



More on next page

Westfield Silver 11s Plate Nine in Fourth to Startle Cranford Cougars, 18-6, at Gumbert

the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 4 title in 2013, got to be on the other side of the fence as the coaches of the Westfield Silver.

"It's a little change of pace. It's our first year out of playing. To come back here as a coach, it's great. I am reliving my glory days with these young kids. It's great seeing them grow as players throughout the season. We are making progress. That's all I want to see as a coach," Coach Dursee said.

"Nobody likes to make that transition between player and coach. I would like to be playing right now, but it's fun. It's definitely interesting, seeing it from a different angle. We were in this situation when we were 11 with our dads and the way that they taught us. We try to model ourselves after them and hope that we can be the best we can be," Devin said.

The Cougars were not as fortu-

nate with free passes due to the pitching effectiveness of Clancy and, especially, Thorburn, who came in relief with one out in the third and permitted only a double and a single, while hitting a batter, for the remainder of the game. Dom Fallone, JT Kaminski, Christian Wilde and Lucas Simpson shared the mound duties for the Cougars.

Kaminski led the Cougars with an RBI double and an RBI in his other plate appearance. Kieran Hollander singled, was hit-by-a-pitch and scored twice. Wilde had an RBI single and scored once. JT Russell and Anthony Serson each singled and scored once. Fallone walked and scored once. Matt Maggio (RBI) and Aiden Riley each singled. Robbie Salvatore walked and swiped a base. Albert DeChillo, RJ Kelly and Andrew Towne also had plate appearances.

The Cougars scored twice in

the top of the first with an RBI groundout by Kaminski and an RBI single by Maggio. Westfield went down 1-2-3 in their half of the first then Cranford took a 3-0 lead when Russell singled, moved to second on a wild pitch, stole third and scored on a passed ball.

Westfield's bats came to life in the bottom of the second and knotted the score. Mendelson's grounder to short caused an overthrow. He then advanced to third on a passed ball and scored when Berger blasted a hard RBI single off the pitcher's shin. Berger later scored on a wild pitch then Skoletsky walked, stole second, moved to third and scored on Thorburn's RBI groundout.

Serson wiggled a one-out single, which kindled a three-run third inning. Wilde hopped an RBI single and Hollander took a fastball to the body. Wilde

scored when a pickoff attempt sailed out of play then Kaminski cracked an RBI double to left. Westfield answered with two runs on Clancy's RBI groundout and Mendelson's RBI single.

After Cranford went down 1-2-3 in the fourth, the walls came tumbling down and Westfield marched 14 batters to the plate and nine of them scored. The highlight was Mendelson's three-run double to center, and doubles from Thorburn and Skoletsky.

With the help of two walks, a hit batter, an error and Clancy's single, four more Blue Devils scored in the fifth to end the game.

"They moved to the bigger field this year [50 mound to plate/70 base distance]. That's a bit of an adjustment. Their arms are not as strong, kids are not as quick, bats are not as strong. The game's changed, but we are adapting," Coach Dursee said.

"That's why we are here. We are here for the kids to have fun, improve every game, our kids get better and better. This is the first year they are playing 50/70. That's huge, so the pitchers are just getting used to the right way to pitch, holding runners on and pitching at this level," Cougar Head Coach Jimmy Russell said.

Throughout the game, Devin had been directing the signs to the catchers.

"I have taken the liberty of taking care of the catchers, first basemen and outfielders. Quinn's got more of the pitchers and infielders. It's just like simple signs, simple things for them to understand," he said.

Cranford	213	00	6
Westfield	032	94	18

Probitas Verus Honos