



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
BAFFLED AT THE PLATE...Delasal batter Ed Novy takes a big whiff at the plate but ends up getting two hits in the first game against Hocus Pocus. See another picture on page 14.

COLBERT, J. DELLASALA GO 4-FOR-5

Delasal Men Mesmerize Hocus Pocus Men, 16-12

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

Delasal and Hocus Pocus had one thing in common, and did not like it. Both teams recently lost to cellar dweller Mortarulo Masons and both teams desired to save face in a Scotch Plains Men's Softball League at Brookside Park in Scotch Plains on June 5. Locked in a tight one-run game, Delasal burst forward with an eight-run fifth inning and held the magic of the Hocus Pocus bats to a minimum to emerge with a 16-12 triumph in the first game of a double header.

Mike Colbert (4-for-5, double, 3 runs scored, 2 RBI) and Joe DellaSala (4-for-5, triple, double, 2 runs scored, 3 RBI) led Delasal's 22-hit onslaught but it was John Hagy (3-for-5, double, 3 RBI, run scored) who started the fateful inning with a leadoff single and finished off the scoring in the inning with a two-run double. Quirky base running techniques also highlighted the inning as well as Frank DiGiovanni's (2-for-4, run scored) two-run double and Joe DellaSala's RBI double.

Hocus Pocus totaled 18 hits and Pete Abene made his contribution with a triple and two singles while scoring three times and driving in a run. Rooster Rastocny drilled three singles and had two RBI, Joey Kornick singled twice and scored twice and Randy Tarnofsky singled twice, scored twice and had an RBI. Mikey Carnivale ripped a pair of RBI singles

and scored once, and Ollie Androsko cracked a two-run double and added another RBI.

Delasal scored twice in the top of the first. Colbert and Joe DellaSala singled, Hagy tapped an RBI single then a throwing error permitted DellaSala to score. Hocus Pocus answered with two runs on RBI singles from Abene and Rastocny.

Ed Novy (2-for-4) and Colbert singled in the third, and then Joe DellaSala gave Delasal a 4-2 lead with his booming two-run triple. Rastocny poked an RBI single and Carnivale plopped an RBI single to tie the score in the bottom of the inning. Hocus Pocus leftfielder Dave Kirsch used his sleight of hand to haul in a fly ball in the fourth, but Delasal manipulated a two-out three-run rally to take a 7-4 lead beginning with singles from Anthony DellaSala and Sean Meaney, who each went 2-for-4 with 2 runs scored. After a throwing error yielded a run, Novy looped an RBI single and Colbert lined and RBI double.

Hocus Pocus kept the game tight with two runs in the lower half of the inning when Rick Ulrich and John Campanella both singled and scored on a pair of errors. After Delasal's eight-run outburst, Hocus Pocus scored three in the fifth. Delasal added a run in the sixth to take a 16-9 lead then Hocus got its final three runs in the seventh on Tarnofsky's RBI single and Androsko's two-run double.

| | | | | |
|-------------|-----|-----|---|----|
| Delasal | 202 | 381 | 0 | 16 |
| Hocus Pocus | 202 | 230 | 3 | 12 |



Devil's Den Like '78 Football Team, Baseball Plays 'What If?'

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

For those WHS fans with long memories, you could make a pretty good comparison between this spring's baseball team and the 1978 football team. Both were very strong teams, but both were denied sectional championships and left to play "coulda, woulda, shoulda."

The 1978 football team was a solid and deep team, but it was coming on the heels of the legendary 1977 team that steamrolled everything in its path on the way to an 11-0 record and No. 1 ranking. The '78 team started slowly, losing 6-2 at Summit, beating Union (20-7) and Elizabeth (16-6), then shockingly losing for the first time ever to Scotch Plains (11-7). What followed was four weeks of annihilation, with Cranford (46-0), Nutley (34-0), Montclair (27-0) and Linden (67-0) falling. Still, when the NJSIAA chose the four teams for North Section 2 Group 4, it went with Union, Elizabeth, Montclair and Plainfield. That would lead to feisty WHS captain John Byrne saying that if WHS beat Plainfield on Thanksgiving Day, which it did 6-2, then it was the real sectional champion, and led to verbal pre-game warfare between Byrne and Plainfield coach Milt ("people in Westfield think their feet smell better than everybody else's") Theodosatos in the *Courier-News*.

Similarly, the two best teams in this spring's North 2, Group 4 baseball tournament looked to be Westfield and Watchung Hills, who were matched against each other in the quarterfinals (NJSIAA seeding is done strictly by wins and losses, not strength of schedule). When Watchung won, most would've figured the Warriors were a lock for the title. But when the semifinals were done, it was Union over Newark East Side and Elizabeth over Watchung. Union, with nine losses, vs. Elizabeth, with 11, for the sectional title!

And Westfield had put up 15 runs in wins over Union, (top-seeded) East Side and Elizabeth during the season. (Elizabeth won the sectional title Sunday afternoon.) "My guys are going to be sick when they see the paper and find out it's Union against Elizabeth," WHS coach Bob Brewster said, when informed of the May 30 semifinal results. "That's two middle-of-the-conference teams in the final."

"We 10-runned all those teams," senior catcher Mike Murray said. "And Kearny, too. We 10-runned them and they're still playing."

Nonetheless, the WHS baseball season was quite memorable, with seniors Murray and Mike Diaz helping rewrite most of the school's record book. Murray established season or career marks for hits (51, 155), doubles (33 career), home runs (8, 19), RBI (44, 145), extra base hits (59 career) and his .560 batting average is an all-time school mark. He also had a 35-game hitting streak going into his final high school game, when he took a size three collar. Diaz scored 47 runs, breaking the old mark of 38!

Jay Anderson's 20 extra base hits (11 doubles, four triples, five homers) tied Lamont Turner's 1999 single-season record (Diaz and Murray each had 19).

Tom Ricciuti hit .494 out of the cleanup slot and worked his way into the all-time Top 10 in numerous season/career offensive categories. The shortstop also established a school record for career assists. And there were team records for batting average (.407), hits (331), runs (282), doubles (75), home runs (29) and RBI (253). The team also was successful on 51 of 55 steal attempts, led by Ricciuti's 11 of 11 and Jayshawn King's 9 of 9.

Since this was done with a mostly-senior lineup, it's going to be a difficult act to follow. Here's one fan's guess at a possible opening day lineup next year: Tom Bonard ss, Sean Ferro cf, Justin Olsen c, Joe Schurig 1b, Joe Vall-Llobera lf, Evan Shapiro p, Mike Lessner 3b, Pete Antonelli rf-p, Kevin Hennessey 2b. (Venezia if basketball standout Mike Androsko comes back out for his senior year, he would solidify the infield and add a good bat.) It's certainly not the big names of the past few years, but it could be a very exciting spring none-the-less.

SOFTBALL UPDATE
 A 14-10 record doesn't tell the story

ing Union County Scholar/Athlete of the Year, trying to create and keep up a WHS cross country and track website and playing in his garage band.

TRIATHLON/CARWASH
 Here's the perfect way to spend part of your day this Saturday, and help two good causes. First, you go to the Memorial pool and compete in the Westfield Hi-Tri, which benefits Camp Fatima, then you drive your dirty ol' car over to the Presbyterian Church to get it washed by a group of WHS students who are raising funds for the Greta Schoenemann Memorial Scholarship.

The Westfield Hi-Tri, presented by the Westfield Triathlon Club, will benefit Camp Fatima, New Jersey's only all-volunteer one-to-one camp for children aged 5-19 with cognitive, intellectual and developmental disabilities. The 30-year-old camp is a not-for-profit organization and uses fundraisers such as the Hi-Tri to provide special weeklong experiences to its campers free of charge. For more information visit their website at www.campfatimanj.com. The triathlon includes a 300-meter swim, a technical slalom obstacle course for biking, and a two-mile run on road and a gravel trail. The entry fees are \$35 for 18-and-under, \$40 for 19-22 and \$45 for 23-and-over. For more information, contact WHS senior-to-be Kylie Fraser at (908) 232.3802 or skf729@aol.com.

Greta Schoenemann was a WHS freshman when she was killed in a freak accident at the high school during the fall of 2002. Her family annually presents a scholarship in honor of Greta, a talented soccer player whose older sister Heidi (swimming) and brother Erik (soccer) were WHS captains. Jennifer Lane and a large group of friends will be holding a car wash (rain date Sunday), 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Presbyterian Church. Cost is \$5 per car (\$6 for you SUVers) and all proceeds will go to the Greta Schoenemann Memorial Scholarship fund. For more information, contact Jennifer at jalanel113@hotmail.com.

HIGH FIVES NEXT WEEK
 There is no Top Five this week, but it will return next week with the top five baseball fields the Den has viewed games.

The Devil's Den appears Thursday in The Westfield Leader during the scholastic sports season. Contact us with comments, suggestions, story ideas or trivia questions at bj1019@aol.com. Go Devils!

While we don't normally deal with other schools, it should be noted that Cranford was eliminated in the sectional final by Nutley, in part because star pitcher/hitter Elena Morge and another teammate decided to skip the game so they could attend a pre-prom party that evening. As somebody who went to Willie Mays Night at the Polo Grounds rather than his own prom, I am not in position to say much here. Kids make choices. Why have a prom on a Thursday, would be my first question. Morge—a probable county Player of the Year—should not have been put in an either-or situation.

ON THE RUN

Jeff Perrella has put together a senior year that ranks with Cliff Sheehan (Class of 1981) and Matt Elmuccio ('97) among the best ever by a WHS distance runner. The William & Mary-bound senior last weekend added the Group 4 1600 and 3200 titles to the North 2 Group 4, Union County and Watchung Conference 1600 and 3200 titles he'd won earlier this spring. He was reportedly running in only the 3200 at the Meet of Champions.

Last fall, Perrella won the conference, county, sectional and Group 4 cross-country titles, before finishing third at the MOC. All this while earn-

Weichert®

Put Our Neighborhood Knowledge To Work For You.



WESTFIELD **Impressive** \$1,150,000

Nestled in a premier Westfield neighborhood, this outstanding home features a huge eat-in kitchen with vaulted ceiling, granite countertops, center-island and provides access to a beautifully landscaped yard with deck, Koi pond and exterior lighting. Gas fireplaces add charm to the spacious living room and family room. The ground floor offers a generous den, laundry room and powder room. Three bedrooms and third floor master suite are enhanced with abundant closet space. The terrific basement is perfect for entertaining w/wet bar, recreation room & exercise room. Hardwood floors, and a walk up attic for storage complete this impressive home. (052001037)

Elegant Homes by Ralph Rapuano

WESTFIELD \$849,000

New Construction - To Be Built

Custom Center Hall Colonial. Four bedrooms, formal living and dining rooms, family room with fireplace, designer kitchen with granite countertops, hardwood floors throughout, master bath with whirlpool tub, full basement, walk-up attic, 2 1/2 - 3 baths and Hardi-Plank™ exterior with masonry accents. Still time to customize. Call Ralph for more information at 908-591-6283. (052000587)



SCOTCH PLAINS **Wonderful Home** \$519,900

This wonderful bi-level home features 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, hardwood floors all on main level. Eat-in kitchen with sliders to rear deck overlooking a large fenced-in rear yard. Large formal dining room, family room with wood burning fireplace and a walkout to lower deck & yard. Ground level features an office/5th bedroom. Close to public transportation, major highways & shopping. (052001108)



SCOTCH PLAINS **Immaculate Ranch** \$659,900

This beautifully maintained & immaculate brick and wood shake Ranch is set on a large wooded property. Living room features a wood burning fireplace, eat-in kitchen, formal dining room, three bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, family room w/cathedral ceiling. (05200798)

weichert.com

WESTFIELD OFFICE 185 ELM STREET / WESTFIELD, NJ 07090 / 908-654-7777

