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THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section
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WESTFIELD TAKES 2ND AT 2ND, 3RD SINGLES AND 1ST, 2ND DOUBLES

Blue Devil Boys Fall Short to Summit In Union County Tennis Tournament

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

Going into the finals of the Union County Tennis Tournament on May 6 at Donald Van Blake courts in Plainfield, the Westfield High School boys had an even chance of toppling defending champion Summit. Both teams had representatives in four of the five contested positions; however, the Hilltoppers defeated Westfield in three head-on matches to outpoint the Blue Devils, 88-76.

The big shock of the tournament came at first singles where third-seeded Frank Geiger of Governor Livingston bulldozed top-seeded Steen Sehnert of Summit, 6-2, 6-1, in the finals. Also, Geiger pulled a mild, 7-5, 6-4, upset over second-seeded Blue Devil Griffin Maloney in the semis.

Mahoney and Geiger are no strangers to each other. "We play at the same club," said Geiger. "I just wanted to play my game, keep to his backhand and get to the net because, if I got to the net, he couldn't beat me there."

Previously, Geiger topped Demetry Koval of Elizabeth, 6-3, 6-1, then advanced to the semis by beating Cranford's Scott Zucker, 6-3, 6-4.

Maloney received a first-round forfeit then battled the howling wind to breeze past Jared Weissman of Dayton, 6-2, 6-1, to advance to the

semifinals.

"I played really well. I did everything right and everything worked out the way I planned it," Maloney said after his match with Weissman.

As to the influence of the wind, he said, "When I was practicing, I was seeing how the wind was blowing. It did affect my serve. I did change my game a little bit at the beginning of



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
Blue Devil Griffin Maloney (third at first singles)

my match but, once I got going, it didn't seem to be a factor."

Maloney seized third by blanking Andre Dragun of Johnson, 6-0, 6-0. Blue Devil sophomore Rich

Moran, seeded second at second singles, blew Jose Flores of Elizabeth away, 6-0, 6-0, in the first round and breezed by Plainfield's Leroy Parker in the quarterfinals with a 6-1, 6-2, win.

But the semifinal match with third-seeded Will Sehnert of Summit was anything but a breeze. Falling just two minutes short of four hours, Moran and Sehnert continuously broke each other's serve until Moran finally won his game on the last game to win, 5-7, 7-6 (7-5), 7-5.

"It was a marathon but it was a great match," said Moran. "He was a great player and he handled my serve and volley game very well."

Not concerned with the length of the match, Moran said, "The time is meaningless out there on the court. I'm just trying to think 'win the next point, win the next point'. I wanted to go out there and do my best and, luckily, my best was good enough to win."

With his years of experience as Blue Devil Head Coach, George Kapner pointed out, "Actually, there was one (UCT) longer than this but this was of great quality play. The other was two 'moonballers' going back and forth. This was net play, all-around play. Will made some unbelievable plays. Rich had him put away and he ran down two balls, one to the backhand

and one to the forehand. I am proud of both of them. It was four hours of great tennis."

The exhaustion from Moran's semifinal match took its toll in the finals when he was stopped by top-seeded Mike Klimchak of Johnson, 6-0, 6-1.

Seeded fourth at second singles, Raider Mike Thompson stopped Franco Maldonado of Roselle Park, 6-3, 6-3, in the first round but lost, 6-1, 6-4, to fifth-seeded Chase



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
PLACING SECOND AT THIRD SINGLES...Blue Devil Dave Eisenberg, the defending UCT champ at third singles, was upset in the finals by Don Richards of Summit.

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ENTIRE LINEUP GETS INTO THE ACT WITH 8 IN THE 6TH

Blue Devils Erupt to Topple Highlander Baseballers, 12-2

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

"Total Team" seems to be the theme for the 10-1-1 Westfield High School baseball team this season. The fact that there is not a weak hitter in the entire Blue Devil lineup has baffled opposing pitchers.

Although the visiting Governor

Livingston Highlanders managed to keep the potentially viciously barking Blue Devil bats at bay for four innings, Westfield, nursing a 2-1 lead growled for two runs in the bottom of the fifth and erupted for eight runs in the sixth to end the game with a 12-2 victory in the first round of the Union County Tournament on May 4.

Westfield ace pitcher Jay Cook, who had two singles, improved his record to 4-0 by holding the 5-9-1 Highlanders to four hits while the Blue Devils amassed 11 hits. Highlander pitcher Jon Regenye took the loss.

Westfield took a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the first when Ben Keket scored on an RBI double by Mike Sofka, who also had an RBI single in the sixth. The Highlanders tied the score in the third when Bryan Beal singled, moved to second on a wild pitch and scored on Chris Floyd's single. The Blue Devils regained the lead, 2-1, in the fourth when Manny Guasp singled and later scored on John Leonardis' single.

The Blue Devils added some breathing room with two runs in the fifth. With Keket, who singled, and Blair Richardson on base, Brian Butts, who finished with two hits and three RBI, ripped a two-run single. However, the Blue Devils gasped a bit in the top of the sixth when Highlander Marcello Cavallaro blasted a solo homer over the right field fence near the 350-foot marker to tighten the score to 4-2.

The fateful sixth inning began

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David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
DIVING BACK TO FIRST...Blue Devil Jim McKeon dives back into first as Highlander pitcher Jon Regenye tosses to first baseman Chris Floyd in an effort to nail McKeon.

WAGNER WHACKS 3-RUN 2B, 'MAC' NO HITS, FANS 10

Top-Seeded Blue Devils Rock Ram Softballers, 10-0, in UCT

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

Always realizing the potential of an upset and taking no chances, the top-seeded Westfield High School softball team kept focus and rocked the 2-12 Roselle Rams, 10-0, in the first round of the Union County Tour-

nament in Westfield on May 4. The 13-1 Blue Devils played a solid game both defensively and offensively, yielding no errors while grouping nine hits with two walks and two Ram miscues to account for all of their runs.

"I thought our team played really

well. We made a few base running mistakes but defensively, we played well," said Head Coach Maggie McFadden. "They have made errors in some previous games but they haven't allowed it to affect them like it had in the past. That is the difference in this team as opposed to previous teams."

"I can not remember the last time our team has made an error. This team is absolutely sharp. Anytime I give up a ground ball, I know it's going to be an out," expressed senior pitcher Caitlin MacDonald.

With reference to team focus, MacDonald said, "You really can't change your style because a 2-11 team really doesn't mean that much. Anybody can come out and win on any day. So you have to be careful with everybody."

"I have been coaching too long to take anybody for granted," added McFadden. "The longer you let a team stay in the game, the more confident they get and mistakes can hurt you. You have to be well prepared. It's important that the kids come out and approach any game like it's their top rival."

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David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
DEFINITELY SCORING A RUN...Blue Devil Sara Bobertz, who drilled a double in the fifth inning, scores the ninth run against the Rams after Tara Dowling tapped a grounder to the mound.

CIANCIOTTO SLAPS 2-RUN DOUBLE, RBI IN NINTH

Raider Softball Girls Cage Bears, 6-5, in U.C. Qualifier

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

Freshman Taylor Cianciotto cracked a two-run double in the bottom of the seventh inning, then tapped an RBI single in the ninth, scoring Caitlin McNelis to give the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School softball team a dramatic, 6-5, victory over Brearley in the preliminary round of the Union County Tournament on May 3 in Scotch Plains.

"There was a little bit of pressure on me," said first baseman Cianciotto, "I knew I was going to perform to the best of my ability, so I just went out there and did what I could. As far as the hit was concerned, I like them a little high, but this one came right down the middle."

Picking up the win was sophomore Laura Manzi who entered the game in the sixth inning for McNelis who pitched outstanding.

"I was becoming a little tired, but I was pleased by my ball placement, particularly my change up," said McNelis. "I think we really deserved this game and it shows a lot of teams in the county have to watch out for us."

From the onset, the Bears came to play and win attitude resulted in a 3-0 lead in the top of the first inning on a RBI single by Julian Kelly and a two-run single by Christina Chonko.

The Raiders retaliated in the bot-

tom of the second on back-to-back walks after the bases were loaded, collaring the Bears for two unearned runs. Then in the third, Scotch Plains knotted the score at 3-3 when Lindsay Pennella walked, McNelis singled and Shanavia Willis cracked an RBI single. The Bears, with the bases loaded in the fifth, forged ahead, 4-3, on a high throw to the plate and picked up their fifth run on a RBI single by Allison Shields in the sixth. The Raiders answered in the sev-

enth. McNelis walked, Willis singled and Cianciotto ripped her two-run double, forcing the game into extra innings. Manzi was awesome in the eighth as she struck out the number two, three and four Bear batters.

"I came in and my arm felt great," said Manzi. "The weather was great and I just wanted to throw pitches that moved."

The Raiders did not waste any time and threatened immediately in

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Fred Lecomte for The Westfield Leader and The Times
MAKING THE PUTOUT AT FIRST...Raider junior Lindsay Pennella makes the putout at first in the game against Brearley.

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