



David B. Corbin for The Leader and The Times
BALANCING ACT...Blue Devil Clair Macdonald works on her balance beam routine before the meet with the Raiders.

FALZON 1ST ALL-AROUND, MACDONALD 1ST BEAM

Lady Blue Devils Soar, Top Raider Gymnasts, 102.3-99.3

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

Only two meets into the season, the Westfield High School gymnastics team recorded its second victory, both with team totals exceeding 102 points. In Scotch Plains on September 15, the Blue Devils topped a rebuilding but talented Scotch Plains-Fanwood team, 102.3-99.3, while a trio of gymnasts - Katherine Gelline and Emily Kline from Westfield and Allegra Kenwell from Watchung - from Mount St. Mary's (MSM) Academy, unable to compete in the team score, performed well in the individual events.

Happy to be at the event but realistic, MSM Head Coach Maria Sa commented, "The pressure is really on my girls because they can't compete

season. We are looking to progress with every meet."

Although few in numbers this season, several Blue Devils turned in high scores across the board to contribute to the fine total. Junior Liz Falzon placed first in the vault (8.65), second on the uneven bars (8.65) and third on the balance beam (8.55) and floor exercise (8.7) to take top honors in the all-around with a total of 34.55. Falzon's bar routine featured smooth giant swings concluded with a graceful flyaway dismount.

Blue Devil junior Claire Macdonald took first on the beam (8.9) and tied for third on the bars (8.4) with Raider Natalie Capoccia to tie for second with MSM's Kenwell in the all-around with a total of 34.2. Macdonald's beam

Amanda Diaz for second in the vault at 8.5. Correctly performing a toe on to a catch transfer on the uneven bars and adding double giant swings with a flyaway dismount, MSM's Gelline placed first in the event with a 9.0. She also took third in the all-around at 34.15.

Raider freshman Kelly Cianciotta had an all-around score of 32.7 (fifth) and captured second on the floor with an 8.8. Laurel Devlin, who tied for third on the floor at 8.7, had an all-around score of 33.1 (fourth). Devlin's floor routine included a perky dance number that seemed to get participation from her teammates.

"We had a wonderful meet today, very positive. Our girls scored four points better than they did on Tuesday. We were especially stronger on floor. They love Laurel's routine. They have it memorized," chuckled Cerchio.

"We are starting the season really strong," said Blue Devil Head Coach Melissa Bryan. "My team is extremely small this year but big things come in small packages. The girls are very solid. I look forward to the rest of the season and to get stronger."

VAULT:
1. Falzon (W) 8.65
2. Diaz (W) and Kenwell (MSM) 8.5
3. Natalie Golikov (W) 8.45
Macdonald (W) and Gelline (MSM) 8.4, Devlin (SPF) 8.35, Jenna Skoller (W) and Annie Smith (SPF) 8.3, Cianciotta (SPF) 8.1, Capoccia (SPF) 8.05, Emily Kline (MSM) 7.9, Jennifer DiGiusseppe (SPF) 6.9

BEAMS:
1. Gelline (MSM) 9.0
2. Falzon (W) 8.65
3. Macdonald (W) and Capoccia (SPF) 8.25
Smith (SPF) 8.2, Devlin (SPF) 8.15, Julia Valentin (W) 8.05, Kenwell (MSM) 8.0, Skoller (W) 7.7, Golikov (W) 7.5, Cianciotta (SPF) 7.45, Kline (MSM) 7.3

FLOOR:
1. Kenwell (MSM) 9.0
2. Cianciotta (SPF) 8.8
3. Falzon (W), Devlin (SPF), Gelline (MSM) 8.7
Macdonald (W) 8.65, Diaz (W) 8.55, Smith (SPF) 8.5, Valentin (W) 7.3, Capoccia (SPF) 7.05, Kline (MSM) 6.95

ALL-AROUND:
1. Falzon (W) 34.55
2. Macdonald (W), Kenwell (MSM) 34.2
3. Gelline (MSM) 34.15



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
ONLY FOUR INCHES TO SPARE...Raider freshman Kelly Cianciotta performs a back handspring on the four-inch wide balance beam.

in the sectionals as a team. They have to do everything individually."

After losing her four top gymnasts to graduation, Raider Head Coach Lisa Cerchio said, "We are just waiting to see what the future will bring. Because of the big four, it's a new

routine featured high leaps, back handsprings and a back tuck dismount.

Kenwell's beautiful routine on the floor, featuring a back tuck with a half twist, earned her first in the event with a 9.0 score. She also took second on the beam at 8.7 and tied Blue Devil

St. Bart's Championship Game on Website
Many pictures of the St. Bart's Oldtimers Men's Softball League Championship game held on Labor Day are now available on *The Leader/Times* website www.goleader.com. Once on the site, click photos in the upper right corner then scroll to 05sep05StBart



Fred K. Lecomte for The Westfield Leader and The Times
BATTLING THE HIGHLANDERS...Union Catholic Viking senior Pam Heaney looks to move the ball up field past GL Chrissie Sidie, No. 20 and Meredith Talbot, No. 21. Governor Livingston won, 2-0.

GL'S SIDIE, KINGSTON NET GOALS

Lady Highlanders Stop UC Soccer Vikings, 2-0

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

The Union Catholic High School girls' soccer team had to be proud of its intensity during its game with Governor Livingston on September 15 in Scotch Plains. Although losing 2-0, the Vikings were not intimidated with the Highlanders, as they displayed maturity by making timely adjustments. However, the name of the game is to put the ball in the goal.

GL senior Chrissie Sidie has a reputation for scoring, and that is exactly what she did. Tatiana Kingston whizzed in the second goal late in the game. Highlander keeper Aly York proved tough, stopping eight shots. Viking goalkeeper Melissa McClintock, who had eight saves, reacted quickly and correctly with three spectacular saves.

In the first half, the Viking defense rose to the challenge forcing the Highlander front line to be hesitant off their leads and passes.

"We have a very strong defense, we just need to work on getting the ball in back of the net," said Viking Geislinger. "If we can capitalize on our scoring opportunities, we'll be right where we want to be next time."

In the second half, GL switched some its formations and pursued the

ball with dogged determination. Although some of the shots posed little threat, the one that did came in the 68th minute when outside fullback Samantha Eick fired a corner shot that ricocheted off the Viking keeper. Sidie, sitting on the front porch, pushed the ball inside the left side of the post.

"Winning balls and putting in that second effort in the second half made the difference," said Sidie. "I switched from playing forward, where I was double-teamed in the first half to midfield. We started going after the ball more and basically, that's how both of the goals were scored."

Unfortunately, the Vikings did not seem to gain the killer instinct while the Highlanders put keeper McClintock to the test. With 13 minutes remaining, Kingston lodged the ball into the left side of the netting off a corner kick from Meredith Talbot to give the Highlanders a late insurance goal.

"This is a game where we had to play touches and we had to pass the ball back and forth, so once we got it down to our feet, we opened up some opportunities to score and that's when Kingston stuffed it in," said Eick after the game.

Governor Livingston	0	2	2
Union Catholic	0	0	0

Devil Gymnasts Beat Union Catholic Girls

The Westfield High School gymnastics team opened its season with a 102.55-85.7 victory over Union Catholic on September 13 in Westfield.

VAULT:
1. Claire Macdonald 9.15 (W), 2. Amanda Diaz 8.6 (W), 3. Natalie Golikov (W), Liz Falzon (W), Ebony Jones (UC), Kristen Scherer (UC) 8.5
4. Julia Valentin 8.15 (W)
5. Mary Bricki 7.9 (UC)

BEAMS:
1. Falzon 8.8 (W), 2. Jones 8.05 (UC), 3. Macdonald (W), Jenna Skoller (W) 8.0
Valentin 7.65 (W), Golikov 6.95 (W), Bricki 6.65 (UC), Scherer 5.95 (UC), Sara McDermott 4.2 (UC)

FLOOR:
1. Falzon 8.8, 2. Macdonald 8.7 (W), 3. Diaz (W), Jones (UC) 8.5
Napolitano 7.95 (UC), Valentin 7.8 (W), Bess Ann Kushner 3.8 (UC)

ALL-AROUND:
1. Macdonald 34.85 (W)
2. Falzon 34.45 (W)

Soccer Vikings Whip Hillside Boys, 4-1

The Union Catholic High School boys soccer team whipped Hillside, 4-1, in Scotch Plains on September 13. Mike Seamon netted two goals and Mike Bento added three assists while Brian Kratky and Chris Chaban each had a goal. Goalie Chris Varga made five saves.

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