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THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section
Pages 11-14

MARTORANO GETS 5 HITS, 5 RBI; KORNIK, 3 HITS, 3 RBI

Mojave Grill Chars Friday's, Gains Top Seed in B Division

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

There was not any question as to whom would have the top seed in the B Division of the Scotch Plains Men's Softball League; however, with two

teams that could have ended the regular season with identical records, it was a matter of honor. Theresa's Mojave Grill took that honor seriously and exploded for 13 runs in the final three innings to char TGI

Friday's, 21-7, at Brookside Park in Scotch Plains on July 16.

Just prior to "play ball" time Mojave Grill Captain, Steve Barba, gathered his teammates and said, "Guys! This game may not be important for the seedings but it is important to win this for our mental attitude. It's a game of pride."

The pep talk worked as the Grillers sizzled with 26 hits, including six doubles and a triple. The hottest was Dave Martorulo who went 5-for-6 with five RBI and four runs scored. Joe Kornik rapped two doubles and a single, drove in three runs and scored three times and Dave Kirsch had a triple, a double and a single, three RBI and two runs scored. Barba ripped two singles and a double and crossed the plate three times. Bill Scott had three hits and three runs scored and Ollie Androsko had three hits, two runs scored and an RBI.

Friday's had their offensive burners on simmer but did manage 12 hits, mostly in the middle innings. Matt Myers went 3-for-4 and scored once. Mike Coviello smacked a triple and a single and had two RBI. Ken Kimble had two hits, two runs scored and an RBI and Mike Flanagan cracked two singles, scored a run and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
SCORING THE FIRST RUN...Steve Barba of Mojave Grill slides safely under the tag of Friday's catcher Mike Coviello in the second inning.

MUSSLER MUSCLES 2 HR, 6 RBI; MERKEL GETS 2 HR, 4 RBI

Watson Avenue Strolls Over Poplar Pl. Softballers, 21-12

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

Reminiscent of high school "glory days", the Watson Avenue team of the Fanwood Old Men's Softball Association fielded several former Westfield High School athletes who had played on the Blue Devils' Union County Championship baseball teams of the mid-1990s. Displaying plenty of power and speed, Watson Avenue upped its record to 6-5 with a 21-12 drudging of 2-9 Poplar Place at Forest Road Park on July 17 - the 100th anniversary of the invention of the air conditioner by Willis Haviland Carrier.

The "ex-glory" boys battered 23 hits, including five home runs and six doubles. Watson's Lee Mussler

strong-armed a pair of three-run homers and tapped a single. Possessing blazing speed, ex-Blue Devil Brian Ciemniecki turned what would be four singles to a normal humanoid into four doubles. Ex-Blue Devil teammates Marcus Mattielli and Phil Orsini each went 3-for-4, including a home run, and scored two runs.

Poplar Place also displayed power with 14 hits, including two majestic home runs by Dave Merkel (four RBI and two runs scored), a triple by Mike Christiansen and a double by Tom Smith (three RBI and a run scored). Nobody succeeded in getting agile Mike Kelly out as he slapped four singles, swiped two bases and crossed home plate three times. Kevin Newell knocked two

singles, scored twice and had an RBI.

The "glory" boys got on the board first when Ciemniecki doubled and Orsini launched an eyebrow raising, two-run shot into the next softball field in the bottom of the first. Poplar responded loudly with plenty of punch and seven runs in the top of the second. Christiansen yanked his triple down the right field line and Steve Skaar plopped an RBI single over third. With Scott Hoover on third and Kelly on second, Newell squibbled an infield RBI single, but an errant throw also allowed Kelly to score.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
READY TO LAY DOWN A BUNT...Poplar Place batter Kevin Newell squares to bunt in the first inning as Watson Avenue pitcher Quentin Redding watches.

OLSEN TOSSES 4-HIT SHUTOUT Blue Devil 12's Blank SP-F Raider Boys, 2-0

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

The Westfield 12-year-old baseball team won in impressive fashion by blanking the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Raiders, 2-0, in the Linden Invitational Tournament on July 21 in Linden.

Westfield pitcher Justin Olsen went all the way recording the shutout as he tossed a four hitter, struck out seven and walked one. The Blue Devils did capitalize for two runs when Olsen punched an RBI single in the top of the third and Ryan Scanlon cracked an RBI single in the sixth.

"My game plan was to throw as hard as I could," said Olsen. "I pretty much felt comfortable and had pretty good control throughout, nothing wild or anything. I made good use of my curve ball and hit the corners well."

The Raiders got a strong four-inning pitching performance from starter James Dinizo who allowed one run on six hits while striking out two and walking one. Sam Fourke backed up Dinizo in the fifth and gave up one run on four hits, struck out two and walked two.

"Obviously, the objective was to throw strikes and have the team make the defensive plays," said Dinizo. "It was a close game here today, both teams played very well I felt, but it was a good game."

Teammate, Brian Piccola shared his views by saying, "They beat us because they had a better game than us, but both teams played well and it could of gone either way, particularly if we were on top of our game."

The Blue Devils stoked the fire in the top of the third, when Dean Kowalski poked a single and stole second. Next, Evan Einstein sizzled a single. Olsen then stepped up to the plate and smoked his RBI single through the green carpet.

Things were very quiet until the Blue Devils scored one run in the sixth. Evan Shapiro singled up the middle then landed safely on second. Aidan Granstrand stoked a single and Harry Marina received a free pass to load the bases. Scanlon then banged an RBI single. Raider pitcher Fourke proved to be tough as he sat down the next two batters via strikeouts.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
A SAINT BOUNCING A GROUNDER TO SHORT...Intensity shows on every face as Saint All-Star Terry Gallagher bounces a grounder to short in the seventh inning. Just after Gallagher's grounder, Pete Chemidlin singled and later scored the winning run to give the Saints a 5-4 victory.

CHEMIDLIN SCORES WINNER, GORDON HOMERS

Saints Stars Reign Supreme, Ground Angels All-Stars, 5-4

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

The "Creme" of the "Crop" planted their feet on Brookside Park turf in Scotch Plains on July 21 for the St. Bartholomew's Oldtimers Men's Softball League All-Star Game and the Saints became the "Team Supreme" by barely grounding the Angels, 5-4, in a nine-inning classic. "Family Man" Pete Chemidlin scored what turned out to be the winning run in the bottom of the seventh inning.

With so many All-Stars boasting batting averages of .600 or higher, it was amazing that the Saints were limited to just 10 hits - all singles - and the Angels to only nine - one double and one home run. Tony Blasi, Nick Barattucci and Keith Gibbons shared the Saints' pitching duties. After the game, Angels pitcher Frank Chupko, who went the distance, commented, "That's pretty good (pitching) for both teams considering all these hitters with high batting averages."

Angels' hammer man, "Joltin'" John Gordon produced the jaw dropper of the day with a lead-changing, two-run homer to a remote section of left-center field in the fifth. Angel Ben Loblance tapped two singles, Kevin Lonergan drilled a double and scored a run and Larry Shaub slapped two singles and scored twice but pulled off the slickest base running play when he tagged up on a pop fly to mid-center field and face-dove

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

SOFKA GOES 4-FOR-4, 4 RBI; KOKET, 3-FOR-4, 3 RBI

Westfield Legion Bombards Berkeley Heights Nine, 14-8,

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

As the summer season wound down, the Westfield Legion baseball team defeated Berkeley Heights, 14-8, in Westfield on July 19 in its final regular-season game. Thanks to the strong play of Ben Koket and Mike Sofka, who totaled seven RBI,

Westfield was able to outlast the strong-hitting Berkeley Heights team.

Joe Wisniewski took to the mound for Westfield, and pitched fairly well. Heights slugger Marcello Cavallaro crushed a solo homer over the left field fence in the first inning; however, that was the only hit given up by

Wisniewski until the fourth inning. In Westfield's half of the first, lead-off batter Brett Picaro walked on four pitches, then stole second base in a bizarre turn of events. Koket, the next batter, as well as the entire Berkeley Heights team, thought the third ball was actually the fourth and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



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