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THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section
Pages 11-16

FLEISSNER, MOLINARO, DEVIZIO BLAST IN GOALS

Raiders Dump Voorhees, 3-0; Win 13th Group 3 Section Title

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

History repeated itself as another display of strong defense and an unrelenting offense spelled "shutout" as the second-seeded, ninth-ranked Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School boys' soccer team flattened Voorhees, 3-0, in the NJSIAA North Jersey, Section 2, Group 3 tournament final to earn its third consecutive sectional championship and 13th overall on November 11 in Scotch Plains.

The Raiders' defense and junior premier goalkeeper Brian Meredith, who turned aside the two shots he faced, aggressively challenged the Viking attackers. Senior Matt Fleissner and sophomores Taylor Molinaro and Michael Devizio each struck pay dirt once to raise the Raiders' record to 17-4. Chris Martini had eight stops for Voorhees.

"One of the things I really have to be extremely proud of is for their ability to come back when they were

down, not lose their composure and continue to fight hard," said Raider Head Coach Tom Breznitsky. "I think it's a tremendous accomplishment on their part and a tremendous tribute to them after losing a heart-wrenching Union County final, 4-3, and then to get back into the nitty-gritty of the state tournament. They could've very easily folded but they didn't. They wanted it and they felt they were a good enough team to be able to win a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



NJSIAA SECTIONAL CHAMPS...The Raider boys soccer team shutout Voorhees, 3-0, to earn its third consecutive sectional title on November 11. Pictured are: Evan Aspell, Anthony Balianico, Jeff Bell, Matt Canfield, Mark Ciecura, Jarek Cohen, Robert Cunningham, Michael Devizio, Matt Flood, Brian Hessemer, Joe Jacobi, Eddie Kahn, Tim Leischner, Brian Meredith, Taylor Molinaro, Lester Nare, Tyler Stanek, Marc Stiffler, Jeff Stuart, Tim Stuart, Tommy Sutter and Sean Young. Head Coach Tom Breznitsky, assistant coach Joe Mortulao and junior varsity coach John Turnbull.

BRAND RUSHES 169 YDS, 2 TDs; 'ROBO' GRABS 4, 1 INT

Raiders Rout Cougars, 40-18 In Grid Consolation Game

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

Junior Greg Brand demonstrated that he was going to be a fine tailback next year when he rumbled 169 yards on 24 carries, which included touchdown (TD) runs of two yards and 38 yards, respectively, in the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School football team's, 40-18, consolation game rout of host Montgomery on November 11. The 3-6 Raiders' final game will be at home against Elizabeth on Thanksgiving Day at 10:30 a.m.

Adding to the Raiders' 248 rushing yards was quarterback Colin Weber

who totaled 43 yards on seven carries, including a 12-yard TD run, fullback Nick Giannaci, who had a 31-yard gallop, and junior Matt Huether who had a two-yard TD bash. Weber completed seven of 15 passes for 130 yards, including a 23-yard TD strike to Nehemiah Burney-Porter who also grabbed a 21-yard TD pass from backup quarterback Mike Chervenyak on a carbon-copy pattern. Burney-Porter also had an 18-yard reception.

"Same pattern! He was inside leveraging to take away the slant. We figured we could run a post corner on him and we did both times," Raider

Head Coach Steve Ciccotelli said of Burney-Porter's two TD grabs.

Brand, who assumed full tailback responsibilities because of an injury to senior Rashawn Strong, scored his first TD on a two-yard plunge with 9:52 left in the second quarter to give the Raiders a 13-9 lead at the half. His

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



HANGING ON FOR THE TACKLE...Blue Devil linebacker Kyle Zeitounian, No. 48, hangs on to bring down a Columbia Cougar. Zeitounian made five tackles in the game and Westfield won, 30-14. See pictures on Pages 14 and 16.

GRAHAM JOINS JAN 'COCO' FOR WHS INT RECORD

Blue Devils Earn 30-14 Over Columbia Footballers

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

Senior safety Marcus Allen Graham has had a knack of reading where opposing quarterbacks are going to throw the football. On November 12 at Kehler Stadium in Westfield, Graham's knack earned him two interceptions that helped lead the Westfield High School football team to a 30-14, consolation game victory over Columbia.

Of individual importance, Graham's season interception total rose to eight, which catapulted him past Jay Cook (class of 2002) and tied him with Jan Coccoziello (class of 2004) for the all-time Westfield High School record. Cook got his seventh interception on Thanksgiving Day, 2001 against Plainfield and Coccoziello made his eighth interception against Sayreville on November 15, 2003.

Graham, who grew up in Plainfield, looks forward to the Thanksgiving Day clash with Plainfield, which will begin at 11 a.m. at Kehler Stadium.

"My freshman year is when I started playing organized football but I had been playing in the street in Plainfield where I lived," said Graham. "I've seen Jan do it (make interceptions) a couple of years ago. So, I said, if he can do it, I can do it."

With reference to being the sole owner of the record, Graham said, "I kind of wanted to get it against Plainfield because that's my old stomping ground. It would be special if I get it against them!"

"He's up there! He has a nose for the ball and he picks (intercepts) it great," Blue Devil Head Coach Ed Tranchina said of Graham.

Of team importance, every healthy player on the Blue Devil roster saw

action on the field. Twelve Blue Devils combined for 277 rushing yards on 50 carries. Fullback Tyrell Simmons rushed 91 yards, including a one-yard touchdown (TD) plunge, on 10 carries. Tailback Andrew Shaffer ran 51 yards, including a one-yard TD run, on 10 carries. Halfback Jayshawn King rushed 52 yards, including a two-yard TD burst, on seven carries. Sophomore Malcolm Allen carried six times for 27 yards, Joe Vall-Llobera had 22 yards on three carries and Peter Cornell carried three times for 18 yards. Junior wide receiver Sean Ferro grabbed a 26-yard TD reception thrown by quarterback Nick DeRosa, who completed four of eight passes for 54 yards and was

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