

CHAPLA FANS 17 ROYALS; SESSA GETS 2 HITS, RBI

Oak Knoll Lady Royals Chill Softball Lady Vikings, 4-1

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

An outstanding pitching performance by senior Danielle Chapla was spoiled when the 1-7 Oak Knoll High School softball team scored two runs in the fourth and sixth innings to defeat Union Catholic, 4-1, in Scotch Plains on April 14.

Chapla fired a three-hitter, struck out 17 and walked three. Royal pitcher

year but this is the first game where I had a few hits and it feels good to finally come through," said Sessa.

The Vikings did threaten in the bottom of the second inning when Palumbo legged out an infield single and stole second. Belotta took one for the team followed by Simpson who laid down a perfect bunt to put three Vikes on the ship with one out. Niagara countered with two strikeouts.

that work. Sometimes they get the hits and we can't field it and that's where we fall apart."

After the game, a disappointed Chapla said, "Softball is my number one sport and my number one priority. For other kids, it's not their first priority, but I think if you take part in a team and you're out here playing, even for just one season, it should be your number one priority, aside from education. Everyone is depending on you. It's really hard to go out there and give one hundred percent and have some kids go home at the end of the night and think of it as just another game. The game is for fun and that is why I started to buy it; however, when you love the game, it goes deeper. That's what happens on the field. I take it home with me and think about what we did wrong on the field."

Oak Knoll	000	202	0	4
Union Catholic	000	000	1	1

Lady Blue Devils Bury Softball Farmers, 6-0

Lauren Gelmetti tossed a three-hitter in the Westfield High School softball team's 6-0 triumph over 12-3 Union in Union on April 25. Gelmetti also recorded seven strikeouts and walked none.

The bulk of the 9-4 Blue Devils' offense was provided by Kristina Fietkiewicz, who went 3-for-4 with a two-run home run, and Dianna Dunnan, who drilled two doubles and had two RBI.

Viking Track Girls Capture Three 1sts at Catholic Relays

The Union Catholic High School girls track & field team captured three first places and a second place at the New Jersey Catholic Track Conference Relays at Notre Dame in Lawrenceville on April 24. There were no team scores but the Viking boys grabbed two fourths and a sixth place.

Sophomores Ashley Broderick and Aerielle Belk, junior Lesley Hendricks and sophomore Jen Seniszyn crossed first in the 4x100 meters with a time of 52.20. Belk, freshman Samantha Peters, sophomore Alisa Harris and Hendricks placed first in the 4x200 with a time of 1:51.60.

Broderick at 15'5" and Hendricks at 13'4.25" captured first in the long

GELMETTI SITS DOWN 7, WALKS 2, SCATTERS 4 HITS

Stevens Hawks Use Long Ball To Clip Westfield Girls, 2-0

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

A superb two-hit pitching performance by Kristina Feltz and a two-run homer delivered by Brittany Lobell earned the visiting 10-2 J.P. Stevens High School softball team a 2-0 victory over Westfield on April 22. Feltz also fanned three and walked one for the shutout. Blue Devil ace Lauren Gelmetti turned in a fine performance and scattered four hits, struck out seven and walked two.

"We did not have a good start and have not played the best defense we can during our last five games, so I was pleased the way we came back today defensively. Our goal was to start strong and play good 'D', and they did play that way for a good solid seven innings," said Blue Devil Head Coach Tara Pignoli. "We gave up a leadoff triple and we were able to get ourselves out of that inning defensively without giving up a run. The game can come down to one pitch and they know that. Gelmetti as a pitcher knows that every single pitch counts and one pitch could be the game. Today it was on their side."

The 8-4 Blue Devils executed two fine double plays. Junior third baseman Anna McGrath made five spectacular plays including a double play.

"I try to come in with the right mental attitude. Whatever comes, you have to do your best to get it if that means diving, stealing, whatever. You have to do it on our field, especially where the ball takes a lot of bad hops

and you really need to keep your head down, look it in there, grab the seams and throw it," said McGrath.

Gelmetti, shortstop Kristina Fietkiewicz, second baseman Katie Smith and rightfielder Diane Dunnan also provided strong defense to prevent the Hawks from bursting through with big innings. Hawk Nicole Clemens bashed a leadoff triple in the

lifted an outside fastball to deep left for a four-bagger.

The Blue Devils had an opportunity breeze by them in the seventh. After Fietkiewicz ripped a leadoff single to right, then moved to second on Gelmetti's grounder. Smith stepped up to the dish with one out and rifled a single to center putting runners on the corners. Unfortunately, the Hawk



Fred Lecomte for The Westfield Leader and The Times
A QUEEN OF THE 'K'S'... Viking pitcher Danielle Chapla recorded 17 strikeouts (K's) against the visiting Oak Knoll Royals.

Christine Niagara recorded seven strikeouts, allowed seven hits and walked three.

"I believe our lack of hitting and fielding errors have really hurt us more so than ever. We just can't seem to score a run," said Chapla. "Angela Sessa, our freshman catcher really called a good game. She has a lot of knowledge behind the plate and is one of the defensive leaders."

Sessa singled twice and had an RBI. Chapla, Nicole Palumbo, Angela Belotta, Casey DePaula and Michelle Simpson all singled.

"I haven't been hitting well this

Mixing her pitches, Chapla kept the Royals off-balance, fanned eight batters and pitched a no-hitter through three innings until Niagara, with one out in the fourth, rapped a two-run double to center.

Chapla struck out the side in order in the fifth but the Royals added two runs in the sixth. Lauren Masini singled, stole second and third then scored on a bloop single. An infield miscue, a stolen base and a hopper over second boosted the score to 4-0.

The Vikings scored their lone run in the bottom of the seventh. Elizabeth McGonigle was awarded first, Chapla reactivated her 'metal stick' with a single past second and Sessa yanked an RBI single scoring McGonigle.

"Chappie is an amazing pitcher and has done a really good job this year," said Sessa. "We have a good relationship. I never had a pitcher that yells at me they way she does; however, I don't take it to heart. It helps and motivates me when she tells me I called something wrong and it's good when she tells me that I did something good. We like to go right at the batters and she has a lot of pitches

Raider Nine Levels Hilltoppers, 16-5

John Maloney crushed a homer, tapped a single and had four RBI as the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School baseball team leveled Summit, 16-5, in Scotch Plains on April 23. Chris D'Annunzio was 2-for-3 and scored four runs for the 7-4 Raiders. Zach Barber scored three runs for the Hilltoppers.



Fred Lecomte for The Westfield Leader and The Times
GETTING BACK IN TIME... Blue Devil Kristina Fietkiewicz dives back to first base in time to avoid being called out.

third inning but Fietkiewicz caught a line drive then Gelmetti gobbled up a sizzler and alertly threw the ball to McGrath at third for the double play to quell any threat. In the sixth, Fietkiewicz grabbed a line drive then relayed to Smith at second to complete another double play.

"Those two double plays really helped us get out of some jams with runners in scoring position," said Pignoli. "The girls communicated well defensively, they made the play, they covered the base and they were really heads up."

In the fourth, Hawk Caitlyn Seamster was issued a walk and Lobell

pitcher fanned the next batter and got the next to ground out.

"They had the big hit, unfortunately, and we couldn't get our bats around, but defensively we looked very solid and back in the swing of things," said McGrath. "We really came out here today and played our game for the most part. The past couple of games have been a little tough. We let a few errors go by and you think that would get us down, however we came together as a team and stepped it up today, although we did not come out with the win."

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Westfield	000	000	0	0

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