

Westfield/Union UCT Baseball Final
Saturday in Elizabeth at 2:30 p.m.

THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section
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GRANT, BURKE, HUNTER BREAK MEET RECORD IN TJ

Cougars Get 2nd, Raiders 3rd, Blue Devils 5th at UC Relays

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

Bryanna Grant, Gillian Burke and Regine Hunter broke the meet record in the triple jump on the second day of the Union County Relays to help the Cranford High School girls secure second place behind Union and ahead of Scotch Plains-Fanwood at Gary Kehler Stadium in Westfield on

between the Raiders and the Farmers. Raiders Devora Ward, Justine Valdes, Dariana DeVore and Erin Pierce broke the old meet record of 4:11.6 set by Rahway in 1995, crossing in 4:11.34, but the Farmers anchored by Jen Edobi took it one step better to finish first in 4:08.01. Pierce really had her work cut out for her if she wanted to catch the strong kick-

Koegel said. "I was winning with probably about 300 to go but she caught me. She has a faster kick than me. I thought maybe I could give her a little run there, but she is a very good runner," Pierce said. "I had to move things around to run faster. Justine has leg speed, so I had to lead Devora off, but she has never led off in a relay before. It worked



More Union County Relay Photos
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David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
RUNNING A STRATEGIC RACE...Blue Devil Kaitlyn Johnson, right, drafts GL Highlander Emily Harriot in the anchor leg of the 4x1,600 then overtakes her towards the end of her third lap to finish second. The Highlanders finished third.

May 4. The Union Lady Farmers shattered three meet records and finished with a team total of 91, while the Cougars broke two meet records and totaled 72 points. The Raiders finished with 65 points, while Summit finished fourth with 59.5 just ahead of the Westfield Blue Devils with 58 points. The race of the first day (May 3) came in the sprint medley relay (SMR)

ing Edobi. She did manage to catch her with 300 meters remaining, but Edobi did what she does best. Put on her strong kick! "We broke the meet record and came in second. This is a school record. We ran five-and-a-half seconds faster than we did at Blue Devil Relays. After we ran at Blue Devil, I told the girls we can run a lot faster than that," Raider Head Coach Jeff

out. Erin went out way too fast, but we were trying to win the race. We weren't running just for second, so she had to go out hard to make that gap up. We lost to a good team," Coach Koegel said. Blue Devils Jenna Helfand, Elena Chermak, Amanda Fischer and Kaitlyn Johnson finished fifth in the SMR at 4:21.21.

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David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
IN A TIGHT RACE...Cougar Eli Howard, left, and Blue Devil Evan Tarlow, center, stick close to each other during the first leg of the 4x1,600 relay. The Blue Devils won the event and the Cougars finished second.

DEVILS TARLOW, TERRY, LEAHY, KIRNA WIN 4X1,600 UC Viking Boys Defend Title, Blue Devils 2nd at UC Relays

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

Three meet records were broken at the Union County Relays, and the Union Catholic High School boys had all three of them to remain at the top of the roost at Gary Kehler Stadium in Westfield on May 3-4.

The Vikings, who took top honors in six events, finished with a team total of 108, while the Westfield Blue Devils, who won two events, finished second with 80 points. The Cranford Cougars took fifth at 44 and the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Raiders finished 10th at 17.

On May 3, Vikings Braeden Rember (200), Jordan Jimerson (200), Mike DeAngelis (400) and Allen Eke (800) broke the meet record of 3:31.9 in the sprint medley relay

set by Westfield in 1996, crossing in a time of 3:27.68. Blue Devils Brendan Dugan, Rob Ciardullo, Jake Vergara and Kevin Ingram finished closely behind at 3:32.67. Ingram gave it all he had in an attempt to catch Eke in the 800 anchor leg. He passed the Linden runner, but he had to fight off a strong kick from New Providence Pioneer Everett Price to secure second.

"Going into the race, I knew I had to stay on him [Eke] for the first 400. I ran a 53. That's the fastest I ran the first 4[00] in an 800. If I ran too slow, my old pace, I would never catch him, so I had to go out with whatever pace he went out and hang on until the last kick," Ingram said.

"Braeden did a 22.7. Jordan went 21.7. Mike went 49.6 and Allen went

1:53.1. He [Eke] ran the DMR [distance medley relay] too. He ran that one easier on purpose, because he knew this one guys are going to come in fresh," Viking Head Coach Mike McCabe said.

Earlier, the Vikings did have a big battle with the Blue Devils in the DMR. Andrew Ghizzone, Alex Milford, Ken Evely and Eke crossed first in 10:35.54, while Blue Devils John Kirna, Alex Hay, Matt Luppino and Jack Leahy crossed second at 10:37.52.

Luppino had a strong 800 leg and moved the Blue Devils from fourth to second when he handed off to Leahy, who did manage to make up some ground on Eke with a strong 1,600 leg.

"I didn't go out hard. I tried, but I

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D'ANGELO GOES 2-FOR-2, SCORES 2, KNOCKS IN 2 RUNS

Farmers Stun Raiders in 8th, Win UCT Baseball Semi, 10-8

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

Six Raider errors and an interesting judgment call directly played a major role in the outcome of the Union County Tournament semifinal baseball game between fourth-seeded Scotch Plains-Fanwood and the eighth-seeded Union Farmers at Williams Field in Elizabeth on May 5.

In the end, the 7-9 Farmers scored three runs in the sixth inning, three more in the seventh and two runs in the top of the eighth to defeat the 11-8 Raiders, 10-8.

"That's the way it's been all year. We got to be able to catch the ball. We

caught the ball for five innings today, and then gave them some easy runs in the sixth, seventh and eighth innings. Our pitchers got people to hit the ball at us, so we just got to make the plays. They made them down the stretch and we didn't," Raider Head Coach Tom Baylock said.

The first five innings had a degree of sanity as Raider starting pitcher Chris Ciccarino and Farmer starter Mike Meola were locked in a duel, which yielded only two runs for each team and three hits for the Farmers and four for the Raiders.

The Farmers scored a run in the top of the first when Denzell Boyd sliced

a double to right field and scored on Chris Dillon's single to right-center. In that inning, Raider right fielder Anthony Krajsick prevented another possible run when he picked up Dillon's single and gunned down the runner dashing for third.

The Raiders answered with a run in the bottom of the inning. Brad Alleman (1-for-3, 2 runs, RBI) doubled to center, and Ryan Henkels chopped an RBI single over second.

The Raiders took a 2-1 lead in the second. James D'Angelo took a fastball on the arm then moved to second on a passed ball. Frank

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David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
SCORING THE THIRD RUN...Courtesy runner Taylor Friss, No. 17, slides home to score the Blue Devils' third run of the game in the fourth inning as Dayton catcher Joe Policastro receives the throw.

MONDON GOES 3-FOR-3, 2 RBI; GRIBBIN 2-RUN TRIPLE

Blue Devil Nine Stop Dayton, In UCT Semifinal Game, 7-3

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

Blue Devil Mike Mondon was relied on to be stubborn on the mound, and he was, but he also barked loudly with the metal stick, and Jon Gribbin did some barking of his own to lead the third-seeded Westfield High School baseball team past the seventh-seeded Dayton Bulldogs, 7-3, in a Union County Tournament semifinal game at Williams Field in Elizabeth on May 6.

The 13-4 Bulldogs defeated Union Catholic then toppled second-seeded Governor Livingston to get the opportunity to face the 14-3 Blue Dev-

ils, who had defeated Summit and Linden.

Mondon spread out seven hits, walked five and hit a batter, while striking out six Bulldogs to up his record to 5-0. Bulldog pitcher Chaz Bohannon (4-1) yielded 10 hits, walked three and hit a batter, while striking out just one.

"At the end, I said I should give it everything in my tank. Coach Brewster said, 'this is it, no matter what.' So I knew I had to get it done," Mondon said.

In his three plate appearances, Mondon found three different ways to hit successfully. He hooked a fad-

ing double to right field in the second inning then slammed a hard RBI single in the fourth. His third hit came in the sixth when he lofted an RBI single into the sun that came to earth just out of reach of the right fielder.

"Whatever gets the job done! He wasn't getting his breaking ball over for a strike. He tried throwing that the first time and it was bad, so I knew a fastball was coming. I saw that all the way and just went with it. Same approach the second and third time, and they just happened to fall in the right spots today," Mondon explained.

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David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
SLIDING SAFELY INTO THIRD...Raider Brad Alleman, No. 18, slides into third base as Union third baseman Steve Gaydos catches the ball in the first inning of their Union County Tournament semifinal game.

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