

TOWNSEND, OLSEN POKE RBI DBLS; PALUMBO RBI

Blue Devil Softballers Sting U. C. Vikings, 2-1, in Fourth

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

Great pitching and superb fielding set the tone for a low scoring game between the Union Catholic High School softball team and host Westfield on April 10. However, back-to-back doubles in the bottom of the fourth inning gave the Blue Devils a 2-1 victory.

Blue Devil junior Lindsay Brown (1-1) was cool on the mound as she chilled the Vikings, striking out 10,

is a win."

Blue Devil Jess Moskowitz pulled off a beautiful pick in right field and third baseman Erin Scialabba responded by gunning down three Vikes. Jackie Hernandez added some defensive hustle for the Vikings on a difficult chopper to third and fired to first to nab the runner.

Westfield was aggressive in the bottom of the third and scored its first run when Moskowitz led off with a walk, bolted to second on Scialabba's

and scored on an RBI single off the metal stick of Nikki Palumbo.

"Our fielding has improved tremendously, however it's our hitting that is a bit lacking," said Palumbo. "We turned it on in the sixth but it was the eleventh hour. When it came to the bang-bang plays at home we were just a little slow."

"We have five freshmen on the team so the future looks bright," said first year Viking Head Coach Ed Ryan. "We came out a little flat-footed offensively today but future wise, we look very good. We need to come out a little stronger, a little earlier. Our pitching however did very well."

Union Catholic	000	001	0	1
Westfield	001	100	x	2



Fred K. Lecomte for The Westfield Leader and The Times

SOLID AT FIRST... Blue Devil first baseman Jenny LaSpata played with confidence and aggressiveness. The junior accounted for six putouts in the game.

allowing three hits and walking three through six and two third innings. Reliever Ashley Wytenus pitched the final out. Viking Nicole Caravano scattered five hits, walked two and struck out five.

"I'm very pleased with the defense. They played great. We had a, maybe one-hit error, but it was a hard hit ball. My outfielders made some nice plays and got the ball in. Brown pitched well enough to get the win," said Blue Devil Head Coach Tara Pignoli. "I expected a bit more from our offense. We hit the ball hard, but did not convert all the time."

"I basically throw a fastball, a change-up, a curve, a drop and try to hit my spots," said Brown. "I thought we could have played better but a win

sacrifice bunt then trampled the plate on Kim Townsend's double to right-center.

"I was really excited to get a good hit. I saw the strike coming and swung as hard as I could and that's where it went," said the freshman.

The 1-1 Blue Devils took a 2-0 lead in the fourth. Co-captain senior shortstop Kristina Fietkiewicz lashed a double to left then streaked across the plate when catcher Jillian Olsen ripped a double to center.

The scrappy 1-2 Vikings, not to be denied, narrowed the score to 2-1 in the top of the sixth inning when Angela Bellota hit a laser deep to center

Baseball Raiders Rip Linden Tigers, 2-1

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School baseball team improved to 3-1 with a 2-1 victory over Linden in Linden on April 6. Raider Josh Decker, who picked up his second win, went the distance, fanning five while yielding three hits and two walks. Frank Szczepanik, who pitched four innings, recorded seven strikeouts and a walk in the loss for 0-1 Linden.

The Raiders scored their first run in the first inning when John Mineo rapped an RBI double to score Jeff Bell. In the sixth, John Cox scored on an error. Linden scored in the bottom of the sixth inning on an RBI single from Luis Lobo which scored Brandon Czajkowski who doubled.



Fred K. Lecomte for The Leader and The Times
A SCRAPPY VIKING...Nicole Caravano chilled five Devils.

Ridgewood Golfers Capture Blue Devil Invit'1 Tourney

Eight of the finest high school golf teams - five ranked in the top-20 - assembled at Echo Lake Country Club in Westfield for the Blue Devil Invitational Tournament on April 10. In the 12-hole event, No. 4 ranked Ridgewood took the team title with a 318 total followed by No. 1 Ramapo at 323 and No. 10 Westfield at 333.

Blue Devil senior Jimmy Arbes and Ramapo's Morgan Hoffman tied in regulation, each with a 4-under-par 43 to force a playoff. After four attempts at the par-3 playoff hole, Hoffman, who won the NJSIAA Tour-

Blue Devil Girls Whip Pioneer Laxers, 15-4

In pre-season, Westfield High School Blue Devil girls lacrosse Head Coach Liz Coulson told *The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*, "We have a lot of young talent this year. It's pretty exciting seeing returning players stepping into leadership roles and new players stepping up their game. We're building on last season's solid foundation and are out to prove ourselves as a force."

Well, the 19th-ranked Blue Devils certainly have made things happen so far this season and upped their record to 3-0 with a 15-4 whipping of the New Providence Pioneers on April 7 in Westfield. Of the new players, freshman Liz McCarthy ripped in four goals and, of the veteran players, Julie Shelman flicked in three goals.

Blue Devils MaryKate Luker and Kristen Fortino fired in two goals apiece. Pamela Loria netted three goals for the 1-1 Pioneers.



Alex Cons (alex@shalaridge.net) for The Westfield Leader and The Times
TAKING CHARGE...Blue Devil junior Julie Shelman, No. 15, controls the ball and nets three goals against the New Providence Pioneers on April 7.

Softball Raiders Quiet Lady Cougars, 3-1

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School softball improved to 4-0 with a 3-1 victory over 3-1 Cranford in Scotch Plains on April 10. Elaine Piniat struck out seven, walked none and yielded just three hits in the victory. Nicole Colineri and Melissa Sette each doubled and Lauren Mains ripped an RBI single in the third inning. Elena Morge had an RBI single for Cranford.

Vikings Finish Strong At H. Johnson Relays

The Union Catholic High School girls track and field team placed second overall and the Viking boys finished third at the Herm Johnson Relays held at Hub Stine Field in Plainfield on April 8. Toms River South won the girls event with 54 points followed by the Vikings with 50 points.

Vikings Aerielle Belk, Alisa Harris, Lesley Hendricks and Jen Seniszyn won the girls 4x200-meter relay with a time of 1:52.5. Belk, Angelica Glover, Hendricks and Seniszyn placed second in the 4x100 meters with a time of 51.1.

Mike Sprague, Julian Phillips, Collin Dube and Brian Guteri crossed first in the boys Distance Medley Relay with a time of 11:17.8. Sprague, Ryan Kilkenny, Dube and Guteri captured first in the 4x800 meters with a time of 8:54.

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