

## Cougar Gridmen Deal Blue Devils, 17-14, Defeat

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awaked near the end of the third quarter and needed just three plays to put six points on the scoreboard when Johnson juked five would-be tacklers down the left sideline for his 46-yard TD to close the scoring to 17-7.

"I just got mad. I had my eye on the end zone and was determined to get in there," said Johnson.

Energized, the Blue Devils made the game interesting when they got possession on their own 49-yard line midway through the fourth quarter. Johnson, off a left-side sweep, gal-

loped 16 yards to the Cougar 34. After a two-yard loss, DiIorio launched a 31-yard completion to Billups, placing the ball on the five. DiIorio then on a keeper did the rest.

With time running out, the Blue Devils did have possession but failed to put the game in the win column when Smith intercepted a pass to seal the victory.

"We can play better than this. We should have won this game but we made mistakes and we have to improve on them," said Johnson. "We

were not as aggressive in the first half; second half we started to be but obviously it wasn't enough."

"It would have been nice to spring Ricardo loose a little earlier and that's Ricardo. He's fast and he can get it done. We tried to get it to him a little earlier in the game but they defended him pretty good; however, you can't hold him the whole game, so we knew he'd pop one sooner or later," said DeSarno.

Cranford	3	0	14	0	17
Westfield	0	0	7	7	14



Fred K. Lacombe for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
**GANG TACKLING A COUGAR...** A mass of Blue Devil defensemen, including Tom Mruz, No. 36, and Charlie Reid, No. 25, crunch a Cougar runner. Despite the 17-14 loss, Westfield out-gained Cranford, 198-186 in total yards.

## Raider Gymnasts Build for Competitive Season

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pected from sophomores Jessica Colineri and Gina Pelosi who will compete in the all-around, along with talented sophomore Lindsay Robinson.

"We will depend a little more on Robinson since she has all the skills that she needs. Right now she is limited to beam and bars due to an injury but we're hoping to see her on vault and floor by the end of the season," said Cerchio.

Victoria Shack will add to the Raiders' depth with her very strong performances on vault.

"They all work well together, compliment each other and cheer each

other on. When they come to practice, they're very strong leaders and set the right example for the entire team. They push each other to clean up their routines and do the best job that they can," Cerchio said.

New incoming gymnasts hoping for a strong season, include freshman Annie Rubin in floor exercise and Tori Berman, who will compete in the all-around.

"We're hoping so see her qualify for sectionals and expect another strong season on vault and hopefully get her on beam and bars," said Cerchio of Berman. "We would love to beat five hundred this season. I

would say that is our major goal but, of course, it's always about cleaning everything up, improving ourselves and our scores every meet."

The Raiders sport a 1-1 record including a 99-93 loss against Montclair and a well deserved, 94.8-94.775, Raider victory against Wayne Hills on September 10 after a scoring review by Cerchio.

"It felt pretty tremendous catching a mistake and pulling out a win after I went over the scores," said Cerchio. "It's very rare in gymnastics that you see a meet that comes down to a quarter of a tenth point but in this case it did."



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times

**ON THE VERGE OF SETTING A WHS RECORD...** The Westfield High School gymnasts had a team total of 108.575 to breeze past Union Catholic and Ridge in its season opener in Westfield on September 11. The Blue Devils need only to increase that team total by slightly over a point to beat their Westfield High School record.

## CUMMINGS CAPTURES ALL-AROUND, RODRIGUES 2ND

# Blue Devil Lady Gymnasts Top Union Catholic, Ridge Girls

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

Team depth indeed proved to make the difference as the Westfield High School gymnastics team scored a lofty team total of 108.575 to breeze past Union Catholic and Ridge in its season opener in Westfield on September 11. That score, so early in the season, topped the season-high 107.925 that the 11th-ranked Blue Devils totaled to capture the North Jersey, Section 2 championship title last year.

"We definitely started off strong. I could not be more proud of my girls. Last year we had Jenna and Clair Macdonald and we had other strengths but not throughout," said Blue Devil Head Coach Melissa Bryan. "This year I'm coming in with four to five starters who are all-arounders, who have solid scores and they are there. They know what they have to do. They have worked on increasing their difficulties on the beam, on vault, on the bars and they are even willing to do more difficult tricks on the floor."

Blue Devil sophomores Lacy Cummings and Jenna Rodrigues pushed each other to respective 36.925 and 36.175 totals to place 1-2 in the all-around. Cummings took top honors in the balance beam with a 9.375, the floor exercises with a 9.325 and the uneven bars with a 9.125, and shared first with Rodrigues in the vault with a 9.1. Rodrigues grabbed second in the beam at 9.175, floor at 9.125 and bars at 8.775.

Competing in three events, Blue Devil Tina Chabrier placed third on the beam at 9.15 and fourth on the floor at 8.9 and vault at 8.5. Claire Stevens-Haas grabbed third in the vault with an 8.85, third on the floor at 8.975 and fifth on the bars at 8.475. Kelsey Greenfield placed third on the bars at 8.5 and fifth on the floor at 8.75 and beam at 8.45. Allie Barba took fourth on the beam with an 8.975 and sixth on the bars at 7.9. Natalie Golikov placed fifth in the vault with an 8.4.

"Jenna was my top scorer last year. Lacy Cummings is tough competition for Jenna. Lacy is a powerhouse.

She is not intimidated and has really increased her difficulty. We are working on her execution. It's going to be an exciting and interesting season. Not only the two of them! Tina is doing all-around. She is right up there on beam with her back tucks. There is a lot of internal competition going on but what is nice is they are first and foremost a team," said coach Bryan.

Competing in all four events, Viking Ellen McDermott took third all-around with a 32.95 total. She tied for third on the bars with an 8.5 and took sixth on the floor at 8.6. The Vikings had a team total of 59.95 and Ridge totaled 36.125.

On the agenda for September 18 was a trip to compete with state powerhouse Bishop Ahr.

"We came on strong, knowing that we are going to be up against really tough competition against Bishop Ahr. This is definitely a boost of confidence for us. We are going to give it 110 percent like we did the other day. I see 108 just being the beginning and I see us going further in the season," said coach Bryan.

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