

Union County Sr. 50+ Men's Softball League Results:

FINAL REGULAR SEASON:
50+ A DIVISION (as of August 20):

TEAM	W	L
Lombardi & Greenkeepers	21	4
Antone's Pub & Grill	16	8
Awnings Galore	15	10
D&K Associates	13	11
SMC	4	21

50+ B DIVISION:

TEAM	W	L
Promptcare	20	4
Northwestern Mutual	13	12
The Office	8	17
Union Center National Bank	7	18
Associated Auto Parts	6	18

SUPER SENIORS DIVISION:

TEAM	W	L
Creative Industries	17	2
IL Giardino's Ristorante	14	6
LA Law	7	13
Legg Mason	1	18

D&K Associates 8, SMC 6
In an elimination game to determine which team advances to the playoffs, D&K came up with a couple of late-inning rallies to steal the game. The key blows were home runs off the bats of Joe Massimino and Paul Taeschler.

UCNB 10, Associated Auto 3
In another elimination game, the Bankers combined flawless defense with the strong pitching performance of Al Schachman. John Brown, Dan D'Arcy, Sal LaBella and Bob Sotka provided timely hitting.

L&G 11, D&K Associates 2
In Game 1 (best of 3 semifinals), L&G played outstanding defense, to combine with the quality pitching of Keith Gibbons. L&G's Frank Pepe produced three hits. Paul Taeschler

homered for D&K.
Antone's 6, Awnings Galore 3
Game 1: See exclusive story.
Promptcare 9, UCNB 7
Game 1: Oscar Harrison blasted two home runs and finished with four RBI. The Bankers scored five runs in the last two innings.

Northwestern 15, The Office 13
Game 1: The Office experienced some forsaken defense in the late innings.
Creative 17, Legg Mason 13
Creative 19, Legg Mason 10
Creative advanced to the playoff finals. Creative rapped 24 hits, including eight extra-base hits and were led by Charlie Lehman (4 hits, 5 RBI). Karl Grossmann, Nick Lehotsky and Jerry Lestardo each contributed three hits. Legg Mason had 22 hits, but stranded 15 base runners. Dave Bell, Tom Dick, Lionel Genello and Howard McNicholas each had three hits for Legg Mason.

LA Law 8, IL Giardino's 6
Game 1: The Lawmen scored six runs in the first inning and held on behind the steady pitching of Walt Engelhardt. Bob Grant homered, and Rich Pelesko and Len Yenish provided key hits.
IL Giardino's 15, LA Law 14
Game 2 (best of 3 games, series tied 1 game apiece), the Law rallied for four runs in the bottom of the seventh, but fell short. Felix Vales (4 hits) and Vic Blyskal and Bob Lorincz with three hits each led Giardino's.



Devil's Den On the Way to Ohio, Heart is in Westfield

By BRUCE JOHNSON
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

There are 16 days until WHS hosts Linden in the first official game of the Jim DeSarno coaching era.

As you read this first Devil's Den of the 2006-07 scholastic season, I am somewhere on Route 30 in Pennsylvania, headed to Massillon, Ohio, and the opening game of the Tigers' 2006 season, against North Park of Ontario, Canada.

But a huge part of me wishes it was at Gary Kehler Stadium this morning, when WHS takes on Somerville in an 11 a.m. scrimmage. It will be the first game condition work for first-year coach Jim DeSarno's Blue Devils, who are looking to back bounce from back-to-back 1-9 seasons.

Most of DeSarno's first WHS coaching staff is familiar faces, including Kenny Miller (defensive coordinator, linebackers, running backs), Joe Avena (wire receivers and defensive line), Dave Duels (running backs, linebackers) and Doug Kehler (quarterbacks, defensive backs). The lone newcomer is Dave Hancock (offensive and defensive lines), a native Westfielder who played at Wardlaw-Hartridge School in Edison. DeSarno, who formerly was the head coach at Kinnelon in northern Morris County, will deal with the offensive line. Veterans Bill Mellott and Joe Marino will handle the freshman team.

Today's scrimmage is the first of three for WHS. Monday, 11 a.m., Long Branch and Bayonne will join WHS in a tri-scrimmage at Kehler Stadium, while Livingston visits on Friday, Sept. 1, in an 11:30 a.m. game scrimmage.

While it may be a bit early to guess at these things (I'm writing this Saturday), here's a solid guess at the potential starting lineup:

Offensive line: tackles J.T. Sheehan and Matt Ince, with Tom Wansaw and Ryan Scanlon; guards Santo Nardi and Will Harbaugh, with John DiIorio; center Joe Schurig, with Josh Gribbon.

Tight end: John Dugan or C.J. Patella.

Split end: Sean Ferro, Pete Antonelli or Eddie Simmons.

Quarterback: Tom Bonard or Mark Boyd.

Halfbacks: Ryan Yarusi, Marcus Allen and Ricardo Johnson.

Fullback: Pete Cornell, Tyrell Simmons and Joe Vall-Llobera.

Defensive line: ends Ince and Dugan, with DiIorio; tackles: Nardi and Schurig, with Sheehan.

Outside linebackers: Yarusi and Cornell, Jack Meagher or Patella.

Inside linebackers: Harbaugh and T. Simmons, with Allen, Scott Newman and Pat Stanley.

Corners: Antonelli and Ferro, with Mike Henry and E. Simmons.

Safety: Vall-Llobera.

"We're going to stick with the 4-4 defense, with a couple of new twists," DeSarno said, "but on offense we'll go more from pro formations, a multiple attack. The kids will be learning a whole new offense."

Despite the poor varsity record the past two years, most of these kids have been winners from PAL, to eighth grade, freshman and jayvee ball. As freshmen, this year's seniors (8-2) and juniors (9-1) went a combined 17-3, beating teams like Union, Irvington, Elizabeth, Plainfield and Shabazz. While there are no free rides on a very tough schedule, there definitely are no "automatic" losses, either. The offensive and defensive lines are solid, potentially strong points of the team. The linebacker corps is outstanding, led by Harbaugh and Yarusi. Ferro and Bonard are two of the toughest guys around, and Vall-Llobera showed flashes of talent as a sophomore.

(One change from the original schedule: the Shabazz game has been moved from Friday night, Oct. 27, to Saturday, Oct. 28, at 11 a.m.)

DeSarno's main job will be getting the team, and the town's fair-weather fans, back into the proper mindset, and that doesn't happen overnight.

But there are many who recall the days when Saturday afternoons and a victory march down Rahway Ave. by the band went together like peanuts and Michelob at the Jolly Trolley, which it often did. And it wasn't that long ago, eight years, that WHS had its finest team under former coach Ed Tranchina, going 9-3 (beating Cranford, 55-14, and Scotch Plains, 42-20) and reaching the sectional final at Giants Stadium before falling to Morristown. Most of the years after that were pretty solid (3-7, 6-4, 8-3, 7-3) before things fell apart at the end of the 2003 season. Starting with a heartbreaking 20-19 loss to Union, the '04 team then lost 20-13 to Sayreville in the playoffs, and 9-7 to Plainfield to finish 4-6. The tailspin continued through the past two seasons.

Now, people with short memories forget how solid Tranchina's teams were and joke about the team, or concern themselves with how strong the opponent is. Those are two things that should never happen. Maybe there's been a short down time, but WHS is still the No. 3 team in New Jersey in all-time victories (behind Phillipsburg and Atlantic City). And its 15 unbeaten seasons rank up there nationally with Valdosta, Ga. and Massillon, Ohio.

The Den will personally guarantee that this team will not only finish above .500, but will also qualify for the playoffs in a very tough North Section 2 Group 4. (In fact, I sure hope they do, since I made my family switch a planned cruise that weekend so I wouldn't miss the opening round!)

It won't be easy, but you read it here first.

have a couple of players on the Mount Morris team that reached the Final Four before being eliminated by West Deptford. Mount Morris is mostly kids from West Morris High School, but they also draw from the Morristown-Beard School, where Westfielders Chris Adams and Steve Kowalski attended.

Adams, a shortstop-pitcher, batted third in the MM lineup, and had a game-tying two-run double (later scoring the winning run) in the bottom of the ninth as Mount Morris rallied to oust Edison Father & Son in the quarterfinals. Kowalski was a backup catcher.

HALL OF FAME UPDATE
Tickets are still available for the seventh Westfield Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremonies, Monday, Nov. 20 at the Westwood. You can get tickets from athletic director Ed Tranchina at the high school, or from Bill Jordan or Roger Love at Taylor-Love Realty on South Ave.

This year's inductees (and their sports):
Roger Anderson (swimming), Brian Ciemniecki (football, basketball, baseball), Denise Comby (field hockey, basketball, softball), Matt Elmuccio (cross country, track), Chuck Gantner (swim coach), Bob Harvey (football, wrestling), Andy Hubsch (cross country, track), Dave Robinson (soccer, tennis), Jack Rogers (football, swimming, tennis), Steve Tebbets (soccer, baseball), Bob Torborg (basketball, baseball), Marcie Williams (soccer, basketball, track), 1970 football team.

IN PASSING
It was sad to see that Charles Stiefken, father of former WHS wrestlers Chuck, Dick and Kurt Stiefken, passed away this summer. Kurt was a state champion in 1972 at 158 pounds.

UNREALITY TV
The idea of 24 hours a day of sports has obviously become too difficult for ESPN, which this summer has given air time to darts, backgammon, poker, and bratwurst and hot dog eating contests. Things were bad enough with the moronic announcers on SportsCenter, now they've gone over the edge. Can't they bring back Australian Rules Football?

The Devil's Den appears in *The Westfield Leader* every Thursday during the scholastic year. Contact us with comments, ideas or complaints at bj1019@aol.com. GO DEVILS!



HACKING A SINGLE TOWARD SECOND...Awnings Galore batter Ray Meigs hacks an infield single that ricocheted off the second baseman in Game 1 against Antone's Pub & Grill.

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WESTFIELD New Construction \$1,250,000
A distinctive 2006 custom Westfield residence by Bella Properties. From designer appointments and countless extras to the unparalleled attention to quality craftsmanship, this custom Colonial showplace will elicit praise at every turn. Amenities include spacious mahogany front porch, dramatic 2-story entry, classic 9' first floor ceilings, hardwood flooring 1st & 2nd floors, detailed millwork, luxurious master suite, 2-zone heating and central air, designer kitchen, 2 1/2 gorgeous baths, family room with fireplace, elegant open staircase to 8' ceiling in basement, patio, private yard and so very much more. Nestled on a tranquil cul-de-sac on a fabulous property with an expansive private yard. Moments from Tomagues Park, schools, and picturesque downtown Westfield. 632 Green Briar Court would be the perfect choice to call home... contact Holly for the impressive list of amenities & specifications. (052000983)



SCOTCH PLAINS New Construction \$1,400,000
Riviere Homes announces the marriage of elegance & sophistication in new construction to be built at 507 Westfield Rd. 5,000 sq. ft. Colonial Tudor featuring 13 rooms, 5 bedrooms, 5 1/2 baths & all the amenities you have come to expect in fine homes. Upon entering the soaring two story foyer you will be captivated by inlaid / hardwood floors woven throughout the formal living & formal dining rooms & study. The heart of any great home beats in the kitchen & this home is no exception w/ fine cabinetry draped in granite, superior appliances, 3 fireplaces, wine cellar, exercise room and more. Call now while you can still add your own personal touches. (052001104)



WESTFIELD New Construction \$1,679,000
This new Center Hall Colonial boasts 4 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, formal living and dining rooms, study/library and a family room with wood-burning fireplace. Hardwood floors throughout with custom mahogany inlay borders will complement the detail and craftsmanship appointed to this unique residence. Tray, boxed & cathedral ceilings are elegantly crafted in the living room, dining room, study & master suite. A large center-island kitchen w/granite tops & top of the line appliances will meet all of one's desires. The master suite will include tray ceilings, hardwood floors w/ custom inlay borders, walk-in-closets, French doors to a private office & French doors to a large open balcony. Make this home your own by customizing your dreams to reality with the builder. (052001047)

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