



ATTEMPTING TO STRETCH HIS LUCK...Raider Kyle Gates, who just got finished stealing second, attempts to steal third against the Farmers but runs out of luck. The Raiders, however, shutout the Farmers, 5-0.

D'ANNUNZIO FANS SIX; SCALFARO, DINIZO TRIPLE

Raider Baseballers Rebound, Shutout Union Farmers, 5-0

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

After being shocked, 11-3, by A.L. Johnson in the Union County Tournament on May 2, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School baseball team needed only to be concerned with its preparation for the upcoming sectional tournament. The Raiders rebounded from that loss in a very impressive way by shutting out Union, 5-0, on the vast expanse of Park Middle School Field in Scotch Plains on May 4.

Raider senior pitcher Chris D'Annunzio went the distance, recording six strikeouts, two walks and one hit batter while ceding only five hits. Communicating well with senior catcher Kevin Urban who was calling the pitches, D'Annunzio kept the Farmer hitting machine off-balance. None of their five hits were solidly hit.

"Chris was just pitching great today. He was hitting the spots and throwing the ball wherever I told him. It's all about trust! He was trusting me and we were doing well," said Urban.

"Kevin mixed it up really well. I kept going inside, outside with my fastball. My curveball, there were a couple that slipped out of my hand but, when it was on, it was pretty good. My changeup was really good," D'Annunzio said.

D'Annunzio got into a tight spot in the top of the fourth when Tim Givens (3-for-3) led off the inning with a high pop fly that eluded the shortstop

in shallow left and resulted in a double. However after mixing his pitches well, he struck out the next three batters. In the sixth, the 11-6 Farmers mounted a two-out threat with a single, followed by an error and a walk to load the bases but D'Annunzio answered with a strikeout to douse the threat.

"I had everything working when I needed, in clutch situations. Kevin is real good at keeping my head straight, telling me little things that I'm doing wrong. With Kevin behind the plate, I feel real confident," said D'Annunzio. "I told him to stay focused, try not to overthrow stuff and stay within himself and take control," explained Urban.

"The team was down a little bit. I asked Chris to come in a do a job for us. He was on. He had everything working today," said Raider Head Coach Tom Baylock. "Kevin called a great game, kept the batters off-balance and every time we got in trouble, he found a way to get out of it."

Raider James Scalfaro went 2-for-3, with an RBI single and an RBI triple, and scored a run in the 10-hit attack. Mike Dinizo also tripled and scored a run. Both triples would have easily been home runs on the fenced varsity field, which is in the process of having repairs along the leftfield sideline. Kyle Gates had two singles and two stolen bases. Urban had an RBI single and scored once and Sean Varsolona singled and scored while

John Maloney and Rob Moskal each had an RBI single. Jeff Bell singled and D'Annunzio scored once.

As the right fielder, Bell, the Alpha-Omega man, made a fine catch to record the first out of the game then made a spectacular sliding grab along the right field line for the final out of the game. Urban gunned down an attempted steal of second in the first inning then followed by gunning down another Farmer attempting to steal third in the second inning.

D'Annunzio kindled a two-run spurt in the first by getting hit in the back. Moskal bunted him to second and Urban lined his RBI single to center. Urban alertly sped to second on the throw home then rumbled to third on an errant throw to second. Maloney brought Urban home with a chopping single past short.

Dinizo led off the second by hammering a triple to remote left. Scalfaro hacked an RBI single to center, Bell singled and Moskal popped an RBI single into right to give the 9-8 Raiders a 4-0 lead. The final run came in the sixth when Varsolona singled and scored on Scalfaro's triple to left.

"Today was the first time that, when we got runners on second and third, we scored. We have some electrifying bats. If we just keep trying, it's going to happen. We are going to explode," said Baylock.

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Lady Lions Defeat Blue Devils In UC Softball Quarters, 2-1

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

Despite a strong pitching performance by Westfield High School senior Lauren Gelmetti, the Roselle Catholic Lions took advantage of Blue Devil miscues to grab a 2-1 victory in the quarterfinals of the Union County Tournament in Westfield on May 7. Lion Jackie Murphy doubled home Caroline Moretti with the winning run in the top of the seventh.

Lion pitcher Emily Vieni, backed up by a strong defense that executed three double plays, gave Westfield very few opportunities, yielding seven hits, although two came in the bottom of the seventh but she managed to strand the tying run on third. Gelmetti allowed only three hits, sat down six batters and walked one.

"We certainly did not get a break. We hit the ball hard a number of times and they were able to make the great plays on line drives and double us off," said Blue Devil Head Coach Tara Pignoli. "Ironically this week we worked on being really aggressive on the bases, trying to read a base hit early and breaking out so they can score from two. They listened and they did what I asked them to do at second. However before we make a lot of excuses, we did not play our best game. We made three errors and we did not pitch well when we needed to. Unfortunately, I certainly think we're a team that should have come out on top. You must give credit to Roselle Catholic. They played a great game. They did what they needed to do to win and they really wanted this game. That was very clear to me."

The Lions scored a run in the third when leadoff hitter Jackie Mortha reached second on an infield miscue and scored on a two out single to right by Meghan Wischusen. In the fifth, the Blue Devils came alive. Jillian Olsen chopped a single to center and Diana Dunnan beat out a bunt single to third but Lions shortstop Wischusen snagged Anna McGrath's line drive, flipped to second baseman Moretti who made the tag for their second double play of the game. Jess Muskowitz then stepped to the dish and powered a double over the right fielder's head, scoring Olsen.

"We came out with the right mentality by being aggressive on the bases. Normally, we would think that it would pay off but today it did not work out in our favor," said Ana McGrath. "I believe heading into the states, we have every chance to win it. We come in with our heads up, put

this game behind us and move on." After Moretti singled to center and scored on Murphy's double, the Blue Devils threatened. With one out, Olsen looped a bloop single to center. Dunnan followed with a single to right. Lion centerfielder Mary Busichio, however, snagged two fly balls to slam the door.

After the game, Gelmetti commented, "As a senior it's hard to believe that I let up and gave up that hit

that I shouldn't have and that's really what costs us."

"For the most part we were very aggressive today, however, we needed to find that one big hit and we didn't find it," said Dunnan. "We play for those tight games in the seventh inning with 2-1 games and that is the experience you want to take with you into the states and sectionals."

Roselle Catholic	001 000 1	2
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HOME, SWEET HOME...Blue Devil junior catcher Jillian Olsen glides in safely and scored off an RBI double by leftfielder Jess Muskowitz. Westfield lost 2-1 when Roselle Catholic scored a run in the top of the seventh in the Union County Tournament quarterfinals.

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