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THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section
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BLACKMON SCORES 2 TDS, DALY, DEFAZIO GET TDS

Devil Gridders Click On 'O'; Cage Cranford Cougars, 33-14

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

With yellow penalty flags showering the field, it was anything but pretty in the evening clash between the Westfield High School football team and host Cranford before a crowd of 1,200 on September 20. The Blue Devils sidestepped the yellow

flags and returned to Westfield with a 33-14 victory.

However, what shined even brighter than the yellow flags, were the performances of junior quarterback Jan Coccoziello and junior running back Tyshon Blackmon in the third quarter. After suffering three consecutive penalties, backing the Blue Devils to

the four-yard line, Coccoziello took the snap and dropped back to throw. The ball slipped out and rolled into the end zone. Coccoziello quickly recovered but found himself in the grasp. After breaking the tackle, he tossed the ball to Blackmon, who was standing alone on the Westfield 40-yard line. Blackmon then bolted 60-yards for the TD to give the Blue Devils a 26-14 lead.

The Blue Devils got on the scoreboard first in the opening quarter when 235-lb. junior tackle Giuseppe Insigna blocked a punt. With the ball spotted on the Cougar 11, senior fullback Pat Daly exploded on a 46-power play for a seven-yard TD run with 5:31 remaining. Andrew Lessner converted on the extra point to give Westfield a 7-0 lead.

The Cougars roared back with a nine-play, 62-yard drive scoring drive. Quarterback Chris Drechsel hooked up on a pass play to Dennis Rasmussen to place the ball on the Westfield 18. Moments later, on a third and four, Lester Manuyag plowed 11-yards for the TD with 0:28 left in the quarter. The extra point by Bryan Giannecchini was good.

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Fred K. Lecomte for The Westfield Leader and The Times

VERY DETERMINED...QB Jan Coccoziello recovered his own fumble, dropped back, and aired it out 40 yards to running back Tyshon Blackmon who rambled 60 yards for the TD.

WILLIAMS WHAMS 2 GOALS, SPASS GETS 2 ASSISTS

Lady Blue Devils Shut Out Soccer Raider Girls, 5-0

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

It was a very emotional time when the Westfield and Scotch Plains-Fanwood girls soccer teams, coaches and managers held hands and had a minute of silence to remember one of their own, Greta Schoenemann, in Westfield on September 17.

"We owe it to Greta, a member of our program", said Westfield Head Coach Pete Giordano. "The program is a whole family. I thank Scotch Plains-Fanwood for taking part in it. It was just very hard these past few days for everyone in the program and the town in what went on in the school community."

Giordano continued, "We came out, practiced for a little while, just to get it going again. Then, as the game went on, the kids started to have a little more fun, and they came out and made me proud of what they accomplished today. They came out real hard, not taking anything away from Scotch Plains, because I knew they were hurting with a lot of key players hurt. It's going to be a different game next time we play them."

Indeed, the Blue Devils (2-0) got it going and demonstrated character,

as they rocked the young Raider defenders back on their heels with a relentless attack that accounted for the 5-0 shutout, launching 13 dangerous shots on goal and five corner kicks. Blue Devil Susan Williams was spectacular and netted two goals.

Devil goalkeeper Megan Connors was outstanding registering 10 saves. "We were really kind of nervous to play, because it was a real hard day at school," said Connors. "We knew we had to play hard because Scotch

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Fred K. Lecomte for The Westfield Leader and The Times

UNDER CONTROL...Raider forward Jenna Ballestiere heads up field while Blue Devil Tri-Captain and fullback, Ashley Kent, looks for support.

GET TO KNOW OUR STAFF

Karen Schultz-Soltysik graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a bachelor degree in athletic training and a masters in physical therapy in 1998. She pioneered a new educational program, which included clinical research during her professional education. This research was conducted in a facial nerve clinic. She specialized in current techniques and developed new strategies in the treatment of facial paralysis and Bell's Palsy.

Karen's talents and skills remain numerous. She has a strong background in orthopedics and sports injury rehabilitation. Facial paralysis and Bell's Palsy remain areas of continued interest. Karen has also completed extensive training in treatment of vestibular disorders. She developed a formal program of evaluation and treatment and is a member of the Vestibular Disorders Association.

In 2000, ADVANCED Physical Therapy Associates welcomed Karen onto our team of highly trained therapists. Her talents, skills, and areas of special interests enhanced our comprehensive rehabilitation programs. Karen's personal qualities of compassion and dedication are equally important. These continually motivate her to provide the best care possible for our patients.

Therapists, like Karen, are responsible for our reputation as the best private practice in the state.

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David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times

BLUE DEVILS/RAIDERS! ALWAYS AN INTENSE BATTLE...Raider senior Taylor Cole, No. 21, and Blue Devil senior Andrew Tucker, No. 17, struggle for possession of the ball. The No. 3 ranked Raiders defeated the Blue Devils 3-0 in this contest.

BREZNITSKY, COLE AND ALBIZATI RIPPLE THE NET

Raider 'Brazil Boys' Befuddle Blue Devil Soccer Boys, 3-0

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

Spending some time in Brazil this summer must have done the No. 3 ranked Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School soccer boys some good. The Raiders played seven top-notch Brazilian teams and returned having experienced a higher level of play.

The Raider boys opened their season with a win over Ridge then followed with a very impressive, 3-0, victory over talented rival Westfield on September 18 in Scotch Plains. Junior Ryan Breznitsky scored a first-half goal and senior Taylor Cole and sophomore Billy Albizati each netted goals in the second half.

"It's a rivalry. No matter what the score is, it's a big rivalry," said Raider Head Coach Tom Breznitsky.

The Raiders' offense definitely controlled the ball most of the game and began to wear down the Blue Devils midway through the second half but

junior sweeper Brendan Egan was very influential in keeping the Blue Devils in the game until Cole's goal seemed to reveal the writing on the wall.

"We came out with a lot of intensity and that was great," said Ryan Breznitsky. "I think we needed to establish ourselves early."

Junior Brian Pirot served as the Blue Devils' goalie in the first half and senior Gil Arbitsman took over the position in the second half. Pirot made one leaping save and, on one occasion, was forced out of position by a Raider charge; however, Egan made it a point to be at the right place at the right time to head a shot away. Arbitsman made two saves in the second half.

Senior Raider goalkeeper Ricky Fleissner made three saves but was especially put to the test midway through the first half when Blue Devil striker Ben Masel took a deflection just in front of the goal and drilled a

low shot straight at him. Moments later, junior striker Lee Tomasso broke into the clear and passed through to Masel, apparently uncovered. Unfortunately, Masel was called for offside.

Breznitsky broke the scoreless tie with 23:48 left in the half by rocketing a direct kick from 30-yards out into the upper right corner of the net. A little in-and-out razzle-dazzle from Raider senior Ray DiNizo had the Blue Devils concerned that Breznitsky may be considering looping his direct kick into DiNizo but it did not happen.

"Ray and I sort it out when we get up there. It's not really designed. It so happened that it was my turn to kick. It was good," explained Ryan Breznitsky. "I wanted to put it on goal obviously, but if it didn't go in, I wanted a possible rebound. It was one of the hardest balls I ever hit."

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SEVENTH ANNUAL FANNY WOOD DAY

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SEPT. 29, 2002

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FANWOOD, NJ AT THE CORNER OF MARTINE AVE. & SOUTH AVE.

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12:30-BANTRY BOYS-IRISH MUSIC

1:30-AL MADISON-BLUES/BALLADS

2:45-TERRI CERRITTO-PATRIOTIC SONGS

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3:15-CELEBRATION SINGERS-BROADWAY & SOFT MUSIC

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