

**SHELMAN FLICKS IN TWO GOALS, ZAFFUTO SAVES 20**

# Kent Place Dragons Burn Up Blue Devil Lady Laxers, 15-5

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

Possession, smart passes and lots of firepower broke the game wide open in the first half as the Kent Place girls' lacrosse team overwhelmed the Westfield High School girls, 15-5, in Summit on April 19. Seven different Dragons spewed out a combined 15 goals.

Christin Hanley sank four goals and Cassie Speno registered three goals to lead the 5-2 Dragons. Goalie Mattie Wasser was getting some good looks and came up with the 15 crucial stops when needed. The 5-3 Blue Devils successfully penetrated Dragon terrain and got two goals from Julie Shelman. Ali McDonald, Rachel

Tucker and Emma Laird each flicked in one goal.

"We were really excited and had high hopes coming into this game. We started off strong, however, we suffered a huge mental shift in the game that caused us to force passes and create turnovers against us," said Blue Devil Head Coach Liz Coulson.

Blue Devil goalie Michelle Zaffuto withstood a pelting of 36 shots, made 20 saves - several of them spectacular.

"It's really all mental. You have to keep your head up. It's all team work, even if your team is down a little," said Zaffuto. "You need to take every shot. If a goal goes in, you need to shake it off and keep going."

The hustling Dragons en masse,

flowed down low into Devil turf, swarmed around the ball constantly, nearly unchallenged and punished Zaffuto with 19 shots in the first half, eight of them striking its target. Carolyn Bradley, Georgia Bird (2) Cassie Spano, Elaine Welch, Hanley (2) and Rebecca Krom scored. Blue Devil Mary Kate Luker countered with a goal off an assist by Kristen Fortino at 8:58, and Shelman scorched the net off a feed by McDonald at the 5:47 mark.

In the second half, the Dragon attackers continued their punishing ways over Blue Devil defenders with seven more goals. Welch, Hanley (2), Kate Sheridan, Speno (2) and Lizzie Kennedy found the net. Shelman ran with lots of intensity taking the ball from midfield and ripped the net at 22:06.

"Julie definitely is one of our strongest players on the field. She was able to get around a lot of the defenders even while being double teamed but she's not going to be able to do that every time. She knows that and the rest of the team knows that," said Coulson.

Laird contributed with a goal at 10:53 and Tucker scorched the twine with a goal with 1:20 remaining.

"It comes down to an individual level, but they did not pick it up as much as I thought they would. The mental shift started halfway through the first half and they could not pick it up from there and it definitely cost us the game," said Coulson.

"We were not mentally prepared enough. We have the skills to beat a team like this, we just didn't show up ready to perform," said co-captain Lauren Sinenberg. "We talked about it after the game and what we can do better but it's really just a learning experience. We need to learn how to perform and learn to turn our nerves into intensity. This is something we need to know happened and not let it repeat."

## Raider Golfers Stop St. Peter's Prep

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School gold team upped its record to 7-0 by defeating St. Peter's Prep, 150-157, at the par-33 Scotch Hills course on April 20. Raider Brian Pak turned in the best score of 35 and topped it off by getting a hole-in-one on the par-3, 170-yard sixth hole.

Raiders Clayton Balch shot a 37, Jack Davis had a 39, as did Chris Cooper. Mickey Garrigan shot a 36 and Steve Gardner had a 38 for 8-2 St. Peter's Prep.



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
**DOING HER JOB...Raider Lauren Benovengo heads toward first after laying down a bunt to move the runner.**

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

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

gave up two hits and two walks while striking out two.

The Raiders scored a run in the first when Colineri was hit by a pitch, advanced to second on a wild pitch, moved to third on Kaskiw's single and scored on Mains' grounder to third.

The score remained 1-0 until the top of the fifth, when the Raiders went on a five-run rampage. Goines walked, Sette tripled to center and Kaskiw lofted an RBI sac fly to left. Mains singled, Piniat walked, Lusk reached on an error and Benovengo, who also laid down a bunt to advance the runner in the second inning, unloaded her bases-clearing triple down the right-field line. She considered scoring but held up.

"I think I could have scored. The ball was pretty far out there but I wanted to play it safe. I'd rather do my job, get those people in and not take the chance of getting out. I needed a boost in the batting average," said Benovengo.

Considering her bunt, Benovengo said, "Small ball sometimes is an important part of a game."

Kaskiw drilled an RBI single in the sixth and it seemed the Raiders had clear sailing with a 7-0 lead but, in the bottom of the inning, clouds began to form. Jackie Murtha (2-for-3) tripled to left and Kelly Williams (2-for-2, 3 RBI) brought her home with a triple. Jillian Iazzetta (2-for-4) followed with an RBI triple to make the score 7-2.

Benovengo chopped her RBI single in the seventh, but the Lionesses charged with six singles and a walk to close the score to 8-7 with only one out and runners on first and second.

Kaskiw came to the rescue. Looking ahead to the second half of the season, Benovengo said, "We haven't come across many teams that we would like to face and challenge to see what our true skills are when it comes down to it. We don't want to get too confident!"

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Fred Lecomte for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
**HAVING A VERY BUSY DAY...Blue Devil goalie Michelle Zaffuto withstood a pelting of 36 shots and made 20 saves, several of them spectacular against Kent Place. See another picture on page 17.**

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David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
**HIGH SCHOOL ALL-AMERICAN...Westfield High School senior Mike Murray puts on his All-American No. 11 uniform presented to him by SportsLink, Inc. Sales Manager Jay Orillaza, right, as Blue Devil varsity baseball Head Coach Bob Brewster looks on. Murray is one of only 36 high school seniors who have been selected to compete in the Fourth Annual East vs. West All-Star Classic presented by PlayStation on Wednesday, June 7, at Isotopes Park in Albuquerque, New Mexico.**



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