



Fred Lecomte for The Westfield Leader and The Times

**CORALLING A BULLDOG...**Raider Colin Weber, No. 6, pulls down a Bulldog in the mud bowl.

## Bulldog Gridmen Get Safety To Hold Back Raiders, 16-14

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sidelined the entire first half with an ankle injury, the Raiders' defense rose to the occasion and limited the Bulldogs to minimum yardage. However, after an exchange of punts, the 4-1 Bulldogs tied the game on an eight-play, 58-yard drive, capped by Johnson's 11-yard TD run with 5:43 remaining. The extra point failed, knocking the game, 6-6 at the half.

In the third quarter, sloppy Raider defense allowed the Bulldogs to put together an eight-play, 37-yard grinding drive. Mixing their running plays nicely, the Bulldogs finished off with an 11-yard touchdown run by Johnson. Thomas caught the two-point conversion pass from Jamil Phelps to put the Bulldogs out in front, 14-6, with 8:09 left.

The Raiders responded in a big way by grinding out 75 yards on 15 plays in the fourth quarter. Weber capped the drive with a one-yard TD run. On the two-point conversion attempt, an interference penalty placed the ball inside the two-yard line where Rashawn Strong powered his way into the end zone to tie the game at 14-14 with 11:11 remaining.

"Offensively, the line was giving me a lot of time, however with the ball being wet, it was difficult to get a good grip, however I thought we had a good game, outside of the dumb mistakes, turnovers and what not," noted Weber.

On the ensuing kickoff, the Bulldogs trudged downfield to the Raider 20 yard line. It was a grinder's type of game that seemed destined for a turnover and it came when, on the next play, Weber from his safety position, leaped up high and picked off Phelps' pass on the one-yard line. With 6:18 remaining in the game, the Raider

offensive went back to work, however the dogged Bulldog defense held to four net yards. Then on fourth-and-six, a mishandled punt snap resulted in a safety out of the end zone to give Shabazz its 16-14 lead.

The Raiders attacked one last time, driving to its own 45, however an interception by Moye with 35 seconds remaining sealed the victory.

When asked where some of the breakdowns lie, Strong said, "During the week Coach Ciccotelli puts in a game plan and he expects us to capitalize on that with different personnel going in and out. However, people forget their positions and what they're assignments are. Offensively, with the field as muddy as it was, it was difficult making spins, cuts across the grain and making things happen when there's nothing really there."

Shabazz	0	6	8	2	16
Sc. Pl.-Fanwood	6	0	0	8	14

## Raiders Get Third Seed For UCT Boys Soccer

The defending champion 7-2 Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School boys soccer team received the third seed for the Union County Tournament. Elizabeth (7-0-1) received the top seed, 6-1-2 Union was seeded second, 7-3 Westfield got seeded fourth and 8-0 Union Catholic received the fifth seed.

The preliminary round began on October 11 and all first round games must be completed by October 15 at the higher seed team's field. The quarterfinals will be held at Westfield and Union on October 22, the semifinals are to be held on October 29 at 6 and 8 p.m. in Elizabeth, which will also host the finals on November 5 at 8 p.m.

## Blue Devil Gymnasts Get Second in Cougar Inv't'l

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

The Union High School gymnastic team earned bragging rights by winning the Cougar Invitational Gymnastic championship at Cranford on October 7. The Farmers, with a 104.075 out-dued a strong contingent of Blue Devil girls who totaled 100.95. The Union Catholic gymnasts finished fourth behind Dayton-Brearley with a team total of 98.375. Cranford followed in fifth place with 98.175 while Scotch Plains-Fanwood finished sixth with a total of 97.65.

The Blue Devils, under Head Coach Melissa Bryan, featured standout gymnast Claire Macdonald who finished sixth in the all-around with a total of 34.15. Macdonald grabbed sixth place in the uneven bars with a mark of 8.45, grabbed fifth in floor exercises with a score of 8.85, took eighth in the vault with an 8.45 and took 10th on the balance beam with an 8.4.

Union Catholic Viking senior Alyssa Lewandowski placed fifth all-around with a total of 34.2. Lewandowski had a fine performance in the balance beam by placing third with a score of 9.05. She also placed

fourth in vault with 8.95 and tied for eighth on the floor with Blue Devil Liz Falzon and Mount St. Mary's Allegra Kenwell with an 8.6. Teammate Kristy Napolitano took sixth place on the beam with an 8.65 and tied Falzon for ninth in the vault at 8.35. Falzon also took 10th in the all-around at 33.25.

The Raiders, under Head Coach Lisa Cerchio, entered four girls. Freshman Kelly Cianciotta finished eighth in the all-around with a score of 33.6. She scored an 8.7 to finish fifth on the beam and took seventh on the floor with an 8.7. Natalie Capocchia secured fifth place on the uneven bars with a mark of 8.2 while Annie Smith grabbed seventh with an 8.35 and Laurel Devlin took 10th at 8.1.

Blue Devil Jenna Skoller placed eighth in the uneven bars with a score of 8.3 and teammate Amanda Diaz placed eighth on the beam at 8.5. Danielle Scott of Union was the all-around champion with a super total of 36.625. She also took top honors on the uneven bars at 9.3 and the beam at 9.25. Jessica Greenwald of Union won the floor exercises with a score of 9.1 and Andie Sablosky of Dayton won the vault with a score of 9.35.



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**FLYING HIGH IN THE SKY...**Raider Natalie Capocchia, top, practices her leaps on the balance beam prior to the Cougar Invitational. Blue Devil Claire Macdonald practices a release move on the uneven bars.



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