

Baseball Blue Devils Top Raiders
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THE WEEK IN SPORTS

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WF BOYS WIN PV, GIRLS JAVELIN, SPF GIRLS WIN SMR

Meet Records Get Shattered At Blue Devil Classic Relays

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

Top teams from North and Central New Jersey converged on Gary Kehler Stadium in Westfield and proceeded to break 15 meet records at the Blue Devil Classic Relays on April 21. The Union Catholic Viking boys broke three meet records and the Cranford Cougar girls broke one meet record. Vikings Andrew Ghizzone (1200 meters), Mike DeAngelis (400), Kenny Evely (800) and Allen Eke (1600) broke Westfield's 1996 meet record of 10:26.8 in the distance medley relay (DMR) with a time of 10:18.16. Blue Devils Matt Luppino, Alex Hay, Kevin Ingram and Jack Leahy finished second at 10:32.86. Eke had a substantial lead when he got the baton from Evely, so Leahy's

chances to catch him were slim. Eke ran his leg in 4:17.3. "My coach told me to try to close it on the first lap. I went out in at 61. I like taking out the mile fast but not that fast. I like to feel the pain, but I didn't do that well," Leahy said. "We were happy he was out front. He wanted to run like 4:12 or 4:13, but he was way out there. He doesn't run that many miles, so for him to be in front and not chasing guys was a little different. Overall, our leadoff was first. He ran 3:09. Our 400 leg ran 48.8, and we had a 2:01 in our 8[00] leg. We had the meet record by about nine seconds, so we are happy with it," Viking Head Coach Mike McCabe said. DeAngelis, Darryl Costello, Oba Animashaun and Eke broke the meet

record in the 4x400 at 3:20.03. The former record of 3:20.9 was set by Rahway in 2009. Blue Devils Jake Vergara, Hay, Rob Ciardullo and Jason Isbit crossed fourth at 3:27.82. Animashaun, Taylor McLaughlin and Zach Ghizzone at 2:51.34 in the intermediate hurdles broke the meet record of 2:57.94 set by Union last year. Blue Devils Chris Jimenez, Mike DePaolo and John Stelmach crossed fourth at 3:01.89. Cougars Chris Witwick, Dan VanOstenbridge and James Budries crossed sixth at 3:04.15, followed by Raiders Quincy Sanchez, Zach Brencons and Antonio Casterlow, who had a fine time of 57.49. "He wanted to get down to running close to 58. He said, 'Coach I can go

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David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
MINISTER OF DEFENSE...Goalkeeper Alex McHugh, No. 22, withstood a furious barrage of shots in the fourth quarter to allow the Blue Devils to scoot past the No. 3 Chatham Cougars, 9-8, at Gary Kehler Stadium in Westfield on April 18.

DeVITA, O'LEARY NET 3 GOALS EACH; BOHROD TWO No. 14 Blue Devil Laxers Jolt No. 3 Chatham Cougars, 9-8

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

Offense became the 14th-ranked Westfield High School boys lacrosse team's best defense for the first three quarters then goalkeeper Alex McHugh withstood a furious barrage of shots in the fourth quarter to scoot the Blue Devils past the No. 3 Chatham Cougars, 9-8, at Gary Kehler Stadium in Westfield on April 18. Statistics were pretty much the same in the first half, but the 6-1 Blue Devils' offense managed to keep the ball out of the 7-2 Cougars' hands the majority of the time. Both teams had 10 ground balls and took nine shots on goal, and both goalies, Blue Devil Garrett Williamson and Cougar Corey

Fritts, each made three saves. The face-offs were 2-2 in the first quarter, but the Cougars won the second quarter, 5-1, although strong intercepts by Christian Burgdorf and Nick Arnold turned possession back to Westfield. The score was tied, 4-4, at halftime and senior attacker Paul DeVita notched all three of his goals in the half. "It's really an exciting feeling. You can't really score when you don't have the ball, so we tried to possess it. We had to keep going hard, and our goalie saved us a lot in the fourth quarter," DeVita said. Midfielder Patrick Dyer scored Westfield's first goal unassisted after

a steal three minutes into the game, and Cougar Dan Gill scored less than three minutes later. DeVita's first goal came late in the first quarter as a result of Arnold's intercept. Kyle Howard-Johnson netted a pair of goals early in the second quarter to give the Cougars a 3-2 lead. DeVita, on an assist from senior Jackson O'Leary, scored his second goal after it deflected off the far post. Sam Carson scored to make the score, 4-3, but DeVita, assisted by Arnold, stuffed the net just before the half. "Jackson set me up with a nice look for my second one then Nick fed me on the third one," DeVita said. Senior midfielder Ryan Bohrod got

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David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
BEGINNING THE FINAL LEG...Blue Devil Kevin Ingram, left, receives the baton from Jason Isbit to begin the final leg of the 4x800 at the Blue Devil Classic Relays on April 21. See more photos - www.goleader.com Ballyhoo Sports

GREENE WINS AT 2ND SINGLES, MANCINI 3RD SINGLES

Blue Devils Win 8th Straight UCT Tennis Championship

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

Four sweeps in five years may have been a definite consideration, since all five flights had Blue Devils as the top seed. The competition at first singles was very stiff, but the Westfield High School boys tennis team won four of those flights to capture its eighth straight Union County Tournament (UCT) championship at Donald Van Blake Courts in Plainfield on April 19. The No. 11-ranked Blue Devils finished with a total of 88, followed by Summit (S) at 64. New Providence (NP) edged Scotch Plains-Fanwood (SPF) 57-56 for third place.

Elizabeth (E) took fifth at 25, followed by Oratory (O) at 19, Cranford (C) with 18, Governor Livingston (GL) with 12, Johnson (J) at 9 and Dayton (D) at 6. The battle for supremacy at first singles turned out to be a wild one, but in the end, Jorge Del Rey (E) prevailed with a 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, victory over Max McDonald (NP). Blue Devil Scott Thompson received a bye then stopped Rob Millman (GL), 6-1, 6-2, to advance to the semifinals where he was defeated, 6-0, 6-4, by Del Rey. Raider Jeffrey Rodgers recorded a 6-1, 6-0, victory over Zac Corey (D) then defeated Liam Breen (O), 6-1, 6-2, in the quarterfinals. In the semis,

he lost to McDonald (NP), 6-4, 6-1. Thompson and Rodgers met again for a rematch of their duel meet showdown, which Thompson had barely won on April 11, but their battle for third place turned out to be a long war. Rodgers won the first set, 6-1, but Thompson came back to seize the second set, 6-3. With all the other courts vacant, Rodgers endured a long third set but won, 7-5. "It was a very close and competitive match. We play similar styles so it was fun to play, because it was such a battle. I played really well in the first set, and Scott played really well in the second set. The third set was

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David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
CLOSE CALL AT FIRST BASE...Blue Devil pitcher Mike Mondon fires to first baseman Mike Coletta in an attempt to pick off Highlander Ryan Place. Westfield defeated Governor Livingston, 5-2.

MONDON SCATTERS 6 HITS, DEMERS RIPS 2 DOUBLES

Blue Devils' Insurance in 6th Topples Highlander Nine, 5-2

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

Questions as to which baseball team is tops in Union County got even more interesting when the Westfield High School Blue Devils plated a pair of insurance runs in the bottom of the sixth inning then shut down the No. 6-ranked Governor Livingston (GL) Highlanders in the seventh to earn a 5-2 victory at Bob Brewster, Sr. Field in Westfield on April 19. Blue Devil senior Mike Mondon, who improved his record to 3-0, scattered six hits over seven innings and yielded one walk, while striking out four Highlanders, who recently suf-

fered their first defeat at the bats of Mendham. "I knew after the last game when they lost to Mendham, they were definitely vulnerable. They could be beat. Everybody was talking them up, but I was ready to pitch against Governor Livingston, especially after that county game last year with the rough end. I just went out there to leave everything on the field and get a win for our team," Mondon said. "That's a very solid team. They are very good all the way through their lineup. They play well all the way. It's a good win for us," Blue Devil Head Coach Bob Brewster said.

Mondon paid special attention to Highlander leadoff hitter Tyler Martis and power hitters Keith Skinner, Aaron Smith and Ryan Jennings. "I played with them pretty much my whole life growing up, so I knew they were good hitters. I tried not to give them anything good at the plate, mix in off-speed and fastballs to keep them guessing and make sure I don't give up any big hits to not let the game get out of hand," Mondon said. "The guy who sets the table is Martis, and we kept him off the bases. That was our approach, to keep him off. It's like with [James] O'Rourke.

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David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
UNION COUNTY THIRD SINGLES CHAMPION...Blue Devil Max Mancini captured the third singles crown at the Union County Tournament in Plainfield on April 19.

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