



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
SPRINTING AROUND THE SIDE...Senior Lindsey Sauerwein, front, takes the handoff from Julie Shelman and heads toward the right sideline.

Junior Girls Seize 7-0 Victory In Annual Powder Puff Game

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so I think we can pull out a victory."

The juniors went with Erin Miller and Rachel St. Lifer as their quarterbacks.

"She's got a pretty good arm. She is a good leader out there," Wilt said of Miller.

Wilt considered Gabe O'Leary and Tina Cognetti to be her most likely receivers.

"We have a lot of athletes out here," he said.

With a 7-0 result, defense definitely held the upper hand but offense had a few glimmering moments also. Shelman began with a 14-yard QB keeper and followed with a nifty pitchout to Sauerwein, good for 10 yards, but junior Liz Shannon answered loudly with an interception. After the juniors' offense sputtered, Claire Bennett lofted a booming punt to the senior 37-yard line. Junior LeAnn Skorge added a seven-yard sack.

Also in the first quarter, Frankel had a 13-yard run, Roudebush made a diving catch and junior defensive lineman Allie MacDonald flagged a senior for a seven-yard loss.

Junior Emma Byer began the second quarter with a 12-yard reception. Then the juniors got tricky and pulled off a double reverse with Alex Pecora hooking around the left side for an impressive gain. Junior Danielle Infantino made a huge reception at the senior 26 but senior Claire Macdonald shattered the junior drive with a head on collision with Miller.

In the second half, junior Cognetti and senior McCarthy provided much of the offense. Junior Steph Groast recovered a fumble to ruin McCarthy's big run. Junior Tessa Schaaf added a fine run in the fourth quarter then Cognetti lined up on the left side, ran a smooth hooking pattern to the middle about eight yards from the line of scrimmage, received St. Lifer's pass, shook a couple of would-be flaggers and was off to the races to complete her 48-yard TD with 6:42 remaining in the game.

The seniors added one final push, led by McCarthy who had several big runs but juniors Lauren Huff and Dillon Walker pulled big flags to save a TD. Shelman rolled right to the junior 10 for a first down. Cognetti and Bennett added back-to-back flags as the ball rested on the seven then an incomplete pass set up a fourth down. McCarthy took the handoff, rolled right but was forced out of bounds at the three as time ran out.

"We were playing conservatively most of the game, just trying to survive them. Coming into the game, they said we didn't have a shot at winning but at halftime we weren't losing, so we knew we had a good shot at winning," said Wilt. "We decided to go for a long pass and try to score. Rachel made a great throw to Cognetti. She's a really fast girl and she outran everyone."

Juniors	0	0	0	7	7
Seniors	0	0	0	0	0



Devil's Den Old-Timers, Former Players Stunned by Turkey 'Rainout'

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

It was 10:40 a.m., Thanksgiving morning, and Randolph Road in Plainfield was empty. But the cars continued to pull up and ask, "Where's the game?" "Why aren't they playing?" "This rain ain't nothing, man." "You have got to be kidding me!"

One car had Rah-San Bowles (WHS '89), up from Matawan. Another had some former Plainfield players, from North Carolina and Rochester, N.Y. They were there for the 102nd meeting of WHS and Plainfield.

A car pulled up and a guy yelled out, "No game? Where's the rain? What's wrong with these people. I played in the '71 game at Westfield, when it was 7 degrees, and snowing and ice and sleet. That (gosh-dam) Kehler wouldn't call that game off. What's wrong with today?"

(Former WHS coach Gary Kehler's philosophy, of course, was if it was on the schedule then that's when it should be played. Screw the forecast and don't forget your umbrella and foul-weather gear.)

Moments later another Plainfielder, who had played in the famous 1975 Mud Bowl, a 9-6 WHS victory in a torrential day-long downpour that produced nearly as many fumbles as yards gained, rolled down his window and said, "This isn't bad weather at all. Man, I'm still wet from that game in '75, and that's over 30 years ago! How could they call it off?"

There were football games Thursday morning in Clark (10 minutes from Hub Stine), Kenilworth and Roselle Park. In fact, every "traditional" Thanksgiving game — those with 70 or more years — was played. Bloomfield-Montclair, Roselle-Roselle Park, Long Branch-Red Bank, Toms River South-Lakewood, Clifton-Passaic, Madison-Millburn, Phillipsburg-Easton (Pa.), and Vineland-Millville, the grandpop of 'em all.

Only one — the second oldest in New Jersey — wasn't played. Apparently some folks in Plainfield aren't that concerned with our Thanksgiving Day tradition. It's a shame. You don't play Thanksgiving games on Wednesday night, or the Friday or Saturday before or after. You play them on Thanksgiving morning. That's what makes the games special, and memorable. For many who were home for the holiday, this year's memories will be of a game they didn't get to see.

If I'd known the WHS game was going to be postponed, I'd have driven to Lafayette College and paid \$300 (or more) for a \$5 ticket to watch Phillipsburg and Easton. I'd have been the one drinking Dr Pepper from my flask.

By the way, Easton lost its PIAA semifinal playoff Saturday night to Bethlehem Liberty before 11,000 fans. Think the Red Rovers and their fans were bummed? Think again. They won the game they wanted the most, beating Phillipsburg two days earlier ... on Thanksgiving morning! It's all about priorities, and tradition.

FOOTBALL UPDATE
Saturday's anything-but-classic 17-7 win over Plainfield accomplished several things. It gave WHS a 51-44-7 lead in the state's second oldest rivalry. It gave WHS a six-win season, as opposed to six wins total over the previous three seasons combined (and the four losses were to teams with a combined 34-10 record!). It got gritty full-back George Cornell a 116-yard game in his last game. And it put a happy face on the finish to the 110th season of football at WHS.

It was also a giant step in restoring Westfield to what some of us feel is its proper place in the fall, as a football town. It's nice when all the other sports have success, too, but everything is better when the football team is doing well. Though it was the final WHS football game for 19 seniors last Saturday, the future is very bright. The junior varsity and freshman teams were outstanding, with victories over Elizabeth and Irvington, two teams that must be defeated on the varsity level in '07. And the PAL teams all banner seasons.

It's almost hard to describe how much the team will miss its captains, Will Harbaugh and Ryan Yarust, a couple of "do as I do" kind of leaders. And Santo Nardi had a monster year as a two-way lineman. Tommy Bonard? His speed, his arm, his kicking leg ... how could he not be missed? Add Cornell, Joe Schurig, J.T. Sheehan, Mike Henry, C.J. Patella, Pete Antonelli (one of the best long-snappers ever at WHS), Jack Meagher, Sean Ferro, Tyrell Simmons, Matt Ince, Mark Boyd, Dan Johnson, Devon Wise, Sam Crawford and Joe Simone. As juniors, many of these guys were strictly role players, if that. But they delivered when their time to play came.

Next year? It's never too early for the Den to look ahead (remember where you first read about a potential 6-4 season?). We say you're looking at more than six wins, and at least one playoff victory. That's assuming the players put in the time during the off-season, as this year's group did. If they do, maybe I'll finally get my WHS-Phillipsburg game, in a playoff matchup of New Jersey's two all-time winningest teams!

DEN TRIVIA
Junior Malcolm Allen led WHS this fall with 774 yards rushing. Who was the last WHS back to gain more yards in a single season?

HERD AFTER GLASCO
Montel Glasco (WHS '03) has developed into a 6-foot-3, 280-pound

defensive tackle at Lackawanna County College in Scranton, Pa., and is being heavily recruited by Marshall. Glasco, who has been timed at 4.93 in his 40-yard dash, was a three-year starter at WHS for former coach Ed Tranchina.

A BOUNTIFUL FALL
You'd have to be a really negative person to not have enjoyed the efforts of the WHS athletic teams this past fall. The final totals are in and WHS won 109 games, lost just 31, and tied four. That's a winning percentage of 77.7, and that's pretty darn good. The sport-by-sport breakdown is: football 6-4, boys soccer 13-7-2, girls soccer 15-4-1, field hockey 7-9-1, volleyball 25-4, gymnastics 10-0, girls tennis 15-3, boys cross-country 9-0, girls cross-country 9-0.

(And let us not forget the 10-2-1 advantage in head-to-heads with SP-F!) There were also five Union County Tournament championships — tennis, gymnastics, volleyball, boys cross-country and girls soccer (co-title with SPF).

If you're a less-than-half-full-glass person, you might moan about only one sectional championship (gymnastics, though girls cross-country missed by just two points), and no state titles. But the Den, of course, chooses to go with the glass more than half-full, with hopes of more sectional and possible state titles in the near future. The girls swimming and boys tennis teams enter their seasons as the preseason favorites to win Group 4. And the boys swim team looks capable of returning to the glory days of earlier this century, when it won state titles in 2000, '02, '03 and '04.

The fall teams have set the bar high for the winter and spring teams. But that's a good thing. This is, after all, WHS, where the bar is always set high. **RIGHT INTO THE FIRE**
First-year boys swim coach Jeff Knight inherited a powerful team, one that many consider a potential state champion contender. The Blue Devils will get a test right off the bat when they travel to the Lakeland Hills Y tomorrow for a 2:30 meet against Mountain Lakes. The Lakers have won the last three state Public B championships. WHS had won three straight Public A championships before losing in the sectional final to Bridgewater the last two years. Both WHS and Mountain Lakes took some big graduation hits, with each losing a swimmer to Princeton (Pat Daurio, A.J. Walker), but each returns a solid group of veterans. The teams have 30 state championships between them — WHS with 20, the Lakers with 10.

HARDING STREET UPDATE
When the Den mentioned Mike Venezia signing to play basketball at Colgate last week and listed many of the other outstanding WHS athletes and coaches who have lived on Harding Street, we missed several who should

Devil of the Week Will Harbaugh Football

have been included: the Schwarzenbeck — Dave, Jen, Chris and Meghan — family, Denise Comby, Brendan Flaherty, Megan O'Brien, the Petrino sisters, Steve Markowski, Kristina Fietkiewicz and gymnast Kelsey Greenfield. Man, that is one talented street!

ROLE REVERSAL
In an interesting NJSIAA consolation game back on Nov. 11, Dayton (0-9) took on South Hunterdon (0-8). What made the game — won 13-6 by South Hunterdon — interesting was the fact that both coaches, Joe George of Dayton and Jim Meert at South Hunterdon, were both longtime highly successful coaches at Franklin and Hunterdon Central, respectively. As we've long said, players make the coaches as much as the coaches make the players.

AROUND THIS DATE
Dec. 3, 1977: WHS completes an 11-0 football season with a 33-12 victory over unbeaten Barringer at Giants Stadium in the North 2 Group 4 title game. The crowd is reported in different newspapers as either 32,232 or 41,871, by far still a state attendance record.

Dec. 4, 1976: Frank Kelly runs for 128 yards, Bob McNally adds 97, and Owen Brand returns a punt 59 yards for a touchdown as Westfield beats Plainfield 14-0 to wrap up a 10-0-1 season and win the North 2 Group 4 championship.

TRIVIA ANSWER
Lamont Wallace ran for 872 yards back in 1991.

DEVIL OF THE WEEK
This week's free sub from Al the Owner at Westfield Subs on South Avenue goes to Will Harbaugh. A three-year starter and co-captain of this year's football team, Harbaugh saved his very best for the very end Saturday. With WHS clinging to a 10-7 lead late in the third quarter, "Wilbur" forced a fumble on a botched potential tying field goal, made key blocks as George Cornell and Malcolm Allen had back-to-back 24- and 16-yard gains on WHS's final scoring drive, then deflected a pass on the game's final play that was intercepted by Tommy Bonard (who classically took a game-ending knee when the potential for a 90-yard return was definitely there!).

The Devils of the Week this fall were: Eddie Simmons, Lane Maloney, Ricardo Johnson, Tom Parkinson, Claire Bennett, Malcolm Allen, Tom Bonard, Anna Koehler, Santo Nardi, and Will Harbaugh. Congratulations and don't forget to get your free sub, if you haven't yet!
The Devil's Den appears Thursday in The Westfield Leader during the scholastic season. Contact us with comments, complaints, story ideas or note-type items at bj1019@aol.com. GO DEVILS!

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