



DANGEROUS ALL OVER THE COURT...Blue Devils Erin Roudebush, left, and senior Kaitlyn Shulman were very effective all over the court. Shulman notched four kills and four blocks while Roudebush contributed to a 10-point scoring run.

Devil Volleyballers Stagger Union Farmers, 25-8, 25-16

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

The Westfield High School volleyball team has been honing its skills in an effort to jell into one of the top volleyball teams. On October 6 in Westfield, the Blue Devil girls provided plenty of sparks by bouncing the Union Farmers, 25-8, 25-16.

Senior Kaitlyn Shulman, who was on her mark and notched four kills and four blocks, led the 7-2 Blue Devil girls. Junior Tara Daly made a huge impact with 13 assists and notched two kills. Senior Co-Captain Kristina Fietkiewicz, who showed up guns loaded, triggered four kills. Workhorse Anna Koehler recorded five digs, junior Molly Williams finished with three kills and one service point and senior Co-Captain Monica Dryer served up two aces. Sophomore Paige Roudebush added one service point and one kill and Kristen Dilzell notched one kill.

"We came out all psyched up, ready to go and worked very well as a team in all areas. We were trying to pick up the tempo and we did. We had no hitting errors. We had no service errors. We made good use of our plays and our quickness paid off very well," said Devil Head Coach Beverly Torok. "Our defense is coming on strong. We're covering the ball better. We're reading the opponents shoulders and we seem to be in the right place at the right time just based on our knowledge and our ability to read and move on our opponent accordingly."

The Devils with a talented frontcourt combination of opposite hitter Williams, middle hitter Shulman and opposite hitter Fietkiewicz simply terrorized the opposition in Game 1 with brutal shots. Outside hitter Larissa Borkowsky, Paige Roudebush, in the

middle, and outside hitter Daly established the passing rhythm in the backcourt.

"It's just a lot of experience and learning how to get better," said Shulman humbly. "Sometimes it has to do with where the set is and where I am and where the blocker is."

The opposite happened in Game 2 when the Farmers had all of their pieces secured and surprised the Devils with more aggressiveness and all-around togetherness to tighten the score, 13-11. A fire drill that halted the action approximately 30 minutes, proved beneficial to the Blue Devils when the game resumed. Dryer's

awesome selection of service shots proved very effective while the combination of Shulman, Paige Roudebush, Erin Roudebush and Fietkiewicz ran off 10 straight points.

"Union woke up a little bit, passed just a little better and made some good plays on us; however, we finished out with the same focus even throughout the fire drill," said Torok. "We are trying out some new offense and we had some good practice with it and we look to continue with that."

"We're all moving and talking as a team and have come together as a team," said Erin Roudebush. "We're really becoming a strong team and I love playing with everyone. Our defense is awesome and we pick up everything. When we're on, you see us moving together very smoothly, so the county definitely needs to watch out for us because we're going all the way."

Devils Get Third Seed For UCT Girls Soccer

The 6-3-2 Westfield High School girls soccer team drew the third seed for the upcoming Union County soccer tournament. Governor Livingston (9-0-1) got the top seed and 4-4-2 Scotch Plains-Fanwood received the fourth seed.

All first round games will be played on October 15 at 2 p.m. at the higher seed's field. The quarterfinals are set for October 23 at Governor Livingston and Roselle Catholic, the semifinals are on October 30 at Union and the final is November 5 at Elizabeth.

FIRST ROUND:
Elizabeth/Brearley winner at 1-Governor Livingston
9-Johnson at 8-New Providence
12-Roselle Catholic at 5-Cranford
13-Mother Seton at 4-Scotch Plains-Fanwood
14-Linden at 3-Westfield
11-Summit at 6-Rahway
10-Kent Place at 7-Union Catholic
15-Union at 2-Oak Knoll

Happy 60th Birthday



WHO COULD THIS BE?...Hint! Many people are very grateful for his in depth research.



Devil's Den Plainfield State and Chung Were Too Good to Be True

By BRUCE JOHNSON
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Before there was Milt Campbell, Tom Campbell or Vic Washington at Plainfield High School, before Rick McGinley, Glen Kehler or Butch Woolfolk of Westfield, before Elizabeth's Gil Chapman or Union's Tony Stewart, there was ... Johnny Chung.

Never heard of him? He starred at Plainfield State Teachers College, back in the early 1940s.

Never heard of Plainfield State? Well, that's because neither Plainfield State Teachers College nor Johnny Chung actually existed. They were a joke, a hoax, played by a couple of stock brokers back with no better way to spend their Saturday afternoons. But every football season, as I scan the scores of the college games in the Sunday papers, I think back to Plainfield State, and the amazing season it was putting together before the hoax was discovered.

It all started when an avid sports fan named Morris Newburger and a couple of friends got together one Saturday after the stock market closed and had some drinks. Newburger had become a fan of Slippery Rock (Pa.) Teachers College, whose score always appeared in the Sunday list of college football scores. On the spur of the moment, he decided to call *The New York Times* and said, "I want to report a score ... Plainfield Teachers 21 (his secretary was from Plainfield) ... Regency 12."

The next morning, there was the score in *The New York Times!* Newburger and a friend decided that they would call every week, Newburger to the *New York* papers, his friend to the Philadelphia papers. They often forgot to make sure they had the same opponent and the same score, but whatever.

Each week the two friends got bolder, adding information about the amazing Plainfield team and its star Hawaiian quarterback, Johnny Chung, who eventually became known as "the Celestial Comet."

When the hoax was finally uncovered — six weeks after the original call-in — by *Time* magazine, Red Smith, then at *The Philadelphia Record* before becoming famous at *The New York Times*, contacted the two friends, who unveiled to the legendary columnist some of their future additions to the Chung/Plainfield State legend:

*Chung (supposedly named after a worker at a Chinese laundry that Newburger used) ate a steaming bowl of wild rice at halftime, giving him extra energy.

*Plainfield's famous "W" formation, in which the ends faced the backfield.

*The fact that the Red Army marching song had been stolen from the Plainfield Teachers' Alma Mater.

Actor Robert Montgomery later hosted a TV special about the hoax,

and Walter Winchell and other major voices of radio referred to it for years.

Perhaps the funniest offshoot of the story was *New York Herald Tribune* columnist Franklin P. Adams' creating a song to the tune of Cornell's "Far Above Cayuga's Waters" that began ... "Far above New Jersey's swamplands, there's a ghostly college ..."

DEN TRIVIA

This is the 40th year of the Union County Boys Soccer Tournament, one of the oldest — if not *the* oldest — in the state. Who won the initial tournament, back in 1966, and how many times has WHS come away a winner?

FOOTBALL UPDATE

It's now four weeks into another WHS football season, and the record is 0-4. Where once upon a time WHS showed up every week expecting to win, it's almost like the past year and a half has had WHS showing up wondering what would happen to cause it to lose.

Confidence is a fragile thing, and it's contagious. I'm not so sure our record wouldn't be 3-1 now, if we'd put away that Scotch Plains in Week 2. Certainly, neither Shabazz nor Linden was a frighteningly good team ... good, but not really any better than WHS, player for player.

The defense has been pretty solid the last three games (throw out the Old Bridge game, because I'm pretending it didn't happen). The front four — mostly ends Matt Ince and John Dugan, and tackles Cowles Stewart and Santo Nardi — has been at least a B. The linebackers — mostly Jack Meagher and Ryan Yarusi on the outside, with Will Harbaugh and either Tyrell Simmons or Keith Zeitounian on the inside (all juniors) — gets a B+ (and give Harbaugh an A, because he's been excellent). The secondary — corners Marcus Graham and Jayshawn King, and safety Terron Rogers, with Will Jenkins filling in capably for all three — also gets a B.

Running the ball has always been top priority for coach Ed Tranchina's teams, and that's only really happened against Scotch Plains, when King erupted for 154 yards and Simmons added 43. The other three games, WHS has combined for 116 yards on 89 attempts, just over a yard per carry. With an offensive line that includes TE Ince, tackles Nardi and Stewart, guards Harbaugh and Joe Schurig and center JT Sheehan, a solid QB in Nick DeRosa, and good receivers like Rogers, Tom Bonard, Ryan Sharkey and John Gagliano, you'd think there would be a lot more offense.

Cranford will be the opponent Saturday at Kehler Stadium. The Cougars have won the last two meetings in a series they trail 36-11. The Den sees the Blue Devils getting into the W column, with a solid 28-14 victory, setting the stage for the kind of Novem-

ber that will bring the Westfield fans back onto the band wagon.

On your out-of-state scoreboard last weekend, it was Neshaminy handling Pennridge, 24-0, up in Perkasee, Pa., and Massillon (Ohio) rolling to a 54-0, win over Woodrow Wilson of Youngstown. Up next for Massillon is mighty Harding High of Warren.

CROWD CONTROL

The September 9 football game between rivals Hunterdon Central and North Hunterdon drew a crowd in excess of 3,000 to North's Field in Clinton Township. It also brought police cars from about 10 different municipalities, state police and the regular police on duty to break up a half-time brawl.

According to reports, about 10 or 12 kids were the instigators, while a group of around 500 people surrounded them, making it difficult for the police to break things up.

Is this any way to break in a new turf field?

Even going back to the 1960s and '70s, I can never recall an incident involving fights among fans at WHS football games. Of course, that was before ESPN and FOX and other stations thought it was newsworthy to show fights at high school events on their sports highlights.

And, speaking of lights ... it is difficult to sit up in the bleachers, looking down on the beautiful new turf field at Kehler Stadium, and not imagining how awesome it would be to have lights there. The lights themselves would not bother any of the neighboring houses, so it's mostly a question of money and traffic congestion.

I doubt many night games would draw the crowds that the football team played back in the 1970s, whenever Scotch Plains or Union or Montclair or Plainfield came to town. If traffic control wasn't a problem for 10,000-plus fans back then, why would it now be a problem for 3,000 or 4,000 fans now?

The town is putting up lights at Houlihan Field for youth soccer teams ... so the kids of Westfield get to play under the lights when they practice as 8- and 12-year-olds, but won't get to play under lights when they get to WHS.

TRIVIA ANSWER

In 1966, Edison Tech of Elizabeth edged WHS 2-1 in the final. That came after WHS had stunned Pingry (then located in Hillside) 1-0 in the semifinals, ending the Big Blue's 42-match unbeaten streak. WHS has won or shared the title nine times, the first being a co-title with Summit in 1980.

The Devil's Den appears Thursday in *The Westfield Leader* during the scholastic sports season. Contact us with comments or suggestions or trivia questions at bj1019@aol.com. Go Devils!

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