



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
TWO-TIME UCT 2ND SINGLES CHAMP...Blue Devil sophomore James Chu won his second, UCT second singles title.



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
UCT THIRD SINGLES CHAMPION...Blue Devil Greg Luppescu claimed his first UCT third singles crown. See picture on page 19.



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
SECOND AT FIRST SINGLES...Blue Devil Ravi Netravali placed second at first singles for the second straight year.

## Blue Devil Boys Capture 3rd Straight UCT Tennis Crown

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"I give Ryan all the credit in the world," said Blue Devil Head Coach George Kapner. "It's an accomplishment to win the Union County Tournament at first singles once, let alone twice, especially your sophomore and junior years. That's a positive for Ravi!" Blue Devil James Chu, the defending second singles champion, soared past Plainfield's Connor Cattaffe without blemish before rocking Johnson's (ALJ) Mike Keenan, 6-1, 6-0, in the quarters. Chu then stopped Dayton's Mario Grant, 7-5, 6-3, in the semis. In his championship match with John Angiouni of Summit, Chu prevailed, 4-6, 6-2, 6-4.

"To be champ at second singles as a freshman and a sophomore is about as impressive as Krueger," said Kapner.

Raider Scott Leyden received a

forfeit in the second singles first round then was stopped, 6-4, 6-1, in the quarters by NP's Ray Le. Leyden battled his way back and rebounded with a 6-1, 6-2, victory over Roselle Park's Will Robles to set up a match for fifth place with GL's Mike Yang, whom he defeated, 6-2, 6-1.

Blue Devil Greg Luppescu stepped up and shutout Plainfield's Marquis Smith at third singles then repeated the act with Union Catholic's (UC) Trevor McPherson in the quarters. After defeating GL's Elish Le, 6-0, 6-3, in the semis, he defeated Summit's Alex Zerfoss, 6-3, 6-1, for the crown. "He was very prepared," said Kapner. "The strength of our team has been our depth, way deeper than our first seven kids. We must give all the kids credit."

Raider Dan Nizri topped Linden's

Marco Mario in the third singles first round before falling to GL's Elish Le, 6-4, 6-2. Nizri also battled his way to the fifth-place consolation match after defeating UC's McPherson. Nizri beat Dayton's Rob Krebner in three sets, 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (7-5).

Blue Devils Dean Thompson and Akis Evangelidis shutout Plainfield's Rich Bouillon and Adam McWilliams then blanked UC's Matt Flynn and Derek Borge in the first doubles quarterfinals. In the semis, they defeated Summit's Elliott Coven and Andy Vance, 6-1, 6-1, to roll to the championship match where they crushed NP Pioneers Bill Beck and Andrew Fezza, 6-0, 6-1.

"They only gave up three games the entire tournament! They have not lost a set all year. They may be the best doubles team in the state," expressed Kapner.

Raiders Mike Devisio and Ted Rosenblatt rolled to the first doubles semifinals with respective wins over Cranford's Derek DeCagna and James Casale, 6-1, 6-2, and ALJ's Steve Villari and John Monagle, 6-0, 5-7, 6-

1. In the semis, they were stopped by NP's Beck and Fezza, 6-4, 6-1. The two Raiders finished fourth after falling, 6-4, 6-1, to Summit's Coven and Vance.

Top-seeded Blue Devils Graeme Stahl and Justin Snyder knocked off UC's Spencer Davis and Matt O'Donnell, 6-1, 6-2, to advance to the quarters where they shutout ALJ's Eric Genocchio and Brian Lutz. In the semis, they stopped NP's Steve Lester and James Davies, 6-0, 6-0. Stahl and Snyder then defeated Summit's Alex Kramer and Zach Goff, 6-4, 6-1, for the title.

"They ran through the tournament like a knife through butter," commented Kapner.

Raiders Chris Thompson and Mike Cejovic won their first round match, 6-1, 6-4, over Linden's Kamil Chandosko and James Fernandez at second doubles before being stopped, 6-3, 2-6, 6-3, by NP's Lester and Davies. After stopping ALJ's Genocchio and Lutz, they lost Dayton's Justin Wolf and Colin Greden, 6-3, 6-2 for fifth place.

## Blue Devil Baseballers Blank Cardinals in 5 Innings, 14-0

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he could throw the ball by these people and that's where we stayed. He was around the plate all day. He only threw about two or three curveballs in the whole game. His curveball is an outstanding pitch."

"Jenkins really showed some good stuff. He pitched against Kearny and did a good job. He did a good job against East Side. He throws the ball hard and he's got a good off-speed pitch, he didn't get to throw it much today," said Bonard.

The Blue Devils received 11 free passes (1 hit batter) and had nine hits. Bonard, who scored twice, also had a single in the first inning that touched off a base-stealing spree that provoked the Cardinal defense to add numerous throwing errors throughout the game. Kevin Hennessey (1-for-1) scored three times and had three stolen bases, Mike Venezia rapped an RBI double and stole a base, Justin Olsen (run scored) slapped a two-run single and stole a base and Evan Shapiro scored twice and stole a base. Rick Passananti's antics on the base paths made both teams nervous but it proved to be worth a run. Sean Ferro scored twice, stole a base and forced a few throwing errors.

In the bottom of the first, Bonard tapped a leadoff single, stole second and dashed to third on a throwing

error. Hennessey walked then stole second. Bonard then scored on a passed ball and Venezia drilled his RBI double to give the Blue Devils a 2-0 lead. In the second, Ferro drew a walk and Bonard laid down a bunt to move him to second. Ferro advanced to third on a throwing error and scored on a wild pitch. Two walks and two stolen bases later, Olsen smacked his two-run single to put the Blue Devils up, 5-0.

Mike Cappiello led off the eighth-run third inning with a single to right. The Blue Devils then took advantage of five walks, including Mike Melillo's bases-loaded walk, two fielding errors, two singles, including Joe Vall-Llobera's RBI slash to right, and Bonard's grand slam that slammed into a tree in right field.

"It was the first pitch, a high fast ball about letters high. It looked as big as a basketball so I leaned back and cracked it," said Bonard. "The bases were loaded and I wanted to get some RBI to give us the 10-run mark. I was real happy that I hit my first varsity home run, first high school home run. I haven't hit one out of the park since about fourth grade."

The Blue Devils added the final run in the fourth inning after Matt Laughlin singled and scored on Dan Melillo's RBI double to left.

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David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
VERY SCARY ON THE BASES...Blue Devil Sean Ferro, No. 24, scored twice, stole a base and caused a few throwing errors against the Cardinals.

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