

CAMARDA, STRANEIRO NET GOALS, KRUPER ASSIST

Raider Soccer Girls Shut Out Blue Devil Soccer Girls, 2-0

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

Talent, enthusiasm and intensity were present in this season's first meeting between the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School girls' soccer team and host Westfield at Tamaques School on September 18. However, the result was a 2-0, shutout victory for the 4-1 Raiders, with senior Lisa Camarda and Alyssa Straneiro each scoring a goal.

"Westfield is a very good team. They're well coached and we knew it was going to be a tough game as it always is against them," said Raider Head Coach Kevin Ewing. "We wanted to come out with lots of intensity and really take it to them. During our first game of the year, we didn't

feel we came out with the right mind set or intensity. We've changed that and we're starting to get better."

Raider keeper Lauren Mains halted six shots while Blue Devil Claire Bennett made six saves.

"Claire had a great game today," said Blue Devil Head Coach Katherine Wertheimer. "She showed us a lot today by coming out, winning a lot of those balls that could of gone either way had she been more timid, but she really took control back there, which I was really happy to see."

The Raiders held the upper edge in ball control, especially in the first half with a number of scoring opportunities. Camarda, a quick and physical marking back, put the Raiders out in front at 16:52 when she slid a goal inside the right post off a corner kick from midfielder Rachel Kruper.

"She has good size, she has the skill, is strong with balls in the air and she can put the ball away for us," said Ewing.

"There was a breakdown on our defense on that corner kick and they were gunning for us. That was obvious," explained Wertheimer. "We came out very flat and it took us about 45 minutes to recover from that. Our girls were a little psyched out and we don't play well when we're panicked. We managed to recover and be calm and get some stuff going but it's a matter of being psyched for every

game. We had a big game against Peddie that we won in overtime. They had given it everything and sometimes it's hard to get up and sometimes they have to be able to do that."

The Raiders netted their second goal in the second half when Camarda was the recipient of a Lauren Weisbrod pass and looped an arching shot to Straneiro who struck the upper left corner at 72:47.

"She out-hustled the defensive girl, beat the goalie and hit a nice shot that capped the victory," said Ewing.

"Clearly my kids thought that there was an off-side on that second goal, so there was some confusion there," said Wertheimer. "Offensively, Coach Ewing had his girls do a nice job of shutting forward Erin McCarthy down and that was huge for them. We couldn't turn it up until we got into that second half and it took us too long to get it going."

Mains and Allie Zazzali shored up the defense, along with outstanding performances from Bridget Cornwell, Stephanie Glover and Tina Camarda.

"They're unbelievable when they go out there and did an outstanding job," said Ewing.

"I thought we had the better of the play for most of the second half," said Wertheimer. "Defensively, we played pretty well, but again, we were a little panicked. We are looking forward to seeing them again later in the season."

Raiders Snatch Ace, Edge Blue Devils, 1-0

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He's an All-State keeper, the best high school goalkeeper in the state! Sometimes he's called upon to make those kind of saves and that's what he did," said Breznitsky.

The Blue Devils took 10 meaningful shots on goals and the Raiders fired off 11. Lessner made eight saves - 5 in the first half, 3 in the second.

Speaking of cards, due to an over-abundance of enthusiasm, eight yellow cards were dealt by the referees, including a yellow/red - a second yellow card given to one player. The cards were evenly distributed, four to the Raiders, four to the Blue Devils.

The 3-1 Raiders controlled the ball in the 3-2 Blue Devils' territory the majority of the first quarter and took a 6-3 edge in shots on goal.

"I thought Scotch Plains played much better than we did through the whole first half," commented Blue Devil Head Coach George Kapner.

After Stanek netted his goal, the Raiders appeared to take a slightly more defensive posture while the Blue Devils stepped up their attack but Meredith stood up to the challenge.

"We gave them a breakaway," said Kapner. "Mike Lessner played an absolutely great game. The defense just broke down and that seemed to wake us up. Too little, too late! We played a very good second half and the difference was Mr. Meredith. Two great saves!"

Westfield	0	0	0
Sc. Pl.-Fanwood	0	1	1



MAKING THE SAVE... Blue Devil goalkeeper Claire Bennett, right, makes a fine save despite heavy pressure from Raider attacker Alyssa Straneiro.



LEAPING HIGH FOR THE SKY... Blue Devil senior Claire Macdonald practices her leaps on the balance beam prior to the meet with East Brunswick.

JENNA RODRIGUES CAPTURES ALL-AROUND TWICE

Blue Devil Gymnasts Defeat Union Catholic, E. Brunswick

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

Freshman Jenna Rodrigues took top honors in the all-around to help the Westfield High School gymnastics team defeat Union Catholic, 105.05-96.2, in Westfield on September 12. She then grabbed the top spot

in the all-around in the Blue Devils' 103.9-97.725 victory over visiting East Brunswick on September 15.

Against the UC Vikings, Rodrigues grabbed first in the vault and the floor exercise with respective scores of 9.2 and 8.95. She also took third on the uneven bars at 8.25 and fourth on the

balance beam with an 8.65. Competing in three events, Blue Devil Claire Macdonald finished second in the vault, beam and floor with respective scores of 9.1, 9.025 and 8.7. Teammate Liz Falzon placed first on the bars with an 8.5.

Blue Devil Lacey Cummings took the top spot on the beam with a 9.125. Viking Kristy Napolitano finished second in the all-around with a total of 33.6. Napolitano placed second on bars at 8.425, third on beam at 8.675 and fourth on floor at 8.5, while scoring and 8.0 on vault. Viking Ellen McDermott placed third all-around at 31.65. Blue Devil Claire Stevens-Haas placed third on vault at 8.75 and third on floor at 8.6.

"I'm ecstatic about it. I have a lot of new talent, who have very difficult skills. I think we could have gotten higher. There was a lot of room for improvement with execution. It was a great start and I hope it continues," said Blue Devil Head Coach Melissa Bryan about the Union Catholic meet.

Rodrigues totaled 35.475 in the all-around against the EB Bears and won the vault, bars and beam with respect-

Blue Devil X-C Boys Capture First at Roxbury Invitational

The Westfield High School junior/senior boys cross-country team ran in a tight pack and reaped the benefits by capturing first in the Roxbury Invitational at Horseshoe Lake Park in Succasunna on September 16. The Blue Devils nipped second-placed Phillipsburg 52-56. Delbarton at 105, Bishop Ahr at 118 and Ramsey at 120 finished 3-4-5, respectively.

Evan Friedman recorded the Blue Devil junior/senior's top time, finishing 11th, with a time of 16:40.02. Alex Tarlow, Brent Souders, Neil Fitzpatrick and Gus Gibbons Jr. had

competitive times.

The Blue Devils placed second in the sophomore race with a total of 40 behind Mendham at 11. Julian Applebaum crossed eighth with a time of 17:53 and Dennis Elwell finished 10th with a time of 17:56.13. Dan Morse and Josh Einbinder also had strong times.

The freshmen also placed second with a 36 total just behind Sayreville at 35. Ryan Scudato finished eighth with a time of 14:13.46, followed by Matt Messorole at 14:19.58 and Tyler Cusick at 14:25.58. Mike Fietkiewicz also finished strong.

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