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JUNIOR SCHETELICH TO BE QUARTERBACK; CHRISTIANO, WALKER, DELAYO RUNNING BACKS

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 kick-off 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 makeup 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 responsibilities.

On September 5, the Cougars had their final scrimmage game and came up with a 27-19 victory over Caldwell at Memorial Field in Cranford. Schetelich engineered a fine mix of running with several slick pass plays. The Cou-

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