

Raider Boys Shut Down Cougars in Soccer, 3-0

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They virtually couldn't get out of their end unless it was a long ball," Raider Head Coach Tom Breznitsky said.

"We started to force it. Michael Ferrara passed it to me. My first shot got deflected but I turned quickly, volleyed it and it went in. Left foot. It went across the net to the right side of the goal," recalled Abdella, who has six goals on the season.

Six minutes later, Abdella got off another sharp shot but he lined it right into the open arms of Iacovano.

"I was standing on top of the box and I just hit the ball," Abdella commented.

range shot past Iacovano and into the net for a 2-0 Raider advantage with 38:42 on the clock.

"I set up left of the box. Gerardo volleyed to me and I tapped it with a left-footer. It was really nice when it went in and all I could do was celebrate [with a somersault]," Rodriguez expressed.

Both teams had a few more opportunities in the half. Mike Ferrara's left-footed shot was halted by Iacovano then Valian attempted a right-footed shuffle shot that was knocked away. After a free kick drew Refinski out, the Cougars took a shot but the Raider defensive backs

right to senior Steve Feinman-Riordan, who finished the scoring with 50 seconds on the clock.

"When I saw CJ with the ball, thankfully he was nice enough to play me the ball. I took it. I was thinking about scoring but when I saw Steven open in the back, I played it across to him," Rodriguez explained.

"When I saw CJ pass him the ball, I saw an open lane. I decided to sprint as fast as I could to the middle. I saw the ball coming towards me and it was an easy tap," Feinman-Riordan described.

Last year the Raiders finished with



BLOCKING IT WITH HIS CHEST...Cougar Tyler Burns, center, blocks the ball with his chest as Raider Alex Ferrara, No. 10, moves in to get position. The Raiders defeated the Cougars, 3-0, in Scotch Plains on September 20.

Midway through the first half the Cougars did have one chance when junior Connor Blazek launched a shot but Raider goalkeeper Eric Refinski was there for the save.

"It makes it a little easier for our defenders because we are playing in their half of the field. It's the simple adage if you don't have the ball, you can't score. The amount of time they [Cranford] had the ball was limited and it wasn't really good quality balls that they were able to do anything with," Coach Breznitsky said.

Very little time ticked off the clock in the second half when senior Gerardo Salgado tapped the ball to freshman Tommy Rodriguez, who fired a close-

knocked it away. With 10 minutes remaining Cougar senior Brian Nigro crossed to co-captain James Coleman, once again drawing Refinski out of the goal area but the defense was there to protect.

"When you look at the guys in the back with [keeper Dan] Coyle in there, [Antonio] Lomonte, Joey Linder, Alex Levy and [Owen] Murphy, they are all juniors except Linder who is a sophomore. All those guys come back," Coach Breznitsky pointed out.

Finally a huge whip of icing was added when junior CJ Bunin slid the ball into the left portion of the box where Rodriguez quickly crossed

a mediocre but deceiving 11-11 record but no team will dare take them lightly this season.

"We are on a good start right now. We are undefeated. Last year wasn't that good like this year. I think if we keep playing how we are playing, we will be ready. It's about dedication," Feinman-Riordan said.

"We are 6-0 but I wasn't expecting anything less. We had 23 guys returning from last year with the addition of one or two other players. And the fact that the kids worked, worked, worked intensely to get stronger," Coach Breznitsky expressed.

Cranford	0	0	0
Sc Pl-Fanwood	1	2	3

Rahway Gridders' 'D' Stifles Cougars' 'O', 22-0

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Guiditta with eight tackles and Schork with five tackles, each delivered a sack and a throw for a loss. Matt Doran, Dante Cassero and Zach Blevins each made seven tackles.

Although both teams had their share, penalties haunted the Cougars' advancement.

"It was just talking back-and-forth throughout the whole game and some of us couldn't keep our composure, including me. There's no pointing fingers but we just got to get ready for

cepted in the end zone and the Cougars took over at their own 20. Unfortunately a fumble on the first play gave the Indians a third chance and this time they cashed in when Robinson hooked up with Dashon Moore for a 13-yard touchdown with 1:57 left in the quarter.

"We turned the ball over the next play and we couldn't keep them out of the end zone after that. We held them two out of three times," Schork commented.

the touchdown and a 14-0 lead with 1:34 left in the game.

Cranford needed to hurry and Katz fired a pass down the left side that was picked off by Nasir Arribas and returned 52 yards for the final touchdown. Rahway then went for the two-point conversion and made it.

"Most of the game the defense held them to no points. They have a very good offense and eventually they got into the end zone," Schork commented. This Friday night, September 28, at



LUNGING FOR SOME YARDAGE...Cougar running back Cole Zuckerman, No. 26, lunges forward for some yardage in the game against Rahway at Memorial Field in Cranford on September 21. Rahway scored three late TDs to win 22-0.

next week," Schork said.

"I didn't see much. There wasn't too much name calling and penalties on the offensive side like personal fouls," Cougar senior offensive lineman Matt Savino recalled.

The action of the third quarter proved that the Cougars' defense could come through in clutch situations. A Rahway drive was cut short and a field goal attempt failed. Next The Indians with the help of a 34-yard reception by Brayden Pierre-Louis plus the benefit of a 15-yard penalty placed the ball on the Cougar 19. Three plays later, Chapman inter-

Thanks to a six-yard sack by Schork and a poor punt to midfield, the Cougars got a decent opportunity to knot the score but went three-and-out. The Cougars had Rahway in a third-and-four situation at their own 26 and Schork, Guiditta and Rasheed were applying big time pressure but Robinson managed to wiggle free and even got off a sideline pass to Zi'on Pendleton, who turned it into a 18-yard gain. Two plays later Pendleton escaped tacklers and dashed 40 yards to the Cougar 28. Robinson then connected with Mark Bails for 26 yards then Pendleton scooted two yards for

7 p.m. the 2-1 Cougars will entertain the 2-2 Voorhees Vikings at Memorial Field. The Vikings beat Plainfield and Governor Livingston and lost to Rahway and Somerville.

"We just got to know our assignments better, execute better. Get more physical," Savino suggested.

"We are definitely going to go hard in practice, focus on our assignments, listen to the coaching and improve from there," Katz said.

"It's going to be a much different game," Schork predicted.

Rahway	0	0	7	15	22
Cranford	0	0	0	0	0



ABOUT TO SCORE HIS SECOND TD...Blue Devil receiver Jake Saltzer, No. 7, grabs quarterback Hank Shapiro's pass and will slip into the end zone for his second TD against the Old Bridge Knights at Kehler Stadium on September 22.

Blue Devils Out-Joust Old Bridge Knights, 33-17

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two big touchdowns, three big receptions. I knew he would be open. He ran a great route. The line did a great job of giving me time and opening holes for him [Alliegro] to run. If they do that, we are going to win a lot of football games," Shapiro predicted.

Saltzer, who shifted from his quarterback position, just added to Shapiro's stable of receivers, which includes Emmitt Smith, Tommy Norris, Justin Chambliss, Griffin Aslanian and not to omit the presently injured Griffin Rooney.

"I thank our other receivers taking those guys out for me to get open. It's a spectacular feeling going from quarterback to receiver, playing a new position and getting the hang of it. It is a surreal feeling," Saltzer expressed.

Smith finished with six receptions for 47 yards. Norris had two receptions for 27 yards, Aslanian had two receptions for 12 yards and Chambliss had a five-yard reception.

On the opening kickoff, John McAlevey returned the ball 87 yards for the touchdown to give the Knights a 7-0 lead with just 13 seconds off the clock. From that point onward, defensive end Colin Freer, defensive linemen Noah Levy and Declan McCauley and linebackers Koury Kania and Will Kessler progressively stepped up the attack on the Knights. Freer, the "Red Flame", had a banner afternoon with three sacks and a key minus 11-yard tackle of the punter to set up the Blue Devils' first touchdown when Shapiro faked to Alliegro and hooked around the left for nine yards with 8:06 left in the first quarter.

"Will Kessler got there first and I just kind of cleaned it up. That was the momentum for us today. Our special teams the past two weeks we got two blocks and we will be there next week too," Freer expressed.

"Freer did a great job. He and the entire 'D' line did a great job of giving pressure and getting the ball back to

the offense. They did a great job of getting by people and making aggressive plays," Shapiro expressed.

With 10:49 left in the half, Alliegro capped an 11-play, 72-yard drive with a four-yard touchdown run. Mack Prybylski nailed the point after. The 1-2 Knights added some timing of their own with a quick response, four-play, 65-yard scoring drive in less than two minutes, which included a

pitchout to McAlevey good for 34 yards followed by a 25-yard touchdown strike to McAlevey. After holding the Blue Devils on their next series, the Knights added a 43-yard field goal at the buzzer to take a 17-14 lead at the half.

Less than a minute into the second half, Shapiro struck lightning when he hit Saltzer down the left-center for

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High School Sports Shorts:

Blue Devils Blank GL In Field Hockey, 2-0

LJ Kehler and Maggie Maguire each scored a second-half goal to lead the 5-2 Westfield High School field hockey team to a 2-0 victory over the Governor Livingston Highlanders in Westfield on September 24. Liz Healy contributed an assist.

Columbia Girls Edge FH Cougars, 4-3

The Columbia High School Cougar field hockey team edged the Cranford Cougars, 4-3, in Cranford on September 24. Brooke Bishop netted a goal and an assist for 3-4 Cranford, while Lillian Collyer and Leah Filimonczuk each scored once. Paige Brogan and Maddie Garcia each had an assist and goalkeeper Sophia McMullan made 17 stops.

Blue Devils Shut Out Field Hockey Raiders

The 3-2 Westfield High School field hockey team defeated the hosting Scotch Plains-Fanwood Raiders, 1-0, on September 20. Lily Ceraso scored on an assist from Hannah Jepsen. Goalkeeper Colleen O'Connor made one save for Westfield.

Blue Devil Boys Defeat Ridgewood in Soccer

The visiting Westfield High School boys soccer team defeated Ridgewood, 1-0, on September 22. Evan Meade scored a first-half goal and John Desena provided the assist. Goalkeeper Ryan Friedberg made three saves.

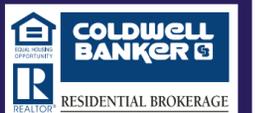
Minutemen Boys Top Soccer Blue Devils

The Elizabeth High School boys soccer team defeated the Westfield Blue Devils, 2-0, in Elizabeth on September 20. Jossler Amaya and Denilson Dominique each scored a goal for the Minutemen, while Emil Caballero and Sebastian Gonzalez each added an assist. Yakendy Pacius made 10 saves for the Minutemen and Julian Trott and 12 for Westfield.

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