

Cougars Place Second, Raiders Finish Fourth at Union County Girls Track

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

swept 1-2-3 in the triple jump. Blue Devil Sophia DeVita placed sixth at 33-11.

"My last one [PR] was 36-9, so that's big for me. I surprised myself. I came in excited. I did my 100 [meter dash] first then I got ready for triple and kept my mind on that," said Hunter, who placed fourth in the 100 meters at 12.97.

Cougar Head Coach Peter Kane was quite pleased with all three girls' performances.

"He was very excited. He pumps me up every time. He is my inspiration," Hunter said.

Throughout the season, the trio has been pushing each other.

"I love working with them. We have great vibes. I actually got closer with Bry and Gilliam as the year progressed. As we keep going, we are going to get closer and better," Hunter said.

Cougar Kristen VanBenschoten came through with a PR shove of 37-6 to take top honors in the shot put. Raider Samantha Renfree placed third with a push of 35-1.

"It was a PR by two feet. I was very happy with my success. I guess I peaked at the right time.

I am happy that I can contribute to the team," VanBenschoten said.

VanBenschoten also took top honors in the discus with a throw of 113-6. Renfree was second at 102-10 and Cougar Summer Kortbaoui took fifth at 90-2.25.

"I threw 110 on my first throw. My PR is 116. On my last throw I threw 113, so I am very happy with that," VanBenschoten said.

Renfree, however, won the javelin with a toss of 110-1, followed by Blue Devils Christina Mosco at 108-9 and Meghan Reilly at 107-4. Blue Devil Emily

Mastrocola placed sixth at 95-0.

Prior to those events, Raider field coach Ken Hernandez said, "Samantha in the conference last week had a big throw. The girls from Westfield, whom she has been very competitive with, threw a 115 and she answered with a big throw of 120. Yesterday, she took third in the shot put, so she is an all-around athlete."

"The shot I had a 35, so I got third. The disc was 103 for second, and the javelin was 110 for first. Overall, it was a good performance. I wish I could have done better in jav[elin]. I was a lot more in the mind set last week than I was this week. There was a lot more rushing this week between the events," Renfree

said.

Grant placed third in the pole vault with a height of 9-6, followed by Blue Devil Mai Devin, who also cleared 9-6. Grant took fifth in the 100 hurdles with a time of 15.19. Grant, Hunter and Callinan tied for fourth in the high jump with a height of 4-10.

Burke took second in the long jump with a leap of 16-11.75, followed by Raider Christine Charles at 16-8.75. Cougar Rebecca Shimonov took fifth at 16-7.25. Raider Leah Salituro took eighth at 15-8. Raider Ward crossed third in the 200 with a time of 26.45. Cougars Ashley McGuire at 26.84 and Burke at 27.21 finished 4-6.

MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 3



David B. Corbin for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*
Blue Devil Amanda Marcotullio, left, and Raider Najla Gilliam in the 400 hurdles



David B. Corbin for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*
Raiders Christine Charles, left, Devora Ward in the 100