

Lions Get 2 in 6th, Nudge Blue Devils

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stepped on the bag to double up Murray for an inning-ending double play. The second came in the second inning. With Blue Devils Mike Diaz on third and Bryan Power on second with one out, right fielder Tony DeRosa caught Jay Anderson's fly ball and threw a bullet to home in time to nail Diaz on his attempt to score.

Nolan also made a smooth sliding catch of a popup on the foul side of the third baseline. Second baseman Diaz initiated a fine second-to-short (Ricciuti)-to-first (Alex Zierler) double play in the third inning for Westfield. Right fielder Chris Hild made a running snag of a gap shot in the fifth and leftfielder Sam Kim made a knee-sliding grab in the sixth for the Blue Devils.

Nolan continued to get stronger on the mound as the game went on, striking out the side in the third and fifth innings. At the plate, he cracked his solo blast in the top of the fourth to tie the game. In the sixth, Krupa and Eger singled and Nolan followed with an RBI single. An errant throw allowed the insurance run in Eger to score.

"They put a bunch of hits together in one inning and that was the game. We made a couple of errant throws that hurt us. They would have scored a run anyway without the errors but we didn't hit the ball well enough to win the game," said Brewster.

Roselle Catholic	000	102	0	3
Westfield	100	000	0	1

Viking Girls Get Third In MV Track & Field

The Union Catholic High School girls track & field team placed third in the Mountain Valley Mountain Division with 64 points. The Viking boys finished sixth with 39 points.

The girls took top honors in the 1600 meters when Samantha Peters crossed first in 5:33.3. Olena Lyaschenko took third in 5:50. In the 3200, Lyaschenko finished second at 13:06.9. Peters also competed in the 800 and finished fourth with a time of 2:27.8. Allison Whitefleet finished fifth at 2:33.6

Alisa Harris took second in the 400 hurdles at 1:07.6 and tied for fourth in the 400 at 1:01.7. Lesley Hendricks ran the 400 in 1:02.3. The Vikings took second in the 4x400 with a time of 4:13.8 and Jenn Seniszyn took third in the 100 meters at 12.7. Katie Eppinger and Tara Brown tied for third in the high jump at 4-10.

Brian Guteri won the 1600 at 4:29.6 and the 3200 at 10:18.8. Garrett Ellis finished second in the 400 at 51.9. Jon Cardadeiro tied for third in the 200 at 23.1 and Jenner Cole finished sixth in the long jump at 19-6.25. The boys also placed third in the 4x400 at 3:32.6.



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
MAKING THE PUTOUT...Blue Devil first baseman Alex Zierler's glove bulges when he makes the putout at first base against Roselle Catholic.

Cranford Cougars Blank Softball Blue Devils, 7-0

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

Elena Morge pulled out another strong pitching performance and seven players crossed home plate as the Cranford High School softball team rocked the Blue Devils, 7-0, on May 11 in Westfield. Morge yielded just one hit, sat down seven and allowed two walks for the shutout. She also went 3-for-4 with two runs scored.

Cougar Lindsey Dolan tripled home two runs. Blue Devil pitcher Lauren Gelmetti yielded 11 hits, burned five Cougars and walked none. Shortstop MaryKate Flannery scored the lone hit in the third inning.

"We have yet to play a solid game against a really tough opponent. However, Cranford played a great game and they looked like they were getting ready to run and take that county championship for another year," said Blue Devil Head Coach Tara Pignoli. "I think we did very little right today. The defense was weak, pitching was weak where we gave up multiple hits and our batting was weak. I think that the heart was not there and that to me is very frustrating as a coach."

Second baseman Katie Smith turned in three magical scoops and catcher Jillian Olsen added some of her defensive clout by gunning down the runner on first with the bases loaded.

"Katie has been a wonderful second baseman for the last two seasons and has done exactly what you expect a senior leader to do. She makes the plays on the field and leads by example," said Pignoli. "It's like we hope the ball goes to her because every time it does, I write it in the book before she fields it. She is quiet but she has quiet confidence. At the plate she'll get a good hard line drive, at least once a game. Sometimes, it drops in; sometimes, it does not. In the game against Kearny, she really crushed the ball and hit two home runs. That was nice to see."

The Cougars scored twice in the third on back-to-back singles followed by Dolan's two-run triple. In the fifth Cranford rallied with five runs. Dolan ripped a bases loaded RBI single. Another Cougar streaked across the plate on a miscue. A run scored after the ball nicked a Cougar then Katie Ramay and Sarah Capadice followed with respective RBI singles.

"As co-captain, myself and Lauren (Gelmetti) need to get this team together and talk about what we need to do to improve offensively and defensively and we need to spend some time with each other talking it out," explained Smith. "At our next practice, we just need to think about the next game, keep our heads into the game and not anywhere else."

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KASKIW CRUSHES HOMER; LUSK, COLINERI RIP RBI

Softball Raiders Rally in 5th, Top JFK Lady Spartans, 3-1

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

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School girls' softball team took a huge step toward a successful season with a dramatic 3-1, triumph over J.F. Kennedy on May 12 in Scotch Plains. Senior pitcher Elaine Piniat kept control and sat down four Spartans, while yielding five hits and walking no one.

Pitcher Allison Greaney gave up eight hits, struck out two and became the lone Spartan to cross home plate after powering a triple in the first inning. Raider Kelli Kaskiw bashed a solo home run in the sixth inning.

"I believe we're just getting started. This was a good test for us. It's our third win in a row and the girls are feeling it," said Raider Head Coach Kelly Covert. "This was a game where we needed to come back, hit off a good pitcher and we did. They were aggressive at the plate and wanted to win. There was no doubt in my mind about that and that's the mentality we have been trying to get started."

The 12-9 Spartans struck first with a run in the first inning. Greaney tripled to center and scored when Ashley Jaye skidded and RBI single past third. Piniat ended any further threat with two strikeouts.

"It didn't shake me up at all. It happens. I was a little off my game in

the beginning, however I came right back and put it together. I was able to throw their timing off at the plate while mixing the pitches around."

silence, the 14-9 Raider bats began to crack in the bottom of the fifth. Piniat and Lauren Benevengo singled and streaked home on respective RBI



Fred K. Lecomte for The Westfield Leader and The Times
HOME RUN TROT...Raider centerfielder Kelli Kaskiw rounds third and heads home after smashing a solo home run deep to left in the sixth inning giving Scotch Plains-Fanwood a 3-1 victory on May 12.

said Piniat. "I have a good team behind me. We go out to play the way we know how, we're relaxed and we have fun."

After three innings of offensive

singles by Jillian Lusk and Nicole Colineri to take a 2-1 lead.

Kaskiw added the icing with her solo homer to deep left. "I was looking for the ball to come right down the middle and I was ready to swing at any good pitch she gave me. The first pitch came in just the way I wanted it, right in my area, so I swung through, got the good end of the bat on it and there it went. At first I thought it may have gone for a double, maybe a triple, but it felt real good when it went all the way," said Kaskiw who added, "Defensively, my team is real good. The outfield is very strong overall. We know how to back each other up, move back when we need to, move in when we need to and we are real solid in reading the ball."

In the seventh, shortstop Melissa Sette made two great snags however the Spartans responded with singles by Carissa Bower and Nicole Claridge only to see Kaskiw make a great play in center.

After the game, Covert said, "Basically we're a team in the true sense of the word. Every single person has a part in it whether it is at the plate or on defense. We know that and we trust each other. They do things together as a team even on days off."

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Fred K. Lecomte for The Westfield Leader and The Times
SLAPPING A SINGLE...Blue Devil leadoff hitter and centerfielder Mary Kate Flannery triggered a two-out single in the third inning, however the bats remained dry for Westfield throughout the game.

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