

Westfield Laxers Top Columbia, 9-6
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THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section
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RAIDER CASTORE WINS S.P., BLUE DEVIL FAGAN P.V.

Vikings Get 1st, at UC Track; Blue Devils 3rd, Cougars 7th

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

Senior Allen Eke won the 1,600 meters and the 800 meters as the Union Catholic High School Viking boys won six events to easily capture the team title at the Union County Championship at Hub Stine Field in Plainfield on May 17-18.

The Vikings totaled 122 points, well ahead of second-placed Governor Livingston at 71 and the Westfield Blue Devils, who finished third at 54. The Cranford Cougars placed seventh with a total of 22.5 and the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Raiders finished 12th with 10 points.

The Vikings took top honors in four of the eight events on May 17 and held a commanding lead in the team total over Governor Livingston,

59-37, with Westfield being a distance sixth at 19.

The eye-opening race of that day came in the 1,600 meters, which was spearheaded by Eke, New Providence Pioneer Everett Price and Blue Devils Jack Leahy, Matt Luppino and Dan Luzzi.

After the first lap, Eke and Price began to distance themselves from the rest of the pack. Eke drafted Price but turned on the burners and crossed first with a time of 4:11.69, just shy of the meet record, but it was the fourth-best time in the state this season.

"I honestly did not know. I had no clue I would run a 4:11. My goal was to stay with him and then maybe kick. I had more left too. I didn't really want to look back, but I looked back and thought how could he be

that far behind? Then I thought, 'what did I just run?' I was very excited. It's just amazing," Eke said.

Eke, whose previous best time was 4:21, began his kick with about 300 yards remaining and used his experience as one of the top runners in the 800 to beat Price (4:18.43) by nearly seven seconds. Leahy finished third at 4:20.04, followed by Luppino at 4:22.03. Luzzi finished sixth at 4:30.85.

"I saw his hands open up, and I thought, 'awe he's tired!' Then I went inside of him and just made my move. The 800 is definitely my strong side, but I ran a huge PR, so the mile could be there too. I was coming into the race working and trying to get second and run, at least 4:14 or 4:16. You

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CLEARING THE HURDLE...Raider Leah Salituro clears the hurdle in her heat of the 400 intermediate hurdles at the Union County track & field meet in Plainfield on May 17.

VANBENSCHOTEN WINS 2; GRANT, RENFREE 1 EACH Cougars Get 2nd, Raiders 4th At Union County Girls Track

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

Jen Edobi won two individual events and anchored the winning 4x400 relay to lead the Union High School girls track & field team to the team title at the Union County Championships at Hub Stine Field in Plainfield on May 17-18.

The Farmers had a team total of 105 to outscore the Cranford Cou-

gars, who finished second at 80.66. Summit took third at 54, Scotch Plains-Fanwood took fourth at 49, Roselle placed fifth at 48 and Westfield took sixth at 45.33.

Edobi broke the meet record of 55.66 set by Cougar Natalie Englese last year in the 400 meters, crossing in 55.03. Cougars Ashley McGuire at 59.64 and Jenna Ellenbacher at 1:00.03 finished 5-6. Blue Devil Amanda

Fischer finished seventh at 1:00.55. Edobi won the 800 with a time of 2:17.75. Raider Erin Pierce finished fourth at 2:21.58, followed by Blue Devils Amanda Marcotullio at 2:22.44 and Ellie Callinan at 2:23.59. Edobi anchored the 4x400 that finished first at 3:57.84. Blue Devils Amanda Fischer, Amanda Marcotullio, Noelle Rosa and Eileen Cook finished fifth at

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TAKING THE LEAD IN THE 3,200...Blue Devil John Kirna, No. 2, keeps ahead of Cougar Tom Feeney, No. 1, and GL Highlander Anthony Bucci, left, during the first several laps of the 3,200. Bucci finished first, Kirna took second and Feeney took third.

HENKELS WHACKS 4 HITS, 3 RBI; D'ANGELO FANS 10 Raiders Pull Out All Stops to Turn Back Viking Nine, 10-3

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

Gutsy base running coupled with a 15-hit attack, along with an equally gutsy performance on the mound by junior right-hander James D'Angelo put the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School baseball team on the right path to a 10-3 victory over hosting Union Catholic on May 16.

Senior catcher Ryan Henkels became the major contributor at the plate with four singles, a run scored and three RBI. He also led the way on the base paths, being the vanguard on the second of a pair of double steals. Henkels finished with four of the 13-10 Raiders' 11 stolen bases.

"I saw them well. I just waited. I

definitely hit better in pressure situations. We were picking up on their signs, and we had good jumps. The catcher's arm wasn't very strong, so we took advantage of it," Henkels said.

"One of the things that we talked about before the game was to put pressure on them and make them make plays. We wanted to make things happen. If we get opportunities to run, let's see what happens and make them throw us out," Raider Head Coach Tom Baylock said.

Leadoff hitter Christian Zazzali (3-for-5, 2 runs scored, RBI) also made the Viking defense nervous in all four times that he reached base safely. Zazzali had three stolen bases, but also advanced on a passed ball and

scored on a wild pitch.

"He is one of the best base runners we've got. When he gets on base, he's able to create a lot of havoc," Coach Baylock said.

D'Angelo, the starting pitcher, struggled with a lot of pitches in the second and third innings but toughed it out to strike out 10 Vikings, while yielding five hits, two runs, three walks and a hit batter in his six innings on the mound. Kevin Raszka tossed the seventh inning and allowed one run on no hits, while walking one.

"My fastball was working really well today. The slider was really my out pitch to get all those strikeouts. I tried to keep the ball low today. I tried

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CLOSE PLAY AT THE PLATE...Raider Frank Degnan dives toward the plate and jars the ball loose from Viking catcher Joe Bonacorso in the second inning. The Raiders won, 10-3.

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