

THE WEEK IN SPORTS

The Raiders and Rain Drench Rahway Boys, Girls in Track

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

Wet weather was not the only thing which dampened the Indians' hopes as the Scotch Plains-Fanwood boys' and girls' track teams poured it on and drenched the Rahway High School boys' and girls' track teams in Scotch Plains on April 1.

It was no joke to the Indians when the Raider boys won, 84-6, and the Raider girls won, 61-19.

The Raider boys seized first, second and third in every contested event except

the 1,600-meters, in which they yielded their only second place finish to the Indians. Senior Karl Jennings left the rest of the runners in his muddy tracks by capturing first in the 200-meter dash, the 110-meter hurdles and the 400-meter hurdles.

Jennings recorded times of :23.9 in the 200, :15.9 in the 110-hurdles and :56.8 in the 400-hurdles.

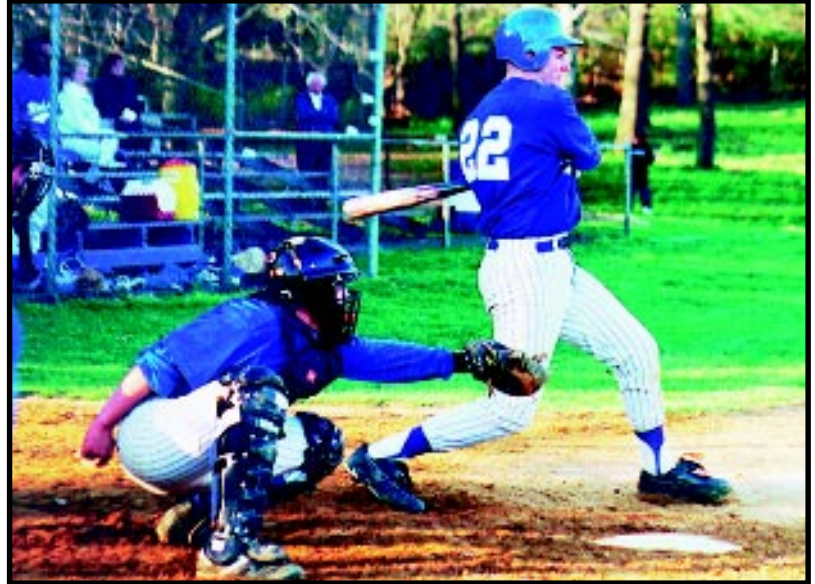
Although twisting his knee, senior Adam Bowser ran away with first in the 400-meter event with a time of :54.8 and senior Lau'renn McDaniel blazed through the

raindrops to place first in the 100-meters at :11.5. Bowser also placed second in the 400-hurdles with a time of 1:00.8.

Senior James Canterbury was home alone in the 800-meters, crossing the line in 2:12, well ahead of the nearest competitor. Canterbury also placed second in the 400-meter run with a time of :55.4.

The Raider girls swept the first three places in four events and grabbed the first two places in two additional events.

Senior Kate Vanderheyden further split raindrops when she tossed the javelin 76 feet, taking first in the event; and Karen Haight weathered her way to a first-place finish in the grueling 1,600-meter run with a time of 5:49. Jamie Langevin slopped through the puddles faster than any of the competitors in the 800-meter and Kari Whitley made a big splash when she heaved the shot 28 feet, 9 inches into the soggy ground for another Raider first place.



SLASHING A SINGLE...Raider senior Dave Gewirtz slashes a single to center against the Union Catholic High School baseball team. Scotch Plains-Fanwood shutout the Vikings, 16-0, on April 2.

Raider Boys Obliterate Vikings in Five Innings

By DAVID B. CORBIN
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Senior Dave Gewirtz fanned nine Vikings and walked none en route to a two-hit, 16-0, shutout of the Union Catholic High School in Scotch Plains on April 2. The Scotch Plains-Fanwood hitters banged out a merry-go-round of runs in only four innings.

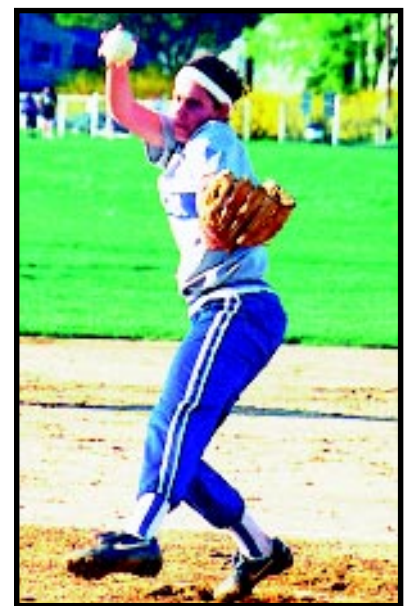
No one could foresee the explosion of runs which would eventually take place as the first inning slid by silently with neither team scoring. Gewirtz struck out three Vikings and Raider senior Doug

Bishop managed to slap a single in the bottom of the first.

In the second inning, Gewirtz allowed the last hit the Vikings would get as he recorded another strikeout and faced only three batters. In the bottom of the second, the Raider offense came alive. Catcher Jim Buccola singled, then reached second on a wild pitch. Joe Franzone drew a walk, then Luke Cerchio bopped a single as Buccola scored. Ryan Hahner walked, then Delmar Patterson slashed a single to drive in Franzone and Cerchio. Bishop



THE SCORE...Raider Diana Mendez scores against the Vikings.



THE PITCH...Viking Liz Majchrzak fires the ball to a Raider batter.

Five-Run Fourth Boosts Raiders Past Viking Girls

By DAVID B. CORBIN
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The Scotch Plains-Fanwood girls' softball team got off on the right foot by defeating the Union Catholic High School girls, 8-4, in Scotch Plains on April 2. Raider junior Diana Mendez held the hottest bat of the day.

Mendez, who went 4 for 4, collected her first hit and came around to score the first Raider run in the first inning. In the bottom of the third, Mendez doubled to move pinch runner Christine McPartlan to third. Later, McPartlan scored and Mendez zoomed home from second to put the Raiders ahead 3-0.

For the first three innings, Raider pitcher Jill Mazzagetti was untouchable, but the Viking girls tagged her for four runs in the top of the fourth inning to take a 4-3 lead. Viking Liz Majchrzak led the attack with an RBI double.

added singles. Reganthal had two RBI, Jen Stewart, Romeo, Wendy Underwood and Lorenz had one RBI apiece.

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THE WINDUP...Raider Jill Mazzagetti whips the softball toward the Union Catholic batter en route to an 8-4 victory in Scotch Plains on April 2.

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BOYS' RESULTS:

100-meters: — 1. Lau'renn McDaniels (SPF) :11.5, 2. Nate Jones (SPF) :11.6

200-meters: — 1. Karl Jennings (SPF) :23.9, 2. Dan Harrison (SPF) :24.7, 3. Jones (SPF) :25

400-meters: — 1. Adam Bowser (SPF) :54.8, 2. Canterbury (SPF) :55.4, 3. Harrison (SPF) :56.9

800-meters: — 1. James Canterbury (SPF) 2:12, 2. Jim L'Heureux (SPF) 2:18, 3. Andrew Elko (SPF) 2:19

1,600-meters: — 1. Josh Ricca (SPF) 4:54, 2. Rahway, 3. Russ Rabadeau (SPF) 5:22

3,200-meters: — 1. Not Contested

110-hurdles: — 1. Jennings (SPF)

CONTINUED ON PAGE B-2



DIVING SAFELY BACK TO FIRST...Blue Devil Phil Orsini, right, successfully dives back to first base in the first inning against the Cranford baseball team. See story and more pictures on page B-3.

Devil Diamond Boys Will Show Several New Faces

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

Winning the big game has been the reputation that the Westfield High School baseball team has earned. For the past four years, the Blue Devils have snatched the Union County Baseball Championship. Last year, the Blue Devils were seeded way back in the seventh position but surged past Rahway and second-seeded Elizabeth to meet and beat Summit, 7-1, in the finals. This year, the Blue Devils must defend their county title with several new faces.

Last year, the Blue Devils finished with a respectable 16-10-1 record and put up some impressive individual statistics. Two players who graduated, Bob Meyer and Marcus Mattielli, finished the season with respective batting averages of .431 and .405.

With the loss of center fielder Mattielli, catcher Bill Hedden, second baseman Meyer, first baseman Bill Sweeney and third baseman John Castellano, the Blue Devils must look to their reserves to fill in the starting lineup this season. Seniors Phil Orsini, Greg Freisen, Bob Baykowski and Matt Williams are some of the familiar faces that will be returning.

Orsini, who played left field, displayed deceptive power and speed by drilling four triples and blasting two home runs last year. Orsini also hit the crushing home run which broke the Summit Highlanders' backs and sent them toppling from their high perch in the county finals. In addition, Orsini has made several saving catches.

Freisen, as designated hitter, hit .296, had 16 hits and scored eight runs for the Blue Devils. This year, Freisen will pitch and occupy the vacant first base position. Senior Baykowski will display his defensive skills at shortstop and will add to the Blue Devil pitching lineup. Last year, in the Union County Championship game, Baykowski poked a single and ripped a



BOYS' LACROSSE TRI-CAPTAINS...Seniors Kevin Mansfield, left, Mike Baly, center, and Steve Abeles share the responsibility of guiding the Westfield High School boys' lacrosse team this season.



READY TO PASS...Blue Devil Mike Baly prepares to pass during a scrimmage game with Columbia.

Blue Devil Boy Laxers Offer Strength, Size, Skill, Seniors

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

Although sustaining several injuries throughout the season, the Westfield High School boys' lacrosse team persevered and wound up as the ninth-ranked public school team in New Jersey last year. The Blue Devils battled to a 10-10 record in the tough Pitt Division. This season, the Blue Devil boys have a good blend of size, strength and speed.

Team Captain Drew Stotler, who graduated, led the Blue Devils in scoring

with 65 points last year, netting 37 and assisting with 28. Stotler was named second team All-League and All-State as a midfielder.

Also gone are Mark Juellis and Bryan Graye. Juellis scored 19 goals and added three assists as defenseman. Midfielder, Bryan Graye inflicted damage on opposing goalies by flicking in 30 goals and contributing 11 assists for a total of 41 points.

Returning to add muscle and effective offense to the squad this season are seniors Mike Baly and Bryan Gates. Last year, Baly had 41 total points, firing in 26 goals and adding 15 assists. Baly has been voted as one of the Blue Devils' Tri-Captains. Gates, who spent much time on the disabled list last year, is back and will add an immense amount of offense.

Senior attacker and Tri-Captain Kevin Mansfield, who scored eight goals and setup 16 assists, will add quickness and timely passes from the right side. Senior Scott Mann, who hit 12 nets and had 11 assists, returns to add a serious first strike. Steve Kassakian, a midfielder, scored eight goals and had seven assists last year and will add offensive depth this year.

"We definitely want to improve on last year and do the best we can. We need to stay together as a team to be as successful as we should be," suggested Mansfield.

Returning to do the high pressure chore of defending the goal will be senior team Tri-Captain Steve Abeles who had 233 saves for the Blue Devils last year. Abeles will add needed expe

Cranford Softballers Stop Blue Devil Girls' Rally, 6-5

By DAVID B. CORBIN
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A four-run burst in the third inning gave the Cranford High School girls' softball team just enough cushion to hold off a middle-inning rally by the Westfield High School girls, allowing the Cougars to squeak by with a 6-5 victory in Cranford on April 3.

Cougar Lyndsey Pfeifer singled in two runs, Kelly Murphy drilled a triple to bring in Pfeifer, then Robyn Schweitzer hit into a fielder's choice to bring home Murphy with the fourth run of the fateful inning. At that point, the

Cougars led 6-1.

Blue Devil pitcher Shannon Wagner, after yielding all six runs in the first three innings, got tough and silenced the Cougars' roars for the remainder of the game. Wagner did brighten her team's chances offensively by slapping three singles and scoring one run.

In the top of the fourth, the Blue Devils crept closer with two runs. Catcher Sue Phillips ripped a double to center, then was temporarily replaced by pinch-hitter Kristen Leonardis. Missy Franz stepped to the plate and wailed a triple to deep



MAKING THE CONNECTION...Blue Devil Colleen Ryan connects with the softball in the fourth inning of the game with the Cranford High School girls on April 3 in Cranford. The Cougars held on to defeat the Westfield girls, 6-5.

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