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# THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section  
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MEET OF CHAMPIONS RECORD SETTER...Raider Ray Williams crosses the finish line in 46.55 to set a new MOC record in the 400 meters.



GETTING MENTALLY PREPARED TO SOAR...Blue Devil Sarah Burke placed sixth in the pole vault at the MOC with a leap of 10 feet.

## HIGHLANDER KRISTIN SZKWARKO TAKES FIFTH, BLUE DEVIL SARAH BURKE GETS SIXTH IN POLE VAULT

# Raider Ray Williams Repeats, Sets Record in 400-Meter Run At 'Meet of Champions' Track and Field Meet on June 5

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

Photographers and cameramen positioned themselves near the finish line and nearly everybody in the stands was focused on the showdown in the 400-meter race between defending champion Ray Williams of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School and Ron Hillian of Eastern at the 34th NJSIAA Meet of Champions (MOC) at South Brunswick Vikings Field on June 5. The result was a meet record time of 46.55 set by Williams.

Running out of lane 3, Williams overtook the rest of the pack and, eventually, Hillian around the final turn before the straightaway. However there was additional competition in sophomore Adrian Sanderson of Ewing who gave Williams incen-

tive. Sanderson crossed second with a time of 47.23 followed by Hillian at 47.48.

"I definitely had somebody to chase. I had somebody to look at because I wasn't always in the lead," explained Williams. "I could have come off the block faster but I was comfortable with my pace."

All season, Williams has been hounded by reporters and photographers, especially after he split 45.9 in the Summit Relays and 45.8 in the Blue Devil Classic in April. His efforts made him a contender to break the all-time state record of 46.02 set by U.S. Olympian Dennis Mitchell set in 1984. Despite the pressure, he seemed to have handled it well.

"There's a lot of pressure but the pressure doesn't get to me. I'm used to having things on my shoulders and

coming out real big. So it's not really pressure to me. It's like an everyday meet. I love the pressure," said a grinning Williams.

One noticeably big thing on Williams' shoulders has been more muscularity than last year. His time spent in the weight room through the guidance of strength coach and Raider football line coach Rob Harmer to prepare him for football at Purdue University this fall is paying off.

Very grateful, Williams expressed, "Coach Harmer is on me every day. He said I must get bigger and I must get faster. He's always pushing me to the limit, dealing with the weight room, and not just with football, now that I'm in track, that's all he talks about. There's no relaxing in his weight class."

Williams also pointed out that all

the coaches have had a hand in guiding him to success.

His time of 46.55 qualified Williams to compete in the seeded heat of the 400 meters at the National Scholastic Championships held at North Carolina State University on June 15.

Williams, who had also qualified for the MOC in the long jump, 200 meters and 100 meters, opted to compete only in the 200 and crossed second in 21.66, being edged by a nose by Todd Dutch of Washington Township who finished in 21.52.

"I wasn't really pleased with my time but I did really want to win this race. It was big for me but it gives me incentive," commented Williams.

Williams' achievement may have been the highlight of the evening but the four local high schools - Westfield, Scotch Plains-Fanwood,

Union Catholic and Governor Livingston combined to qualify 14 individuals to compete in 19 events.

Aside from Williams, Blue Devil senior Sarah Burke and GL Highlander senior Daria Szkwarko, both competing in the pole vault, were the only other local athletes to place in the top six. Szkwarko cleared 10'6" to take fifth and Burke vaulted 10 feet to finish sixth.

Competing in the MOC for the first time, Raider senior Jill Koscielecki, seeded eighth in the 400 hurdles, finished in a personal-best time of 1:03.3 but just out of the top six.

"I feel great. I've never been here before. It was a good experience and I'm just happy to be here," said Koscielecki. "I ran my best time and can't ask for any more than that."

Miller had the fourth-best leap of 22 feet coming into the MOC but could not get his stride down and fouled out on all three of his attempts.

"My stride just wasn't on point today," said a disappointed Miller.

Highlander junior Megs DiDario, seeded 11th in the 800 meters, experienced running with the fast pack and finished out of the top six with a time of 2:18.5.

"I usually like to take the lead but in this race I couldn't because I was seeded 11th and on the far end of the track. There were so many people in the race who had good times. So there was a lot more pushing and maneuvering," said DiDario. "Next year I hope to be running faster times and will be closer to the lead when the running starts."

DeDario also qualified in the 3,200

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JUST OFF THE MARK...Blue Devil Rich Miller fouled out on all three of his attempts in the long jump.



ANOTHER PERSONAL BEST...Raider Jill Koscielecki had a personal-best time of 1:03.3 in the 400 hurdles.

## BLUE DEVILS FINISH WITH INCREDIBLE .364 B.A.

# Westfield Baseballers Finish With 20 Wins, UCT Crown

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

When the Westfield High School baseball team was eliminated in the first round of the State Tournament, there was some disappointment. But after looking at the spectacular season as a whole, highlighted by a Union County Championship trophy, the Blue Devils certainly had a successful year.

Pitching wins ballgames, and the stellar pitching of the Blue Devils brought them 20 wins. Senior Jay Cook finished with a 6-0 record, striking out 53 in nine games. The second starter this season, junior Andrew Garrison, also had a great year, finishing with a 5-1 record and 48 strikeouts. He also was the only starter with an earned run average below 2.00, an impressive feat.

Senior catcher and team Captain Josh Ludmer was very effective, calming the pitching staff when they got into jams. On the base paths, Ludmer, due to his catching savvy and vast knowledge of the game, had an uncanny talent for taking opposing pitchers out of their rhythm.

The hitting was equally extraordinary. The team combined for a batting average of .364, one of the highest averages by a team in the history of Westfield baseball. Cook hit two home runs this year, bringing his career total at Westfield to 11, eclipsing the old record. Cook, with .468, had the highest batting average of all starters.

Out of bench player, Emanuel

Guasp held the highest average, .484, making a valuable pinch hitter. Senior Ben Koket led the team with 11 doubles. The leader in stolen bases was senior Brett Picaro, with 15, more than double any other player. Picaro was also never caught stealing.

Coach Bob Brewster was happy with the team as a whole. "The sea-

son went very well. We had high expectations due to the tremendous experience that we had returning."

The team returned eight starters from the season before.

"This team had tremendous work ethic, and they weren't afraid of hard work. They'd get the job done in an efficient way," said Brewster.

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UCT CHAMPIONSHIP NO. 11...After edging Plainfield in 11 innings, the Blue Devils defeated A.L. Johnson, 7-4, to win their 11th Union County Tournament Championship. The Blue Devils banged out 11 hits and Jay Cook retired 11 batters in a row. After the championship game at Memorial Field in Linden, the Blue Devils assembled in front of the scoreboard so the final score can be shown.

## RAIDERS WILL RETURN ENTIRE PITCHING STAFF

# Rebuilding Year Could Be Asset to Raider Baseballers

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

Expecting to be very competitive, unexpected changes occurred prior to the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School baseball team's season. Instead the Raiders wound up with a rebuilding year, regularly fielding two freshmen, two sophomores and a handful of juniors with just three seniors to finish with a 10-12 record.

The outlook definitely changed when Raider Head Coach Brian Homm discovered that five of his starters - Brian Schiller, Brad Belford, Josh Finkelstein, Rob Mattar and Steve Williams - opted to train for college football in the fall.

"We were expecting big things," answered Homm. "We had nearly everybody coming back. We split with Westfield last year. We figured that we would be competitive. We were looking forward to a good year, doing some damage in the states and counties but it didn't work out that way. So we had to rebuild again."

Rebuilding has had its growing pains. Homm acknowledged, "We made some mistakes in the field and made some mistakes against good teams, and they capitalized. We seemed to get down early in games. First, second innings, we were down three or four runs and that's hard to

come back from, especially with a young team."

Senior Tri-Captain and catcher Andrew Pavoni had the responsibility of settling the young pitching staff of three juniors, two sophomores and a freshman but also was a good example at the plate with a .404 batting average. Pavoni led the Raiders in RBI with 18 and doubles with seven. He also hit one home run, stole six bases and scored 15 runs.

Tri-Captain and left fielder Dave Baumwoll went 22-for-54 at the plate for a .344 average and was third on the team in runs scored with 16 and stolen bases with seven. He also had 11 RBI and five doubles. Tri-Captain and first baseman Marcus Dockery hit .321 (17-for-53) and tied for third in runs scored with 17. Dockery had 13 RBI and five doubles.

Junior right fielder Josh Wexler was the leading "stick" man, going 25-for-56 for a .446 average. Fleet of foot, Wexler had seven doubles, six stolen bases and led the Raiders in runs scored with 18 while knocking in seven.

Junior center fielder Kyle Adams was the chief thief with 10 stolen bases and batted .316 with 16 runs scored, three doubles, two triples and eight RBI. Junior second baseman Jeff Hensal went 23-for-68

for a .338 average, was second in scoring with 17 runs and second in doubles with six and had seven RBI, seven stolen bases, six doubles and a home run.

Juniors Dave Senatore and Steve Pietrucha were the Raiders No. 1 and No. 2 pitchers, respectively. Facing opposing team's No. 1 pitchers, Senatore finished 4-5 and recorded 37 strikeouts but registered two big victories over power Cranford.

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