

Raider Boys Shutout BrH2O, 4-0

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scoring chances when Rodriquez missed wide with 7:15 remaining in the half and then 30 seconds later when Ari Rowenzweig's kick sailed just high over the crossbar. Scotch Plains-Fanwood broke through again with 2:55 on the clock when Bianco scored on a free kick.

"[John] Delsordi got fouled to set up the free kick," said Joey Bianco. "It was little too far for my range in general but I just picked a spot and curled it into the top right corner of the net."

Trailing 2-0 as the second half began, the Panthers pressed the issue, but Raider goalkeeper Murray was equal to the task. In the first five minutes of the second half, Murray stopped a pair of shot attempts, first by Nick Monteschio and then less than a minute later swiping away a pass in the crease before the Bridgewater player could reach it.

About 20 minutes into the second half, the Raiders administered the knockout blow when Lipschitz dribbled deep into the Panther defense, drew out the defender and slipped a beautiful pass to a cutting

Rodriquez, who was wide open on the right side of the net. Rodriquez scored easily by slipping the ball across the right side of the goal.

"When I saw their player stepping up to meet Lipschitz, Zach put the ball right on my foot with a great pass," said Justin Rodriquez. "From there I just did what I was supposed to do and slipped the ball into the net."

The pass drew oohs and aahs from the assembled Raider fans in the stands and also drew the praise of coach Mortarulo.

"Zach is a highly skilled player," said Mortarulo. "He is a big kid but very highly technical as a player. We can use him in a lot of different positions, including midfield and attack and he plays well no matter where you line him up. The pass he made to Justin was just fantastic."

The Raiders capped off the scoring when Halma dropped a shot in over the goal after receiving an assist from Cimring with under 2:00 to play.

While Scotch Plains-Fanwood is a highly ranked team, there was some thinking that a Bridgewater-Raritan team that had notched wins over North Hunterdon, Phillipsburg and Hillsborough already this season might challenge them. The victory was the Raiders' sixth shutout on the year and they have only allowed two goals all season.

"It is early and I haven't seen everyone play yet," said Mortarulo. "But I don't think I'm out of line in saying that most games will be ours to lose."

Sc. Pl.-Fanwood	2	2	4
BrH2O-Raritan	0	0	0

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net with 8:40 to play. Cranford's best attempt at tying the game by far came in the final two minutes. It was McGovern again, this time getting out ahead of the defense again with a nice run at the right side of the Union goal. McGovern's charge forced Union goaltender Rivero to step up and challenge. Just as Rivero launched her challenge, McGovern was able to fire off a shot that sailed above the crossbar as the two players collided. It would be the Cougars last best chance of the game.

"Maddie (Madeline Hart) split the defense and passed the ball to me," said Siobhan McGovern of her final shot attempt. "The goalie came out to meet me and I got up on top of the ball a little bit. I wasn't able to get off a real solid shot."

The loss dropped Cranford to 3-4-1, while Union improved to 4-3.

"We lacked intensity," said McGovern. "Union came out and challenged us and we did not respond well. We did not meet their aggression and we need to do a better job of that in games."

Union (4-3)	0	1	1
Cranford (3-4-1)	0	0	0

SPF PAL Grid Kids Featured Goal Line Stand on Final Play



STRIPPING THE BALL...Scotch Plains-Fanwood PAL D White team's Zack Harmer, No. 52, and Xavier Blake, No. 9, strip the ball from a Richmond Boro back and the ball was recovered by Raider Thomas Schmidt, No. 65. Richmond Boro won 12-6.

Back-to-back shutouts, which featured a goal line stand on the game's final play, highlighted Scotch Plains-Fanwood PAL football action this past Sunday in Scotch Plains.

The SPF B team finished in a 0-0 tie with Richmond Boro as the Raider defense dug in and the visitor from Staten Island came up just an inch short of the goal line as the game clock ended. That result gave the B team its second tie of the year against one defeat.

The Raider A team pitched its own shutout en route to a 7-0 victory over Richmond Boro to improve to 3-0.

In Old Bridge, the Raider C team delivered a 21-6 victory over Sayre Woods South to improve to 1-2.

The D White team fell to Richmond, 12-6, while the D Blue team was defeated by Chatham, 25-13. The E team scored two TDs but saw Richmond tack on five touchdowns.

Although gaining over 140 yards in total offense and controlling time of possession by a 3-1 margin, the SPF B team could not crack the end zone. The defense held Richmond Boro to under 100 total yards, as well as three rushing first downs.

After turning the ball over on downs at the Richmond 35 with under 1:30 left, the SPF B team defense faced a third down from its own one with 30 seconds to go. The Raiders held behind Nolan O'Connor and Jayson Williams. After a time out and with 10 seconds left, Richmond was stuffed on its final attempt as Aidan Guma produced a tackle an inch from the end zone.

Eric Berkins, Nick Johns, Gus Barco, Carter Slifer, Nick Belford, Robert Mohorter, Cam Ricci, Jimmy

McNichol, Elisha Byrant, Justin Clark and Mike DiFrancesco led the B team defense.

The A team gained revenge on Richmond behind a defense that was sparked by linemen Billy Root, Jay Jay Sistrunk, Tom Nakonechny and Matt Fazzino, linebackers Alex Oslislo, Dakota Verrico and Noah Costanzo and cornerback Jonathan Ramos.

The Raiders had one TD taken off the board by a holding call after Oslislo zipped 65 yards to the end zone in the first quarter, but he took in a bubble pass from Anthony Porter and burst 29 yards to the end zone in the third quarter. Danny Wright, the PAT holder, scooped up an errant snap and ran into the end zone to complete the scoring. The Raider defense halted a Richmond drive with 5:30 remaining when Root broke through and slammed down the runner for a loss on fourth down.

In Old Bridge, the C team was led by Shawn Martin, who scored two TDs. His first score, an 80-yard run, was assisted by a fine block from Brendan Ong. On his second TD, Brian Roessle secured the edge and Martin was off for a 50-yard score. Hayden Widder connected with Ryan Duthie with a perfectly executed screen pass for a 25-yard TD. Duthie scored his first TD of the year as he broke five tackles to reach the end zone.

Defensively, Brighton Easterling put a stop to a Sayre Woods South drive when he stripped the ball from the runner and Kenny Yeager recovered the fumble. Alex Laucik, Kyle Wester, Alex Werkheiser and Sam Cross were a constant menace to the

SWS offense as they applied pressure to the QB, rung up tackles in the backfield and closed the ends to prevent sweeps and reverses. Nate Sta Rosa stopped a SWS rally when he stripped the ball and recovered the fumble in the final quarter. Kyle Sellinger, Justin Handy, Alex Werkheiser, Nick Sussino, Max Salameh and Jack Manville all contributed to the victory.

The D Blue team was primed to score a victory over Chatham when Matt Power broke off a 65-yard TD

run on the first play of the game. But Chatham took control for the remainder of the day. Power also raced 50-yards to a TD in the second period. Josh Madera, Russ Sta Rosa, Gabe Barco, Jack Pares, Jake Monroy, Jake Degaetano, Tommy Wright, Robert Koch and Isiah Nathaniel provided fine blocking and strong play.

The D White team received a 40-yard touchdown run by Anthony Robinson, while Thomas Schmidt made a fumble recovery in the set-back to Richmond.



COURTESY OF LAURA ORTIZ FOR THE WESTFIELD LEADER AND THE TIMES
FORCING A FUMBLE...Westfield Freshman football team defensive tackle Jack McCauley, No. 75, forces a fumble, one of four turnovers caused by the defense, en route to a 34-6 victory over Woodbridge on September 26.

WF PAL Football D Rumbles Over Sparta Grid Kids, 33-0

The Westfield PAL Football D Team improved to 3-0 with a 33-0 victory over the Sparta Bears at Pope John High School in Sparta on September 28.

The Blue Devils marched 65 yards on six plays for an opening-drive touchdown (TD). Key runs by James Csorba and Justin Colby set up a 40-yard TD strike from quarterback Sean Czarniecki to Csorba down the left sideline.

After a quick three-and-out by the Bears, Westfield struck again. James Haley keyed another 65-yard drive with a critical 20-yard third down carry, setting up Czarniecki's second TD pass, this time a 30-yard strike to fullback Jack Barker. Barker had a monster game receiving, as he also added a 40 yard reception from Stephen Angeli to cap off the offensive surge in the first half.

"Our passing game has been a real positive for us this season," noted

coach Peter Gialluisi. "But these passes were set up by our running game, which has been tough to stop. Sparta had to move to an 8-man front to try to slow down our running attack, setting us up for these big plays down field."

Gialluisi again credited a strong performance by the offensive line as the key to the offensive success. "On running plays, our linemen are making their initial blocks, then getting to the next level to help extend the plays."

Westfield's defense was equally as impressive, which stifled the Bears all afternoon. Being held to only seven plays in the first half, Sparta came out throwing in the second half, leading to interceptions by Haley and Theo Shapiro, and near misses by Aidan Schepel and Colby. Haley returned his interception 60 yards for a score.

Westfield next plays host to Morristown on Sunday, October 5, at Kehler Stadium at 9 a.m.

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