



A RACE FOR RAIDER COACH KOEGEL...Raider Adam Biner, right, and Blue Devil Evan Friedman, W, lap a Union runner during the first lap of the last leg of the 4x1,600. Biner pulled ahead to give the Raiders an emotional victory dedicated to their coach Jeff Koegel.

Raider Boys Defend Title at UC Track Relays

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fourth with a distance of 126'8.25" and the Vikings placed sixth at 124'3.75".

"Steve Wenson is peaking at the right time. We have five guys (in the shot). He is 3 and 4 right now with Jon Birnbaum. They are fighting for that third position for the county individuals. It's nice to have that in-house competition. It's going to be a tight race," said Raider field coach Ken Hernandez.

Alleman, with a toss of 153'8", Badala and Jason Boff won the discus with a distance of 421'2". Blue Devils Brandon Heroux, with a PR 171'3", Mike Wikander and Pat Gray took top honors in the javelin and Badala, Boff and Chervenyak took third with a distance of 429'5".

"Right now, he is excelling at the jav(elin) as well," Hernandez said of Badala. "He's putting it together as being a three-event guy. In the discus, Alleman has had a personal best of 157 and change. He's a monster! He's a monster! He's very passionate and

competitive when it comes to this. This is his arena."

Blue Devils Bergo (6 feet), Wikander and Allen won the high jump with a height of 16'6". The Raiders took fourth at 16 feet. In the long jump, Allen (19'3"), Andy Brill and Bergo placed fourth with a distance of 56'10.75". The Raiders were sixth at 53'7.75.

Vikings Mike Sprague, Ryan Kilkenny, Dan DaCosta and Brian Guterl won the 4x800 at 8:09.9 followed by Blue Devils Brent Souders, Josh Einbinder, Andrew Flood and Tarlow at 8:16.2 and the Raiders at 8:19.9. Sprague, Pierce, Kilkenny and Guterl won the distance medley relay at 10:30.8 followed by Blue Devils Tarlow, Wes Clarkson, Connor Davis and Friedman at 10:40.8. Raiders Doliber, Zelesnik, Ragan and Biner placed fourth at 10:48.8.

Saunders, Ricardo Johnson, Craig Cognetti and Gray placed second in the sprint medley with a time of 3:37.1. The Raiders took fifth at 3:45.7. The

Viking crossed second in the 4x200 at 1:30.3 and the Raiders finished fifth at 1:33. Blue Devils Todd Saunders, Brill, Allen and Johnson crossed fourth in the 4x100 at 44.1.



PERSONAL BEST SHOVE...Steve Wenson wails the shot put 45'3" for a personal best to help the Raiders win the event.

THORNTON RAPS IN 4 RBI, D'ANGELO HITS 2-RUN HR

Vikings Score 5 in 4th, Rock Highlander Baseballers, 14-4

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

Jimmy Thornton went 5-for-5, scored four runs and had two RBI and Steven D'Angelo ripped a two-run homer to lead the Union Catholic High School baseball team to a six-inning, 14-4 regular-season victory over visiting Governor Livingston on May 4.

Viking sophomore pitcher Matt Canales (3-1) tossed five strong innings, yielding five hits, fanning nine batters and walking eight, and helped his cause with two hits. Joe Fortunato relieved the sixth and was credited with the save.

Thornton slapped a pair of singles and three doubles and D'Angelo finished 2-for-4. Mike Canales powered two doubles and scored five runs and Anthony Marsal added a two-run double. Joe Ciano spanked an RBI single. Chris Whittemore and Tony LaRocca each contributed a hit.

Highlander sophomore starting pitcher Jeff Trivella (1-0), recently promoted from Jayvee, allowed nine hits, struck out one and walked two in four innings. Junior Frank Scacciaferro (0-1) took the loss in relief. He yielded five runs on six hits and walked one batter. Matt Fullowan,

Adam Bergman and Kevin Wheaton each knocked in a run. M.J. Dugan, Brooks Miller and Tom Corrado each contributed a hit for the 10-4 Highlanders.

"Any time you play 25-30 games, you are going to have a couple where the team sleepwalks through the first couple of innings and gives the opponent four, five outs an inning and that really hurt us here today," said Highlander Head Coach Chris Roof. "We

with a run in the second. Justin Quaglia worked a walk, swiped second and scored when Fullowan connected on a high curve ball for a double. The Vikings immediately answered with three runs. Matt Canales singled and scored on Ciano's single to right. Thornton rapped an RBI double and Mike Canales jumped on a fastball for a two-run double to make the score, 4-1.

GL scored two runs in the third.



ONE GIANT LEAP...Viking Anthony Marsal, No. 4, makes a giant leap during a play at second against Highlander Justin Quaglia who swiped a bag and scored on a double off the stick of Matt Fullowan.

threw our number-four pitcher. He should have done a lot better in terms of getting out of innings without giving up that many runs. We didn't swing the bats the way we are capable of doing but that's baseball and we'll go after it tomorrow."

The 9-3-1 Vikings scored a run in the bottom of the first inning when Thornton singled, advanced to second on an infield miscue and scored on a bases-loaded sacrifice fly by Mike Canales. G.L. evened the score

Dugan and Miller tapped back-to-back singles and Bergman ripped an RBI single. Wheaton added a sacrifice fly ball.

In the fourth, Canales issued a bases loaded walk to make the score, 4-4, but the Vikings plundered back with five runs. Thornton slapped a single and swiped a pair of bases. Whittemore walked and Mike Canales reached on a dead ball. Steve D'Angelo bashed the first pitch for a bases-loaded, two-run double. Scacciaferro walked in another run and Mike Canales triggered a two-run double to right.

After scoring three runs in the fifth, the Vikings closed the curtain in the sixth. D'Angelo boosted a rocket to center and Matt Canales laid down a perfect bunt single. LaRocca advanced the runners and Thornton unleashed a two-run double to end the game on a 10-run rule.

"I felt pretty good, mixed up my pitches well and my defense helped me while the offense came up huge," said Matt Canales. "My fastball felt good throwing for strikes. My curveball I threw a little but that was alright."

"It felt good having Matt come out to the mound today," added catcher Thornton. "He had control of his pitchers and we decided to go with the fastball; however, that one inning where they had all their hits, they jumped on a fastball, so we decided to go with the change-up and a little bit of a curve the next inning."

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