Fred K. Lecomte for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*

SPRINTING DOWN FIELD FOR THE SCORE… Blue Devil senior tri-captain attacker Julie Shelman, No. 15, charges through the Dragon defenders. Shelman assaulted the Kent net firing in three goals.

MACDONALD, SHELMAN SCORE 3 EACH, McCARTHY 2

Lady Lacrosse Dragons Burn Blue Devils in 2nd Half, 13-9

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

Kent Place raised its level of play in the second half, erupting for six goals, to roll to a 13-9 victory over the Westfield High School girls' lacrosse team at Kehler Stadium in Westfield on April 20.

Christin Hanley and Elaine Welsch each scored four goals while Rebecca Krom and Kate Sheridan each added two goals for the 3-3 Dragons.

Despite missing three key players, primary defender/Tri-Captain Caitlin Murphy, who suffered a concussion, Lauren Brunhofer (leg fracture) and Rachel Ianazzone (hand injury), several Blue Devils assaulted the Dragons' net with six goals in the first half. Tri-Captain/attacker Julie Shelman fired in three goals. Elizabeth McCarthy rattled the Kent Place net with two and attack winger Allison MacDonald, who finished with three goals, flicked in one goal.

"We started out a little bit slow and then started to gain some momentum. Unfortunately we just could not stick with it," said Westfield Head Coach Caroline Francht. "After we gained that momentum and got ahead a little bit, we started trading goals with them and we really needed to just pull away at that point in order to secure the win. Due to our lack of numbers, it got to be a little overwhelming for them near the end."

As to the game plan, Fracht added, "We have been working on some set plays in practice and working on transition in terms of working into one unit rather than an attack, a defense and a midfield unit. Working as one instead of three different units I think helped a lot. They were a lot more in command in midfield this game."

The Dragons closed out the scoring with a 6-3 edge in the second half, led by Welsch's three goals. Blue Devil Claire Bennett slapped in a goal and MacDonald added her second and third goals.

"Kent Place wanted it more, they showed up ready to play. We did too but in the end we came up a little bit tired. Offensively, we pretty much used our speed cutting around them but what kept us in it was the hustle to every single ground ball. I think we were very explosive on attack and that's what helped us get in close. As to shots on goal, we were forcing some of them and passing them right to the keeper," said Shelman. "We were aggressive on defense and got a lot of the fifty-fifty ground balls. They were not communicating very well in terms of what mark we have and staying on them through the transitions in midfield."

"During the first half I did not step up as much as I could have. I missed a few shots however I did net one," said MacDonald. "I picked it up a lot in the second half and felt this was anyone's game. I missed my first eight-meter shot but then nailed the next two."

Blue Devil goalkeeper Michelle Zaffuto halted 15 shots, most of them spectacular.

"Kent Place is an amazing team but over the years we just got better and better playing against them," added Tri-Captain Mary Kate Luker. "Michelle is an amazing keeper and she kept us in the game but, when it came right down to it at the end, it was to who had it in them. We were playing a little down, tired a bit but overall it was a little miscommunication on defense. We played well, came together as a team and wanted it."

Baseball Vikings Stop N Prov Pioneers, 4-3

Steve D'Angelo, who hit a solo home run in the sixth, scored the winning run in the bottom of the eighth on Anthony Marsal's double to give the 5-2 Union Catholic High School baseball team a 4-3 victory over New Providence in Scotch Plains on April 20. Tom Pavarro had three RBI for the 2-2 Pioneers.

Blue Devil Nine Beats Linden Tigers, 5-3

The Westfield High School baseball team improved to 6-1 with a 5-3 victory over Linden in Westfield on April 19.

Pitcher Mike Melillo yielded eight hits in five innings to pick up his first victory. Kevin Hennessey ripped a three-run double in the fourth inning to provide the cushion for the Blue Devils.

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