



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times

GOOD DAY ON THE FIELD...Raider Colleen LaForge netted two goals against the visiting Tigers of Linden.

COLLEEN LAFORGE FIRES IN 2 GOALS

Soccer Raiders Silence Linden Lady Tigers, 5-1

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

Within a span of 22 minutes, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School girls soccer team scored all of its goals, then worked offensive variations for the remainder of the game to silence Linden, 5-1, in Scotch Plains on September 13. Nearly the entire game was played in the 1-2 Tigers' portion of the field as the 2-1 Raiders launched 28 shots on goal while the Tigers managed only four.

Raider midfielder Colleen LaForge fired in two goals and Tri-Captain/midfielder Allie Hambleton tapped in a goal and added two assists. Midfielder Lauren Weisbrod and forward Tyler DelMauro each slashed in a goal while midfielders Raychel Kruper and Julie Meurer, and forward Katie Cornachia each added an assist.

In the first half, the Raiders relentlessly pressured the Tigers' box and worked a multitude of crossing patterns. Their first success came in the eighth minute when Meurer crossed to LaForge who tapped the ball into the net from five yards out. Four minutes later, with an assist from Kruper, Hambleton slipped the ball past freshman goalie Lexi Alexandria. Slightly more than four minutes later, Weisbrod slanted a shot from the left side into the right corner to up the score to 3-0.

With 21:28 left in the half, LaForge charged the box and fired in her second goal. Three minutes later,

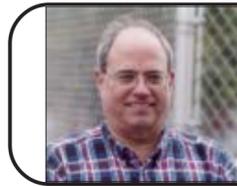
DelMauro skid in the Raiders' fifth goal. With 11 minutes left in the half, Alexis Freise, assisted by Nicole Sarica, gave the Tigers their only goal.

"We looked to get as many people in the box for scoring opportunities as we possibly could. That's what we did in the first half. We talked about picking that up, game-to-game. We did that today," said Raider Head Coach Kevin Ewing.

Most of the Raider starters, including goalie Lauren Mains (1 save), were rested to give the reserves, including goalie Haily Mroczek (1 save) their opportunity. The majority of the half was still played in the Tigers' lair and the Raiders got off 13 shots on goal - several were taken from outside the box.

"We knew we were beating them pretty good, so we didn't want to overdo it in the second half. We had different people in there, so we just mixed it up a little bit," said Ewing who added, "All the kids work hard. Some of the kids don't get as much time in bigger games, so it's good for them to get the opportunity to play and show off their skills. The kids learned something about where they should go on the field and I learned whom I have to put where of the group that doesn't get a chance to play a lot. They did a good job, they hustled, they have to work on things and that is what we will concentrate on in practice."

Linden	1	0	1
Sc. Pl.-Fanwood	5	0	5



Devil's Den
The Sun Finally Came Out, But It Rained On My Parade

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

The Devils' Den



Has Returned

OK, it was definitely great to be out there in the mist last Friday watching WHS put an emphatic end to its regular-season woes. It was great to watch the defense dominate, as it must for any good team. It was great to watch Tommy Bonard do his thing. It was great to see us run off 23 plays in the third period, to two for Cranford. It was great to see our defense almost put up a zero. It was great to see more WHS fans in the stands than Cranford had for a home rivalry game. And, mostly, it was just great to see the scoreboard say: us 27, them 7.

It was our first regular season victory since Nov. 1, 2003 when WHS beat East Side, 33-6. That was the fourth game of one of the best stretches of football during Ed Tranchina's 19 years as head coach, following a 14-0 win over Shabazz, a 12-7 victory at Linden and a 13-7 win at Morristown. But that season ended with a 4-6 record following heart-breaking losses to Union (20-19), Sayreville (20-13 in the playoffs) and Plainfield (9-7). And the past two 1-9 seasons saw only wins in the NJSIAA Consolation games, against fellow winless teams. Twenty-one regular-season games, and 21 losses. So, sure there were lots of pent-up emotions on our side of the field.

After the really nice win, it would have been so great to see Bonard and Will Harbaugh leading our band and

WF X-C Girls Place Fifth at St. Dominic

The Westfield High School varsity girls cross-country team placed fifth with a 121 total at the St. Dominic Invitational on the 3.3-mile course at Lincoln Park in Jersey City on September 16. The Blue Devil JV and freshmen girls each placed second in their respective races. Red Bank won the varsity race with a 40 total followed by West Windsor-Plainsboro South at 96.

Blue Devil Nicole DiBenedetto crossed 11th in the varsity race with a time of 21:58. Kim Legones crossed in 22:39, Aileen Grogan finished in 23:13 and Ayn Wisler had a time of 23:14. Ali Lowenstein finished in 23:40, Bridget Grogan crossed in 24:00 and Liz McCarthy finished in 24:16.

Marlee Austin recorded the top Blue Devil JV time at 24:29 followed by Marissa Goldner at 24:33, Alexis Constantine at 24:36, Josie Reinhardt at 24:51, Rachel Newberg at 24:57, Tessa SchAAF at 25:12 and Abby Ryan at 25:21. Carrie Rice had the Blue Devils' top time in the freshman race at 15:42.

fans in a singing of the school song (the one that goes, "Westfield, dear Westfield, we sing to you. We praise you always for the many things you do. Schools know your reputation, we won't let it fall. Westfield victorious, the champions of all." You remember it, right?) But no, to spoil an otherwise perfect night, we get serenaded by the youthful fans singing the "Nah nah nah nah, nah nah nah nah, hey hey, goodbye" song. That's only the most stupid, moronic, dumbbell song of all time.

My hatred of the song, written and sung by members of the legendary one-"hit" wonder Steam in November 1969, stems from a football game in the fall of 1978. On that dark, dreary afternoon, a weak Scotch Plains-Fanwood team notched its first win ever over a really good Westfield team (an 11-7 loss that eventually cost WHS a spot in the playoffs where they would've been odds-on favorites to win a third straight sectional title, having beaten four teams that did qualify). As I looked across the field that day, it was as depressing as anything in my entire life to see their fans dancing and hoopin' and hollerin'... and singing "Nah nah nah nah..." Whenever that song comes on my radio, I can't switch stations fast enough.

While we're at it, some of our Blue Devil fans have to be just a bit more confident. Comments like, "So far, so good" and "Is Cranford any good" and "We still have the second half to go" were heard at halftime. Those are loser comments. Not everybody can (or probably should) walk around with blue(devil)-colored glasses, but a bit of cockiness (just kept a bit below arrogance) wouldn't hurt. And I've even heard that confidence is contagious. If you were around during the '60s and '70s, when winning was more a given than something to wonder if it might happen, then you know what I mean. It was a feeling that was noticeable in the school and around town.

And, while we're really on a roll, could those players who do it - and it is only a small minority - please stop with all the preening and celebrating and waving their arms? I know it's what you see on TV, with all the pro and college games, so you probably think it's an alright thing to do. But it's so... what's the word? ... idiotic? attention-getting? classless? Dumb? Moronic? And it reflects on all of us. I mean, we're Westfield, the second winningest team in state history. We should act like we've won before. After our second touchdown Friday night, guys were hoping around like we were a first-year varsity program that had just beaten Phillipsburg, not Westfield

taking a 14-7 lead on Cranford.

All the WHS players have played on winning teams since PAL. Sure, the last two seasons were difficult, and emotions were high Friday night at the thought of things turning back around to where we feel WHS football should be. But it's always seemed to me - from decades of playing, coaching and watching sports - that the guys who do the most show-boating and celebrating kind of stuff are rarely the guys the coaches look to when it comes down to crunch time.

INCE RETURNS

Now coach Jim DeSarno's club heads up to Kearny tomorrow afternoon. The home stands at Kearny have to be the coolest anywhere, rows and rows of concrete stands, and the higher up you go, the better your view of New York City. Two-way lineman Matt Ince (concussion) has been cleared to return, but DeSarno said the two-year defensive starter will have to earn his playing time. Tackles Ryan Scanlon and Santo Nardi and ends John Dugan, Tyrell Simmons and John DiIorio have all been solid. Nevertheless, "Mad Matt" brings an "edge" to the field, much like Mark Jackson and Rick Baldwin, for those who remember the '70s stars.

OUT-OF-STATE UPDATE

Some are calling it one of the greatest wins in Massillon's storied history, last Saturday night's 35-26 over Arizona powerhouse Hamilton in the Ohio vs. USA Challenge at sold-out Paul Brown Tiger Stadium. It was a big game, so Massillon rode the back of Brian Gamble: 35 carries, 160 yards, one touchdown pass, four receptions, eight tackles, one interception. Next up: defending state runnerup Mentor, with St. Ignatius the following week. For those keeping track, the USA teams won five games and Ohio four, the deciding game coming late Saturday night when California's De La Salle outlasted Cincinnati Elder 56-38.

In Pennsylvania, the Neshaminy Redskins put a 48-6 whooping on Germantown. Coming up soon: North Penn.

MILESTONES

Congratulations to the WHS field hockey and girls tennis teams.

Maggie McFadden's "chicks with sticks" earned the 300th victory in the team's history last week with a 3-0 victory over Union. Senior Chrissy (Izzy) Isabella scored twice in the historic win.

And the netters of coach Ed Tirone achieved victory No. 600 since the team was started, a 5-0 trouncing of Malcolm X Shabazz. Saturday, WHS came up short of the host school in the final of the Millburn Invitational, 4-1.

WHS-SPF M DELAYED

The 1,000th athletic contest between WHS and Scotch Plains-Fanwood figured to be one of last Monday's soccer games (both SP-F victories). But last week's tennis match between the two schools was rained out, meaning the soccer games were actually Nos. 998 and 999 in the 77-year rivalry. So, yesterday's rescheduled tennis match (weather permitting) became the historic matchup.

MEMORABLE DAY

Last Wednesday a tiny gathering at the First Methodist Church celebrated the life of the late Doug Carver with a short service. His longtime friend Mike Cowles set up the service, which ended with some of the former WHS basketball star's ashes being buried on the church grounds.

Rob Schram, a 50-plus-year friend of Carver's, was among those in attendance and the former soccer/baseball standout at WHS had many funny tales. Of course, anybody who played for legendary coach Robert Turner on the Westfield Merchants is going to have plenty of tales, even if those things happened 40 or so years ago.

IS IT JUST ME ...

Or is anybody else sick and tired of all the Michelle Wie hoopla. The girl has talent, but she's never done much in her few appearances on the LPGA tour. She's a gazillionaire already, despite having never won anything, via endorsements. And she's also 0-for-11 in her attempts to make the cut at men's events. The last two weeks have seen her score 15-over and 14-over for her two (pre-elimination) rounds. Her last 99 holes against men, she is 34 over par. Enough!

HALF OF FAME

There are still tickets available (at the WHS Athletic Office) for the seventh Westfield Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremony, to be held Monday, Nov. 20, at the Westwood, Garwood.

Those being inducted include: Roger Anderson (Class of 1955), Brian Ciemiencicki (1996), Denise Comby (1980), Matt Elmuccio (1997), Bob Harvey (1971), Andy Hubsch (1976), Dave Robinson (1975), Jack Rogers (1941), Steve Tebbetts (1972), Bob Torborg (1928), Marcie Williams (1990), former swim coach Chuck Gantner and the unbeaten 1970 football team.

Nominees are being sought for the 2008 induction class. Application forms are available at the WHS Athletic Office.

The Devil's Den appears Thursday in The Westfield Leader during the scholastic season. Contact us with comments, complaints or story ideas at bj1019@aol.com. GO DEVILS!

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