

RAIDERS STRESS TEAM EFFORT TO DEFEAT LINDEN

Raider Gridders Concentrate Special Teams, Pass Defense

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

Coming off a 21-7 victory over Plainfield, the 3-1 Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School football team has used its Bye week to focus on special team play and pass defense in preparation for a battle with a strong Linden squad who recently was nipped by Irvington, 23-21, on October 6. Game time is set for 2:30 p.m. this Saturday in Scotch Plains.

"We gave these kids a bunch of days off, let them catch their breath and get away from football a little bit, even with the coaches," said Raider

formed in a 20-14 victory over Westfield on opening day, powerful fullback George Bease rushed for 101 yards, which included a 70-yard, tackle-breaking touchdown run and speedster running back John Miller broke untouched down the left sideline for the 75-yard touchdown.

"He's a great player," said Ciccotelli of Bease who added, "They have a bunch of weapons. We are going to have to stop them. We put our kids in the right spots to make plays and they've got to make the plays."

Quarterback Jerry Jones has not only been a dangerous runner but also

knee midway through the Irvington game, sophomore Marcus Green, along with several others, stepped forward with pleasing results.

"Marcus Green has done a great job. You would hope that those second guys are ready when the opportunity comes. It was! He did a great job. It's very rewarding for us and made us feel confident. That makes us feel better about where we are at," said Ciccotelli.

As they have in three of their four previous games, the Raider line will be faced with the task of moving a much larger Tiger line.



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times

PREPARING HIS TEAM FOR THE TIGERS...Raider Head Coach Steve Ciccotelli, right, preps his team during the Bye week for the upcoming showdown with the Linden Tigers this Saturday in Scotch Plains at 2:30 p.m.

Head Coach Steve Ciccotelli. "That was our first thing, then we have all week to get ready. There are certain things that we are not doing well that we are trying to correct on a Bye week and with Linden how we want to attack them offensively, how we want to stop them defensively and our special teams."

Coach Ciccotelli graded his team, offensively, defensively and on special teams and, "the big thing is I think we are playing pretty good run defense but we have given up a touchdown pass in every game. That's got to improve. In our special teams, we have had two field goals blocked, an extra point blocked and we are not keeping people out of field position. On offense, I don't think we are finishing some drives."

Looking at how the Tigers per-

does the punting and could present a major problem on fourth down situations with his ability to fake a punt.

"No kidding! Those are things we have to watch out for. Those are the game breakers. Special teams plays or bonehead plays are going to be game breakers," said Ciccotelli.

Bonehead plays did cost the Raiders in their 19-14 loss to the Tigers last year. Safety O'Neal Thomas picked up a Raider fumble at the Linden 48-yard line and returned it 52 yards for a touchdown and, later, he returned an interception to the Raider two-yard line where Laron Capers bashed in for the touchdown.

Little good can come from losing a key athlete for the season but the Raiders have found strength of character in its depth. When fullback/linebacker Tom Pennella injured his

"Our kids work on leverage, stay low and play hard. That's what we want," said Ciccotelli. "Relentless ballplayers who are going to do technique. Our philosophy is a team. The sum of its parts is greater. It's a synergistic effect. That's something we preach about. The team!"

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Fred Lecomte for The Westfield Leader and The Times

MAKING ON OF MANY SAVES...Blue Devil keeper Claire Bennett made several fine saves in the game against the Kardinal girls in Westfield. The Kardinals scored two goals late in the second half to win 3-1.

Kearny's Late Strikes Stops Blue Devil Soccer Girls, 3-1

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

The Westfield High School girls soccer team's offense never really showed up, but No. 18 Kearny's persistent pressure finally wore down the Blue Devil defensive backs to earn the Kardinals a 3-1 victory at Kehler Stadium in Westfield on October 6.

Goalkeeper Claire Bennett made several outstanding saves to keep the 7-4 Blue Devils in contention. Bennett faced 16 volleys and smothered four, while Kardinal keeper Jennifer Pettigren faced just six shots. Kearny triggered seven corner kicks while Westfield hit for one.

Blue Devil senior Erin McCarthy found gold in the second half. Junior standout Stefanie Pace scored a goal and two assists to lead the Kardinals.

"It was another tale of two halves," said Blue Devil Head Coach Katherine Wertheimer. "It's the same story against Scotch Plains, the same story against East Brunswick, where we come out flat and it takes us forty minutes to get confidence, forty minutes to get going and then it's like, 'we're ready to play,' and here we are down one goal. We just can't have that."

The bigger and faster Kardinals took control of the field up front and limited the Blue Devils to just two

shots in the scoreless first half, one by McCarthy and a meaningful shot by junior Allison MacDonald. The Kardinals took six shots.

In the second half, the Kardinals struck first with 28:29 on the clock. The Blue Devils responded, worked the ball well in the Kardinal zone and took the momentum for a good three minutes until McCarthy broke away from the left flank, evaded several defenders and buried the ball in the right corner with 18:42 left to tie the game, 1-1.

"I saw the defender, used my feet, manipulated the ball as best I could, shot it and in it went," said McCarthy.

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WBA BASKETBALL TRAVEL TRYOUT INFORMATION



Basketball tryouts are open to all Westfield students interested in playing travel basketball in the 4th through 8th grades. Typical commitment should include at least 1 practice and 1 or 2 games a week. This is over and above playing in the in-town Saturday program which is recommended. Gym availability dictates the amount of time each team will be assigned. In the event that you make a travel team there will be a charge of \$265.00 in addition to the in-town fee.

All players need to go to the WBA website to register for the travel tryouts. Go to WWW.WESTFIELDNJ.COM/WBA and click on the link that says "Travel Registration".

All players should come dressed to play basketball. All players should bring a water bottle (NO SCREW OFF TOPS PLEASE so that we can prevent water spills) as we will ask that everyone stay in the gym during the tryouts.

There will be 2 teams selected by gender and grade level depending on interest level of participation for each grade. In grades where there might not be enough players to support a competitive team, grades may be combined.

IN TOWN BASKETBALL REGISTRATION STARTS 10/15/06.
LINK TO REGISTRATION AT: WWW.WESTFIELDNJ.COM/WBA

OCTOBER 2006				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9	10	11	12 7th Boys - 7:00-9:00 WHS Var 4th Girls - 7:00-8:30 WHS 5 6th Boys - 7:00-9:00 Edison Clinic for all 8th Girls 7:00-10:00 — Roosevelt	13 8th Boys - 7:00-9:00 WHS Var 6th Girls - 7:00-8:30 Edison 8th Girls - 8:30-10:00 Edison
16	17 5th Girls - 7:00-8:30 Roosevelt Int School 7th Girls - 7:00-8:30 Roosevelt Int School	18 Clinic for all 7/8th Boys 7:00-9:00 — Edison	19 4th Girls - 7:00-8:30 WHS 5 7th Boys - 7:00-9:00 Roosevelt 6th Boys - 7:00-9:00 Edison	20 5th Boys - 7:00-9:00 WHS Varsity
23	24 4th Boys - 7:00-9:00 WHS Varsity Gym 5th Girls - 7:00-8:30 7th Girls - 8:00-10:30 Roosevelt Int School	25 Clinic for all 7/8th Boys 7:00-9:00 — Edison	26 5th Boys - 7:00-8:30 Edison 8th Boys - 8:30-10:00 Edison	27 6th Girls - 7:00-8:30 Edison 8th Girls - 8:30-10:00 Edison
NOVEMBER		1 4th Boys - 7:00-9:00 Edison	2	3

NOTE: All times are PM



The WBA is also looking for women and men interested in being Coaches and Assistant Coaches for travel squads.

For questions feel free to call the WBA at (908) 654-6361, or you can contact Tom Pickert at wba@westfieldnj.com

WBA - In Town Registration

The WBA will be opening our on-line registration website this week for all Westfield basketball players - boys and girls - interested in playing in our In-Town basketball leagues this winter. All Westfield residents from 2nd to 8th grade are invited to play. Registration link and other detailed information can be found by going to our website WWW.WESTFIELDNJ.COM/WBA. If you have additional questions not covered on the website, please email us at wba@westfieldnj.com.



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