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# THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section  
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## CHARLES SCORES, COLE ASSISTS, 'ZAZ' FLIP THROWS

### Raider Boys Capture Ninth UCT Title, Top Cougars, 1-0

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

Wind seemed to have quite an influence as to where the soccer ball spent most of its time; however, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School boys found the right location at the right time at Kean University in Union on November 10 and defeated 12-5-4 Cranford, 1-0, to claim its ninth

Union County title and third straight.

Sophomore midfielder Terrence Charles used his head to bury the ball into the net with 32:51 left in the first half after senior Taylor Cole settled a flip throw in from junior Ed Zazzali and headed it to Charles.

"I was on the goalie. Taylor flicked the ball onto me. I just put my head on it and it got past the goalie," ex-

plained Charles.

With the wind at their backs, the Raiders controlled the ball in Cranford territory essentially for the entire first half with the exception of a few brief Cougar attacks. With 29 minutes left, Cole eluded a defender and came face-to-face with Cougar goalie Brian Woglom but missed the shot. One minute later, Jeff Hensal bounced a shot off the crossbar. Moments later, Cole's header was grabbed by Woglom.

With 25 minutes left in the half, Woglom made a great leap to bat junior midfielder Ryan Breznitsky's direct kick over the crossbar. By half-time, the Raiders had eight shots near goal and Cranford had three. Woglom, who finished with six saves, had five saves and Raider keeper Ricky Fleissner, who earned his 15th shut-out of the season, made one of his two saves for the game. Interestingly, Fleissner earned his 15th shutout of the 2001 season in the UCT finals.

With the wind still blowing in the same direction, the Cougars took control for the first 20 minutes of the second half. Right off the bat, Cougar Nick Flamini drilled a shot that aroused Fleissner to make a textbook diving save to his right. Joe Bultaupt ricocheted a shot off the right post less than a minute later, then Flamini's

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SETTING UP THE WINNING GOAL...Raider Taylor Cole, No. 21, heads the ball to Terrence Charles (head just below ball) who also uses his head to butt in the winning goal.

## MEGAN CONNORS SAVES SEVEN FOR 15TH SHUTOUT

### Blue Devil Soccer Girls Share UC Crown With Oak Knoll

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

The defending champion, 17-1-3, Westfield High School girls settled for a share of the Union County soccer crown after battling 16-3-1 Oak Knoll to a 0-0, overtime tie in Roselle Park on November 9. It was the first scoreless tie in tournament finals history.

"I thought we played a nice game, I really do. I have to give both teams a lot of credit," explained Blue Devil Head Coach Pete Giordano. "We played the No. 2 team and they could easily be the No. 1 seeded team, but we had a couple more wins than they did, so that's the way it should go down, No. 1 vs. No. 2, 0-0!"

Blue Devil goalkeeper Megan Connors, who notched her 15th shut-out of the season, secured the tie with seven sensational saves.

"I was really excited to play against the Royals," said Connors. "Sometimes I feel like I got lucky. Stacy (Spass) took an extra touch in the first half on a break away, and I was just right there. I just was in good position every time and happened to get there when they came in on me. Although I'm a little disappointed with the end result, I'm happy."

"I think Megan is probably the best goalie in the state," added Giordano. "She's come up big, day in and day

out since last year's tournament. The girls were down a little bit because we didn't win it outright, but we all know, they are champions."

Prior to kickoff, Royals Head Coach Stan Miller said, "We've done a good scouting report on Westfield. We've seen where their strengths are, we noticed a couple of weaknesses and

we're going to try to nullify their strengths and exploit their weaknesses if we can. We're going to try to press a little bit, try to get the ball high and get it to Elisabeth and Jen Redman and see what they can do."

The Blue Devils defense contained the Royal attackers and bottled up

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BLUE DEVILS' LEADING SCORER...Susan Williams, No. 10, has been the Blue Devils' leading scorer this season.

## BAKER, MARONEY, ADEYEMO SCORE TOUCHDOWNS

### WH Warriors Sting Raiders In 3rd Quarter, Win 35-20

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

Confusion can cause dissent, and dissent can trigger a loss. The visiting 3-5 Watchung Hills High School football team, featuring a deceptive single-wing offense, scored two rushing touchdowns (TD) late in the second quarter and three more in the third to baffle 5-3 Scotch Plains-Fanwood, 35-20, on November 9.

In the first half, "we were playing well but it looked like our intensity dropped off," said Raider Head Coach Steve Ciccotelli. "They are a good football team. They should have beaten a lot of teams. We knew coming in that their record was deceiving. They run the single wing and the tough thing is that we knew going in that our team can't run at the speed they are going to run. We couldn't get the look. We didn't today."

The Raiders had 233 total yards - 158 on the ground and 75 in the air. Senior Kyle Adams had 18 carries for 119 yards and quarterback Mike Walker, who had five rushing yards, was 5-14 passing for 75 yards and a touchdown. Rob Maroney accounted for a 34-yard TD reception and Rowland Adeyemo had a 14-yard TD run.

"Michael, I thought, threw the ball well. Our offense was moving but we couldn't keep them off the field," explained Ciccotelli.

Adeyemo and Travis Boff (1 sack) each had 11 tackles. Josh Wexler made eight tackles and Charlie Bachi (1

interception) and Adams (1 interception) had seven.

The Raiders scored first when Bachi blocked a punt and Kyle Baker scooped the ball and darted 55 yards for the touchdown with 8:04 left in the first quarter. Adams set up the next Raider TD with an interception at the Warrior 35. On the first play of the second quarter, Walker hit Maroney in the flats. From there, Maroney

rumbled for the TD to put the Raiders up, 13-0. The point after failed.

Using a deceptive single-wing offense, quarterback Jay Frank, who rushed for 128 yards, got the Warriors to pay dirt - 10 plays, 64 yards - when he looped nine yards for the TD with 7:28 left. A very short Raider punt put the Warriors in great position at the Raider 31. On the ninth play of the

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CHANGING THE ENTIRE COMPLEXION OF THE GAME...Blue Devil quarterback Jan Coccozzello, No. 12, fires a pass down field against the Farmers. Coccozzello completed nine passes for 200 yards and two touchdowns as Westfield came from behind to win, 28-21.

## BUTTS SCORES 3 TDs, WILT GRABS 34-YD TD PASS

### Blue Devils Come Back Big, Stun Union Gridmen, 28-21

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

Some form of magic potion must have been given to the Westfield High School football team during halftime at Gary Kehler Stadium in Westfield on November 9. The Blue Devils had the demeanor of a mild-mannered Dr. Jekyll in the first half and allowed Union to score the first 21 points but, in the second half, Mr. Hyde emerged and the Blue Devils finished with a 28-21 victory.

Senior tight end/running back Brian Butts scored three, second-half touchdowns (TD) to secure the victory and quarterback Jan Coccozzello completed nine of 18 pass attempts for 220 yards and two TDs. Butts, who

had two receptions for 80 yards, had a 64-yard TD reception to tie the game and had TD runs of one yard and 11 yards.

The first half was a disaster for the Blue Devils as they totaled only 33 yards on the ground and 58 yards in the air while the Farmers chewed up 141 yards - not including an 82-yard kickoff return for a touchdown (TD) - and 25 yards in the air. The only promising things were a cracking tackle by sophomore Mike Finne in the first quarter and a 34-yard TD reception by tight end Bob Wilt late in the second quarter.

On the opening kickoff, Farmer Dannel Phillips grabbed the ball at the 18, plowed through a huge hole in

the middle of the field and galloped 82 yards for the touchdown with only 12 seconds off the clock. After Westfield spun its offensive wheels on the turf, the Farmers marched 81 yards on three plays that concluded with Phillips' 17-yard TD run with 6:30 left in the first quarter. On their next series, the Farmers took five plays to rumble into the end zone when Phil Llave ran 27 yards for the TD with 2:44 left in the quarter.

"It started so badly, from the opening kickoff," expressed Blue Devil Head Coach Ed Tranchina. "It was a worst case scenario."

Just before halftime, with 2:24 remaining, the Blue Devils, after a bad punt to the Farmer 34 by Union, showed the beginning stages of their transfiguration when Wilt narrowed the score to 21-7 with his fine TD grab.

"It took us a while to settle down. I think the turning point was when they punted and we got the ball on the 34," Tranchina said.

Westfield, in its Mr. Hyde garb received the opening kickoff of the second half and burned the turf with a 10-play, 74-yard scorch, concluding with Butts' one-yard bash with

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## Devil Girls, Raider Boys Get Second in Sectional X-C

The Westfield High School girls finished second in the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 4 cross-country championships and the Scotch Plains-Fanwood boys placed second in the Group 3 race at Warinanco Park in Roselle on November 9. The Blue Devil boys placed fourth in their group with a total of 101 and the Raider girls took fifth in their group at 144.

The Blue Devil girls, with a total of 55, were topped by Morristown with a total of 47. Each team placed three runners in the top-10. Kathleen Salmon had the best Blue Devil time, finishing fourth in 20:34.4. Melissa Richey crossed ninth at 21:20.9 followed by Deenie Quinn at 21:25.9.

Cranford placed first in the boys Group 3 race with a total of 37 followed by the Raiders at 64. The Raiders and Cranford each placed three runners in the top 10. Raider Brian Kopnicki crossed third with a time of 17:08.6, Zack McGuire placed sixth at 17:19.8 and Walter Biner finished 10th with a time of 17:40.6.

Governor Livingston Highlander

Megs DiDario easily won her first sectional championship (Group 2) with a time of 20:05.5, 17 seconds faster than her next competitor, Sarah Rutledge of Parsippany. The Highlanders placed seventh with a team total of 153.

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