



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
LINING UP HIS PUTT...Blue Devil Ryan Shallcross lines up his birdie putt on the third green. Shallcross was successful.



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WAITING TO TEE OFF...Blue Devil Jimmy Arbes, front left, chats with members of his foursome while awaiting to tee off on the first tee. In the bottom picture, Arbes gets his opportunity to tee off.



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CONSTANTLY IMPROVING...Blue Devil junior Jeff Perrella, W, leads the pack in the 1600 meters. Perrella won the 1600 meters on May 12 then came back to win the 3200 meters on May 13.

Cranford Stuns Blue Devils For Union County Golf Title

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putting to save par and set the tone for my round," said Shallcross.

He also birdied the par-three seventh and finished the front nine at even par.

"We were playing from about 150 yards from the tee with the wind in our face so I hit an 8-iron onto the green and sunk a pretty long putt," described Shallcross of his birdie on the seventh hole.

On the back nine, Shallcross birdied the 10th and 12th holes, bogied the 11th, 13th and 16th, parred 14, 15 and 17, but three-putted the 18th to finish with a 38.

"I had a long putt for birdie and hit it too hard. My next putt hit some bumps and I three-putted," he said.

"The funny thing with Ryan is that he has not been playing well at all this season. I think the cause of that, going into the end of last year, was his putting. His putting has not been a solid part of his game; however, what I have been told, yesterday he started to putt much better. When you make your putts, it carries over to your long game. It was a solid round. He has confidence now going into the states," said Blue Devil Head Coach John Turnbull.

Blue Devil Nick Petrarca, with a round of 80, ended up in a five-way playoff for second. Petrarca parred the first playoff hole that was won by Stephen Suarez of Oratory, who birdied. Then it became a two-way playoff for third with Cranford's Evan Herbert. Both parred the next two holes and, because of darkness,

the placement was decided by a chip-off that was won by Herbert.

"Nick did very well in the play-off. He parred the first three holes without any problem," commented Turnbull.

Blue Devils Jimmy Arbes, who was actually one-under-par after four holes, and Garrett Cockren were not on their best game and finished out of the top-10 with respective scores of 85 and 88.

"Jimmy was struggling but Jimmy is a seasoned player," said Turnbull. "Going into the states, everybody knows who he is. Cranford had four very, very consistent players and we did not. Ryan and Nick had a very good round. It's just unfortunate that two of my more experienced and better players did not. The good thing is, that going into the states, we do have four solid players where last year we didn't."

The state sectional tournament was held on May 16 at Alpine Country Club.

"Mentally, I feel good. I played Alpine many times. I'm going in it to win it," said Shallcross.

TEAM TOTALS:
 1. Cranford (C) 322, 2. Westfield (W) 327, 3. Oratory (O) 340, 4. Governor Livingston (GL) 348, 5. Johnson (J) 350, 6. Scotch Plains-Fanwood (SPF) 358, 7. Union (U) 371, 8. New Providence (NP) 377

TOP 10 INDIVIDUALS:
 1. Shallcross (W) 74, 2. Stephen Suarez (O) 80, 3. Evan Herbert (C) 80, 4. Petrarca (W) 80, 5. Dan Yesinko (J) 80, 6. Tom Anthes (C) 80, 7. Joe Manganiello (C), RJ Salls (C) David Chung (GL) 81, 10. Kitson (NP) 83



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