



David B. Corbin (November files) for The Westfield Leader and The Times
LEADING IN TOUCHDOWNS...Blue Devil junior Dylan Elliott, No. 10, led the team with 10 touchdown receptions this season.

Soccer Raiders Won UCT Title

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Sebolao (All-UC, All-State honors), a multi-sport athlete, posted 15 shutouts and had a 0.39 goals against record for the Raiders, who outscored their opponents, 64-9.

"She is an outstanding leader in the back. She's very smart on the field. She is a good all-around athlete. Some years, she was on three varsity sports. She gave up softball her sophomore year, but she's been on varsity basketball and varsity soccer. She started putting in a little more commitment into soccer, and it really showed. She has not had a lot of training in goal, but she's an out-

Coach Ewing said.

Senior forwards Leah Salituro (All-UC, All-State) and Annie Cannone netted 10 goals and four assists, and nine goals and two assists, respectively. Senior midfielders Jesse Klein (All-UC) and Olivia Mendes set up the field to open scoring opportunities for the team.

"Jessie sees the field really well. She's skilled and a good positive leader. Olivia makes the right decisions out there. Up front with Annie and Leah, they always looked to put the ball in the net." Coach Ewing said.

Blue Devil Gridders Took Lumps

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iors Dylan Elliott (41 catches, 627 yards, team-leading 10TDs) and Dave Kane (23 catches, 236 yards, 4 TDs), and sophomore Sean Elliott (31 catches, 336 yards). Senior Ron Posyton had seven receptions for 75 yards.

"Offensively, Dave Kane, who did well as a sophomore, did well as a junior. Dylan Elliott and his brother Sean both had fine years for us," Coach DeSarno said.

Junior quarterback Chris Hogge saw some varsity action and completed seven passes for 99 yards.

"Chris Hogge did some nice things. He finished the JV season strong. I think that's going to be nice for the future. It's his job! He's got to take it and go with it," Coach DeSarno said.

Senior running back Shakiyi Glasco led the ground game with 904 yards,

including seven TDs, on 203 carries. Junior Eugene Rawls carried 16 times for 73 yards and sophomore Nick Bountempo carried 17 times for 65 yards, including one TD.

The Blue Devils' two most memorable games were a 37-21 win over Bridgewater-Raritan on October 27 and a 30-16 victory over Plainfield in the Annual Thanksgiving Day game.

"I think the Bridgewater game was a great, four-quarter complete effort. It showed what we can do when we don't turn the ball over. We played very physical. It was a credit to our kids. We were 0-6 going into Bridgewater. We very easily could have packed it in. It was just tough for us to sustain that on a week-in week-out basis. We were 1-8 going into Plainfield and we came out giving a good performance," Coach DeSarno said.



David B. Corbin (October files) for The Westfield Leader and The Times
VERY TOUGH OFFENSIVELY...Raiders sophomore Tori Baliatico, No. 20, scored nine goals and added three assists for her team this season. The Raiders outscored their opponents 64-9.

standing goalie. I've had some outstanding goalies over the years, and she's right up there, so much so that she has a chance to play Division I soccer," Coach Ewing said.

Three-year starter/outside back Christine Miklas (All-UC, All-State), senior Julie Glover (All-UC), who also netted five goals and seven assists, and junior center back Alyssa Riperti (All-UC) set up a rock-solid defense that was nearly impenetrable.

"Julie is so smart. She's good in the air, sees the field really well. We can put her anywhere on the field, and that's a bonus. Christine is very athletic, very fast, very good in the back. Alyssa is an all-around great athlete. She's being recruited by Division I schools as well. She's going to be a big leader for us next year. That's why we were so good defensively and also with Jodie Cornwell [sophomore, All-UC], who is tough as nails, and she is one of the most skilled players on our team,"

Sophomores Tori Baliatico and Corina Checchio netted nine goals and three assists, and five goals and two assists, respectively. Juniors Katie Harper and Kathryn Cunningham netted four goals and five assists, and four goals and 12 assists, respectively, but many more girls also fit well into the Raiders' game plan.

"[Sophomore] Paige VanBuskirk, Corina and Tori, Kathryn Cunningham and we had Katie Harper, who came in and was just a freak of an athlete, so it's nice to have these younger kids. Sarah DiIorio [sophomore] didn't get to see action as much, but when you are behind Christy Monroy and Cunningham, it's hard to get in there a lot. There was no drop off when Sarah went in there, and we also had Kelsey Meisch, who came in and did an excellent job. We had a lot of depth and a lot of kids, who played, so that's good for next year," Coach Ewing said.



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
RAIDER TEAM CAPTAINS...Xavier Noel-Brooks, left, and Tom Bonacum have been selected as the Raiders co-captains.

BONACUM, NOEL-BROOKS TO LEAD

Raider Cager Boys May Improve Game-by-Game

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

Progress is the primary objective of this year's Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School boys basketball team that returns two starters, along with several athletes, who have seen limited varsity playing time.

"We graduated seven players last year, but we have Tom Bonacum and [Xavier] Noel-Brooks. We are inexperienced but maybe not as young with some talented kids. As they work together as a group, we are going to get better as the year goes on. Already, we have come along better than I thought we would with a couple of scrimmages," Raider Head Coach Dan Doherty said.

Last year, the Raiders pulled together, qualified for the sectional tournament and finished with a 14-13 record. This year, seniors Tom Bonacum at 6'6" and Xavier Noel-Brooks at 6'2" have been selected as the Raiders' co-captains.

Bonacum was a complete player, recording 12 points per game and averaging 9.8 rebounds. Additionally, he had very quick hands blocking many shots and creating numerous steals.

"He will be our main go-to guy. He can play inside, outside. He's tough for teams to match up. He can go in. He can take them outside. Obviously, he's one of our better rebounders. He's got very good hands, very good basketball instincts. We are expecting big things from him this year," Coach Doherty said.

Noel-Brooks, now a point guard, averaged seven points per game and pulled an average of four rebounds.

"He had a good year for us last year. He had a fabulous summer and really worked hard. He has taken over the point guard job. He's going to have to do the bulk of the ball handling. He has improved the most of any player just from pure hard work. We are expecting him to have a good, solid year," Coach Doherty said.

Senior Kevin Raszka (6'2") and junior Quaryee Bull (6'3"), who both had limited time on the court, are expected to be in the thick of the action.

"We are going to have him [Raszka] step up and do a little bit more. Quaryee is very athletic under the boards, and I am looking for big steps from him," Coach Doherty said.

Senior Matt Greenberg and junior Andrew Voysest, spent some time on the court last year and will be an asset. Additionally, sophomore guard Leo Ramos is expected to be on the court frequently.

"Matt has a good, strong presence, strong rebounds. He does all the dirty work for us. Andrew Voysest is one of our better shooters, and Leo Ramos is a good, solid guard. He will definitely get better as the year goes on," Coach Doherty said.

The Raiders will open their season with Governor Livingston this Friday, December 14, at 7 p.m. in Scotch Plains then will also host rival Westfield on Tuesday, December 18, at 7 p.m.

"It's game-by-game. It's a great group. Very coachable! We will get better game-by-game," Coach Doherty said.

SPF PAL Matmen Score in U.C. Brawl

Four individual champions highlighted the Scotch Plains-Fanwood PAL wrestling team's showing during the Union County Brawl on December 9 at Cranford High School.

Winning titles in the Elementary Division were Alex Oslislo at 102 pounds and J.J. Sistrunck and Billy Root at heavyweight. Sistrunck and Root were both declared champions since they won their heavyweight round-robin matches. Their three championships helped SPF PAL finish in fourth place in the Elementary Division among the 10 Union County teams that participated. Cranford won the tournament.

The fourth SPF champion was Sam Wusterfeld, who won the 125-pound title in the Middle School Division. Also placing for SPF in the Elementary Division were Bobby Root, who took third at 95 pounds, and Anthony Robinson and Christian Tardi, who placed fourth each at 70 and 57 pounds, respectively. In the Middle School Division, SPF had two third-place finishers in Justin Sidebottom at 70 and Mike Ramos at 160.

Westfield Baseball League Spring Registration

Spring 2013 registration is now available via our website @ www.westfieldbaseball.com

Registration is open to all children that are residents of Westfield in grades K - 10. Please note, the Westfield Baseball Association is grade specific and team assignments are based accordingly. All participants MUST BE enrolled in Kindergarten through 10th grade.

Please note: Deadline for on-time registration is January 31, 2013. All registrations received after Jan. 31st will be subject to a \$35 late fee.

See you in the Spring !!

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PITCHING JAY COOK

A four-year letter winner for Montclair State, and Montclair State's pitching coach for two seasons. Jay is a tremendous teacher of the game. A scholastic standout at Westfield High School, Jay was a two-time All-County selection and was chosen Second-Team All-State during his career. He was named the 2002 Union County Player of the Year and led the Blue Devils to the 2002 Union County Tournament Championship.

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HITTING MIKE MURRAY

Mike retired in 2012 after a successful professional career with the San Francisco Giants. He was a unanimous All-Star selection in the Northwest League and a four-year starter, catcher and captain of the Wake Forest Baseball team. Mike was an All-Star in the Cape Cod Baseball League for the Chatham A's, hitting .347. He was a four-year starter at Westfield High School, a 2006 National All-American, 2005 and 2006 1st-team All-State selection, 2005 and 2006 Union County Player of the Year. Mike led the Westfield Blue Devils to the 2006 Union County Championship.

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