



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
RIPPING ANOTHER SINGLE...Raider Allie Brown rips her second single of the game against the Linden Tigers.

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

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thing with Kelli and Sette. And we have more speed on the bench. We are confident, not overly confident, however," said Covert.

Due to Piniat's wise selection of pitches, aside from the four strikeouts, the solid Raider infield made 16 of the 21 putouts and the other came on a fine running grab by Kaskiw in center.

"I'm completely confident (with the infield). We had one hole to fill at second. We lost Taylor Cianciotta. She is now playing at Gettysburg. We have three prospects and Stephanie Goines who played out there today, played hard and she has the bat too," said Covert.

The Raiders' first run came in the bottom of the first inning when Sette hammered a triple over the leftfielder's head and scored on Kaskiw's RBI single. In the third,

Sette walked, Kaskiw drilled her RBI triple, Mains walked and Piniat ripped an RBI single to center. After Brown singled her to third, Piniat alertly scored on an errant attempted back pickoff to first to give the Raiders a 4-0 lead.

In the fourth, Kaskiw walked, Mains singled, Piniat reached first on a throwing error and Benovengo brought Kaskiw home with an RBI single. In the fifth, Goines reached base on an error, Nicole Colinetti and Sette both walked and Kaskiw lofted an RBI sacrifice fly to make the score 6-0.

"We have talent on this team. We are deep on our bench and everyone wants to play. That is what's pushing everyone out there," stated Covert. "This is our year. We have to make something happen this year!"

Linden	000	001	0	1
Sc. Pl.-Fanwood	103	110	x	6

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

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the 300 mark in career wins in boys tennis last week.

Junior Jack Trimble and freshman Dean Thompson gave the 4-0 Blue Devils a 2-0 team lead with a 6-2, 6-4, triumph over Josh Lee and Aneesh Devi at first doubles. At that time, Shallcross, a sophomore, had already won his first set and commanded a 5-2 lead over Wu in the second set.

"Having two wins before you come off isn't bad," chuckled Shallcross. "I was very excited to be the third court off because it gave us a chance to come back against a team that was our arch-nemesis last year. It was great that our doubles came through for us. We played a really good match."

With reference to his match with Wu, Shallcross said, "I played very well today. He is a very good player. It was a hard match for me. The first set was very close the whole way through. Then at 4-3, I broke serve and then at 5-3, I held. In the second set, I broke once in the beginning and

got ahead and then again at the end of the set. He has a very powerful forehand, so you want to keep it away from that. You have to open the court, play to the backhand and serve well."

In a battle of freshman, Panther Erik Hsu topped James Chu, 6-2, 6-4, at third singles, leaving only Blue Devil sophomore Ravi Netravali and Panther senior Scott Van Dorn on the courts at second singles to decide if there was to be any gravy to coat the victory. Netravali won the first set, 7-6 (9-7), and dropped the second set, 2-6, but he regrouped to win the third set, 7-5.

FIRST SINGLES: Kevin Shallcross (W) d. Chris Wu, 6-3, 6-2
SECOND SINGLES: Ravi Netravali (W) d. Scott Van Dorn, 7-6 (9-7), 2-6, 7-5
THIRD SINGLES: Erik Hsu (B) d. James Chu, 6-2, 6-4
FIRST DOUBLES: Jack Trimble and Dean Thompson (W) d. Josh Lee and Aneesh Devi, 6-2, 6-4
SECOND DOUBLES: Matt Gralla and Evan Eisenberg (W) d. Rob Cooperman and Anup Bhujle, 6-2, 6-2



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GETTING THE GRAVY...Blue Devil second singles player Ravi Netravali won the last match of the afternoon to give his team a 4-1 victory over the Panthers.

Handza, Walsh Lead St. Helen's To 20-6 Season in Boys' Hoops

St. Helen's boys basketball team finished the 2005-2006 season with a 20-6 record, made it to the final four of the state tournament and the final four of their Union, Middlesex, Somerset County League.

Senior guard Woody Handza, who averaged 29.6 points per game (ppg) and was a leader in assists and rebounds, led the team in scoring. He was consistently defended with a box-and-one and often double-teamed. Despite, Handza often found the open man and was effective hitting 3-point-

ers and pull-up jumpers and fall away shots, as well as attacking the basket and being a dependable finisher.

Senior power forward Tad Walsh led in rebounding and defensive stops, and averaged 16.7 ppg. Walsh also led in assists and broke games wide open with his dominating defensive rebounding and ability to take the ball the length of the court and make lay-ups.

Senior guard Eric Scrudato averaged 8.5 ppg and had the best assist-to-turnover ratio. Senior center Mike Manders averaged 6.2 ppg and established a record six blocked shots in one game. Senior Mike Amjody averaged 4.4 ppg and was third in 3-point percentage.

Of the juniors, Scott Dyer averaged 13.1 ppg. Dan Melillo averaged 5.4 ppg, was second in free throw percentage and was third in rebounds. Mike Janeway averaged 4.3 points and was third in steals. Collin Callahan hit a season-high 13 points in one game. Sophomore Bobby Molson contributed consistently in steals, assists and 3-pointers.



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BLUE ON BLUE...The Pingry Big Blue and Blue Devils Ryan Sharkey, No. 6, and Mike Bialick, No. 10, converge on the ball.

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

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ter when the Big Blue netted four of their six goals within the first four minutes to grab a 5-2 lead. All four goals came when Big Blue found a soft spot in the Blue Devils' defensive right side. In that onslaught, Leeds scored first followed by Bartlett and Combias. Leeds then nailed the fourth goal. Sharkey answered with a wrap-around goal then Bartlett and Combias added goals to give Pingry a 7-3 lead at the half.

Leeds penetrated inside to give Pingry an 8-3 lead early in the third quarter. Mattes answered with a goal then Tom Bottini stole the ball at midfield, charged down field and flicked the ball to Bialick who stuffed

the net to cut the margin to 8-5. Pingry's Griff scored then Sharkey made a diving flick into the net to end the quarter at 9-6.

Leeds scored his fourth goal in the final quarter then Bialick came back with the final two goals.

"Defensively, we didn't play together. We didn't talk on defense. We didn't have the slides. In the second half, our defense solidified a little bit. Offensively, when our defense was playing well, our offense was down a little bit, so we never got the full game together. Nobody was on the same page," said Benaquista.

Pingry	1	6	2	1	10
Westfield	2	1	3	2	8

Surgent's Gymnasts Declared Level 5 First Place Winners

In a stunning turn of events, the boys' Level 5 team of Surgent's Gymnastics in Garwood/Roselle Park have been declared the first-place champions following the recent state meet held in Kenilworth.

The boys, aged 7-9, were initially determined to be second-place winners. But upon reevaluation of the scores the following week, an error was determined in the computation of team points. When this error was corrected the boys were declared state champions over the highly competitive US Gymnastics Development Center based in Englewood.

Many members of the Level 5

teams, coached by Amiel Rivera and Jeff Hertz in Garwood and Joe Duda who coaches in Roselle Park, will now be traveling to the regional competition in Philadelphia. This event includes the top boys from seven states, including: New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, New York and West Virginia.

The boys who qualified for regional include: Jack McKinley, David Eurell (State champion for age 7), Wesley Terrell, John Walsh, Karson Meckeler, Nicco Pecorelli, Zachery Evans, Chris Wirkus, Zachary Urcinoli and Peter Fagan.



GYMNASTICS CHAMPIONS...The Level 5 Surgent's Gymnastics team recently won a state meet in Kenilworth. Pictured, left to right, are: front row; Brian McCarthy, Nicco Pecorelli, Jacob Pecorelli, Justin Palermo, Javon Wilson and Andrew Whitehouse; middle row, David Eurell, Wesley Terrell, Aaron Grundy, Michael Stokes, Karson Meckeler, Jack McKinley and Coach Amiel Rivera; back row, Coach Jeff Hertz, Zachary Urcinoli, Zachery Evans, Colin Taylor, Chris Wirkus, Peter Fagan, Timothy Hackett and Coach Joey Duda. Not Pictured is John Walsh.



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