

CORNACCHIA RAPS 2-RUN HR; GOINES 2 HITS, 2 RBI

Raiders Plate 3 in 7th, Shock Lady Farmers in Softball, 5-4

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

Katie Cornacchia whacked a two-run homer and Steph Goines doubled in the winning run in the bottom of the seventh inning to give the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School softball team a 5-4 victory over visiting 13-3 Union on May 4. The Farmers entered the game on a high note after nipping Westfield, 1-0, the day before and the Raiders were nursing their wounds after a 3-2 loss to Cranford but were hoping for a rapid recovery.

Trailing 4-2 entering the bottom of the seventh, Jess Khan sliced a lead-off triple to right to give the Raiders a glow of sunlight. After an unassisted ground out, Cornacchia smacked her two-run shot down the right field line to tie the game then Co-Captain Jillian Lusk (1-for-3) took a pitch on the arm to earn a free trip to first. Goines, who also had an RBI triple in the first, drilled her double to right and Lusk rounded the bases to score the winning run.

Do to a multitude of occurrences throughout the season, including a

season-ending injury to Co-Captain/shortstop Nicole Colineri, the 12-4 Raiders have constantly had to rearrange their defense but seemed to adjust well to the challenges.

"With Nicole out, even with the changes, everyone is getting up even more. We tell the guys we just have to come out and play our game," said Lusk who added, "We were (mentally) down because of the two-run lead that they had but we just kept the morale up, kept the intensity level and it paid off in the end."

"We have been handed something different every game. Someone is either out sick or we have a band trip. Whatever it is, they just play their game. I feel great about these girls. They always give 110 percent. I'm just happy that it paid off for them," said Raider Head Coach Kelly Covert.

The Raiders took a 2-0 lead in the first inning. Kelly Cianciotta beat out an infield single, Cornacchia moved her to second with a bunt and Goines hammered an RBI triple to right. Nikki Mineo (2-for-3) plopped an RBI single over the second baseman's head. Pitcher Brianna Mahoney also

single and stole a base in the inning. Raider Rachel Parker contributed a single in the sixth.

In the fifth, Farmer Jodie Hall hopped a single to right and Celeste Schimmer dropped a single over first then Jess Goncalves tied the game with a two-run double to center. In the sixth, Hanna Gross singled and Hall hit an RBI double then, in the top of the seventh, Marissa Torr looped a spinning double to right and later scored the fourth Union run on a pair of errors.

"They don't lose their heads. We came out on top first. We didn't relax but they (Union) got their runs. They got ahead of us. We still didn't stop. We knew what we had to do. Seventh inning! They were swinging the bats. They wanted to win. In our minds, we had them all the way," said a grinning Covert. "If we bring the intensity, chances are we were going to win. We came off a loss with Union just last week. It was another close game. It's the mentality of our girls. We were not going to just give up on it."

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David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
DOING HER PART SETTING A WHS RECORD...Kim Legones, W, ran the leadoff leg of the 4x1,600 for the Blue Devil foursome who set a (WHS) record when they finished second with a time of 22:13. The previous WHS record of 22:47 was set in 1996.

RAIDERS SET DMR RECORD, DEVILS 4 WHS RECORDS

Raiders Place 3rd, Devils 4th At Union County Girls Relays

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Raiders Cassy Valdes, Danielle Vena, Kim Appezzato and Brittney Veeck set a meet record in the distance medley relay and the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School girls, minus a few competitors, placed third in the Union County Relays with a total of 53 at Hub Stine Field in Plainfield on May 5. Cranford won with 77 points, Summit was second at 69 and Westfield tied for fourth with Union at 50. Union Catholic (Vikings) took sixth at 43.

Valdes ran a personal best (PB) 3:49.3 leadoff 1,200 leg. Vena ran her 400 leg in 63.3 followed by Appezzato (800) at 2:25.4 and Veeck (1,600) at 5:14.1 for a total time of 12:31.9 to top the previous record of 12:38.6 set by Governor Livingston in 2003. Blue Devils Rose Driscoll (3:55.77), Lisa Nehring (1:04.5), Christina Obiajulu (2:28.81) and Kim Legones (5:27.9 - PB) crossed third at 12:57.

"This has been our strongest relay on the track all year. We knew Summit would be tough but we were ready to go. The key was Cassy running a huge PR," said Raider Head Coach Jeff Koegel.

Legones (5:31 - PR), Nehring (5:21 - PR), Aileen Grogan (5:49) and Ayn Wisler (5:30) set a Westfield High

School (WHS) record when they finished second behind Summit in the 4x1,600 meters with a time of 22:13. The previous WHS record of 22:47 was set in 1996.

"Lisa took 19 seconds off her PR today," said Blue Devil distance coach Jen Buccino. "They were excited when we came into this thinking we were going for the win too. We figured, if we got one we might get the other."

Placing second behind Summit, Blue Devils Cat Cognetti, Driscoll, Aileen Grogan and Nehring set a WHS record 9:51.3 in the 4x800. Raiders Valdes, Cathy Harley, Appezzato and Veeck finished third at 9:51.4. The Vikings took sixth at 10:07.5. Vikings Kaity Eppinger, Tiara Brown and Danielle Hoff won the high jump with a height of 14'8" followed by Blue Devils Christa Ricci (5 feet - PR), Emily Perry and Obiajulu at a WHS record 14'6". The Raiders took fifth at 13'4".

Vikings Alisa Harris, Genesis Fulmer and Kate Ryan crossed first in the 400 hurdles with a time of 3:24.2 and Blue Devils Tessa Schaaf, Marlena Sheridan and Neha Limaye placed fourth with a WHS record time of 3:35.7. Claire Stevens-Haas (8'6" - PR) and Vicky Attanasio placed third in the pole vault with a

WHS record 16 feet.

Raiders Carlyra Jones, Lauryn Adams and Erin Rossi took top honors in the shot put with a distance of 104'3.25". The same trio took top honors in the discus with a distance of 316'7". Jones had a PR toss of 129'9" in the discus.

"The girls are always overshadowed by the boys but they are putting it together. They are doing their own thing. Adams is staying consistent over 100 (feet in discus) and over 35 feet (shot). They feed off each other, the boys and the girls," commented Raider field coach Ken Hernandez.

Blue Devils Schaaf, Erica Ammermuller, Wisler and Obiajulu crossed third at 4:07.1 in the 4x400 that was won by the Vikings at 4:04.4. Raiders Amanda Bobyack, Tina Olsson and Whitney Adams took second in the long jump with a distance of 45'8.75". Whitney Adams and Kim Shelus took fifth in the triple jump with a distance of 63'5.75".

Blue Devils Ammermuller, Amanda Garfinkel, Cognetti and Wisler placed fourth in the sprint medley with a time of 4:24.7 followed by the Raiders at 4:27.8. The Vikings took third in the 4x200 at 1:45.5, fourth in the shuttle hurdles at 1:07.9 and fifth in the 4x100 at 50.0. The Raiders took sixth in the 4x200 at 1:48.3.



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
DANGEROUS WITH THE METAL STICK...Raider Nikki Mineo, who went 2-for-3, smacked an RBI single past the second baseman in the first inning against Union. The Raiders won, 5-4.

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