

GREEN, DWYER LED ON 'OFFENSE'; NICK DIAZ, FOLINUSZ, OBLACHINSKI ON 'DEFENSE'

Cranford Cougar Gridders Finish Successful 7-3 Season

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

Repeating as sectional champions may not have been in the cards, but this year's Cranford High School football team gave it a good run, winning its first play-off game before experiencing a set back at the hands of Palisades Park in the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 3 semifinals to finish with a 7-3 record.

"The expectations were unique to them. They were the first team ever to play the year after we won a state title since the 1958 team. They handled the pressure well. Unfortunately, we didn't get back to the championship game, but if we are going to judge every team by whether they get to the championship game, we are going to be disappointed. We are going to lose sight of the accomplishments of what this team was actually able to do," Cougar Head Coach Erik Rosenmeier said.

The Cougars defeated several quality teams, including Scotch Plains-Fanwood, AL Johnson and Delaware Valley, and their three losses were to Summit, winners of the section, Ridge and Palisades Park.

"We had a good year. We lost to three good teams. We beat good teams. Of the 10 teams that we played, eight of them were play-off teams. Even though some of the stars were back, this really

was a new team. We had only three starters back on offense and four on defense," Coach Rosenmeier said.

The Cougars' defense was spearheaded by the intense play of senior linebacker Nick Diaz

and senior linebacker/lineman Chris Folinusz.

"Seven new people played on the defense, and they played together and played well besides Diaz and Folinusz. Johnny Oblachinski had a great year. Six

an offensive lineman you will see," Coach Rosenmeier said.

Diaz led the team with 86 total tackles and five sacks and added an interception

"I don't know whether I coached a better linebacker than Nick Diaz

Rosenmeier said.

The versatile Folinusz had 42 tackles, four sacks and an interception.

"Folinusz is the same makeup, a very tough kid. I don't know whether it's offense or defense if I've ever had a more versatile kid. He played 10 positions on offense. He played every position we had in the game. Defensively, he played multiple positions, and we found, basically, everywhere we put him, he was our best player," Coach Rosenmeier pointed out.

As a defensive back Joe DaSilva recorded 59 total tackles and an interception, Joe Vicci had 42 tackles, four sacks and an interception, Kevin Trotter had 49 tackles, Oblachinski had 32 and Reggie Green had three interceptions. Linemen Farrell had 30 tackles, Russo had 32 and Weiss had 23.

From his quarterback position, Green, who will be heading to the University of Pittsburgh, amassed 1,712 yards rushing, including 19 touchdowns (TD) and two two-point conversions, on 234 carries. He also completed 62 of 110 passes for 681 yards, including four TDs.

"The thing that was amazing



COUGAR TOUCHDOWN LEADER...Senior Reggie Green, No. 7, led the Cougars with 19 rushing touchdowns this season. Green, who rushed for 1,712 yards, led the team with 116 points scored. See page 11 of The Westfield Leader.

David B. Corbin (October files) for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Probitas Verus Honos

BALLYHOO See & Subscribe at goleader.com/ballyhoo Submit commentary and items for publishing. Email to ballyhoo@goleader.com

interceptions! We had guys step in and do a great job, like Matt Russo. He started on both sides. Jeff Weiss, Ryan Farrell, as good

and we've had some very good ones here from Chris Brown, Michael Klimek and so on. He played with a tremendous amount of intensity. He's as tough a kid as I coached," Coach

Please Support Cranford High School Sports Programs Go Cougars! Go and See a Game!