

GRANT, SHIMONOV, SCHELICH, BURKE EXPECTED TO REAP POINTS IN MANY EVENTS**Lady Cougar Tracksters Say That They Are Not Done Yet**By **DAVID B. CORBIN***Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times*

Senior leadership with plenty of experience across the board puts this year's Cranford High School girls track & field team high on the list for top honors in Union County (UC), conference and sectional meets.

"We have a lot of returning seniors. Our girls are leaders by their actions. They are excited about getting going. They have seen and tasted that success with championships that we have won since they have been here in their freshmen, sophomore and junior seasons. They are looking to continue that and show the young girls that we aren't done yet," Cougar Head Coach Pete Kane said.

Last year, the Lady Cougars won the UC Mountain Division and the UC Individual titles. Additionally, the Cougars finished second in the UC Relays, third in their section and fifth in the Group 3 meet, but this year the Cougars are hungry for more.

"Our goal is if they are offering a trophy, we want to win it. We set our goals high to win. We finished second to Union in the county relays, but I think that we are very spread out and diverse. We have depth in all of our events in the field that we can give anybody a run," Coach Kane said.

Several seniors, Rebecca Shimonov, Gillian Burke, Megan Schetelich and Kristen VanBenschoten, will harvest points, but jun-

ior Bryanna Grant will scoop points in huge chunks.

"Bryanna will definitely be a big individual on relays and when we get to the individual season of the counties and the states. Brianna can do multiple things in multiple events, and she's got great people around her in Regine Hunter, Rebecca

Shiminov, Ashley McGuire, Gillian Burke and Megan Schetelich. They can all contribute as a relay squad and as individuals," Coach Kane said.

Grant, Hunter and Burke offer an ominous 1-2-3 punch in the triple jump. Last year, the trio set a UC Relay meet record in the event with a combined dis-

tance of 104-5. Grant took first in the event in the sectional and Group 3 meets and qualified for the Meet of Champions (MOC). Hunter also qualified for the MOC in the event. The trio may also compete in the long jump and high jump.

Hunter, a junior, McGuire, a sophomore, and Burke will com-

pete in the sprints. Grant and Shimonov could compete in the

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100-hurdles, while Burke, McGuire, Shimonov, Schetelich and sophomores Laura Van Horn and Jenna Ellenbacher may compete in the 400-hurdles. Grant, the Cougars' top pole vaulter, will be joined by McGuire and freshman Erin Meixner.

Van Horn, Ellenbacher, Schetelich are in the mix of girls competing in the 400 meters and 4x400 relay. Senior Megan Byrnes will lead a pack in the 800 and 1,600 meters, and junior Katia Oltmann is the prime runner in the 3,200 meters.

Last year, VanBenschoten was the UC discus champion with a toss of 104-1 and later qualified for the MOC with a toss of 114-1.5 at the Group 3 meet. This past winter, she broke the Cranford High School record in the shot put when she took first at the Union County Indoor meet.

"She has such a great work ethic. She is so coachable. She works with [coaches] Mike Dow and Kerry Drexler in the throws. She is ready to go. She cannot wait to get started," Coach Kane said.

Junior Aaron Wichelns will also compete in the shot put, while senior Rebecca Haupt and sophomore Alex Krowicki will compete in the discus. Krowicki will also toss the javelin.



*See story and photo on page 16
In The Westfield Leader newspaper*

NOT DONE YET...After successive successful seasons, this year's Cranford Cougar girls track & field team feel better things are yet to come. The Lady Cougars have an experienced, senior group with a number of talented underclassmen.

David B. Corbin for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*