



Story on page 11  
of The Westfield Leader

***RAVETIER, McCAFFREY WHACK 2 HITS EACH; RAIDER ZAZZALI JOLTS DOUBLE, SCORES***

## Cougar Nine 'Squeezes' Past SPF Raiders in 4-3 Victory

By DAVID B. CORBIN

*Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times*

Clever base running, a number of fine defensive plays and a few just out-of-reach hits tilted the scales in favor of the Cranford High School baseball team, resulting in a 4-3 victory over Scotch Plains-Fanwood at Memorial Field in Cranford on April 10.

Senior Matt Ravetier (2-0) relieved starter Pat Knight with one out in the fifth inning and pitched the remainder of the way, allowing one hit and one run,

while striking out one and hitting a batter. Knight yielded five hits and a pair of runs, while fanning four, walking one and hitting a batter. Raider senior Chris Gibbons went the distance, recording five strikeouts, while walking one and hitting a batter.

"I like to keep the fastball down, make sure I get a lot of movement on it. Coach was giving me some good calls inside and out and around, and I got the job done," Ravetier said.

"Both Pat and Matt did a great job, threw strikes and gave us a

chance to win. Their guy threw a heck of a game, a real battler," Cougar Head Coach Dennis McCaffrey said.

In the game of inches, the 4-0 Cougars produced nine hits, including one double, while the 1-2 Raiders with their six hits, also had a double. Cougar Jack McCaffrey went 2-for-2, including a double, and was hit-by-a-pitch. Ravetier ripped a pair of singles and scored once. Mike Gamba and Albert Gargiulo each singled, scored a run and added an RBI. Leadoff hitter Tommy Trotter singled and scored once. John Oblachinski and Sam Scheer both singled, and Knight had an RBI.

Raider Christian Zazzali doubled

and scored once. Gibbons singled and scored once. Matt Marino rapped an RBI single. Zach Lipshitz scored once and had an RBI. Kevin Maxwell, catcher JT Beirne and Christian Isolda each singled.

Three of the Cougars' fine defensive plays prevented, at least, two Raider runs, but the Raiders also made several run-saving plays. While manning right field, Ravetier hauled in a difficult fly ball for the first out of the game that definitely saved a run since the Raiders followed up with three hits and capitalized on an infield error to salvage one run.

In the fourth, the Raiders had runners on first and second with one out when Trotter made a diving snag in centerfield then second baseman Gargiulo made

a diving grab of a grounder and crawled to second in time to make the third out.

"We played good defense today. We had a few errors in the beginning then we settle down and played well," Trotter said.

"We made some mistakes early. We made a couple of mistakes in the middle. When you play a team like Scotch Plains, you can't afford to make mistakes," Coach McCaffrey said.

Raider first baseman Marino was involved in three key defensive plays. In the first, he made a leaping grab of a nearly wild throw from shortstop to get the out. The next batter whacked a double. In the third, he lunged to snare a liner then ended the inning by being on the end of a

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

BALLYHOO

See & Subscribe at  
goleader.com/ballyhoo

Submit commentary and items for publishing.  
Email to [ballyhoo@goleader.com](mailto:ballyhoo@goleader.com)

Google l'ennemi du journaliste