

DINIZO WHACKS 2 HR'S, 4 RBI; SCALFARO HR'S, 4 RBI

Raiders Plate 9 in 2nd, Rock Canuck Baseball Boys, 14-4

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

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School baseball team kept focus, played a solid game, both offensively and defensively, and rocked the visiting North Plainfield Canucks, 14-4, in five innings on April 29. The Raiders growled for nine runs in the bottom of the second, erupted for four in

Scalfaro powered a homer and doubled for four RBI. Second baseman Robbie Moscal went 3-for-4, including two doubles.

"It's a good confidence builder for us prior to the county tournament. We're continuing to hit the ball well and doing what we need to do by putting the ball into play when we have to," said Raider Head Coach Tom Baylock. "When we

ball that got hung and I just went with it. The second home run was a fastball over the plate and I just went with it to centerfield," explained DiNizo. "We wanted to play good in the field today, get the bats going and get some momentum going prior to the tournament. The main thing is that we're hitting good but not in clutch situations, so we need to make sure when we get the man on base, we get that hit and bring him home."

A walk, an infield squibbler and a two-run single from Matt Whitman in the fourth made the score 13-4. In the fifth, Raider Dan Birnbaum entered the game, triggered a leadoff triple to right and scored on an outfield error to end the contest.

"Generally, I come in for relief because we do have a lot of senior pitchers, however today I was called upon to get the job done in little games like this," said Weber. "Mainly, I relied on my fastball and curve ball, however I did lose control on my curve and was a little upset when I hit three kids. Besides that, I thought I did pretty good today."

As to the Raider readiness on the mound, Baylock explained, "We have seniors Marco Giasullo and Drew Howell going in the first round of the county tournament. Marco has proved that he's our guy while Howell has stepped up big this year and is getting the first shot of relief. He's it."



BRINGING IT HOME FOR THE RAIDERS...Raider James Scalfaro heads for home after cracking a home run in the second inning. The Raiders beat North Plainfield, 14-4.

the third and scored a run in the fifth to end the game.

Colin Weber held the 0-10 Canucks to five hits while the Raiders amassed 15 hits. Senior right fielder Mike Dinizo, tripled, triggered a two-run homer and launched a rocket into oblivion. Third baseman James

get all our bats going, we could be dangerous while defensively we keep on getting better."

The Canucks struck first with a run in the second. Kevin Hatcher-Purgar singled, moved to second on a sac bunt and scored on an outfield error. In the bottom of the inning, the Raiders paraded 13 men to the plate, took advantage of four errors, swiped three bases, doubled, ripped two base hits, drew three walks and smacked two home runs, courtesy of Dinizo and Scalfaro to take a 9-1 lead.

"There were runners on base, so I wanted to get them in," said Scalfaro. "I was looking to put the ball in the outfield and sacrifice one of the guys home, however it worked out that there was enough power to carry it over the fence."

The Canucks added a run in the third on a double and an RBI single by Paul Ignosia. The Raiders answered with a four-run uprising, putting together two doubles and towering homer by Dinizo while taking advantage of two errors to make the score 13-2.

"The first homer came on a curve

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HITTING 2 HOMERS...Mike Dinizo whacked two homers against the Canucks.



MAKING CONTACT WITH THE BALL...Blue Devil Jillian Olsen makes contact with the ball in the 13-inning classic with Colonia.

GELMETTI GOES 4-FOR-5, FIETKIEWICZ BATS 2 RBI

Patriots Rally in Thirteenth, Beat Blue Devil Girls, 4-3

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

A door-slamming bases loaded single in a 13-inning marathon sealed a 4-3 victory for the hosting, 12-1, Colonia High School softball team over 9-5 Westfield on April 28. Patriot pitcher Amy Ulrich scattered 16 hits, struck out eight and walked seven. Blue Devil pitcher Lauren Gelmetti surrendered 12 hits, amassed 10 strikeouts and walked five.

Gelmetti's "metal stick" burned the Patriots with four hits including an RBI. Senior shortstop Kristina Fietkiewicz banged out a double, two RBI and scored a run. Mary Kate Flannery drilled four singles.

"We talked about putting seven innings together. Today we played a strong thirteen innings and I'm very proud of that, however we didn't get the hit when we needed it," said Blue Devil Head Coach Tara Pignoli. "We didn't get the bunt down that one time and that is frustrating. A couple of balls were hit over our heads in the outfield that we probably could have caught but didn't because they were not played the best way. But I'm very happy. This is a team that in each game has looked better. I would say they played their best game of the season."

The Patriots scored two runs in the bottom of the first on a Meghan Donoghue single and back-to-back RBI doubles by Brittany Moore and Kate Pischetola, respectively. The Blue Devils retaliated with three runs in the third. Flannery and centerfielder Jen

Urcioli singled. Fietkiewicz pulled the trigger with a two-run hit to center and scored on Gelmetti's single.

In the sixth, Patriots Pischetola and Erin Maharsingled and Ulrich knocked in a run to tie the game at 3-3. The Blue Devils threatened in the eighth on back-to-back singles by Fietkiewicz and Gelmetti; however, Ulrich responded with two unassisted plays.

The Blue Devils had a great chance to go ahead in the ninth. Anna McGrath singled, Jess Muskowitz bunted and beat out the throw to first and Flannery punched a two-out shot to center. However, a heads-up tag out by the third baseman ended the threat.

In the bottom of the 13th, Gelmetti found herself glaring at three Patriots that settled on the bases with no one out. Next, pinch-hitter Chelsea Finn drilled the winning line drive between first and second.

"I thought honestly, bases loaded, no one out, we were going to get out

of the inning with our defense," said Pignoli. "Colonia hit the ball hard, they challenged us and had runners on base quite a few times. Defensively, Katie Smith has been so great. I don't want to jinx her, but she has not made a mistake on the dirt and she is just an anchor for our infield; however, that doesn't mean we don't have things to work on. This is a team that in each game has looked better."

"This was perhaps one of the most exciting games I have played in since my three years on this team," said Flannery. "Lauren pitched two great games, we played great defense but missed opportunities including a clutch hit and we didn't get those little things down. If we did, we would of won the game. We cannot be disappointed in ourselves and we just need to take this into the counties and be really, really hungry."

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Raiders Top Kearny, Mother Seton in UCT

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School girls blanked Kearny, 4-0, in a regular-season game in Scotch Plains on April 28 then thrashed Mother Seton, 12-1, in five innings in the first round of the Union County Tournament in Clark on April 30.

Against Kearny, Taylor Cianciotta had all four RBI with a two-run homer and a two-run triple. Pitcher Elaine Piniat tossed a two-hitter while striking out five and walking one.

Against Mother Seton, Cianciotta (3-for-4, triple) and Lauren Mains (4-for-4, 2 doubles) each had three RBI. Piniat pitched a one-hitter, fanned seven and walked four.

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