



Fred K. Lecomte for The Westfield Leader and The Times

**RUNNING UPFIELD FOR A SCORE...**Blue Devil senior forward Julia Conroy, No. 11, bolts past a Farmer defender and ends up ripping a shot that found the net for a 3-1 Westfield victory on September 12.

**LOJO, CONROY, FREGA NET GOALS**

**Blue Devils Stop Union Field Hockey Girls, 3-1**

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

Enthusiasm and energy rolled in the right direction as the Westfield High School field hockey kicked off the season, scoring one goal in the first half and two in the second, to power a 3-1 victory over the Union Farmers at Kehler Stadium in Westfield on September 12.

Amanda Lojo, Katherine Frega and Julia Conroy each netted one goal and the defense did the rest to maintain the victory. With the exception of, perhaps two occasions, the Blue Devils spent most of the game shelling the Farmer keeper with shots from every direction.

"They played really well. I saw a lot more teamwork today than in the past three scrimmages, so things are really jelling. The last six minutes of the game I think were the best minutes we've played so far. Really exciting goals, everyone working together, everyone clearly having a common goal," said Westfield Head Coach Molly Dennis.

Lojo, a senior forward, deposited the first goal eight minutes in the first half. "I had the corner and hit the ball to Kelly Irving, who took the shot. I was in the right position at the end line of the post and deflected the ball in the goal," said Lojo.

Early in the second half, other examples of the shelling came from sophomore forward Frega, who tapped in her goal on an assist from junior Julia Murphy.

"The ball deflected off of

someone's stick. I was at the right place at the right time and just hit it in," said Frega.

A little breakdown in the Blue Devil's defensive marking resulted in a Union goal, when a wide open Neha Pataheera, situated in front of the post, sneaked the ball past keeper Hannah Purdy.

"A lot of Union girls were open. Everyone was thinking offense and we did not react quickly enough to get back on defense. There was a lot of defense that went through in the circle and a lot of mistakes were made before the ball even got to Hannah, so it was not a good goal at all. Hopefully, we won't make that mistake again," said coach Dennis.

Later in the half, senior forward Conroy struck gold in a dramatic way when she broke loose down the middle and rocketed a shot that found net, while she tumbled to the turf.

"We had a little talk out here after they scored. I was pretty fired up about that and I channeled that energy into a scoring opportunity by going down the field on a breakaway. Nearing the net, I faked out the keeper by going right but went left and stuffed the ball in the upper left corner of the net," Conroy explained.

"What was especially really good was the girls' passing, cutting immediately with the ball, moving with the ball really well and knowing where the other person is, which is nice to see," coach Dennis said.

Union	0	1	1
Westfield	1	2	3

**Blue Devil Girls Sweep St. Dominic X-C Invt'l**

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

An entire pack of seven Blue Devil runners crossed the finish line before Mater Dei's No. 3 runner to give the Westfield High School varsity girls cross-country team top honors at the 5,360-meter varsity course St. Dominic Invitational at Lincoln Park in Jersey City on September 13. The Blue Devils also won the JV and freshman races.

According to Blue Devil Head Coach Thom Hornish, "Westfield won using its traditional pattern, the Pack (aka the Blue Wave)."

Westfield totaled 46, Mater Dei was second at 74 and Rumson-Fair Haven (R-FH) was third at 76. Mater Dei runners finished 1-2 but Aileen Grogan, who finished seventh, crossed in 22:40.04 followed by Shannon Murray at 22:46.4, Sharon Faktor (22:55.01), Megan Pulliam (22:59.33), Bridget Grogan (23:03.8), Allie Lowenstein (23:05.62) and Amy Roggenburg (23:10.79).

At the one-mile mark, Westfield was behind the leadership but within striking range. By the second mile, the team made a move and, like a wave, swept up and put itself in top 16 of the race. Only 23 seconds separated the Blue Devils' No. 1 and No. 5 runners and 31 seconds through the No. 7 runner.

"That's an impressive pack! This was a great race for the varsity, the JV and the freshmen," coach Hornish said.

"Westfield's victory was an due to a total team effort and is consistent with our program's history of running as a pack. This was an impressive set of victories and well deserved," said coach Hornish.

On September 16, Westfield entered the Conference season with a 27-0 record (3 years of undefeated seasons). On September 20, the Blue Devils will be defending its title in the NJCTC-Class Meet held at Warinanco Park in Roselle.

**LeBlanc Named NJAC Player of the Week**

PITMAN, NJ - For the last four years, New Jersey City University senior outside hitter Jacqueline LeBlanc of Westfield was named the New Jersey Athletic Conference Player of the Week in women's volleyball for the first time in her career.

For LeBlanc, the 2005 NJAC Rookie of the Year and a two-time First-Team All-NJAC selection in both 2005 and 2006, the honor comes nearly one year after her 2007 season ended prematurely with a serious knee injury - one she has recovered fully from.

In four matches last week for the Gothic Knights (1-3), LeBlanc posted three consecutive games of double figure kills and back-to-back double-doubles - the 27th and 28th of her career - and was named Honorable Mention All-Tournament Team at the Endicott College Invitational.



MAKING THE TACKLE...Westfield PAL B defenseman Andrew Capuano tackles an Irvington ball carrier.

**Westfield PAL B Stops Irvington, 6-0**

The Westfield PAL B football team began their season with a 6-0 victory over Irvington on September 14 at Kehler Stadium.

In the first half, Thomas Anderson, Eric Shor and Jack Levine ran the ball for a combined 59 yards. Levine finally scored a touchdown on a two-yard run into the endzone late in the second quarter. The extra point attempt was broken up by Irvington.

Westfield's defense denied Irvington any first downs in the first half. The defense created significant pressure on the Irvington's quarter-

back, which included several sacks by Chris Sweeney, Brennan Sumner, Dylan Elliott and Joe Scaglione. Westfield also caused several fumbles and even had a pass interception by Elliott.

Irvington was able to convert two first downs in the second half; however, Andrew Capuano, Thomas Gerris, Sumner, Alex D'Amato, Noah Penders, Chris Callahan, Elliott, David Kane and Chip Mulrooney made key tackles and prevented any scoring opportunities.

Westfield's B Team will play away in Perth Amboy this Sunday at 3 p.m.

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*Chris looks forward to hearing from you soon.*



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