

Westfield PAL B Falls To Springfield, 7-6

The Westfield PAL B football team came up short against a very strong Springfield defense on October 8. Springfield opened the scoring with a long touchdown pass and converted the extra point.

Just before halftime, Westfield answered with a long pass from James O'Rourke to WR John Lanzano who ran 40 yards to the three-yard line. FB Brendan Dugan plunged over behind the blocking of Ryan Elliott, Dan Bigelow and Kevin Anderson. The extra point failed.

Westfield's strong defense kept the Springfield offense in check. Safety Justin Ricardo had an interception that thwarted a lengthy Springfield drive.

Westfield PAL B Team Beats Millburn Grid Kids, 20-6

The Westfield PAL B football team beat Millburn, 20-6, on October 1 in Westfield to up its record to 3-1.

The Blue Devils opened the scoring on the second play of the game with a 50-yard touchdown run by HB James O'Rourke behind the strong blocking of Dan Bigelow, Kevin Anderson and Mike Mondon. Westfield's defense stopped Millburn with the great play of LB Billy Hedley and linemen Ryan Elliott, Alex McHugh and Anthony Amatucci, who made big tackles.

Before halftime, Westfield scored again with FB Brendan Dugan reaching the end zone on a five-yard dive up the middle. Dugan added the one-point conversion.

In the second half, Millburn returned

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

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Later, the Cardinals took the initiative, controlled the tempo and were rewarded with the fluke go-ahead goal when Bennett dove to the ball, which then ricocheted into the net with 11:53 remaining.

The Blue Devils had several more good opportunities to score. McCarthy triggered a direct kick off the crossbar. Senior Erica Ammermuller drilled the ball just left to the goal post and McDonald nearly scored on a slant shot that was stopped by the keeper.

The Cardinals, however, turned

up the pressure and were rewarded with a goal when Pace got a pass and fired a lethal shot to the back of the net to put away the game.

"Coming in, we knew this was a game that could go either way. We tried to play our game, keep it on the ground; however, they scored the first goal. We got the momentum back when McCarthy scored, unfortunately lost it and could not get it back after they scored the second goal," said Bennett.

After the game, McCarthy said, "As coach likes to say, 'we had moments of brilliance,' especially coming into the second half, but, unfortunately, we broke down at the worst times and they took advantage. We did have some periods where we played extremely well, played feet and kept possession."

"There's no shame losing but I thought at one point we had it when we tied up the score. That showed a lot on our part and I thought we had the better of the play for a little bit in the second half," commented Coach Wertheimer. "Once they scored that second goal, I think that deflated us and we lost our momentum. Defensively, it wasn't our best game. We know we can keep up with the very good teams speed wise and I think the girls will take this in stride and learn from it."

Kearny	0	3	3
Westfield	0	1	1

WTA Women Singles Final Standings:

Listed below are the final standings for the 2006 season following the September playoffs of the Westfield Tennis Association Women's Singles Ladder. Fifteen players achieved 6 or more matches during the season in which 84 matches were played. For the fourth year in a row, JoAnn Purdy won the title, beating the former '93 winner, Jean Power in straight sets. The Most Active award goes to Lisa Black-Polak with 17 matches, followed by Sheri Pardo with 16 matches.

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. JoAnn Purdy | 11. Dianne Mroz |
| 2. Jean Power | 12. Linda Coleman |
| 3. Clara Karnish | 13. Ellen Smith |
| 4. N. Freundlich | 14. Ann Diver-Diehl |
| 5. Lisa Sottung | 15. Danielle Hair |
| 6. Sheri Pardo | 16. M. Perez-Santalla |
| 7. Jan Honymar | 17. Katie Richards |
| 8. L. Black-Polak | 18. C. DeStefano |
| 9. Sherri Bender | 19. J. Richardson |
| 10. Anna Murray | 20. Carol Healey |
| | 21. Peggy Weiss |



WORKING THE BALL DOWN FIELD...Blue Devil Jonathan Ramalho, No. 10, works the ball toward the Newark East Side goal as teammate Chris Mattes, No. 25, positions himself. The game ended in a 0-0 tie.

Soccer Blue Devil Boys Duel East Side to 0-0 Deadlock

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

Defense prevailed in a game that was long on intensity and played predominantly around midfield between the Newark East Side boys soccer team and Westfield that resulted in a 0-0 two-overtime deadlock at Kehler Stadium in Westfield on October 4. Very few breakaways or vicious attacks were allowed on goal as each team's defenders consistently rejected the other's penetration.

The 3-4-2 Blue Devils fired off 12 shots while the 4-4-1 Red Raiders retaliated with 10. Blue Devil sophomore keeper Michael Lessner recorded his third shutout of the season and was credited with seven saves in regulation. Lessner made two potentially game-saving snags in overtime. Keeper John Batista had 12 stops for Newark East Side.

The Blue Devils held the edge in ball control, especially in the first half, and launched the higher quality shots on goal led by senior Andrew Brill, who drilled three. Senior Vincent Clark

and senior Co-Captain Chris Mattes each added one shot on goal.

"We like to bring the ball to our fullbacks, bring the ball up field, switch the play a lot and keep the point of attack at their side of the field," said senior Co-Captain Nick Barba. "We worked very hard, had a lot of hustle, had chances but just didn't finish them up. Defensively, Lessner anchors it back there as the keeper. He's a great athlete."

Although primarily a midfield game in the second half, the Blue Devils played hard and attempted to take advantage of opportunities but were unable to take care of business despite out-shooting Eastside 4-3. Clark, Tom Parkinson, Mattes and Roberto Olivares had one shot each. But the name of the game was to put the ball in the goal. The Red Devils positioned themselves well and successfully knocked away every incoming shot.

East Side fired off four shots to Westfield's one in the first overtime battle. The Blue Devil defense remained tight throughout the second

overtime period except for a few breakdowns that carried the game to a no-decision final.

"We have a deep line sweeper who brings the ball up and get it to our outside backs. The three outside backs have a lot of responsibility. They move around a lot and have to be very fit," Mattes explained. "We have been practicing day-in and day-out, going in hard, slide tackling when going in and making sure fifty-fifty balls are ours. Overall we did that well but our only problem is finishing, which I contributed to that problem."

Asked what if anything was gained or lost in a long and tedious non-scoring contest, Mattes added, "That tie counts as a loss towards our goal to win the next four of our six games, so that's what we have to do now. We need to go in hard and finish. Overall, East Side is a very good team. They beat Elizabeth 4-1. We lost to Elizabeth in overtime. Our main goal, just finish!"

East Side	0	0	0	0
Westfield	0	0	0	0



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