

Blue Devil Girls Win Section 2 Net Crown

The top-seeded Westfield High School girls tennis team whipped Watchung Hills, 3.5-1.5, in the semi-finals of the North Jersey, Group 4 Section 2 tournament in Westfield on October 12, then won the championship by defeating defending champions J.P. Stevens, 3-2, on October 17. J.P. Stevens had defeated North Hunterdon, 4-1, to reach the finals.

As of October 19, the 17-0 Blue Devils are ranked fifth in the state.

WESTFIELD 3.5, WATCHUNG HILLS 1.5
FIRST SINGLES: Nikki Reich (W) d. Diane Shapaval, 5-7, 6-0, 6-1
SECOND SINGLES: Emily Schiller (WH) d. Lindsay Goldberg, 6-3, 4-6, 6-4
THIRD SINGLES: Lane Maloney (W) d. Allison Schwartz, 6-7 (4-7), 6-3, 6-0
FIRST DOUBLES: Jessica Bender and Lisa Aliche (W) d. Carina Levenberger and Danielle Weiss, 6-2, 6-1
SECOND DOUBLES: Kim Morawski and Rachel Louie (W) tied Kelly Graziade and Spencer Jacobson, 6-4, 6-7 (4-7)

WESTFIELD 3, J.P. STEVENS 2
FIRST SINGLES: Lucy Zhang (JP) d. Reich, 6-1, 6-0
SECOND SINGLES: Luba Smolensky (JP) Goldberg, 6-3, 6-1
THIRD SINGLES: Maloney (W) d. Nancy Chen, 6-4, 6-1
FIRST DOUBLES: Aliche and Bender (W) d. Sayuri Khandavilli and Rebecca Quan, 6-3, 7-6 (7-3)
SECOND DOUBLES: Louie and Morawski (W) d. Jennifer Chang and Stephanie Kan, 6-4, 6-4



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
STATE SECTIONAL CHAMPS...Nikki Reich and her Blue Devil teammates won the North Jersey, Group 4, Section 2 tennis title by defeating J.P. Stevens.

Website Photos New Additions:

New additions to our website www.goleader.com include the Scotch Plains-Fanwood/Cranford football game, Westfield/Union tennis quarterfinals and Westfield/MX Shabazz football game plus photos from previous games/matches, etc. Click on "Photos" and scroll to appropriate listing.

Lady Vikings Receive UC V'ball Top-Seed

The No. 5-ranked Union Catholic High School girls' volleyball team received the top seed and a first-round bye for the Union County Tournament, which began on October 15. No. 11 Rahway received the second seed, Westfield was seeded third and A. L. Johnson was seeded fourth.

The quarterfinal matches are to be played by October 25 at the higher-seeded team's gym. The semifinals are set for October 27 in Westfield at 7 and 8:30 p.m. The third-place consolation is set for 10 a.m. and the championship game is set for 1 p.m. in Westfield on October 29.

SEEDING SETUP:

- 9-Roselle Catholic vs. 8-Union; winner at 1-Union Catholic
- 12-Elizabeth vs. 5-New Providence
- 13-Benedictine vs. 4-Johnson
- 14-Plainfield vs. 3-Westfield
- 11-Oak Knoll vs. 6-Cranford
- 10-Linden vs. 7-Kent Place
- 15-Scotch Plains-Fanwood vs. 2-Rahway



Fred K. Lecomte for The Westfield Leader and The Times
 Several Union Catholic Vikings volleyballers enjoy a lighter moment together before punishing the Dayton Bulldogs in two games on October 14.

RUSNOCK NOTCHES SIX KILLS, DELIVERS FOUR ACES

UC Viking Volleyballers Snare Dayton Bulldogs, 25-14, 25-10

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

The fifth-ranked Union Catholic High School volleyball team enjoyed another successful outing and elevated its record to 16-3 by making the Dayton Bulldogs yelp with a 25-14, 25-10, drudging on October 14.

As a team, the Vikings "kill crew" went to work and notched 25 kills, led by Paige Rusnock, who blasted six kills and four aces, while Joanne Schurtz terrorized the Bulldogs with six kills. Nicole Palumbo and teammate Angela Belotta each notched four kills. Liz Douress triggered two kills and had a team-leading 11 assists. Angela Homs contributed two kills and finished with four service points. Courtney Harris blasted off one kill and contributed with four assists.

"This is a team that is very balanced by its own chemistry. They all get along very well, they're friendly and they're in sync with each other, and that's a nice thing to have on a club," said Viking Head Coach Nancy Saggio.

"With the counties upcoming, it will be competitive with Rahway and Westfield in the mix, while New Providence is not that bad either. Anyone of those teams will give us a run for our money. We have a combination of five players who can hit the ball and we're very balanced; however, we're still hot and cold at times. We're very afraid to make a mistake and it takes us down at times. However when we're on, we're on."

The Vikings, led by Rusnock, Palumbo, Shannon Curry, Homs and Shurtz, set the pace early in Game 1, battering the Bulldogs for a 23-9 lead. Power hitter Shurtz had two-straight kills to close it out.

In Game 2, it was more of the same punishment, with Vikings Angela Belotta, Harns and Homs up front and Curry, Rusnock and Danielle Dimperio playing masterfully in the backcourt. Combining set-ups and kills, the Vikes built a 17-7 lead. Belotta banged two-straight service points, Palumbo and Douress added two crushing kills with Rusnock closing out the match for a 25-10 staggering.

"We knew that this was not going to be a real tough game; however, we come out and play aggressive each and every time we take the court," said Belotta. "You need to maintain

that concentration and stay focused on how you hit, how you pick your spot and how to get the point for your team at all times. I believe we accomplished that today."

"Basically, you don't go into a game knowing that you're going to win, because anything can happen on any given day," added Shurtz. "We ran four plays today that we would use in a more competitive game, whereby the objective is on getting more free balls, and we did. Defensively, we're ready for anything. If they came out by hitting the ball as hard as they can, we're ready for it. We're ready for free balls. We're ready for whatever. We're just extremely that ready at all times."

The Vikings, seeded first in the Union County tournament, were to face the winner of the Roselle Catholic and Union on October 19.

Residents Invited to Learn Olympic Sport of Curling

AREA - Area residents have an opportunity this weekend to learn about curling - an Olympic sport played in central New Jersey at the Plainfield Curling Club in South Plainfield.

The club is holding an open house from 2 to 6 p.m. this Saturday, October 22, at their curling rink located just minutes from Westfield.

Curling was the "hot" sport for viewers on NBC's 50 hours of coverage on cable channels during the 2002 Olympics earned unexpectedly high ratings.

Curling has been around since 16th century Scotland and now it is a winter Olympic medal sport. It is a difficult game to master, not unlike golf - and many curlers are golfers when the ice melts. The curling season is October to March.

Leagues for men, women, mixed and children start in November. The skill level is from beginners to members who have competed the past several years at the national championships and age-group (senior/junior) championships.

Curling takes place in a temperature controlled ice arena with two-of-four-person teams competing on a 138-foot long by eight-foot wide ice

surface. The teams take turns propelling 42-pound granite stones (also called "rocks") on the ice surface to a bulls-eye target over 100 feet away. Each member of the team participates in the delivery of every stone. While many factors enter into a successful "throw," strategy and technique usually prevail over strength and athletic skill.

It takes less than an hour to learn how to curl and two hours to play a game.

The Plainfield Curling Club is located near the intersection of I-287 and Durham Avenue in South Plainfield. Information on the club, which recently celebrated its 40th anniversary, is available at www.njcurling.org. Certified instructors are available to introduce new curlers to the necessary skills.

There is an active junior program for teens and a program for younger. The club has a good mix of curlers that are new to the game and those that played in their youth (usually in the Midwest or Canada).

For more information, e-mail info@njcurling.org or call the club (908) 668-9460 or membership chairman Bill Peskoff at (908) 537-0194.

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WESTFIELD Expanded Ranch \$719,000

Welcome to this lovely expanded ranch in the heart of Westfield. This home has a flexible floor plan with generous sized rooms to suit any lifestyle, with tasteful upgrades and amenities throughout. This home boasts four bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, updated eat-in kitchen with breakfast nook, living room with woodburning fireplace, central air, newer roof and driveway, upgraded electrical and much more. All lovingly maintained on a tranquil landscaped property. (052000585)



WESTFIELD Exclusive! New Construction - A Chance of a Lifetime \$2,600,000

A rare opportunity to own a distinctive custom Westfield residence with a premier 180 unobstructed view of Echo Lake Golf Course. Exquisite unparalleled design, luxurious amenities and an enchanting setting combine to deliver an unsurpassed level of excellence. This prestigious 14 room classic includes a grande master suite with fireplace, sitting room, his and her walk-in closets, spa like bath and steam shower, 5 additional bedrooms, 5 1/2 baths, formal living and dining rooms, library, family room, 2 additional fireplaces, 25 x 32 designer kitchen with French doors to magnificent terrace and manicured grounds. Call Ralph for more information at 908-591-6283. (052000591)



WESTFIELD Mint Condition \$639,000

This completely updated 3 bedroom Colonial is located on a quiet cul-de-sac just 2 blocks from Jefferson School. It boasts a spectacular eat-in kitchen with custom maple cabinetry, granite counters, breakfast bar which adjoins the family room, formal dining room has French doors. The spacious living room has a woodburning fireplace. Oversized master bedroom boasts a sitting area & "his & her" closets. Additional features include a finished basement, CAC & a laundry/mudroom with an entry from the yard. A beautifully landscaped lot, patio & garden complete this lovely home. (052000574)

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