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THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section
Pages 11-15

SHALLCROSS CLINCHES BLUE DEVIL TEAM VICTORY

No. 6 Blue Devil Netmen Sink No. 8 BridgeH2O-Raritan, 4-1

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

Last year Kevin Shallcross was usually the first Westfield High School boys tennis player to finish his match and walk off the court with a victory. Although two other matches had been completed before his on April 10 at Tamaques Park in Westfield, it was his, 6-3, 6-2, win over Panther Chris Wu that clinched a 4-1 victory for the

No. 6 Blue Devils over No. 8 Bridgewater-Raritan, the very team that defeated them twice last year and denied them the sectional title.

The first to finish were Blue Devils Matt Gralla and Evan Eisenberg who claimed a 6-2, 6-2, victory over Panthers Rob Cooperman and Anup Bhujle at second doubles. At the beginning of the year, the twosome were not the starters at second doubles,

which shows how much depth the Blue Devils have within their ranks.

"Against a team of this quality, that's (team depth) absolutely correct! They are both sophomores. In our challenge matches, they won two days in a row. They got their chance. They beat Bridgewater. It was a great win for them," said Blue Devil Head Coach George Kapner, who topped

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



CONCENTRATING ON THE GAME CLINCHER...Blue Devils first singles player Kevin Shallcross keeps his eye intently on the ball in his match against Panther Chris Wu. Shallcross won, 6-3, 6-2.

KASKIW, 2-2, TRIPLE, 3 RBI; SETTE TRIPLES, SCORES 2

Raider Softballers Win Third, Silence Linden Tigers, 6-1

By DAVID B. CORBIN
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Senior pitcher Elaine Piniat tossed a controlled game and veterans Kelli Kaskiw, Melissa Sette and Lauren Benovengo led a 10-hit attack to give the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School softball team a 6-1 victory

over Linden in Scotch Plains on April 6. The 3-0 Raiders had previously beaten Bridgewater-Raritan and Shabazz.

Piniat fanned four Tigers and yielded only one free pass in the sixth inning. Of the three hits she allowed, only one, a double down the right

field line by Kristen Magoska in the second inning, was significant. One was a blooper just over the second baseman's head and the third was a result of a safe call on a grounder to shortstop. The lone Tiger run (unearned) came as a result of two back-to-back outfield errors in the sixth inning.

"She just works hard. That's the bottom line for her. She loves the game and she's just trying to be better. She wants to play college ball and, everyday, she's out there trying to get better," said Raider Head Coach Kelly Covert.

Kaskiw, a centerfielder, was an offensive wrecking machine who went 2-for-2 with an RBI single, an RBI triple and an RBI sacrifice fly. She also walked and scored twice. Sette, a shortstop, tripled, scored twice and walked twice. Right fielder Benovengo went 2-for-4 with an RBI. Leftfielder Allie Brown tapped two singles, Piniat had an RBI single and scored a run, second baseman Stephanie Goines singled and scored a run and catcher Lauren Mains singled.

"Beno is swinging that bat. Nicole Colinetti can bunt, she can hit, same

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



GOING FOR THREE...Raider Melissa Sette rounds second en route to a triple against the Linden Lady Tigers.



SETTING UP HIS THIRD GOAL...Blue Devil Ryan Sharkey, No. 6, sticks around the right side just before firing in his third goal in the game against the Pingry Big Blue.

SHARKEY, BIALICK FIRE IN THREE GOALS APIECE

Blue Devil Breakdown Ends In 10-8 Lax Loss to Pingry

By DAVID B. CORBIN
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"We got to win the battle of the middle of the field. That's how we lost our last two games," Blue Devil Head Coach Gerry Benaquista said to his team prior to the game with Pingry at Gary Kehler Stadium in Westfield on April 10.

The Westfield High School boys lacrosse team did beat the Big Blue in face-offs, 13-7, but lost the rest of the middle game, especially ground balls (37-24), to experience a 10-8 setback.

"Overall, in the middle of the field, we are talking ground balls, we are talking face-offs, we are talking clears. We just didn't get it done today," said

Benaquista.

Senior attackers Mike Bialick (8 ground balls) and Ryan Sharkey each fired in three goals for the 1-3 Blue Devils whose two other losses came in narrow defeats to No. 9 Moorestown and No. 3 Montclair. Ryan Yarusi and Chris Mattes also scored for Westfield. In fact, the Blue Devils out-shot their opponents, 40-20, but Pingry goalie Rob Ventura had a banner day with 15 excellent saves. Blue Devil goalie Ben Thomas had four saves in the first half and goalie Alex Lewis made one in the second half.

"Their goalie was a very good

goalie. He had a lot of big saves and, maybe, our shot selection wasn't that great. We were standing still too much. We didn't move through the defense," said Benaquista.

Attacker Jason Leeds led 2-2 No. 15 Pingry with four goals and two assists and teammates Logan Bartlett and Brian Combias each netted two goals. Tim Kimber and Morgan Griff (1 assist) each had one goal and Justin Oplinger had an assist.

After the Blue Devils took a 2-1 first-quarter lead after Sharkey and Yarusi both found the net, the tide changed abruptly in the second quarter.

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