



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
STIRRING UP A CLOUD OF DUST...St. Luke's Luke Fugett plows into third base with a triple in the second inning against St. Pat.

St. Luke Grabs 'Angels' Halo With 11-10 Win Over St. Pats

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in all four at bats and scored twice. Milk Monroy mixed a pair of RBI singles with a run scored and Frank Pepe singled in all three at bats. Bob Guy singled twice and scored once. Jack Kennedy (RBI) and Jim Barba each singled once and scored twice. Marty Marks drilled an RBI single and scored once. Tony Blasi and John DeProspero each singled and had an RBI and Tom Kucin scored once.

Luke pitcher Steve Morano initiated a double play to mute the Pats in the first.

"Nice double play! Let's get things started," hollered Pielhau as St. Luke came to bat.

Gibbons added, "Let's jump on them right now."

The Lukes jumpstarted with three runs in the bottom of the inning then the Pats peeped with one in the second. Luke responded with Fugett's triple and Pielhau's RBI groundout to make the score 4-1.

Attempting to focus his team, Pat man Kevin St. Onge said, "Let's keep loose guys!"

The Pats slipped five runs across the plate on five hits in the third to take a 6-4 lead.

"We got a game now," reminded Gibbons.

Pat pitcher Blasi held the Lukes to one run in the third, which prompted Pepe to shout, "That's the way to pitch to those guys."

After the Lukes scored three runs on four hits in the fourth to take an 8-6 lead, Pepe's shout subsided to a mumble but St. Onge pleaded, "Let's stop the bleeding."

With the help of a few porous gloves and four singles, the Pats gushed forth with four runs in the fifth to seize a 10-8 lead. The Lukes limped back to the field after all three batters made outs in the bottom of the fifth but despite an error followed by two straight singles the Pats failed to score in the sixth when Spellman smothered a hot grounder at second to end the inning.

Roth, Smith and Spellman led off the bottom of the sixth with consecutive doubles and Gibbons lined his RBI single to put the Lukes up 11-10. After Gibbons made his leaping grab in the seventh, Morano absorbed a sizzling grounder and fired to first then Roth basked a fizzling fly in left to secure the victory.

Celebrating ensued!

"Yes! It means a lot to us," said McKinney and Roth simultaneously.

St. Patrick 015 040 0 10
St. Luke 311 303 x 11



ST. BART'S SOFTBALLERS FOR RUTGERS...St. Bartholomew Men's Softball League players, pictured, left to right: "Father Tom" Kucin, "Gentle George" Balint, "Jokester Johnnie" Chupko and "Hurricane Dean" Talcott pause after cheering for the home team as Rutgers bested Buffalo, 38-3, on August 30.

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Lady Blue Devils Set Sights On WC, UC Crowns in X-C

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is that the freshmen constitute approximately 25 percent. We have a couple of young freshmen, who seem to be extremely talented," said Hornish who mentioned that Abigail Kwok and Meghan Soriano could have a positive impact.

Through the decades, the Lady Blue Devils have had quite an "impact". Since 1984, they have either been first or second in the WC. Their fifth place finish in the Union County (UC) championship, last year, was their lowest placement since 1987. The girls were first in 1988-89, third in 1990, first from 1991 to 2001, second in 2002, first in 2003, second in 2004 and 2005, and fifth in 2006.

Also, since 1984 the Blue Devils have qualified for the Group IV Championship meet by being among the top five teams from the section. Westfield grabbed first or second from 1991 to 1996. The Blue Devils were

fifth in 1997 but came back to place either first or second from 1998 to 2006.

Coach Hornish feels that the wave of Blue Devils will be gushing up toward the front in the WC, UC and sectional meets, but there are some definite obstacles.

"The season looks good! We have to consider that Scotch Plains, Cranford, Summit and Union Catholic are all very good in terms of the county and the conference. The interesting thing about Union Catholic is that their coach Mary Korfmacher was a four-year varsity runner for Westfield and the coach of Summit, Neil Sharma, graduated from Westfield as well," he said. "We have our hands full. We want to retrieve county and conference championships, take back the group sectional title and do as well as we can for the Group 4 and Meet of Champions."

Lady Soccer Raiders Envision County, State Championships

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the challenges facing the Raiders will be the replacement of Lauren Mains, noted as one of the most exceptional goalkeepers in the state (14 shutouts) "Our goalie will be Jackie Law and I must say, she will be great," said Coach Ewing. "If it wasn't for Lauren being in our net last year, she could have played a lot and there is no doubt in my mind she could have started for most if not all the other schools in our county as a sophomore."

Featuring several returning seniors and a fine group of talented juniors and sophomores, Ewing expects to find depth in the midfield by returning Tri-Captains Alana Bencivengo and Molly Meehan, along with Raychel Kruper and Katie Cornacchia

"We will look to Alana and Molly who got a lot of playing time last year to bring leadership in the midfield."

In the backfield the Raiders' three very experienced players, include four-year starter Tri-Captain Bridget Cornwell, Tina Camarda and Stephanie Glover. Two athletic and hard working players who did see spot time last year and will be counted on this year are Alyssa Straniero and Tyler DelMauro. Included in the mix are Kim Appezatto, Julie Meurer and Sheryl Markovits.

When asked what defensive changes he may consider making, Ewing said, "I don't know if we have to change that much. Jackie is an excellent, excellent goalie and we return three kids to our back line. I

believe we will be pretty solid and that is where our strength lies. Hopefully it will continue to be that way; Glover, who is a big kid and one of the fastest girls on the team, along with Cornwell, who is one of the fastest girls in Union County, and Camarda, a solid and smart player."

The Raiders will be pretty solid in the midfield but will rely on Meehan, Kruper and Cornacchia to help in the scoring column along with Straniero and DelMauro. Ewing also plans to inject several new and very talented faces into the lineup.

"Again it's another very tough challenging schedule, whereby we'll play Westfield twice and you know they are always very good, along with two games against Kearny, who will be a top-five team in the state. We open up with Cranford and face Pingry, the most probable top team in the state, so our schedule is second to none but that's how you get better as a team," concluded Ewing.

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David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
LEADING A VETERAN PACK...Seniors Brian Hessemer, left, Jarek Cohen, center, and Mike DiVisio have been named Raider Tri-Captains.

Raider Soccer Boys Return Senior-Heavy Squad, Ace

Only two seniors graduated from last year's Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School boys soccer team that won its 20th straight Watchung Conference title, finished with a 16-6-1 record and won its 11th Union County Tournament (UCT) title under 32-year Head Coach Tom Breznitsky. This season, 14 seniors and according to coach Breznitsky, "an ace in the hole", will dominate the Raiders' turf.

Unlike the 2005 squad, last year's team was not overly large in stature but tall in talent. Mike DeVizio, now a senior, demonstrated that his talent was much greater than his 5'5" height by scoring three goals in the UCT finals. Tri-Captains DeVizio, Brian Hessemer and Jarek Cohen are expected to keep the talented Raiders moving forward and pressuring opponents' goal.

DiVisio scored 16 goals and had eight assists last year and was named

All-Group 3 Second Team and All-UC First Team. Hessemer was also named All-Group Second Team and All-UC First Team and Cohen was selected to the All-UC Second Team.

But there are several more Raiders who will help add victories to coach Breznitsky's career record of 543-123-39. Among them are: senior stopper Evan Aspell (All-UC Third Team), senior Jeff Stuart, who did an excellent job playing the back position, and senior Tyler Stanek, who netted six goals and contributed four assists. Additionally, sophomore Joe D'Annunzio is expected to be a menace to opponents. As to Breznitsky's ace in the hole, we will just have to wait and see.

The Raiders host Cranford in the season opener tomorrow, September 7, at 4 p.m. then they will host rival Westfield on Monday, September 10.

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