

SCHETELICH QB; CHRISTIANO, WALKER, DELAYO RBS

Cougar Footballers Gear Up For Warren Hills on Sept. 12

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

Preseason scrimmage games are out of the way, so this year's Cranford High School football team must prepare for its season opener with Warren Hills at Memorial Field in Cranford on September 12 at 7 p.m. The Cougars return a number of players, especially in the offensive skill positions and with several individual scattered throughout the defense.

Last year, the Cougars made amazing strides to advance to the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 3 semifinals, losing to Summit, and finished with a 7-4 record.

Junior Jack Schetelich will command the quarterback position. Last year, Schetelich proved his worth with 264 rushing yards, including three touchdowns (TDs), and six completions for 118 yards. He, especially, proved to be invaluable in the win over Delaware Valley when he filled in for starter John Oblachinski, who went down with an injury. Schetelich has a host of veteran

running backs with seniors Luke Christiano, Donovan Walker and Dan Delayo. Others who will see time at the running back positions are sophomore Brian McGovern and junior Ahmad Davis.

Last year, Christiano rushed for 523 yards, including eight TDs and had 24 receptions for 550 yards and seven TDs. Christiano also amassed 326 yards on kickoff returns. Walker carried 112 times for 627 yards, including four TDs, and had nine receptions for 106 yards. He also completed two passes for 60 yards. DeLayo had 80 rushing yards and had two receptions for 57 yards.

When not looking for Christiano slipping out of the backfield, Schetelich will also be looking to hook up with wide receivers Donte Anderson, a senior, and junior Joe Norton. Last year, Norton grabbed 12 passes for 108 yards.

The offensive line will consist of

seniors Nick Ballas, Kevin McNeil and Colin Scanlon (center), and juniors Kevin Doran and Will Fries. Senior Joe Lefano and juniors Mike Bellrose and Dylan Grady may also see time.

Ballas, senior Jake Matthews, Fries, McNeil, Doran and junior Ethan Tom will make up the defensive line. The linebacker corps consists of junior Niko Cappello, seniors Eric Donohue, Mike Palumbo and Matt Muller, Scanlon and Davis. Senior Kevin Trotter, Christiano, Walker, juniors Sean Leonard and Chris Szekeres, McGovern and sophomore Ryan Bakie will make up the defensive backfield.

Christiano led the team in tackles with 108 and interceptions with four last year. Trotter had 88 tackles. Cappello made 60 tackles, Scanlon had 49 tackles and an interception, Matthews had 29 tackles and Ballas had 20 tackles.

Norton is expected to handle the kickoff, punting and extra point re-

Probitas Verus Honos



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MAKING A BIG RECEPTION...Cougar Luke Christiano makes a big reception from quarterback Jack Schetelich in the first quarter, shakes tackles (inset) and bolts to the end zone for a 50-yard TD against Caldwell on September 5.



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TRYING TO GET POSITION...Blue Devil Mike Prosusuk, No. 10, tries to get position on Cougar Eric James, No. 7, as Blue Devil Dave Lavelle, No. 2, and Cougar Albert Gargiulo, behind, close in at Memorial Field in Cranford on September 5. After a scoreless first half, Lavelle scored five minutes into the second half and Matt Williams followed six minutes later to give the Blue Devils a 2-0 lead. Prosusuk and Mike Birle also added a goal to give Westfield a 4-0 win. Prosusuk, Tyler Bansky and Kevin Irving provided assists.



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TRYING TO OVERCOME AN OBSTACLE...Scotch Plains-Fanwood Raider Co-Captain Dan Babis, middle, tries to maneuver his way past Brearley Bear Marc Cunha, No. 10, during the game in Scotch Plains on September 8. The Raiders shutout the Bears, 5-0. (See story on next page).

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