim McKeon

walked, crushed the ball over the left field fence providing the Devils with a 2-0 lead. From there, this motivated team never looked back.

"After the Cranford loss, our theme in practice was come back tough and we've done that ever since. We've used that game as a stepping stone in our season," said Westfield Head Coach Bob Brewster.

After junior pitcher Andrew Garrison sat down the first three Raider batters in order, the onslaught began. Westfield senior first baseman Blair Richardson led off the second with a single and from there the Devils proceeded to hit around the order twice.

Raider pitcher Dave Senatore (nine earned runs) did not have his command for the one-and-a-third inning he pitched and Raider coach Brian Homm's move to bring in Steve Horn did not help the cause as he let up six runs, only three earned.

The Raider defense did not help either by committing four errors that resulted in four runs.

Eighteen batters, seven hits, six walks and 13 runs later, Raider pitcher Josh Wexler retired Devil catcher Josh Ludmer, his first batter faced, to end the top of the second.

"It was one of the biggest runs I've ever seen in high school baseball," said Brewster.

After that, all Garrison had to do was protect a 15-run advantage. Gar-

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David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
PART OF THE ATTACK CREW...Blue Devil senior Josh Ludmer swings for another hit against the Raiders. Westfield unloaded and defeated the Raiders, 17-1. Westfield improved its record to 5-1-1.

WILLIAMS RUNS SUB-46 SPLIT, WENDEL GETS 2 1STS

Raider Girls Win, Devil Boys Tie for 3rd at Summit Relays

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

Even more national attention could be expected to focus on Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School superstar Ray Williams once the word gets out that he ran a 45.9 split for 400 meters to help his team win the distance medley relay event in the Summit Relays at Tatlock Field in Summit on April 13. The Raiders attracted more attention when the girls won three events to capture first in their division with a team total of 90.

Although Williams left spectators in awe of his achievement, the Westfield High School boys achieved a tie for third with Plainfield in Division 2 with a 46 total while the Raiders tied for fifth with Mendham totaling 34 points. Union placed first with 74 points and Seton Hall Prep grabbed second with 61.

In addition to Williams' time of 45.9, sophomore Brian Kopnicki finished his 800 leg in a personal-best 2:03.9, sophomore Zack McGuire crossed in 3:15.8 (personal-best) for his 1,200 leg and senior Bob Walden completed the 1,600 leg in 4:31.3 to total 10:36.8, perhaps the fastest time in the state thus far.

"This was the focal point of the meet for us," expressed Raider Head Coach Jeff Koegel. "This weekend was the last weekend to attain Penn Relay qualifying times. Our mark of 10:52 from last week was insufficient, so the goal was to make the time (10:40) at this meet."

According to Koegel, Kopnicki was in fourth place when he passed the baton to Williams. "Jaws dropped all around as Williams split a 45.9, 400 leg to bring us to first and blow the race open."

McGuire widened the lead and handed off to Walden. "The only question was whether or not we would break 10:40," said Koegel. Walden took the baton and began to lap runners immediately. "This was the fastest DMR time in the six years I have been coaching at SPF."

Westfield finished fourth in the event with a time of 11:23.4. According to known records, Williams became only the second high school runner to run under 46 seconds. Raider Olympian Renaldo Nehemiah also recorded a 45.9 in 1977 at the Penn Relays.

The Blue Devil boys were very effective in the jumping events, winning the high jump and the long jump. Junior Adam Wendel continued to improve as he cleared 6'6" and Earl Lambert cleared 5'2" to total 11'8" in the high jump. Wendel

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ROSADO HAMMERS 3-RUN HR, RIZZO GOES 4-FOR-4

Lions Creep Ahead, Hold Off U. C. Viking Softballers, 6-5

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

Mistakes can be quite costly, and they were for the hosting Union Catholic High School softball team in its, 6-5, loss to Roselle Catholic on April 11. Three of the five Viking errors allowed the Lions to creep across the plate with four additional runs - one with the tying run and another with the eventual winning run.

"We didn't deserve to win. We didn't catch. We didn't throw. We didn't hit," said a disappointed Viking Head Coach Jim Revel. "When you have as many errors as we had, it's just not supposed to be."

All was not bad, however, as Viking pitcher, junior Sue Hennessy, struck out six Lions and yielded six hits in five innings and freshman reliever Danielle Chapla burned five

Lions and yielded no hits in her two innings on the mound. Two Vikings did add some offensive clout. Senior Melissa Rosado bashed an over-the-fence, three-run home run and junior Kristen Rizzo went 4-for-4, including a double.

Offensively, Lion Gina Johnston was treacherous with three hits, including two doubles, an RBI, a stolen base, and a run scored. Pitcher Kristen Kennedy appeared to get stronger as the game progressed by fanning seven of her 10 strikeout victims in the final three innings.

The Vikings started well defensively in the first inning when Johnston attempted to stretch her first double into a triple but was gunned down on a fine left field-to-short to third relay. Unfortunately, in the third, the defensive magic

vanished. With two outs, Johnston singled and stole second, Lee Ann Potochney and Meghan Hurd both walked to load the bases and a dropped fly ball in left field gave the Lions a 2-0 lead.

The Viking bats came to life in the bottom of the inning and four runs scored. Sophomore Lauren Huber walked and sophomore Aly Farawell chopped a single past third. Hennessy ripped an RBI single to center and Rosado hammered her three-run shot to right center.

Roselle Catholic tied the score with two runs in the top of the fourth. Kennedy singled and Vanessa Copuz hopped a single over second that

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Steve Kim (Image 1 Hour Photo) for The Westfield Leader and The Times
BIG TIME SCORING THREAT...Blue Devil senior Tri-Captain Morgan Lang, center, weaves through Phillipsburg defenders en route to one of her five goals. Lang, who will play lacrosse at William and Mary next year, is one of the most feared scorers in the area.

LANG NETS 5 GOALS, 2 ASSISTS; PINO GETS 4 GOALS

Blue Devil Lady Laxers Rout 'P-burg' State Liners, 18-6

By ADAM TURNER
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Over the years the Westfield High School girls' lacrosse team has never been known to be a team to reckon with. This year, there's a different story and a different team in town. They are off to a 4-0 start, most recently beating Phillipsburg 18-6 on April 11 in Westfield.

Both teams came out quickly and scored two goals apiece. The Devils' first goal came when junior Staci Spass controlled the ball through the middle and passed to senior Ali Pino in front of the net, who had no trouble

putting it past Phillipsburg goalie Cassie Naumann.

Phillipsburg quickly responded with a goal by Megan Duke. Westfield freshman Sara Flood answered with a wrap-around goal. However, after Phillipsburg tied the game with a goal by Corinne Dochney, the tempo and control of the game swung completely in Westfield's favor.

To put it more accurately, the Devils got on their game. The defense, headed by senior Tri-Captain Elyse Goldweitz and junior goalie Julie Vanarelli, had not played well up to that point, but it would be them who

would shut down Duke and the Phillipsburg offense to enable the Westfield offense to make a run. And they did just that.

The Phillipsburg girls hadn't felt intimidated by the 15th ranked team in the *Star-Ledger* top-20, but something changed as Westfield took over the game. Phillipsburg had shut down Westfield's star player senior Tri-Captain Morgan Lang, who will play lacrosse at William and Mary next year, and when she got her game going, so did the Devils.

Pino started the run with a goal on

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MACDONALD FANS 12; WAGNER, CORBETT GET 3 HITS

Blue Devil Softballers Blank Struggling SPF Raiders, 7-0

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

Caitlin MacDonald pulled out another spectacular start and six different players crossed home plate for the Westfield High School softball team on April 15 in Westfield. The Blue Devils rocked neighboring rival Scotch Plains-Fanwood, 7-0.

MacDonald was clearly the superstar in the game, leading her team valiantly from the pitching rubber. On the mound, she struck out 12 batters (facing only 28 total) and limited the Raiders to only five hits.

"(Caitlin) always pitches really well. She's a strong asset to the team. We can always count on her to be top-notch," said senior Erin Corbett, who had a stellar game offensively,

batting 3-for-4, including a double, with an RBI and a run scored.

The Raiders got off to an excellent start, behind the solid pitching of Laura Manzi, who struck out the first two Blue Devils and did not yield a run in three of the six innings she pitched. Manzi went 1-for-3, with a single and a stolen base.

Westfield struck for three runs in the bottom of the second inning. Their bats came alive to the tune of singles and a two-run double by sophomore Jessica Guerriero. MacDonald added an RBI sacrifice fly.

In the fourth inning, the Raiders looked to mount a rally, as Lindsay Pennella and Michelle Fischer occupied bases with only one out. MacDonald extinguished any hope

of a come back, however, as she went on to fan the next two batters.

After adding a run in the third, the Blue Devils had a more successful fourth inning as three more Devils trampled over the plate. Senior Sara Bobertz blasted a single through the gap then went on to swipe second base. Rachel Wagner whacked an RBI single, and added a stolen base as well. Senior catcher Tara Dowling also had an RBI single of her own.

Wagner finished the game 3-for-3 with three singles and two runs scored. Dowling finished 2-for-4.

In the sixth inning, the Blue Devils got to show their skills in the field, as junior Lisa Venezia and senior Ashleigh Neme each made spectacular plays.

In total, every starting member of Westfield's team recorded a hit. "All the bats came around today," Corbett said.

The Raiders offense, although quiet for most of the game, showed flashes of brilliance. Shanayia Willis was 2-for-3 with two singles and Pennella also finished 2-for-3 in the game as well. On the mound, Manzi struck out seven Blue Devils.

Also contributing for Westfield was sophomore Lauren Gelmetti, who was 2-for-3 with a stolen base as well.

Looking ahead, Corbett has high hopes for the rest of the season. "We have a lot of confidence in our team. Hopefully we'll win counties this year," she said.

The Blue Devils play Kearny today away, in a game between two powerful competitors in the state.

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David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
SAFE AT THIRD BASE...Viking Suzanne Hennessy slides safely into third as Lion third baseman Meghan Hurd scrambles for the ball.

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