



Fred K. Lecomte for The Westfield Leader and The Times
UNDERSTANDING BY EXAMPLE... Westfield Head Coach Maggie McFadden demonstrates the finer techniques in controlling the stick to her young field hockey team. Expectations for a good season are high.

MANETTI, CASSIDY, DEFAZIO TO LEAD

WF Girls Eye Promising Field Hockey Season

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

The Westfield High School girls' Field Hockey team struggled for victories last year, however, much better things appear on be on the horizon, despite the loss of numerous seniors, according to Head Coach Maggie McFadden. The Devils will feature a horde of new faces and the expectations may prove to be much higher. "We're looking to be a better team this year. The girls have played a lot of hockey over the summer and have worked hard on their physical conditioning, so they may become athletically stronger. We're hoping that carries over to the field, however, they are inexperienced and it may take some time for them to gel," said McFadden. "We're still trying to figure out who is playing where, so we don't have a set team at this point. We have many girls playing at the varsity level without experience, so that's a challenge; however, I believe we have the makings of a fairly good team." McFadden believes the team will need to rely heavily on senior Tri-Captain offensive forward Justine Cassidy who brings offensive experience, senior Tri-Captain defensive wizard Samantha Manetti and senior Tri-Captain Becky DeFazio, who sustained a pre-season injury, but is expected back, to lead the blend of this year's team.

far," added Manetti. "We have a pretty good forward line so I believe it will be a pretty good season." "Despite the fact that we lost many seniors, our defensive line appears to be pretty good and we're playing well together," said DeFazio. "Natalia Mavrogiannis will step up and assume the goal tending position. "Nat, as a keeper at the JV level stepped in and played really well last year and has shown a lot of improvement," said McFadden. Also look for Katherine Taylor, the wild card in the deck, to make a good showing. "She's been working as a goalkeeper for several years but was sidelined most of last year with a knee injury. She has yet to be on the field this year due to a sprained ankle but I love to see her out there and play some goal." Other senior veterans who will take to the charge are Julie Bennett, Christine DeSerio and Eunice Park. "The primary key for this team lies in understanding how to move better off ball and create space allowing separation from their defenders so they can receive balls in a good position to score," said McFadden. "The ultimate goal is to win. Having fun and being athletic are by-products of winning and we're going to try to win as many games as we can."

SP Cobras 18U Girls Tryouts September 10:
 Tryouts for the 2005-2006 Cobras 18U fast pitch softball team will be held on Saturday, September 10, from 2 to 4 p.m. at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School varsity softball field.

ALICHE, BENDER NAMED CAPTAINS

Blue Devil Girls Sight U. C. Tennis Crown

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

Competition is fierce and the talent level is high among the girls of Westfield High School tennis team, which is potentially a very good sign for the season's outlook. All but one of the girls on last year's varsity squad, that placed second to Kent Place in the Union County (UC) tournament, have returned and all of the members of the two doubles teams that won individual UC titles will be competing, but with some changes. Junior Nikki Reich has retained her position at first singles and junior Lindsay Goldberg has won the second singles position that was vacated by Michelle Morawski who graduated last year. Junior Lane Maloney, who teamed with Jessica Bender to capture the UC first doubles crown, has won the third singles position. Senior Rachel Louie and sophomore Kim Morawski, who won the

UC second doubles crown last year, have been competing with Bender, a senior Co-Captain, and senior Co-Captain Lisa Aliche, who placed second at third singles last year, to determine the doubles slots. "Everybody came back a little better player," said Ed Tirone in his 11th year as Blue Devil girls Head Coach. "They are better than we were last year and we were tough last year, so with another year's growth, our expectations are high. Now it's a matter of doing it." The Blue Devils were edged for the UCT title, 72-64, by Kent Place and will have gotten a good idea of their strength after opening the season with them on September 7. "We will find out! We have all this potential that we talk about. We have all these good players back. Now we have to go out on the court and do it," said Tirone. "See if we can put it together!"



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
SHARPENING HER SKILLS... Junior Nikki Reich has retained her position as the Blue Devils' first singles player.

Devil XC Girls Dedicate Season to Clarkson

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 them. We feel we have a good shot at them but we are certainly not going to dismiss them." Hornish also feels Cranford, led by star Laura Gallo, will present quite a challenge and the sleeper team will be Summit with Samantha Lee. "Laura is one of the top runners in the county and the state," he said. The Blue Devil girls open their

invitational season at Lincoln Park in Jersey City on Saturday, September 10, at the St. Dominic Invitational. Their dual meet season begins on September 13 at Warinanco Park in Roselle against Scotch Plains-Fanwood and Shabazz or Newark East Side at 4:15 p.m. "It's good to have competition. It inspires teams," said Hornish.



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
ANOTHER BRIDGE TO CROSS... The Blue Devil cross-country team run in a tight pack and feel that they have the goods to accomplish bigger and better things this season. The competition amongst the boys is so intense that nearly every position is up for grab.

MOST POSITIONS ARE UP FOR GRAB

Blue Devil XC Boys Have Goods to Win UC Crown

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

Westfield High School boys cross-country has exploded onto the New Jersey radar screen since the Blue Devils placed eighth in the Meet of Champions last year and Jeff Perrella came home with a sixth-place finish. Most of that same pack has returned; however, with the exception of Perrella, the remainder of the top-7, spots are up for grabs. "Jeff Perrella is number one, after that, the top seven will be wide open because we have a lot of people who have trained hard and it puts a lot of pressure on the guys who are returning. It will make us a better team overall," stated Blue Devil Head Coach Jack Martin. "We have three sophomores, Alex Tarlow, Evan Friedman and Neil Fitzpatrick, who have trained very hard over the summer." Martin also pointed out that, in addition to the returning veterans, seniors Greg Souders and Matt Harris and juniors Jon Meredith and Eric Williams have made big gains.

ons. It can be expected that Perrella and Cougar Joe McKinney will be vying for the individual title. "Jeff has a good attitude and he knows how to handle the pressure so far, along as the newspapers and colleges don't hound him too much," said Martin. Assistant Coach Chris Tafelski, a 1997 WHS graduate and former cross-country star who ran with six-time MOC champ - winter track, spring track and cross-country - Matt Elmuccio, has been quite an asset, helping coach Martin handle the large Blue Devil team. "Their work ethic is great. The guys put in a terrific summer and they are very serious about developing as a team. They are in great shape and they are enjoying being in great shape," said Tafelski. "The guys look up to guys like Matt (Elmuccio) and last year we had some guys run times that put them on the (WHS) all-time list. We had Jeff and Rob (Broadbent) make the all-time list at Holmdel, which was great because we haven't had anybody make that list since Matt. They are seeing the results of their hard work." With such a great showing at the MOC last year, the Blue Devils have more than just a UC title in mind. "I hope that we can still peak at that point and, hopefully, make it there (MOC) again, but also maybe to be there to win something," Martin said.

"We have a lot more kids in the top group and a lot running well," added Martin. "That will keep the pack tighter and everybody happier." As Tri-Captains, Perrella, Kevin Devaney and Ameer Rogers aim to keep the 98 strong Blue Devils a tightly knit pack that will be needed in order to dethrone Cranford from its perch as Union County (UC) champ-

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