



WC AWARD WINNERS...Flanking Westfield High School (WHS) Athletic Director Ed Tranchina are seniors Tom Bonard, left, and Anna Koehler, who were WHS's representatives at the Annual Watchung Conference Scholar-Athlete Awards luncheon held at the Gran Centurion in Clark on May 24.

Tom Bonard Is Indeed Den's 'Devil of the Year'

I first got the feeling that it was going to be a good year for Westfield High School sports (especially for football, basketball and baseball) on Labor Day weekend. It was nice and quiet since most people had headed out of town to enjoy the last fling of summer.

I was finishing a running/walking program and was walking down Chestnut Street toward Gumbert (middle) Field. As I approached, I could see in the distance several boys playing what appeared to be home run derby. Then a ball was blasted onto the parking lot. I decided that I

would give the guys a hand and retrieve the ball. I picked up the ball and prepared to throw the ball over the screen to the chattering person who was playing leftfield.

It was Tom Bonard! And his friends! At that moment, I got a flashback of my high school days in Huntingdon, Pa. where my friends and I would always look to play pick-up games wherever we could. From that moment, I knew it was going to be a fun and successful year for WHS sports.

Muhammad Ali brought life and style back to professional boxing during the 70s. Magic Johnson and Larry Bird virtually saved a failing NBA program. Reggie Jackson gave significance to the month of October and Tom Bonard helped bring fun, excitement and success back to WHS sports. Congratulations Tom Bonard! 2006-07 Devil of the Year

David B. Corbin
Assistant Publisher/Sports Editor
The Westfield Leader/SP-F Times

See photos of Sports:
on www.goleader.com

Meet of Champions Track
St. Stephen/St. Joseph
St. Aloysius/St. Patrick
Chrome's/Kalmar Softball
Sofa Kings/Delasal Softball

Reading is Good For You



Flag Day - June 14



Devil's Den Devil of the Year A High-Energy Guy

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

For some there are the Grammys (musicians), the Heisman Trophy (college football), the Tonies (theatre actors), the Academy Awards (movie actors), the MVPs (pro sports) or the assorted all-county and all-state teams (high school sports).

Far be it from the Devil's Den to belittle any of those awards/honors. But let's take things down to the local level. If you're an athlete at WHS, outside of a victory over any team from SP-F, or Cranford, or being on a state champion team, it doesn't get much bigger than being named the Devil of the Week. Every Thursday since back in late September, a different WHS athlete has earned a free submarine sandwich from A1 the Owner at Westfield Subs (261 South Avenue East) for being so-honored.

And today, we culminate the 2006-07 scholastic sports season with the presentation of the first Devil of the Year. Picking a single athlete for any award of this magnitude is always a difficult thing. There are so many outstanding senior athletes at WHS again this year. But there was one who stood out. He was a quarterback in football, a record-setting point guard in basketball, and just finished a fine season as the shortstop on the baseball team:

Tom Bonard.

There have been several outstanding three-sport (not counting track guys, who do the same sport in three different seasons) athletes recently at WHS, like Brian Ciemiecki, Lamont Turner, Jimmy McKeon, Jay Cook and Jan Coccoziello. And Tom Bonard definitely belongs in that group.

And talk about somebody having a senior-year-to-remember, Bonard did that. After playing part-time split end and doing the kicking as a junior, he was switched to quarterback by first-year coach Jim DeSarno and became one of the most exciting players around. A good point guard for two years, he became something special as a senior, combining with Mike Venezia to form arguably the best backcourt in school history. And after spending time at third base and in the outfield last spring, accumulating 21 total at-bats, Bonard became the go-to guy of an exciting baseball team this spring.

The Den recently contacted some of Bonard's teammates, opponents, coaches and local fans to get their initial-reaction opinions of the Montclair State-bound athlete. (The 5-foot-9 dynamo will play basketball there.) Here are the first things that came into their minds:

Greg Bayard, SP-F athlete ('07): He's a great athlete and he's fast, very fast.

Greg Brand, SP-F athlete ('07): He is very fast, and it seemed like he was a good leader. He played key spots in all three major sports. He's a really good athlete.

Owen Brand, WHS Hall of Fame athlete ('78): He's an electric player, in all three sports.

Bob Brewster Jr., WHS baseball coach ('68): He's got a non-stop motor, and goes all-out, all the time, for all three sports.

Bob Brewster Sr., WHS fan supreme: He's a very competitive young man.

Colin Campbell, SP-F athlete ('07): Ever since we were little, he was always a good athlete, always a guy you feared. He was never the biggest guy, but you knew he was there. Elusive is a good word for him, and I should know. I had a wide-open tackle and missed him late in the game. He always comes to play.

Brian Chapman, Cranford coach: Hard-nosed ... tremendous competitor ... terrific athlete ... and on top of all that, he's a great kid. He's the kind of kid every coach wants on their team.

Devil's Den, former WHS athlete ('63): Too bad he wasn't a swimmer!

Jim DeSarno, WHS football coach: Tommy is the most exciting quarterback I've ever coached. He's a shortstop in baseball and point guard in basketball, so running an offense in football was a good fit. Our offense grew around his ability to create and see things many high school athletes don't see. He was so good that sometimes he would read a particular play wrong and still make something out of it. As a Montclair State graduate ('92), I'm very excited for Tommy.

Dan Doherty, SP-F basketball coach: First off, I'm glad he's graduating, but if I coached him I'd be dreading graduation day. He's a great competitor and team leader. As great as Mike Venezia was, we always felt Tom was who we had to stop in order to win. He's also a rare bird nowadays in that he excelled in the big three: football, basketball and baseball. Tom's a great kid and very respectful. Rivalries are so much better when you have that respect for the other team. My team and coaching staff have the utmost respect for Tom.

Casey El Koury, WHS athlete ('07): He's unselfish, confident, and awesome to watch. And he's from my 'hood, too. Woo-hoo!

Kevin Everly, WHS basketball coach: Tom is a winner. He's going to do whatever it takes to make it happen. He's a competitor, hard-nosed, selfless, tough and smart.

Will Harbaugh, WHS athlete ('07): Tommy is quote, unquote, an athlete. And he's greasy speedy, Mediterranean style ... half-Italian, half-Greek.

Glen Kehler, WHS Hall of Fame athlete ('75): He reminds me a lot of Bobby Davis ('74). Both were quarterbacks in football, point guards in basketball and shortstops in baseball. And both were great athletes.

Chick Miller, former WHS athlete ('44): He's a real hustler ... reminds me of an old-timer named Pump Vella ('37), who played with my older brother George.

Scott Selert, former WHS athlete ('77): He is the right choice.

Ed Tranchina, WHS athletic director: He's not only a three-sport kid but he assumed a leadership role in all three sports: quarterback in football, point guard in basketball, leadoff man and shortstop in baseball. And in every sport he's come through. The energy level at which he plays lifted up every team he was on.

Mike Venezia, WHS athlete ('07): Tough, competitive, aggressive. He'll do anything he can to win. We've been best friends since elementary school and we used to play 1-on-1 games in our driveways that got pretty intense, to the point where we wouldn't talk to each other for a few days.

Allie Zazzali, SP-F athlete ('07): He's a great athlete. I saw him in football and in basketball on TV, and he's just amazingly quick.

For being named Devil of the Year, Bonard gets to pick from one of the following: a) lunch for four at Max's hot dogs in Long Branch; b) lunch for four at the Frenchtown Café; c) four tickets to the minor league game of his choice.

And for those of you wondering "Who would've been the Devil of the Year if it had been picked in (such and such a year)?" we present our list of those who would have probably been the winners since 1961 (my sophomore year). Note: In many cases, it was extremely difficult to cut it down to just one name, with two, three and sometimes four possible selections.

1961: Pete Braun, 1962: Jim Kovacs, 1963: Marty Howarth, 1964: Jay Isbrecht, 1965: Bob Felter, 1966: Chuck Hood, 1967: Bobby Flynn, 1968: Bob Brewster, 1969: Paul Byrne, 1970: Steve Schmitt, 1971: Joe Monninger, 1972: Kurt Stiefken, 1973: Chris Campbell, 1974: Bob Davis, 1975: Glen Kehler, 1976: Andy Hubsch, 1977: Bob McNally, 1978: Frank Kelly, 1979: Jimmy Tyler (having a hot sister doesn't hurt);

1980: Denise Comby, 1981: Lowell Higgins, 1982: Paul Leifer (5 TDs vs. SP-F was the clincher), 1983: Roger

Brewster, 1984: Dan Gilday, 1985: Jay Factor, 1986: Rob Schmalz, 1987: Chris Masterson, 1988: Dave Brown, 1989: Gerry Benaquista;

1990: Ken Marsh, 1991: John Fox, 1992: Aimee Stout, 1993: Darren Hertell, 1994: Ron Nobile, 1995: Steve Cheek, 1996: Brian Ciemiecki, 1997: Matt Elmuccio, 1998: Bob Baykowski, 1999: Lamont Turner;

2000: Chris Giaccone, 2001: Ryan MacDonald, 2002: Jimmy McKeon, 2003: Brian Butts, 2004: Jan Coccoziello, 2005: Billy Hearon, 2006: Jeff Perrella.

ALUMNI SWIM MEET

The WHS Varsity rallied over the final three events Saturday to pull out a 91-79 victory over the WHS Alumni at Wallace Pool. The event was the senior project of Luke Baran, and helped raise over \$200 for the One Foundation. Class of 2004 alums Chris Heinen (200, 100 free) and Josh Schoenfeld (100 IM, 400 free) were double winners while Brandon Cuba ('06) won the 50 free, Brendan Lechner ('96) won the 50 butterfly and the alums also captured the 200 medley and free relays. The Varsity pulled out the meet by going 1-2-3 in the backstroke, led by Evan Paulan; 1-2 in the breast with Colin Sullivan winning, and then 1-3 in the final relay, with Mike Oster's anchor leg pulling out the race, as the Alumni split its relays to try for a 1-3.

The dedication award goes to Joel Zingerman, who came all the way from La Habra, Calif., to swim with his 1980 classmates Dan Morgan, Russ Jones and Todd Egner. All told, nearly 30 alumni competed and around 50 varsity, a wonderful turnout.

TYPISTS SOUGHT

When a grand mal crash wiped out my computer's hard drive last summer, all my WHS sports records were lost forever. Luckily there are print-out pages of all the information but that's hundreds and hundreds of pages. I could use some help getting everything re-typed and put back into my computer (and on a backup disc). Anybody who'd like to earn some extra money this summertyping whatever sport you want (there are 24 different varsity sports at WHS), please contact me at the email address below. It's easy, and could be informative, too, if you really are into a particular sport.

Next week will be the final Devil's Den for the 2006-07 school year. It's been a great year, with 10 county titles, six sectional crowns and two state championships (with three near-misses). Hopefully we'll be back in the fall. Contact us at bj1019@aol.com. GO DEVILS!



In Westfield...

BURGDORFF
REALTORS ERA

If you're thinking of selling...

find out why Burgdorff, ERA listings sell 33% faster and for nearly 1% more than other area brokers.

Visit us at www.burgdorff.com to see all our homes for sale.

*Based on GSMLS averages for the period of 3/01/05-3/01/06/ For the towns of Cranford, Fanwood, Mountainside, Scotch Plains and Westfield.



CLARK \$348,000

Great, first time buyer home offers 6 rooms and includes 4 Bedrooms and includes a spacious country Eat-In Kitchen, Living Room, full basement, garage, beautiful yard all in a convenient location. Clean as can be!



WESTFIELD \$949,000

Very spacious 9 room custom home on beautiful, large property includes a foyer, updated Kitchen, 4 Bedrooms, 2 baths, large Master Suite with sitting room (15 x 13), lots of closets and room for large spa bath. Many updates and amenities. Great location, near all schools, park and town.



FANWOOD \$500,000

Wonderful, spacious 5 + Bedroom Colonial on oversized lot includes 12 rooms, 2 baths, living Room with fireplace and built-ins, great third floor suite, screened porch, patio and in-ground pool. Close to all! Best buy in the area!



WESTFIELD \$1,695,000

Very charming and spacious center hall Dutch Colonial with veranda style front porch. This home features 11 rooms and includes 6 Bedrooms, 3.1 baths, foyer (15 x 10), butler's pantry, mud room, lots of built-ins and architectural details, high ceilings, updated Kitchen and baths, new CAC, updated electric.



SCOTCH PLAINS \$599,999

Stunning Dutch Colonial on a 100 x 350 gorgeous property. Offers 8 rooms and includes 3 Bedrooms, brick patio, shed and fish pond. The Kitchen includes custom maple cabinets, granite countertops, stainless appliances. Also includes a Family Room, Living Room with wood-burning fireplace, Formal Dining Room and full, partly finished basement.



SCOTCH PLAINS \$799,900

Bright and airy Split Level on beautiful property. Ideal for formal and casual living. Family Room has wood-burning fireplace surrounded by handcrafted mantle and glass enclosed bookcases, Eat-In Kitchen, Formal Dining Room, enclosed porch and CAC.

For all your mortgage needs Call ERA Home Loans at 888-421-3813
WESTFIELD OFFICE • 600 North Avenue West • Westfield, NJ 07090 • (908) 233-0065

welcome home

15 Offices Throughout New Jersey
Owned and Operated by NRT Incorporated