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THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section
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VENEZIA GOES 3-FOR-3, 3 RBI; JOE 'V' 2-RUN HOMER

Blue Devil Baseballers 'Walk' Over Union in 6 Innings, 12-2

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

Alpha and Omega! Free passes ignited a six-run first inning and another form of free pass ended a game that was won by the 5-1 Westfield High School baseball team over visiting 3-3 Union, 12-2, in six innings on April 18. Leadoff hitter Tom Bonard began that big inning with a base-on-balls and Sean Ferro got the game-winning RBI when he was hit on the hip with the bases loaded.

Three Farmer pitchers combined to yield 12 free passes - 10 walks, 2 hit batters - and 10 hits, including a two-run home run to Blue Devil Joe Vall-Llobera (1-for-3, 2 runs scored) in the sixth inning. Blue Devil Mike Venezia (run scored) rapped a two-run single, an RBI double and added another single in his three at bats.

"The hitting is coming along. At the beginning of the year, my hitting was

off, just from being that I didn't play. The coach is working with my timing and my stance. There were two at bats where I had two strikes and the pitcher made a mistake and just put them right over the plate. They were good pitches to hit. It's good to beat this team like we did," said Venezia.

Bonard hammered an RBI triple and scored twice and Evan Shapiro doubled, singled, had an RBI sacrifice fly and scored once. Justin Olsen poked an RBI single and scored twice. Peter Antonelli (run scored) and Mike Cappiello each had a single, while Dan Milillo scored twice and Kevin Hennessey scored once.

Shapiro, who improved to 3-0, communicated closely with Olsen behind the plate to pitch a complete game, four-hitter, while walking only two Farmers. He did struggle a bit in three of the innings, but each time, damage was minimized, especially in the third when Olsen threw a bullet to nail a

runner attempting to steal second. The Farmers scored only one run in the inning.

"It was a fastball away so I really didn't have time to make my best throw because of my footwork. So I threw it as hard as I could," described Olsen.

In the fourth, the Farmers loaded the bases with two outs but Shapiro got the batter to pop up to short. In the sixth, the Farmers were frustrating Shapiro with long fly balls to the outfield, two which were dropped, but only one run was scored.

"We work together well. We always know what pitch he likes to

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STARTING THE 1,200 LEG OF THE DMR...Blue Devil Alex Tarlow, "W", trails the Old Bridge runner in the leadoff leg of the distance medley relay and Union Catholic Viking Mike Sprague, left, stays with the pack. Old Bridge won, the Vikings took second and the Blue Devils got third. Also see Westfield/Elizabeth track story on Page 19.

RAIDER BOYS WIN SHOT, DISCUS; GIRLS LJ, SHOT, HJ; DEVIL BOYS HJ

Raiders, Blue Devils Show Team Depth At Blue Devil Track & Field Classic

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

Westfield, Scotch Plains-Fanwood and Union Catholic boys and girls track & field teams each made a strong across-the-board showing at the Blue Devil Classic held at Gary Kehler Stadium in Westfield on April 21. The Raider boys and girls combined for 13 top-six placements, including five first places, the Blue Devil boys and girls also had a combined 13 placements, including one first place, and the Viking boys and girls combined for 10 top-six placements.

Raiders John Badala and Mike Alleman won the shot put event with a total distance of 108'6.75". Twice

Badala established a personal best by shoving the orb 50'6.25" on his second throw and hitting 50'0.25 on his final throw. On his final throw, Alleman's metal ball plunged to the ground 58'0.5 away from the circle. The Raider "B" team (Jon Birnbaum, Steve Wenson) placed sixth with a distance of 88'6.5".

"We had tough competition with Matawan. My coaches got me psyched up for that throw and it came out," said Badala.

Alleman, who fouled on his first throw, cleared 55 feet on the second throw. "The second throw, I slowed things down just to get a mark," said Alleman. "John! Fifty feet twice! He set the tone. I really fed off him today. It was all him today."

Alleman with a toss of 154' and Jason Boff took top honors in the discus with a distance of 286'7". The Raider "B" team (Badala, Wenson) placed fourth with a distance of 252'9".

The Raider girls also demonstrated that they were very strong in the field events. Lauryn Adams, with a shove of 37'10.75", and Erin Rossi won the shot put with a total distance of 73'9.5". Adams at 105'2" and Rossi also won the discus with a distance of 200'0.5". Amanda Bobyack and Sarah Canfield won the long jump with a distance of 33 feet. Vikings Ashley Broderick and Caryn Grabowski placed fifth in the long jump with a distance of 30'1".

Blue Devil Adam Bergo cleared 6'1" and missed his attempt at 6'4" in the high jump but his height combined with teammate Mike Wikanden's was enough for top honors with a total height of 11'7". The Raider boys tied for sixth at 11 feet. "I just wanted to get the win first of all so we could get the gold. Then the 6'4" I just wanted to tie my personal best," said Bergo.

Bergo at 19'7.25" and Andy Brill

at 19'6.5" placed second in the long jump with a distance of 39'1.75".

Although Old Bridge won the boys distance medley relay (DMR) event, Vikings Mike Sprague, James Pierce, Ryan Kilkenny and anchor Brian Guterl edged the Blue Devils, with leadoff man Alex Tarlow (1,200), Alex Forstenhausler (400), Kevin O'Rourke (800) and anchor Evan Friedman (1,600), for second with a time of 10:38.5 to 10:39.3. Guterl, who had a time of 4:25.9, gave a strong kick at end to pass Friedman.

"It could have been better but I'm happy because we got a second. This week I have been having some leg

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VERY BIG HIT FOR JOE 'V'...Blue Devil Joe Vall-Llobera is congratulated by his teammates after blasting a two-run homer in the sixth inning.

BAYARD FANS SEVEN; DINIZO, MINEO GET KEY RBI

Baseball Raiders Look Sharp In 4-2 Victory over Kardinals

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

Freshmen Joe D'Annunzio and Ricky Shevlin did what they had to do and veterans James Dinizo and John Mineo followed with key RBI in a three-run fifth inning that gave the 2-3 Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School baseball team the breathing room it needed to grab a 4-2 victory over Kearny in Scotch Plains on April 20. Senior pitcher Greg Bayard scattered seven hits, walked three and struck out seven to pick up his first victory.

The 4-4 Kardinals were having difficulties figuring out Bayard's selections and most of their hits were hobblers, with the exception of Ryan Tarabocchia's (2-for-3) double in the first inning. Kearny managed a run in the second inning off a walk, an error and a ground single and added the other run in the sixth off a fading single into right field with a runner on second.

"Today, I thought I pitched well. I gave up a few more hits than I would have liked to. I try to keep them off-balance, don't let them see too much of one pitch in an at bat. I try to get the out or strikeout any way I can," said Bayard, who had also pitched well in

his previous two outings.

"This is his third time he's pitched well. The difference was today we got some timely hits. We put the ball in play and executed the small ball. We made things happen," Raider Head Coach Tom Baylock expressed.

Raider Kevin Maroney singled and moved to second on a passed ball,

Jeremy Antoine (1 hit, stolen base) walked and D'Annunzio (2-for-2, run scored) bounced an RBI single to left to tie the score 1-1 after two innings.

The fifth inning, however, was a grand example of successful execution with "small ball". D'Annunzio drew a leadoff walk and Shevlin laid

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HITTING: SATURDAY MAY 12, 2007 AT "THE BALLPARK", SPRINGFIELD, NJ
8 YEAR OLDS - 9:00 A.M. 12 YEAR OLDS 1:00 P.M.
9 YEAR OLDS - 11:30 A.M. 13 YEAR OLDS 3:30 P.M.
10 YEAR OLDS - 10:00 A.M.
11 YEAR OLDS - 2:30 P.M.

FIELDING: SUNDAY, MAY 6, 2007
8 YEAR OLDS - 9:00 A.M. TAMAQUES #3
9 YEAR OLDS - 1:00 P.M. GUMBERT #2
10 YEAR OLDS - 9:00 A.M. GUMBERT #3
11 YEAR OLDS - 9:00 A.M. GUMBERT #1
12 YEAR OLDS - 9:00 A.M. GUMBERT #2
13 YEAR OLDS - 9:00 A.M. TAMAQUES #4

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