



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
THUMPING A LEADOFF TRIPLE...Blue Devil Alex Zierler thumps a leadoff triple to incite a three-run second inning against Plainfield.

Westfield Baseballers Down Plainfield Cardinals, 14-4

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Diego Betancourt ripped a two-run double in the fifth.

Entering the bottom of the fifth inning, the Blue Devils rested several of the starters and Murray – to work with freshman catcher Justin Olsen – and had the Cardinals on the ropes, leading 12-0. Cardinal Javier Diaz whacked a leadoff double and later scored on an infield error. Cuba then experienced some control problems and walked two batters to load the bases and Jamar Allen followed with a two-run double. The fourth Cardinal run scored on another infield error.

“Cuba’s got great stuff. The thing about him is making sure he stays in the strike zone and making sure he stays ahead of hitters,” said Murray. “Today we used a lot of fastballs, getting ahead of hitters. A lot of hitters were behind his fastball so we didn’t want to throw curveballs. He hit his spots well with the exception of the fifth inning.”

With reference to Olsen, Murray said, “It was his first varsity appearance. He’s got a few more ahead of him. He has great skills. He is real open to learning. He is looking for any way to make himself a better player and in a few years, after I’m gone, he is going to be a great catcher here.”

Hoping to end the game after six innings, the Blue Devils needed two runs to get a 10-run lead. Craig Ellis led off with a walk, stole second and third then scored when the catcher misfired to third. Cuba walked and was on second with no one out but got

too far off-base on a little blooper over second that was caught by Cardinal second baseman Evan Gibson who fired to second to double up Cuba. The next batter was hit-by-a-pitch but the following batter grounded out to short. Olsen scored the final run when Cuba was hit-by-a-pitch with the bases loaded in the seventh.

“In the box score, we won by 10 runs but for us this was a big game. We came off a couple of games against Linden and Watchung Hills where we had a lot of errors. This was a building block for us. We are going to have to put some big wins together and make a big run,” stated Murray.

Westfield	235	021	1	14
Plainfield	000	040	0	4

Blue Devil Nine Ditch Union Farmers, 8-3

As Union County Tournament time nears, the Westfield High School baseball teams has been getting into high gear with recent wins over Plainfield, Hunterdon Central and, on April 25, an 8-3 victory over 8-4 Union in Westfield.

Junior Craig Ellis (3-2) tossed a six-hitter, while walking three and striking out two, and Billy Hearon ripped an RBI double in the first inning and blasted a leadoff homer in the third to ignite a six-run uprising. Mike Diaz drilled an RBI double. Brandon Cuba had an infield RBI single and Jay Anderson cracked a two-run triple.

Warriors’ ‘Big Inning’ Rocks SP-F Raider Baseballers, 7-3

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Giasullo finished allowing seven hits and three walks while striking out eight – five hits and a walk came in the second inning.

“Marco got a couple of pitches up in the zone and they took advantage of it. They are a good team. They are 8-2 for a reason. They hit the ball well,” said Baylock who added, “Scafaro will probably get a couple of innings against Elizabeth on Monday (April 25) and he will be ready to go Saturday at the county tournament. That’s what our goal is, to make sure he is healthy enough for the county tournament.”

The Raiders took a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning when D’Annunzio smacked a single to center, stole second and later scored on shortstop Brandon Edwards’ error.

The Warriors’ big inning began with DeCosimo’s single to right followed by Walsh’s triple to center. Rivera lofted Giasullo’s first pitch over the centerfield fence. Edwards and Cody Ross had back-to-back singles and Chris Costa walked. Edwards and Ross scored on a costly two-run throwing error and Costa scored on a ground out.

“The third batter of the inning hit

a popup to centerfield. Our centerfielder came in on it and the next thing you know it’s over the fence. It carried in some kind of jet stream. They put the ball in play and we made a couple of mistakes. In a big game, we can’t be doing this. We can’t be making errors,” Baylock expressed.

The Raiders made it a 6-3 game in the fifth. Kyle Gates walked and D’Annunzio doubled down the leftfield line. Urban grounded to second to bring home Gates and D’Annunzio alertly sped home on a passed ball.

In the Warriors’ seventh, Drew Atkins led off with a walk and Matt Giannini tapped a single to center. Howell came in to relieve and yielded an RBI single to DeCosimo before retiring the side with the help of a second (Scibek) to short (D’Annunzio) to first (James Scafaro) double play.

“It’s becoming crunch time! Hopefully we will get it out of our system and when tournament time comes we will play good baseball,” stated Baylock.

Watchung Hills	060	000	1	7
Sc. Pl.-Fanwood	100	020	0	3



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
RATTLING THE WARRIORS’ CAGE...Raider Chris D’Annunzio dives safely back to first in the first inning. D’Annunzio had a big day at the plate with a double, a single, a walk and two runs scored against the Warriors.



Fred Lecomte for The Westfield Leader and The Times
BLUE DEVIL LAX ATTACK...The Blue Devil attackers, in blue and white, constantly swarmed the Highlanders’ goal area en route to an 18-6 victory in Westfield.

Blue Devil Lady Laxers Rout G. L. Highlander Girls, 18-6

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effort today.”

The Blue Devils flowed into Highlander turf, immediately found a weakness in front of the goal and netted the first goal from defensive wing Werner at 22:22. Highlander Kristine DiVite answered by taking

the ball from midfield and rippling the net. She then repeated the feat by ripping the net from a yard away less than two minutes later.

The Devils answered en masse, swarmed around the ball constantly, nearly unchallenged and tattered the net with five goals – Luker (2), Masel, Santoriello and Shelman – to take a 6-2 lead. Allyson York and Sarah Glacken each countered with a goal for G.L. However, the Blue Devil attackers maintained their punishing ways over Highlander defenders with eight more goals for a lopsided 14-4 halftime lead.

“We went out really hard, ran with a lot of intensity and kept it up throughout the game unlike some of our other games,” said defensive wing Katie Cole-Kelly. “We were able to make good connections in the midfield and the defense was really strong. We hustled back to the ball, used a bunch of double teams and communicated a lot.”

In the second half, the Blue Devils continued to control the ball and netted four goals. (Simulec, Trimble, Sauerwein and Sinneberg).

“We got to settle it down in the second half and were allowed to try a lot of new plays that we have not been able to do,” said center Mary Kate Luker. “On defense we hustled back, made a lot of legal checks and played very smart.”

“We definitely hustled more to the ground balls and settled it with good connections in the midfield,” added Werner. “We still need to work on not passing right away and perhaps looking more for the open person.”

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