

WHITTEMORE GOES 2-FOR-4, OLIVETO GETS 2 RBI

Pioneers Jump Early, Reject U. C. Viking Baseballers, 6-4

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

Jumping quickly to a 5-0 lead after two innings, the New Providence High School baseball team withstood Union Catholic's attempt at a breakout inning and held on for a 6-4 victory in Scotch Plains on May 5. The 10-5 Pioneers, who had seven of their hits in those two innings, out-hit the Vikings 11-4.

Catcher Chris Whittemore supplied half of the 7-5 Vikings' hits and contributed an RBI. Leadoff batter Matt Oliveto rapped a two-run single and scored once while freshman shortstop Tony LaRocca doubled and scored once.

Pioneer catcher Corey Cattano went 3-for-4 with two RBI and two runs scored. Chris Savarese had an RBI

double and an RBI single and scored once. Chris Tafel poked two singles and had two RBI and Tom Pavano had two singles with a run scored.

After his shaky start, Viking starting pitcher Dave Klimowicz (1 hit batter, 2 strikeouts) settled down in the middle innings before being relieved late in the fifth by Anthony Marsal who held the Pioneers scoreless the remainder of the way, yielding just one hit and a walk while recording two strikeouts.

"We went through a lot of pitching in the two days against Dayton (Union County Tournament game that had to be replayed) so that was one of our concerns but I thought our pitchers did a really nice job of throwing strikes. New Providence got two key hits with two outs and two strikes in the first two

innings to go up 5-0," said Viking Head Coach Jim Reagan, Jr.

With the exception of one inning, Pioneer pitcher Chris Savarese, who walked four and allowed four hits, had the Viking batters wobbling off-balance in the batter's box. Mixing his fast balls very well with off-speed and curve balls, he forced many impatient Vikings to lunge for bad pitches, which resulted in 12 strikeouts.

"We had to do a better job of sitting back, putting the ball in play and hitting to the opposite field, and we didn't do that," said Reagan. "Our inexperience definitely showed, but we will be back."

At shortstop, LaRocca displayed some nice flare with a fine grab deep behind second base, followed by a slick flick to second baseman Christian Cortizu to get the force out.

"He started a little bit at third. This is his first start at shortstop. He did a nice job. He's got a lot of potential. He hit the ball today, got a double," Reagan said of LaRocca.

In the fifth inning, Klimowicz made a diving scoop of a grounder down the third base line, wheeled around and tossed to first to get the out.

The Pioneers scored three runs on four hits in the first inning but were facing a two-out situation with Scott Savarese on first before the action started. Catching the Vikings on their heels somewhat, Cattano chopped an infield single, Chris Savarese yanked an RBI single to left and Tafel followed with a two-run single to left.

In the second inning, with runners on first and second, Scott Savarese laid down a bunt single to load the bases. Cattano lined a two-run single to left, giving the Pioneers their 5-0 lead.

The Vikings' big inning began with a benign walk to Danny Cowan. LaRocca reached first safely on an error then both runners advanced on a passed ball. Oliveto answered with his two-run single and scooted to second on a throw to home. After the Pioneer shortstop flubbed Whittemore's ground ball, Oliveto rounded third and scored to tighten the score to 5-3.

The Pioneers added a run in the fifth when Chris Savarese drilled his RBI double to center. The Vikings scored their final run in the bottom of the seventh when Whittemore hopped an RBI single over second to bring home Mike Honeyman.

New Providence	320	010	0	6
Union Catholic	003	000	1	4



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
IN ACTION DEFENSIVELY AND OFFENSIVELY...Viking second baseman Christian Cortizu, top, gets the force out on Pioneer Joe Mellusi. Viking Rob Downer, bottom, fouls one off against Pioneer pitcher Chris Savarese.



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
GOING FOR THE WIN IN THE DMR...Blue Devil Meg Driscoll begins the 400 leg of the distance medley relay after receiving the baton from Emily MacNeil who ran the 1200 leg. The Blue Devils won the event.

Scotch Plains-Fanwood Raider Girls Capture Union County Track Relay Championship

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after the event. "We are not going to have our regular 4x800 runners because we are looking to win the team title."

With reference to the 4x800, Carpenter's strategy worked when Ayn Wisler, Stephanie Cortinhal, Catherine Cognetti and Meg Driscoll combined to win the event with a time of 10:03.9.

"We are happy. We had two freshmen, a sophomore and a junior. We knew they could get the job done," said Carpenter.

The Blue Devils finished second in

the SMR with a time of 4:14.9, third in the 4x1600 with a time of 23:01 and fifth in the javelin with a distance of 238-4.

Union Catholic Vikings Allison Whitefleet (2:35.6), Bree Kelly (2:47.5), Olena Lyaschenko (2:33.3) and freshman Samantha Peters (2:26.2) finished third in the 4x800 with a time of 10:22.5. Ashley Broderick, Aerielle Belk, Lesley Hendricks and Jen Seniszyn took third in the 4x100 at 51.5. Seniszyn, Belk, Alisa Harris and Hendricks also placed third in the 4x200.

The Vikings also placed fourth in the

4x400 at 4:14.5 and the high jump with a height of 14-0 and sixth in the long jump at 42-7.5 and 4x1600 at 24:50.5.

TOP 10 GIRLS TEAM TOTALS:
1. Scotch Plains-Fanwood (SPF) 86, 2. Rahway (R) 52, 3. Summit (S) 42, 4. Roselle (Ro) 40, 5. Plainfield (P) 39, 6. Westfield (W), Cranford (C) 36, 8. Union (U) 34, 9. Union Catholic (UC) 28, 10. Johnson (J) 27

FIRST PLACE GROUPS:
4X100: R (Jasmine Rose, Andrea Butler, India Walker, La'Shonda Carter) 49.9
4X200: R (Butler, Kristyne Dejesus, Walker, Carter) 1:44.8
4X400: R (Rose, Carter, Walker, Butler) 4:02.4
4X800: W (Wisler, Cortinhal, Cognetti, Driscoll) 10:03.9
4X1,600: C (Hannah Van Why, Jen Hanke, Kristen Ford, Laura Gallo) 22:26.9
Sprint Medley: P (Tyher/Rah Thomas, Courtney Breauxsaus, Letecia Taylor, Jahisa Smith) 4:12.8
Distance Medley: W (MacNeil, Driscoll, Becker-Cohen, Onishi) 12:39.7
Shuttle Hurdles: U (Ashley Battle, Katelyn Reiter, Nicole Bryant, Tolu Oyetunde) 1:05.7
Intermediate Hurdles: P (Taylor, Ashley Adams, Smith) 3:28
High Jump: R (Carter, Krystle White, Rose) 14-8
Long Jump: U (Norma Cherilus, Ody Ndu, Oyetunde) 46-0.25
Triple Jump: SPF (Cellius, Regg) 64-10.25
Shot Put: J (Stephanie Teixeira, Nikki Frodely, Lynne Kovolitsky) 97-1.25
Discus: Ro (Temi Oyebla, Samantha Showers, Taiwo Oyebla) 267-10.5
Javelin: Ro (Jaliza Barnes, Femi Ayeola) 256-1
Pole Vault: SPF (Zaleski, Rossi) 17-0 meet record; former record 15-0 by New Providence in 2004



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
TAILED BY ANOTHER COUGAR...Blue Devil Jen Danielsson tries to stay ahead of a Cranford Cougar in her leg of the 4x1600.

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