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THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section Pages 13-18

No. 10 Kardinal Boys Silence No. 16 Soccer Raiders, 2-0

By DAVID B. CORBIN

Forward Franco Gamero tapped in a goal with 13:20 left in the second half then added another with three minutes remaining to give the No. 10-ranked Kearny Kardinals a 2-0 victory over the No. 16 Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School boys soccer team in Scotch Plains on October 4. The 7-1-1 Kardinals turned on the offensive heat in the second half, while the 6-3 Raiders seemed to be a bit choppy in their passing rhythm.

"The majority of the game was absolutely terrible. We don't have enough soccer brains. We can't make the right decision at the right time. It's back to square one. I thought we were ahead in this game as far as the work we did this summer. Brazil! It seemed to have totally deteriorated," said a disappointed Raider Head Coach Tom Breznitsky.

With the absence of junior starters Tom Sutter (torn MCL) and Rob Cunningham (hip re-injury) and sophomore David Gigiel (concussion), the Raiders had to reach deep with their reserve units and juggle their positions, which may have accounted for the inconsistency.

"We have three guys, who would be on the field, hurt. That really has taken its toll," said Breznitsky. "It's mistakes that we are making. We haven't played very consistently. There's maybe one or two players who have played consistently through the first nine games."

Although not impressing coach **CONTINUED ON PAGE 16**



LEANING TOWARD THE GOAL LINE...Blue Devil running back Malcolm Allen, No. 33, leans toward the goal line in the game against the Union Farmers. Allen had a six-yard touchdown reception.

JOHNSON HAS TD KICKOFF RETURNS OF 92, 91 YARDS

Farmers Hold Off Blue Devils In Wild Grid Shootout, 35-30

By DAVID B. CORBIN
Virten for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Big plays, wild plays and interesting plays caused a tidal wave of shifting emotions in Union's 35-30 victory over the Westfield High School football team at Gary Kehler Stadium in Westfield on October 7. The 2-2 Farmers got all of their big plays through an impressive offensive display while the 2-2 Blue Devils made their big plays through defensive alertness and an outstanding special team

performance. Farmer quarterback James Melody engineered an evenly balanced passing and rushing attack that totaled 518 yards in offense. Melody, who was intercepted once, completed 11 of 16 passes for 249 yards, including a 72-yard touchdown (TD) strike to wide receiver Dwight Mitchell and a 64yard TD hookup with speedster Andre Lowe. Fullback Isa Abdul-Quddus, who was also outstanding from his linebacker position, had 79 rushing yards, which included a 48-yard TD sprint. Running back Chris D'Andrea amassed 139 rushing yards, which included a one-yard TD plunge and a

momentum shifting 68-yard TD run. The Farmers' dominance on offense kept the Blue Devils' defense on the field, which paved the way for senior linebacker Will Harbaugh to record 19 tackles. Linebacker Scott Newman and corner Mike Henry each recorded 13 tackles.

The biggest head-turner of the day,

however, came with the performance of Blue Devil sophomore Ricardo Johnson, who had respective kickoff returns of 92 and 91 yards for TDs -WHS record. His explosive bursts forced the Farmers to resort to squibble

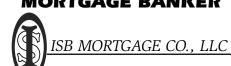
kicks or onside kicks later in the game. The Blue Devil defense came up with several big plays. The first came when Henry intercepted Melody's

pass in the Blue Devils' end zone and returned it to the 19. JT Sheehan and Malcolm Allen recovered fumbles that perpetuated a Blue Devil drive and enabled quarterback Tom Bonard to kick a 25-yard field goal. The final big play came when Tyrell Simmons scooped up a Farmer fumble and returned it 26 yards for a TD. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 16**



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INSERTING A LITTLE SLIDE TACKLE...Raider Taylor Molinari, No. 14, slides underneath a Kardinal in an attempt

KOEHLER SELECTED TO ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM

BridgeH2O Nips Blue Devils In 'Healing Children' V'ball

By FRED LECOMTE

to have his team gain control of the ball.

The sixth-ranked Westfield High School girls' volleyball team worked its way through Pascack Hills, Cranford and Immaculate Heart Academy in Pool C bracket play to advance as the No. 3 seed in the Gold playoff bracket in the Healing the Children tournament at the Rahway Recreation Center on October 7. After defeating fourth-seeded Passaic Valley in the quarterfinal round and knocking out second-seeded IHA, the Blue Devils came up two points short in the championship game against top-seeded Bridgewater-Raritan.

In the first qualifying match in Pool C, the Blue Devils easily pushed past Pascack Hills, 25-14, 25-12. Westfield then followed with back-to-back wins in the battle against archrival Cranford, 25-21, 25-12 in the second round.

"Volleyball is very much a momentum game. Cranford's game got it together, got some momentum rolling and took a little wind out of our sails. Luckily we regrouped and tried to find some of the weaknesses," said Blue Devil Head Coach Bev Torok.

In the third playoff match, the Blue Devils split with IHA, winning the first game, 25-21, then losing their steam in Game 2 by dropping a 25-18

"They're a well-coached team, they had a good variety of attacks, picked up a lot of balls and we needed to pass a little better than the second time we played them," said Torok. "The kids want to face them again because they

Raider Football On SP TV34

All Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School varsity football games (previous week's game) will be aired on SPTV34 at the times listed below. Also, there will be a pre-game discussion between Head Coach Steve Ciccotelli and The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times and The Westfield Leader Sports Editor/Assistant Publisher Dave Corbin.

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they are the better team.' In the Gold playoff quarterfinal bracket, the Blue Devils made short order by ousting Passaic Valley Indi-

want revenge. They want to show that

ans, 25-12, who defeated Union Catholic earlier in Pool B, 25-20, 25-19. They were missing one of their better players but they still controlled the ball and they still served well. In

form," said Torok. Next, the Blue Devils made their wish come true when they staggered IHA in the semifinal round, 25-15.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

order to beat them, you have to per-



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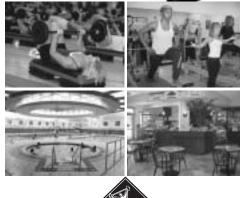
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