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THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section
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WILLIAMS MAKES N.J. HISTORY; MILLER, WENDEL WIN LONG JUMP

Lightning Strikes, Williams Bolts 45.8 In DMR at Blue Devil Track Classic

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

Another one of Man's triumphs took place at the Blue Devil Classic Track and Field Relays at Gary Kehler Stadium in Westfield on April 20 when Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School senior Ray Williams ran the fastest 400-meter split in New Jersey high school history. Also, the Westfield High School boys were impressive with two first places and the Raider boys and girls each captured one first place.

Although the Old Bridge boys won eight of the 13 events, the most elec-

"Coach (Lionel) Hutch has been telling me the key to run on the track is to go out fast, try to catch as many people as you can and I just did that," explained Williams.

In the era of the 1960s, the strategy of the 400 meters was not an all-out sprint, but Williams was flying at top speed from the beginning. "This race is a sprint (now)," said Williams. "There is no relaxed point in the race. It's 100 percent!"

All season, Williams has also competed in the 100 and 200 meters. "It really helps me to work on my explosion and speed. It only benefits me," said Williams.

Aware that every time he steps foot on a track, fans and competitors will be focusing on him, Williams said, "I love it. I thank God every night for giving me this athletic ability. I thank my coaches. It's not going to be forever. There's going to be bad moments. There's going to be good moments. So, I'm

just going to enjoy it now."

Blue Devil senior Rich Miller and junior Adam Wendel had respective leaps of 21'2.75" and 21'1" to win the long jump relay with a total distance of 42'3.75". Raiders Ray Williams and Mike Walker finished second in the event with a total of 41'8.75". Williams had the meet's best jump with a leap of 21'8.25".



David B. Corbin for The Leader and The Times
JUST TESTING...Although winning, Blue Devil Joe Hubbard tests the strength and flexibility of his pole.

Miller exploded onto the scene last year during the Union County Tournament but seemed to be a bit discouraged with his performance. "I'm getting off to a slow start. I have been getting good pop off the board but I have these nagging hamstring problems. Every time I go down the runway, they hold me back. I have been stretching a lot."

The future looks very bright for the Blue Devil boys in the pole vault as freshmen Mike Gorski and Mike Woods respectively cleared 11'6" and 10'6"

to seize first with a total of 22'0".

"As far as I know, Mike (Gorski) is the first one (freshman) I know to clear 11 feet," said Blue Devil field coach Greg Gorski. "Both he and Mike Woods have had some good meets indoor but now they are starting to get the feel of outdoors. They are a lot further ahead than I expected."

Blue Devil senior Joe Hubbard, who came later in the meet, topped all vault competitors, clearing 12'0".

"I jumped 12'6" at Scotch Plains. Other than that, I haven't been able to



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
A WINNING COMBINATION...Raider Jayme Ferraro hands off to Jill Kosciellecki to begin the final leg of the 4x400 meters. The Raider foursome, who set a SP-FHS record on April 13, won the event at the Blue Devil Classic at Gary Kehler Stadium in Westfield on April 20.

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WESTFIELD SHOWED POWER THROUGHOUT LINEUP

Blue Devil Baseballers Prove A Lot on the Diamond, Plate

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

Much was proven during the week of April 15 through April 20 by the Westfield High School baseball team.

The Blue Devils began the week with a 17-1, five inning drugging of Scotch Plains-Fanwood (SP-F) then staggered Hunterdon Central, 7-4, in Flemington on April 17. Two days later, the Blue Devils were collapsing Bridgewater-Raritan, 9-0 in three innings but it all became water under the dam when the game was called due to rain. Finally, on April 20, Westfield won the Greater North Plainfield Tournament by defeating Watchung Hills, 8-2, in North Plainfield.

Blue Devil pitcher Andrew Garrison held the SP-F Raiders to just two hits while his team unloaded with everybody in the lineup, reaching base safely. Mike Sofka blasted a two-run homer in the first inning then the game was in total control when 13 Blue Devils trampled the plate in the second.

The victory over Hunterdon Central was significant because the Red Devils had just come of a stunning victory over No. 6 North Hunterdon the day before. Josh Ludmer shattered a two-run homer in the five-run second inning. Ludmer also had two singles and a third RBI. Pitcher Jay Cook, who also had a double, recorded eight strikeouts and Sofka tripled.

The Blue Devils proved that the

victory was not a fluke when they were not very hospitable to visiting Bridgewater-Raritan on Friday. Westfield jumped out quickly with six runs in the first inning and added three more in the second before thun-

der struck fear in the minds of the umpires.

Brett Picaro led off the first with a single. Sofka and Ludmer both walked to load the bases and Blair Richardson

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Steve Kim (Image 1 Hour Photo) for The Westfield Leader and The Times
TOSSING A FINE GAME...Blue Devil sophomore John Boyd held Bridgewater at bay for three innings before the game was called due to thunder, etc.

"When I want to read about Man's failures, I read the Front page. When I want to read about Man's triumphs, I read the Sports page." - A Former United States Supreme Court Chief Justice.

trifying moment - other than the lightning that caused a 40-minute delay in the meet - came when Williams was timed at 45.8 in his leg of the distance medley relay. Williams, running the second leg, was the last to receive the baton but made the rest of the field seem like joggers as he whizzed past each with ease and finally passed the lead runner about 20 meters from the handoff point. In the end, Old Bridge won the event and the Raider foursome of Zack McGuire, Williams, Walter Biner and Bob Wallden placed third with a time of 10:43.3.

URBAN PULLS OFF SLICK SUICIDE SQUEEZE BUNT

Raider Baseballers Hold Off Highlanders in 7th, Win 7-6

By FRED LECOMTE
Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

In a back-and-forth contest, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood baseball team (4-3) claimed a 7-6 victory over visiting Governor Livingston (2-6-1) on April 17. The Raiders edged the Highlanders with strong pitching from Steve Pietrucha (2-1), Josh Wexler and closer, Dave Senatore. Kevin Wyvratt (0-2) took the loss.

"Senatore came in and did a nice job to finish off the game and for the most part we played solid defense," said Raider Head Coach Brian Homm. "Pietrucha pitched a heck of a game. He got hurt, then in came Josh Wexler who did a nice job in relief, so, I think the pitching did a good job for us today. We had a couple of key hits to score some runs early on, but that suicide squeeze laid down by Kevin

Urban, that scored a run, was big. As it turned out, that was the winning run. Also, Kyle Adams made that sensational catch out in centerfield that would cost us some runs."

The Raiders scored twice in the second inning. Adams whizzed a double to left and back-to-back walks loaded the bases. Shortstop Chris D'Annunzio stepped to the plate and exploded a two-run double to right. The Highlanders responded with a run in the top of the fourth on a deep sacrifice fly to center by senior catcher Steve Lesnowich. The Raiders widened the margin to 4-1 in the bottom of the inning. With runners on first and second, Urban singled to load the bases then Andrew Pavoni drilled a two-run double.

In the fifth, Highlander Chris Floyd hammered a towering three-run shot deep to center field to knot the score. The Raiders immediately answered with two runs. Marcus Dockery pummeled a double to right and Wexler ripped an RBI single. With runners on the corners, Urban laid down his suicide squeeze to boost the score to 6-4.

The Raiders added another run in the of the sixth when Jeff Hensal yanked a double and Steve Rodriguez

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Fred Lecomte for The Westfield Leader and The Times
THE PERFECT SQUEEZE...Raider Josh Wexler slides home safely in the sixth inning after a perfect squeeze bunt by Kevin Urban.

MILLER, FLOOD OVERWHELM WITH 3 GOALS EACH

Blue Devil Lady Laxers Roll By Newark Academy, 16-3

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

On April 13, it was do or die for the Westfield girls' lacrosse team as they took on Number 7 in the *Star Ledger* top-20 Bridgewater-Raritan.

Unfortunately they did the latter as they fell 15-5 and from there the rest of the season would be about whether they could rebound from it or let that loss define them.

On the following Tuesday they beat heated rival Oak Knoll, 10-9, coming back from a five goal deficit and then on Thursday, April 18 the girls built off that with a 16-3 trouncing of Newark Academy.

Westfield extended their record to 6-1, as Newark Academy was no match for them in Westfield.

The contest started out even with both teams coming out hot, Westfield used two goals from seniors Brittany Miller and Ali Pino to surmount a 2-1 lead.

It was all Devils from there on as Newark Academy's goal from Liz Parlin would be the only sight of a ball going past Westfield junior goalie Julie Vanarelli in the first half.

Vanarelli (12 saves) was simply impenetrable, as the Lady Minutemen kept shooting at her but had only one goal to show for it.

"When Julie is on, she's on. She's a great goalie who definitely saves us in key situations," said senior Tri-Captain Morgan Lang.



Steve Kim (Image 1 Hour Photo) for The Leader and The Times
Sophomore Laura Shelman

Westfield came out with a 8-1 lead in the second half but caught a quick wake up call as Newark Academy reminded them a lacrosse game is two halves, not one.

Parlin quickly netted her second goal on a wrap around, which was followed by Sarah Bernstein's splicing of the defense to score Newark Academy's third goal and cut the Devil lead to five.

In the first half the Devils had communicated well and coming out in the second half without Lang on the field the girls weren't doing that.

"Our defense played great, we need to have the confidence to always talk and communicate," said Lang.

After that wakeup call, the Devils went on to wear out the net and Newark Academy goalie Shannon Hedvat with eight straight goals to cap off their 15-goal win.

For the Devils it was the senior-junior combination of Miller and Ashley Kent who led the onslaught with three goals apiece, followed by senior Jenny Hayes, who put two of her own in.

Lang, Westfield leading scorer, scored only one, but assisted on three goals.

"We've been playing together for two years, we have confidence that every one on the field will make a

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Downtown Details



DOWNTOWN Westfield CORPORATION
A MainStreet Community



By Sherry Cronin, Executive Director

Greetings from the Downtown Westfield Corporation!

Just to keep you informed of what's happening in Downtown Westfield

- The Downtown Westfield Corporation welcomes the following exciting new businesses to the downtown:
- Mephisto Shoe of Westfield, the popular brand of women and men's shoes, is opening soon at 108 Quimby Street.
 - JetLife, a new concept sunspa and lifestyle store is opening at 221 East Broad Street.
 - Menina, located at 27 East Broad Street, offers fine clothing, handbags, and accessories.
 - Details New York, a jewelry and accessories store, is opening at the corner of North & Central Avenue.
 - Cingular Wireless will occupy the remainder of the building at the corner of North & Central Avenues.
 - Many Clever Hands, a store of unique crafts, gifts, and florals is opening at 20 Prospect Street, next to Northside Trattoria.
 - TakeGoodCare, a flagship home health store, is moving into the first floor of 222A North Avenue (the new building located in the former Excellent Diner site).
 - The Great Harvest Bread Co. will be opening soon in the former A.J.'s space near the North Avenue Train Station.
 - The former Fleet Bank building on the corner of Elm Street and East Broad has been sold. A prominent retailer is expected to occupy the first floor, and the second floor is being renovated for office space.

Closings/Relocations:

- The Johnson Agency, located at 20 Prospect Street, relocated upstairs in the same building. Sojourn Travel, previously located at 105 Elm Street, has moved to 414 Central Avenue. HobbyTown USA, located at 141 East Broad Street is in the process of closing.
- Samba Grill, located at 102-108 East Broad Street sustained minor fire damage and will be reopening soon. Backroom Antiques, 26 Prospect Street, is in the process of closing their retail store, but will be operating as home-based business. Look for Backroom Antiques to reopen in a retail space in approximately two years.

We're happy to report that The Gift Monkey, located at 266 East Broad Street, as well as The Hope Chest, 26 Prospect Street, both just celebrated their one year anniversary.

Downtown Improvements:

- You may have noticed the orange signs posted around the perimeter of downtown indicating that streetscape work is beginning. Focus projects of the Downtown Improvement Plan, largely funded by a Union County 2000 grant, will provide historic lights, brick pavers, landscaping, and new crosswalk treatments. These focus areas include Central Avenue from Cacciola to East Broad Street, Rialto Park, Theater Walk, Boulevard Gateway at South Avenue, and the intersection East Broad Street and Elm. The DWC is partnering with the Town of Westfield Department of Public Works and external contractors to complete these projects and looks forward to additional streetscape improvements in future years.
- Through cooperation with the DWC, many retailers and property owners have expressed interest in storefront enhancements utilizing the DWC's Design Committee, the DWC matching facade grant program, and other Main Street and county resources.

The Downtown Westfield Corporation (DWC), formed in 1996, is the management entity of the Special Improvement District. It is governed by a seven member Board of Directors, has two staff members, and numerous volunteers serving on Design, Promotion, Economic Development and Organization committees. The vision of the DWC is for Westfield, NJ to be a preferred destination where people want to live, work, and visit. Westfield is also honored to be one of 14 designated Main Street Communities in New Jersey and 402 certified nationally. According to the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Main Street Center, over the past 22 years, Main Street revitalization efforts have created 227,000 jobs, 56,000 businesses and have saved 89,000 historic buildings across the country.

Visit the Downtown Westfield Corporation website at: www.westfieldnj.ataclick.com. It is updated daily with Rialto movie listings, features a "Click of the Week" profile of selected businesses, features downtown events and press releases.