



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times

**COORDINATED EFFORTS...Blue Devils Graeme Stahl, backcourt, and Justin Snyder know how to coordinate their efforts at second doubles.**

## No. 1 Blue Devil Netmen Win NJ Section 2, Group 4 Crown

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

players last year. We are more confident!"

James Chu subdued Timur Suhil-Sindhu, 6-0, 6-0, at third singles, but has always been evaluating his personal progress.

"Sometimes I get lazy with my footwork and sometimes I lose focus. So I just have to get back into focus after I lose focus. Other than that, I am playing quite well," said Chu.

Dean Thompson and Akis Evangelidis thrashed and smashed their way to an easy victory over Steve Chang and Amav Bajpay, 6-0, 6-1, at first doubles. Thompson and Evangelidis, who have yet to lose a set, improved to 21-0.

"Both Akis and I have good serves. We hit our targets and use it to hold serve almost every time. He's a great partner. He does a lot of things well. He returns well, volleys well," said Thompson who added, "I like being

at the net when he is serving. He makes it easy for you and I like putting balls away."

At second doubles, Graeme Stahl and Justin Snyder mesmerized Calvin Shi and Jiawen Wu, 6-0, 6-0, with their coordinated attack.

"We beat them once and we felt confident that we could beat them a second time. It was no trouble at all," said Snyder. "We played together before the high school season. We communicate really well. We don't even have to say, we just know. We are very aggressive. We love coming to the net. We love smashing balls at the other players and having fun."

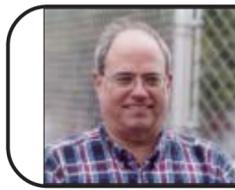
Looking to the match with Bridgewater-Raritan, Snyder simply added, "It's going to be different this year."

"There is definitely a bit of added emphasis on this match because of the last two years," said Shallcross. "Everybody has had it in the back of his mind the entire season. We have been waiting for this day. Everyone is definitely going to come out ready to play."

The Blue Devils did come to play but so did Bridgewater. Shallcross took three sets to defeat Eric Hsu as did Chu with Andrew Weeden. Although Thompson and Evangelidis won in two sets over Josh Lee and Aneesh Devi, the first set went to a tiebreaker.

**WESTFIELD 5, JP STEVENS 0**  
 First singles: Shallcross d Telson, 6-0, 6-1  
 Second singles: Netravali d Ai, 6-1, 6-0  
 Third singles: Chu d Suhil-Sindhu, 6-0, 6-0  
 First doubles: Thompson and Evangelidis d Chang and Bajpay, 6-0, 6-1  
 Second doubles: Stahl and Snyder d Shi and Wu, 6-0, 6-0

**WESTFIELD 5, BRIDGEH2O, 0**  
 First singles: Shallcross d Hsu, 0-6, 7-5, 6-2  
 Second singles: Netravali d Anup Bhujle, 6-2, 6-4  
 Third singles: Chu d Weeden, 6-7 (4), 6-1, 6-3  
 First doubles: Evangelidis and Thompson d Lee and Devi, 7-6 (8), 6-1  
 Second doubles: Stahl and Snyder d Rob Cooperman and Eric Chang, 6-2, 6-3



## Magazine Honors Kehler; Alumni Swimmers Sought

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

Scholastic Coach and Athletic Director is a magazine that's been in business for over 75 years. As part of its 75th Anniversary celebration, the magazine decided to name the Coach of the Three-Quarter Century for every state. It is a daunting project, to say the least.

The magazine asked each state to name its top coach — male or female, any sport, anytime from 1931 to the present. Some state associations helped, in some situations, local sports media, historians and other experts were asked to help.

New Jersey, small in size but big in population and athletic talent, has had its share of legendary coaches, like Montclair's Clary Anderson, Plainfield's Abe Smith, Hunterdon Central's Russ Riegel, Shore's Nancy Williams, Passaic's Prof. Blood, St. Anthony's Bob Hurley, St. Benedict's Joe Kasberger, Trenton's Al Neuschaefer, Brick's Warren Wolf, Collingswood's Skeets Irvine, to name just a few that come immediately to mind.

But the magazine's New Jersey Coach of the Three-Quarter Century is none other than Westfield's Gary Wayne Kehler.

Which, of course, comes as no surprise to anybody who was around Westfield between 1957 and 1984, the period of time Kehler walked the sidelines (or rode his golf cart) before becoming the school's athletic director. After playing his high school football at Hackettstown under the legendary Chot Morrison, and later 150-pound football at Rutgers, Kehler came to WHS in the fall of 1957 as an assistant football coach under Les Zorge, and soon became the school's wrestling and golf coach. In the fall of 1961 Kehler took over as headman in football.

Check out these numbers: Football: 171-26-7 in 22 years. Wrestling: 239-45-10 in 24 years. Golf: 329-44-6 in 25 years. That adds up to 739 wins, 115 losses

### Blue Devil Laxers Top Summit for UCT Title

Harry Bernstein, off a feed from Joey Simone, fired in the winning goal in the second overtime to earn the Westfield High School boys lacrosse team the Union County Tournament title with a 7-6 victory over Summit at Tatlock Field in Summit on May 21.

Simone finished with five assists and a goal. Ryan Yarusi tallied two goals for the 12-5 Blue Devils and Ben Thomas made 13 saves.

and 23 ties.

While his teams won 86.5 percent of the time, their style of play was rarely the kind that would excite today's generation, or make it on the SportsCenter highlight videos. It was grind-it-out, in-your-face, man-against-man football, with defense as the first priority. It wasn't unheard of for WHS to take the opening kickoff and slowly drive the length of the field, using up the entire first quarter before scoring early in the second. Even in wrestling, where today's final scores are in the 50-25 range, a WHS-Seton Hall or WHS-SPF or WHS-Middletown score under Kehler would more likely be in the 21-19 range. Again, it was defense first, ride your man and work for the pin, in that order.

Which is not to say Kehler wouldn't take a risk or two on occasion. How many times did we see WHS "go for it" on fourth-and-six in its own territory rather than punt the ball away? Plenty! And every once in a while, remember how he might let his quarterback throw one of those dangerous whatcha-ma-callits? Oh yeah, a pass.

If you were a WHS fan back in those days, you were almost spoiled by the winning attitude that pervaded the place. You didn't worry about how good the opponent was, or was supposed to be, because you just expected to win. Pick almost any sport — fall, winter or spring, boys or girls — and WHS was contending for either a county or sectional title, or more, every year. Right or wrong, that tends to all start with the football team; and under Gary Kehler WHS was much more than just successful. If you told somebody you were from Westfield, as often as not their response would be, "Westfield, isn't that where that Keeler-guy coaches football?"

Still living at 130 Effingham Place with his wife Alice, "G.K." often is visited by his former players, of 25, 35 even 50 years ago, when they revisit the area. That tells you something about the man. The honor couldn't go to a better coach.

**ALUMNI SWIM MEET**  
 Luke Baran, co-captain of the 2007 WHS swim team, is putting together an alumni swim meet for his spring senior project. And he's doing it as part of a fund-raiser to support the One Campaign, an organization that's fighting global poverty and disease.

The meet is scheduled for Saturday, June 9, 3 p.m. (2:30 warm-up) at the Wallace Pool. There will be members of the 2007 boys and girls teams, along with a hoped-for good number of alumni. A similar event in 2005 packed the balcony at the Y and had

nearly 40 alumni return for the event. The races will be mostly 50 yards and it will all be for fun.

If you're a WHS swimming alum or just someone who would like to help the Harvard-bound Baran raise funds for One Campaign, contact him at lukebaran@yahoo.com; phone is 908.232.5898.

### TIME AND PLACE

Another favorite coach of the Den used to tell his team, "There's a time and a place for everything." And for all the WHS spring sports teams left in their state tournaments, the time and the place is NOW.

With a strong winter showing (boys and girls swimming, bowling), and the surprise sectional win and Group 4 runner-up finish by coach John Turnbull's golf team, WHS has become one of the Group 4 contenders for the Shop-Rite Cup, given to the state's top teams in each group. Points are awarded only for state and sectional team champions and places, with points deducted for any disqualifications in any sport.

After the eighth-seeded WHS baseball team beat Piscataway Monday, it will visit top-seeded Bayonne tomorrow afternoon, where a win (WHS beat the Bees in two pre-season scrimmages) would put the Brew Crew into the sectional semifinals next Tuesday, at either Watchung Hills or Phillipsburg.

Tara Pignoli's battle-tested softball team is seeded second in its section and had a first-round bye. They'll play at home today against the winner of the Edison-J.P. Stevens game, and that winner will likely face Union in the sectional semis next Tuesday. Defending state champion North Hunterdon (which ousted WHS in eight innings last year) is the top seed.

After winning its second straight UCT title on Monday, the boys lacrosse team opened state tourney play yesterday against Cherry Hill West where a win would put them into Saturday's Round of 16 at home against the Ridge-Clearview winner. WHS is the fourth seed and would be looking at a likely match against top-seeded (and beatable) Montgomery, with both Ridgewood and Randolph on the other side of the bracket.

The tennis team handled defending state champion Bridgewater-Raritan in the sectional final Monday, with key wins at both doubles by Dean Thompson-Akis Evangelidis and Graeme Stahl-Jason Snyder (B-R had been 43-1 in doubles coming into Monday) and a gutty 0-6, 7-5, 6-2 triumph by first singles Kevin Shallcross. The win advanced WHS to the state Group 4 semifinals

### Devil of the Week Adam Bergo Track and Field

(Ridgewood, 9 a.m.) and finals (West Windsor South or Cherry Hill East, 1 p.m.) today at Mercer County Park, West Windsor.

Finally, the track sectionals are this weekend and look for Adam Bergo, Brendon Heroux, Alex Tarlow, Evan Friedman, Malcolm Allen, Ricardo Johnson, Pat Gray and Co. to get "Jacked" for that one.

### WHS, SP-F RULE

Union County's really, really big schools may have the numbers, but it's been WHS and SP-F who have dominated the county championships this year (once again). With all the county tournaments having been decided, WHS won 10 sports (boys cross country, girls soccer, girls tennis, volleyball, gymnastics, boys and girls swimming, bowling, boys tennis, boys lacrosse), SP-F seven (boys and girls soccer, girls basketball, wrestling, boys and girls track, golf) and Cranford three (girls cross country, baseball, softball). The only sports that trio missed out on were boys basketball, field hockey and girls lacrosse.

### IS IT JUST ME ...

Or doesn't anybody else realize that without editors and responsible people to make responsible decisions about what things are written in newspapers or magazines and/or get said on radio or TV, "freedom of speech" pollutes the world with people like Rush Limbaugh, Howard Stern, Mike and the Mad Dog, Opie and Anthony, the Jersey Guys and others of that ilk. Can that really be what the founding fathers had in mind?

### ON THIS DATE

1963: Mike Ketcham shoots a 76 to win medalist honors as WHS captured the Union County golf championship.

### AROUND THIS DATE

May 25, 1945: Charles Frankenbach strikes out 16 in a nine-inning 3-2 loss to Bound Brook.

May 25, 1951: Bob Williams, a transfer from Dunellen, strikes out a school-record 19 in seven innings against Plainfield.

May 28, 1948: Terry Brady shoots an 86-80-166 to win the state public school golf title.

### DEVIL OF THE WEEK

This week's free sub from Al the Owner at Westfield Subs (261 South Avenue East) goes to Adam Bergo. The versatile trackster soared 6 feet, 6 inches to win the high jump at the Union County championships, and also took a fourth in the triple jump.

The Devil's Den appears every Thursday in The Westfield Leader during the scholastic year. Contact us with comments, complaints or story ideas at [bj1019@aol.com](mailto:bj1019@aol.com). GO DEVILS!

**2007 RAIDER SOCCER CAMP**  
 at Scotch Plains - Fanwood High School  
 "The Only Local Camp Not Held in a Park!"  
 Lady Raider Camp  
**SESSION I - JULY 9-13**  
**SESSION II - JULY 23-27**

Goal Keeper Training  
 Tactical Camp for Teams  
 Novice to Advanced  
 Grades 1-11  
 Indoor Facilities

Director Tom Breznitsky SP-FHS Boys Varsity Coach  
 Home of the 7 time NJ State Champion Boys' Soccer Team

For More Information, Please Call:  
 Tom Breznitsky (908) 322-6102  
 email: [raidercamp@comcast.net](mailto:raidercamp@comcast.net)  
[www.spraider soccer.com](http://www.spraider soccer.com)

In Westfield...

Visit us at [www.burgdorff.com](http://www.burgdorff.com) to see all our homes for sale.

If you're thinking of selling... find out why Burgdorff, ERA listings sell 33% faster and for nearly 1% more than other area brokers.

\*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.

**WESTFIELD \$899,900**  
 Extraordinary Stonehenge home. This Newman built home boasts a formal entrance vestibule, updated Kitchen, glistening hardwood floors, expansive 3-season porch, roomy Family Room, 4 large Bedrooms, 2.1 baths, 2-car attached garage, CAC and a large, level lot.

**SCOTCH PLAINS \$480,000**  
 Shows like a model home! Spectacular end unit Townhouse offers 6 rooms and includes 2 Bedrooms, 2.1 baths, beautiful Kitchen with breakfast bar, vaulted ceilings, gas fireplace, Loft Family Room, recessed lighting, Master Bedroom suite with walk-in closet, soaking tub and balcony. Premium lot!

**SCOTCH PLAINS \$549,000**  
 Pristine Colonial Split on park-like property offers 7 rooms and includes 3 Bedrooms, hardwood floors throughout, Living Room with fireplace, great play area in basement. Close to schools, park, YMCA, public transportation, town and more.

**WESTFIELD \$4,395,000**  
 Magnificent stucco and stone European Colonial with over 9,000 sq. ft. of living space offers 15 rooms and includes 6 Bedrooms, 6.2 baths and every possible amenity including tray ceilings, Tiffany chandeliers, granite countertops, marble fireplace and elevator.

**WESTFIELD \$1,650,000**  
 Gracious, 3,600 sq. ft. center hall Colonial on Wychwood cul-de-sac. Finest workmanship with magnificent detailing, expansive gourmet Kitchen, hardwood floors throughout. Great opportunity to own new construction in sought after neighborhood.

**MOUNTAINSIDE \$609,900**  
 Custom built brick Ranch on over 1/3 acre features 9 rooms and includes 4 Bedrooms, 1.1 baths, Eat-In Kitchen, Living/Dining Room combo, hardwood flooring, CAC, sprinkler system. Fourth Bedroom can be Family Room.

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