

See Raiders/Eastside Volleyball on page 17

THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section
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QB COLINWEBER ZIGZAGS FOR 15-YARD TOUCHDOWN

Hornets Sting Raiders, 10-7, With Field Goal in Fourth

By FRED LECOMTE
Specially Written For The Westfield Leader and The Times
The struggling Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School football team lost another close game. This time it was Passaic Valley that stung the Raiders on a late field goal, thus earning the Hornets their first victory of the season in Little Falls on October

we adapted well but we just didn't get our passing game going. We're not consistent enough with it for whatever reason. We're not making the plays that we should, and that's my fault," said Raider Head Coach Steve Ciccotelli.
"We played hard, but not smart and that's what I need my guys to do.

The Hornets took a 7-0 lead in the second quarter when their passing attack clicked successfully for 42 yards on six plays. With the ball spotted on the 35-yard line, quarterback Jim Niland aired the ball to an all-alone Rodriguez, in the end zone with 14:39 remaining.

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Fred K. Lecomte for The Westfield Leader and The Times
GANG TACKLING A HORNET...A threesome of nasty Raiders including Colin Campbell, No. 64, Keith Baker, No. 88 and Nick Giannaci, No. 48, smother a Passaic Valley running back. Scotch Plains-Fanwood lost a close 10-7 game in the final seconds on October 15.

15. Bryant Rodriguez scored the Hornets' lone touchdown and the game-winning 20-yard field goal.
Quarterback Colin Weber put the Raiders on the scoreboard with a shifty 15-yard sneak.
"We did some things well. I thought

Overall, we played well defensively because they could not run on us. We blew coverage for seven, then the field goal. We've done that a couple of times this year and that's got to stop. I told the kids, it all comes back to me. I'm the guy."



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
JARRING THE BALL LOOSE TO CREATE A FUMBLE...Blue Devil John Dugan, No. 80, jars the ball loose from Cougar quarterback Mark Zamorski, creating a fumble that was recovered by Kyle Zeitounian.

YARUSI GALLOPS 54 YDS FOR TD, BONARD HITS FG

Cranford Edges Blue Devils In Spirited Grid Game, 13-10

By DAVID B. CORBIN
Specially Written For The Westfield Leader and The Times
All the elements necessary for a spirited football meeting between the Cranford Cougars and the Westfield High School football team were present at Gary Kehler Stadium on

PAL Football Appreciation Day in Westfield on October 15. With one minute remaining in the game, the Blue Devils were driving toward a score, but defensive back Simon Smith made a diving interception at the 10-yard line to preserve a 13-10

Cougar victory.
In addition to heroic defensive and offensive deeds by individuals from both teams on the turf field, the Cougars' and Blue Devils' bands battled each other down to the wire with uplifting music, both cheerleading squads inspired their respective fans and the large turnout of fans responded generously.

On the field, junior Blue Devil half-back Ryan Yarusi had two receptions for 75 yards, one good for 55 yards and a touchdown (TD). Quarterback Nick DeRosa completed eight of 21 attempts for 153 yards and a TD while being intercepted once. Wide receiver Terron Rogers had three receptions for 58 yards, one a 43-yard grab to set up a field goal attempt. Wide receiver Tom Bonard had two receptions for 20 yards and added a 26-yard field goal in the third quarter. Halfback Andrew Shaffer rushed four times for 20 yards and halfback Jayshawn King rushed 23 yards on nine attempts.
The Cougars relied on their ground

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MEREDITH NAILS TWO GOALS, STIFFLER SAVES FOUR

Soccer Raider Boys Stymie GL Highlanders, 2-0, in UCT

By FRED LECOMTE
Specially Written For The Westfield Leader and The Times
Raider junior Brian Meredith has been acknowledged as being one of the finest boys soccer goalkeepers in the state. However, Raider Head Coach Tom Breznitsky's decision to pull him from goal and onto the field of play worked out like a charm. Meredith scored both goals to help the third-seeded Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School (9-2) overwhelm 13th-seeded Governor Livingston, 2-0, in the first round of the Union County Tournament in Scotch Plains on October 16.

The Raiders came out strong and fired off a total of 16 shots, however with such a low scoring game, the Raider defense also deserved plenty of credit. Senior goalie Mark Stiffler had the burden of clearing the goal and did so effectively with four saves.
"You need to convert your opportunities when you get them. I always tell kids the longer you keep the other

team in the game, the longer they can believe they can play with you and in this game anything can happen," said Breznitsky. "I'm a little concerned about our finishing. We just don't capitalize on the opportunities that we have as consistently as we should. We were a little unlucky. We had a lot

of opportunities, but we have to finish those chances. Hopefully, things will come; however, sometimes you need to give credit to the other team."

The superb Raider defense made sure that the majority of the game would be contested in Highlander

Mark Zyla - One of the 'Finest'



David B. Corbin (July 2005 files) for The Westfield Leader and The Times
Scotch Plains Police Chief Mark Zyla, right, who passed away on October 14, was very active for years with the Scotch Plains Men's Softball League and participated in all three "Finest vs. the Bravest" Charity Softball games. He definitely was "One of the Finest".

JOHN ASLANIAN

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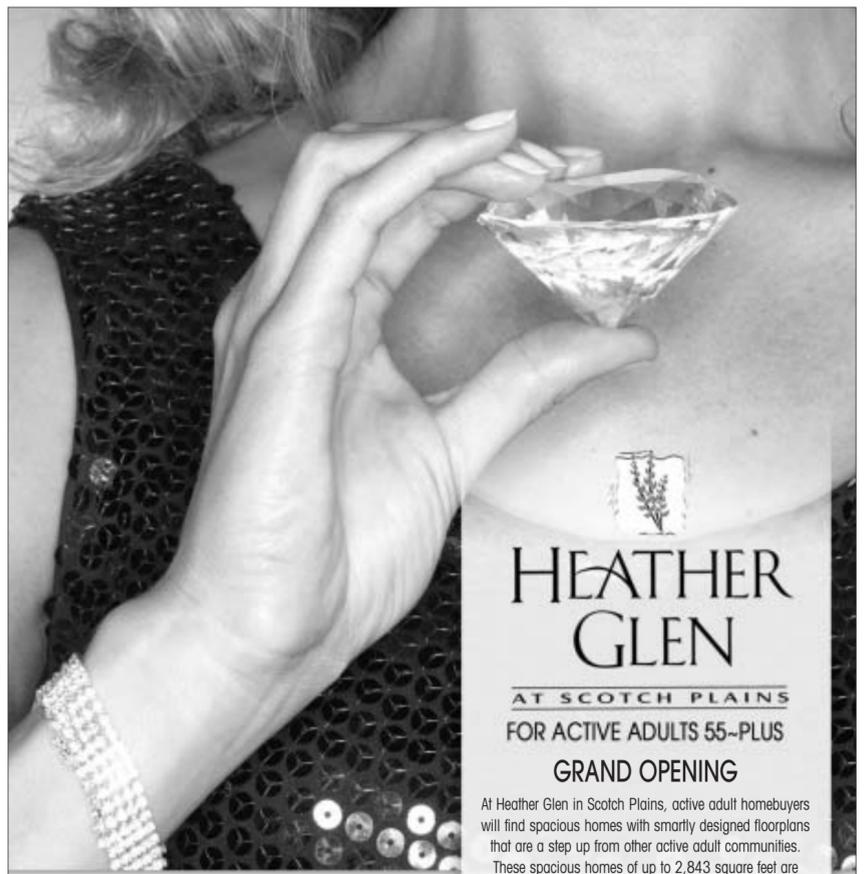


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