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# THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section  
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## Eighth Annual All-Corbin Team:

The All-Corbin Team is dedicated to the Adult Softball Leagues, American Legion Baseball League, Vintage Base Ball League and Youth Baseball Leagues. The selections are based entirely on neat looking plays, fan participation and interesting poses.

1. **Best Sportsmanship** - Antone's and Linwood Inn (Union County 50+).
2. **Best Known Name** - Larry "Young Yogi" Berra with Lenny Yenish (Union County 50+).
3. **Best Dance at Home** - Mike Petriarca and Will Towles (AFP vs. Sofa Kings - Scotch Plains League)
4. **Most Intense Swing** - Dean Talcott (St. Joseph of St. Bart's League).
5. **"Finest" Swing** - Brian Cheney (Finest vs. Bravest Charity Softball).
6. **"Finest" Home Run** - Luke Fugett (Finest vs. Bravest Charity Softball).
7. **Best Youth Slide Home** - Steve Forghash and catcher Brian Levine (Westfield Youth Baseball).
8. **Most Protective Slide** - Bill Mirto (St. Bart's Oldtimers Men's League).
9. **Most Closely Witnessed** - Neil Kauffman (slide) and Greg McComb (Scotch Plains Men's League).
10. **Best Home Run Trot** - Joe Carroll (Scotch Plains-Fanwood Youth Baseball Association)
11. **Best Windup** - Nathaniel Ward (Westfield Youth Baseball)
12. **Most Protection** - Keith Gibbons (St. Stephens of St. Bart's)
13. **"Finest" Lefty Swing** - Matt Hoelzel (Finest vs. Bravest).
14. **Most Pampered** - Brian Greves (Scotch Plains League).
15. **Best Defense of First** - Art Hobbie (St. Bart's Oldtimers League).
16. **Best Pitching Pause** - Daniel Kerr (Westfield Youth Baseball).
17. **Best Explosion of Dust** - Jason Evans (slide) and third baseman Chris Houlihan (Scotch Plains League).
18. **Best Face Full of Dirt** - Mike Manochio (Scotch Plains League).
19. **Best Slide but Out** - James Parker (St. Joseph of St. Bart's Oldtimers).
20. **Best Block at Third** - Ken Blaes and runner Terry Gallagher (St. Bart's Oldtimers League).
21. **Best Youth Slide Second** - Steve Loshiaivo (SP-F) & second baseman Brian Duffy (WF Youth Baseball).
22. **Best Proof of Out** - Shortstop James Barry and base runner Matt Rivera (Westfield Youth Baseball)
23. **Closest Play at First** - WF first baseman Alex Zierler & SP-F's Matt Ferrara (American Legion Baseball).
24. **Best Youth Home Run** - CJ Meyer (Westfield Youth Baseball)
25. **Best Fan Support** - Scotch Plains Softball League.
26. **Most Times on All-Corbin** - The notorious St. Bart's Hecklers
27. **First Time on All-Corbin** - Also Most Intentionally Walked - Mayor Marty Marks (St. Bart's League)



DEDICATED RUNNERS...The Blue Devils cross-country team has dedicated its season in memory of former WHS Hall of Fame coach Walt Clarkson.

## DANIELSSON, 'ROSE' TO LEAD PACK Devil XC Girls Dedicate Season to Walt Clarkson

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

A quarter of a century ago (1980), the Westfield High School (WHS) girls cross-country program began. This season, the 2005 lady Blue Devils have something special to add to their program. They are dedicating their season to Walt Clarkson.

"I have spoken to the kids and we will be running this season in memory of Walt Clarkson who was primarily responsible for everything track and cross-country in Westfield as well as the (WHS newspaper) *Hi's Eye*," said Thom Hornish, in his 34th year as Blue Devil Head Coach.

Clarkson advised the school newspaper, *Hi's Eye*, for 30 years. He also coached 62 teams at WHS between 1960 and 1982, including three swim teams, with the remainder being cross-country, winter and spring track and field. He achieved a 462-55-3 record (89.4 percent wins), while winning 110 team championships.

There are currently 60 runners on the roster and many are veterans of cross-country, spring or winter track, which may translate to the recapturing of the Union County title that was won by rival Scotch Plains-Fanwood last year. The Blue Devils are the defending Group IV, Section II Champions, a title they have held since 2003.

Jayne Ruotolo, Rachel Barrett, Meg Driscoll and Anna McGrath have been named as team captains and Jennifer Buccino is in her 10th year as Assistant Coach.

"This is going to be a very organic-type of team in terms of our front 10, possibly 14, changing," said Hornish. "Jenn Danielsson probably brings to us the strongest end-of-spring season. She is the defending sectional champion in the mile. Jenn is in really good shape and she will be complemented by Rose Driscoll. Ayn Wisler is a very solid third. We have the luxury of going 13 or 14 deep, and these kids are capable of running within a minute or minute-and-a-half of each other."

**RUNNERS IN THE MIX:**  
Seniors: Meg Driscoll, Rachel Barrett, Jillian Hobson, Jayne Ruotolo, Amy Santoriello, Carly Oliff  
Juniors: Jen Danielsson, Nicole DiBenedetto, Ayn Wisler, Kim Legones  
Sophomores: Rose Driscoll, Marissa Mumford, Caitlin Burke  
Freshmen: Liz McCarthy

Hornish added, "This is going to be a very competitive season. Not only is Scotch Plains talented but their program is reinvigorated. That's a very positive thing and they are to be complimented for that. Therefore, we look at them as people looked at us. We have to prove ourselves against

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## SHAFFER, STEWART, DAROSA NAMED TRI-CAPTAINS

# Blue Devil Footballers Work On New Offensive Strategy

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

Changes have definitely been made in the Westfield High School football team's offensive strategy this season. Facing the toughest rated - 75 rating - schedule in the state, the Blue Devils suffered through a dismal 2004 season in which they managed to score only five touchdowns.

According to Blue Devil Head Coach Ed Tranchina, "We've had to do some things on offense to take advantage of our personnel, to adjust to what defenses are now doing. They are very aggressive, very blitz conscience. We have changed pretty much to a spread offense from the Wing "T", which we have been since 1997. I was very happy with most of the kids' commitment over the summer not to go through what we went through last year."

From time to time, Tranchina also may run a no-huddle offensive scheme to go through what we went through last year.

"Just try to get defenses out of our

faces so we can have a chance to move the ball."

Senior Tri-Captains Andrew Shaffer, Nick DaRosa and Cowles Stewart figure heavily into the offensive equation.

"Our leadership from our captains has been great. Right now, everything is very encouraging," said Tranchina. DaRosa will assume the quarterback position with Shaffer in the backfield and Stewart opening up holes from his lineman's position.

"He's healthy. He's strong. He's confident and he has shown really well in our scrimmages throwing the ball," Tranchina said of DaRosa. "Andrew is running the ball really well. He runs better out of the "T" formation than he did as a Wing "T" half-back."

In addition to Shaffer and senior Willy Jenkins, the Blue Devils have several reserve running backs in juniors Peter Cornell, Tyrell Simmons, Ryan Yarusi and Mike Henry.

"In our league, we are probably slower than most of the teams. I think speed is the name of the game in this conference," said Tranchina. "Our speed is good. It's not bad at all. We have enough speed to hang in there."

Emerging toward the top of the wide receiver and ends list are seniors Jayshawn King, Eric Scudato and Terron Rogers and juniors Tom Bonard, Pete Antonelli and Davon Wise. Others in the mix are: seniors Ryan Sharkey, John Gagliano, Andrew Petrusic and Brandon Simmons, juniors Joe Simone, Sean Ferro and Kyle Zeitounian and sophomore John Dugan.

"Terron has been great on both sides of the ball. He has great hands and the ability to go to the ball," commented Tranchina.

The 300-lb+ Stewart will head the offensive line along with seniors Bob Mroz and Pete Protogiannis and juniors Santo Nardi, Bill Harbaugh, Joe

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BLUE DEVIL GRIDDERS WORKING ON DEFENSE...The Westfield High school football team work hard on defense during a practice session on September 1.

David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times