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THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section
Pages 13-18

NETRAVALI TAKES IT TO THE LIMIT AT 1ST SINGLES

No. 1 Millburn Millers Stop No. 6 Blue Devil Netmen, 5-0

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

Number 1 remained Number 1, but not without a bit of a battle, when the Millburn High School boys tennis team defeated No. 6 Westfield by a somewhat deceptive team score of 5-0 at Tamaques Park in Westfield on April 20. Three of the matches were very close and two had tiebreakers, one that took a marathon three sets to be decided.

The marathon match came at second singles between Blue Devil

sophomore Ravi Netravali and Miller freshman Jason Magnes, who won, 6-3, 6-7 (5-7), 6-2. By the time that the other four matches were decided, Netravali held a 4-3 lead over Magnes in the second set. Netravali won the next game but dropped the next three to trail, 6-5. After winning the next game, he endured to win the tiebreaker and force a third set.

Never known for marathon matches, Blue Devil sophomore Kevin Shallcross experienced his first defeat of the season at the racket of

senior Justin Roth, 6-2, 6-2, at first singles.

"I knew he was a lefty and I knew I was in with a very hard opponent. I thought I played a good match but he played a lot better," said Shallcross. "He obviously has a great lefty serve that is really hard to go up against but I just tried to hang in there and play my best. If the ball is jamming you, you have to remember to take the opposite stroke, which against a lefty would be your backhand."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17



PLAYING AGAINST THE TOP TEAM...Blue Devil Jack Trimble returns a serve in his first doubles match against the top-ranked Millburn Millers.

SEVEN BLUE DEVILS GET INTO SCORING COLUMN

Randolph Edges Blue Devils In Wild Boys Lax Game, 9-8

By DAVID B. CORBIN
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Two plaques dedicated to legendary Westfield High School (WHS) football/wrestling/golf coach and former athletic director Gary Kehler by the WHS Boosters marked the beginning of a memorable April 22 morning at Gary Kehler Stadium in Westfield that ended in a wild, 9-8, victory by the No. 17 Randolph High School boys lacrosse team. The No. 18-ranked Blue Devils made a valiant fourth-quarter effort to make up a five-point deficit and were threatening to tie the game, but a Ram defender scooped a loose ball with 30 seconds remaining to preserve the victory.

The battle of the midfield was virtually even, with each team gaining 30 ground balls, but the Blue Devils held a 12-8 edge in face-offs - 6-2 edge in the first half. Unfortunately, in the first half, the Blue Devils had trouble maintaining possession just

shortly after winning the face-offs.

"You must treat every ground ball like it will make a difference in the game," commented Blue Devil Head Coach Gerry Benaquista after the game. "(Chris) Mattes did a great job on face-offs three games in a row. In the middle of the field is where it is key. Ground balls means possession. Ground balls are going to win the game. We played the whole first half on defense. We've got to learn that we have to play an even game, at least, in time of possession and we didn't do that."

Seven Blue Devils got into the scoring column. Ryan Sharkey scored two goals and had an assist. Ryan Yarusi and Joe Simone each had a goal and two assists. Harry Bernstein netted a goal and an assist. Mike Bialick, Kevin Maus and Bryan Nolan each scored a goal. Blue Devil goalies Alex Lewis and Ben Thomas combined for 12 saves and Randolph goalie Mike Horowitz had nine saves.

Westfield had 21 shots on goal and Randolph had 19.

Ram Mike Grover (3 goals, 1 assist), on an assist from Corey Zindel (3 assists) scored the game's first goal. Assisted by Yarusi, Bernstein one-hopped the Blue Devils' first goal

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17



MAKING EVERY RUN COUNT...Raider Nicole Colineri scored the first run of the game in the top of the first inning against Roselle Catholic. Centerfielder Kelli Kaskiw snagged a sinking fly ball and fired to second for a double play to preserve an 8-7 victory.

MAINS, KASKIW STAR ON 'D'; 'BENO' RAPS FOUR RBI

Raiders Survive Late Threat, Hold Off Softball Lions, 8-7

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

What appeared to be a cakewalk turned into near disaster when the hosting 2-5 Roselle Catholic softball team tagged Raider pitcher Elaine Piniat for three triples in the sixth inning and added six more hits in the bottom of the seventh but a superb fielding play by centerfielder Kelli Kaskiw, which resulted in a game-ending double play, preserved an 8-7 victory for the 9-0 Scotch Plains-Fanwood girls on April 21.

and, on one, she had the wherewithal to gun down the runner dashing toward second.

"First of all I was worried about catching it but then I turned around and saw the girl sprinting toward second. All our girls were yelling throw to second," Mains explained.

Mains also smothered a bunt about eight feet in front of the plate and, from her knees, threw the runner out heading to first and, on several occasions, she fired back picks to first to keep the runners honest. First baseman Jillian Lusk displayed sound fundamental skills, charging a bunt and firing in time to second baseman Steph Goines, who covered first.

"We practice it a lot in practice and they (Lusk and Goines) know what to do. It's pretty much automatic. As soon as the bunt goes, Jill and Nicole (Colineri - third baseman) charge in and we

usually get that out," Mains said.

Lusk also made a fine scoop at first. Key hitting came into play and senior Lauren Benovengo (4 RBI) had two of them, with a bases-loaded triple in the fifth inning and an RBI single in the seventh that turned out to be the game winner. Kaskiw had a single, an RBI double and an RBI sacrifice fly. Melissa Sette (run scored) smacked an RBI triple and a single. Mains singled, scored and had an RBI and Lusk singled and scored a run. Piniat and Goines each scored twice and Colineri scored the first run of the game.

Piniat yielded nine hits, walked one and fanned six Lionesses. Roselle Catholic starting pitcher Emily Vieni allowed six hits, fanned two, walked three and hit a batter in five innings. Reliever Grace LaSpata

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

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