



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
**RUNNING WITH THE COLTS...**Raider Brittny Veeck, left, keeps up with the Colts Neck girls in the 1,600 leg of the distance medley relay.



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**SPINNING TO A PERSONAL BEST...**Raider John Badala cleared 50 feet in the shot put for the first time with tosses of 50'6.25" and 50'0.25".

## Baseball Raiders Look Sharp In 4-2 Victory over Cardinals

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

down a bunt to move him to second. Adam Perez and Nick Bonadies both drew walks to load the bases and Dinizo (1-for-3, run scored, RBI) hobbled a grounder to the right side scoring D'Annunzio. Mineo followed with an RBI double to right then Dinizo alertly scored on a wild pitch to put the Raiders ahead, 4-1.

"Everybody was doing their part that inning, getting on. James Dinizo hit a ground ball and the pitcher didn't

cover first in time. I knew I had to capitalize off that. The pitcher kept throwing first-pitch fastballs. I realized what the pattern was. It was my third time up against him so I was looking for a fastball. It was on the outside corner, so I took it that way," explained Mineo.

"We had Joe on first. Ricky laid down a bunt and did his job to get Joe over to second base. Then the leaders, after that, the guys who were count-



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**ATTEMPTING A PICKOFF...**Raider pitcher Greg Bayard fires to John Mineo in an attempt to nail Cardinal Kyle Courter at first.

## SPF Raiders, Blue Devils, Vikings Show Team Depth At Blue Devil Classic Track & Field Invitational

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

tightness and soreness. I figured if I stay behind Evan like I did and use him to keep my head in the game, I could get him at the last turn," explained Guterl.

This spring, Tarlow has been competing anywhere from the 800 meters to 3,200 meters. When asked of his strongest event, Tarlow answered, "I think the 8(00) because I have a little bit more sprint speed but, with the longer run, I have been building up my mileage so I can feel a bit more comfortable doing long distances like 12(00) and, sometimes 16(00)."

"I have been in a bit of a slump, lots of school work, not much sleep but I finally got some sleep and I was running fast today," said Friedman who finished in 4:29.4. "I don't have much of a kick. If he (Guterl) didn't come up on me, I would have never been able to kick like that. I would probably have been stuck in the low (4-)30s. This was a big milestone for me."

The Raider foursome of Tom

Pennella, Matt Flood, James Sensor and Kyle Rowbotham, respectively, placed fourth in the shuttle hurdles with a time of 1:05.3. Rowbotham had a great split of 14.7.

"So far, that is the best we have run this year by two seconds," said Rowbotham. "Last year, we ran a 1:02 high. We are not there yet but we are dropping time. I'm working on not leaning over the hurdle. We have two new guys. They are coming along and they still need to learn the three step and some of the basic stuff. They will pick that up quick and we will be faster."

Rowbotham (400), Kyle Grizzard (200), Mike Katz (200) and Adam Biner (800) crossed second in the sprint medley relay (SMR) with a time of 3:35.1 that qualified them to compete in the upcoming Nationals. "We got the actual qualifying time so I'm pretty happy," said Biner. "And I broke two (minutes) for the first time."

Rowbotham, who finished first in

his leg in 49.5, commented, "I expected to do better myself. Maybe it's because I didn't have somebody ahead of me to chase down."

The Blue Devil "A" boys (Friedman, Connor Davis, Patrick Gray, Tarlow) crossed second in the 4x800 with a time of 8:15.3, followed by Vikings Kilkenny, Sprague, Russell Kinney and Dan daCosta at 8:32.1 and the Devil "B" squad (O'Rourke, Brent Souder, Brendan Berkowitz, Julian Applebaum) that finished sixth at 8:44.4. The Blue Devil "A" (Eric Brandman, Mike Porch) and "B" teams placed third and sixth, respectively, in the pole vault with heights of 22 feet and 20'6". Raiders Badala and Boff placed fourth in the javelin with a distance of 282'5". Vikings Chris Pegeron, Julian Phillips, Mike Suarez and Pierce placed fourth in the 4x200 with a time of 1:31.1. The Vikings placed fifth in the 4x400 at 3:28. The Blue Devils finished sixth in the 4x100 at 45.1.

The Raider DMR team of Cassy Valdes (1,200), Danielle Vena (400), Kim Appezzato (800) and Brittny Veeck (1,600) finished second with a time of 12:44. Veech received the baton in third place, took a slight lead after the first lap but Colts Neck anchor Allie Flott gave a great kick down the stretch to pass her at the finish line. The Raider "B" team finished sixth at 13:32.4.

"My first couple of laps were kind of slow. Coach was telling me to pick it up to get away from them," said Veech who added, "I need to push my third lap harder."

Vikings Katie Eppinger (5') and Tiara Brown placed second in the high jump with a height of 9'10" and Blue Devils Emily Perry (5') and Christina Obiajulu took third at 9'6". Vikings Jenn Seniszyn, Aerielle Belk, Samantha Peters and Alisa Harris

crossed third in the 4x400 at 4:07.2 followed by Blue Devils Cat Cognetti, Ayn Wisler, Tessa Schaaf and Obiajulu at 4:09.5.

Vikings Angelica Glover, Belk, Harris and Seniszyn finished second in the 4x200 with a time of 1:44.8. Blue Devils Wisler, Rose Driscoll, Cognetti and Obiajulu finished third in the 4x800 at 9:47.5 and Vicky Attanasio (7'6") and Claire Stevens-Haas (8') placed fourth in the pole vault with a WHS record 15'6". The Vikings took fourth in the 4x100 with a time of 50.4 and the Blue Devils placed sixth in the SMR at 4:39.9.

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

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

throw," said Olsen who added, "(In the sixth inning) He probably got a little tired but we weren't helping out too much with the dropped balls out there but he pitched a good game."

Farmer starting pitcher Elvis Urena had immediate control problems but the crafty Blue Devil base runners, indeed, gave him headaches. Urena walked the first four batters. During that time, Bonard stole third and scored on a passed ball and Vall-Llobera stole second and scored on a wild pitch. Shapiro followed with an RBI sacrifice fly to center, Antonelli walked and Melillo drew a base-loaded walk then Venezia drilled a two-run single to center.

In the fourth, the Blue Devils blended three walks with Venezia's RBI double, Bonard's RBI triple and Olsen's RBI single to take a 9-1 lead.

Olsen led off the sixth by taking a pitch to the thigh then Vall-Llobera

blasted his two-run shot over the leftfield fence.

"It was a good pitch and I got a hold of it. He threw it up and in. That's a mistake on an 0-2 pitch and I took advantage of it. I was real happy," explained Vall-Llobera, who also homered against Irvington.

After Joe "V's" homer, Shapiro, Cappelletto and Antonelli tapped back-to-back singles then Ferro got the winning RBI via hit-by-pitch.

"We knew we were going to be a different team from last year. Instead of all the power hitting, it was going to be more small ball, like singles, timely hitting and bunting," said Venezia. "We are coming together as a team. We are playing good defense, making less errors."

"Small ball! That's what we are about," commented Olsen.

Union 001 001 2  
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ing on to drive runs home got the big hit when we needed it. It's something we haven't done the last couple of games. We did everything right in that inning," said Baylock. "That big hit gave Greg some breathing room."

"I think the young kids' confidence is getting up there," said Mineo. "Joe D'Annunzio played the best game I've seen him play all year. Rick Shevlin played a great game at third base. If they play this way for the rest of the season, I think we are going to be a pretty tough team."

"I think coming out and beating a Kearny team after a big layoff is such a confidence booster for these young guys," commented Baylock. "Hopefully, we can roll with this now."

On April 21, the Raiders' confidence level seemed to rise and their record rose to 4-3 when they defeated Plainfield, 12-2, in five innings then leveled Bridgewater-Raritan, 12-3. Antoine and Bonadies each drilled two-run doubles against Plainfield. Mineo had three hits, including an RBI double, and Bayard had two hits, two runs scored and three RBI in the win over the Panthers.

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David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
**LEADING OFF IN THE 4X800...**Blue Devil Ayn Wisler, right, ran the leadoff leg of the 4x800 meters. The Blue Devil girls placed third.

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