

THE WEEK IN SPORTS

JENNINGS GRABS THREE FIRSTS Raider Boys Finish 2nd; Girls 4th in Group Track

Senior Karl Jennings captured three firsts and junior Blair Woodward grabbed one as the Scotch Plains-Fanwood boys track and field team placed second, totaling 113 points, behind Morristown at 118.5 at the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 3 State Track and Field Championships held in Millburn on May 22-23. The Raider girls compiled 38 points to come in fourth in the girls' events which was won by Jefferson High School which totaled 48.

Jennings sailed across the finish line first in the 110-hurdles with a time of :14.4 followed by Woodward at :14.5. Raider sophomore Nathan Jones placed sixth at :16.1. Jennings took first in the 400-hurdles with a time of :55.8 and teammate Dan Harrison picked up a sixth at 1:01.6. Jennings also took top

honors in the high jump, clearing 6-4. Woodward placed second, also clearing 6-4, and Adam Bowser took fourth with a height of 6-0.

Woodward excelled in the long jump, leaping a personal-best distance of 23-05 which easily took first. Bowser took second at 21-10.5 and Jones placed fourth at 20-0.5.

Sophomore Dan Loomis placed second in the shot put with a shove of 49-05.5 and junior Jim Feeley grabbed a fourth 45-3.5. Raider Mike Grabel took third in the pole vault with a height of 11-6 and Steve Cole placed fourth at 11-0.

Lau'renn McDaniel took a third in the 400-meters at :52.6 and a sixth in the 100-meters with a time of :11.5. Woodward also placed fifth at :11.4 in the 100-meter. Senior James Canterbury



David B. Corbin for The Leader and The Times
NUMBER 1...Raider Karl Jennings leads the way in the 400-hurdles and places first at the Group 3 Sectionals.

WAGNER SCORES DRAMATIC WINNING RUN IN 7TH UC Champ Blue Devils Down Ex-Champ Highlanders, 3-2

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

All questions were answered as to which team is really the best in Union County when the 1998 Union County Champion Westfield High School girls softball team defeated the 1997 Union County Champion Governor Livingston girls in dramatic fashion with a final-play, 3-2, decision in Westfield on May 20. Senior Shannon Wagner alertly scored the winning run in the bottom of the seventh inning to finalize the contest.

Wagner, who had just pitched four shutouts in-a-row, had her streak broken when the Highlanders struck for two runs in the top of the first. Ellen Findlay, Jen Calabrese and Gina Turturiello collected singles and Gina Pisano reached on an error to gain the early lead.

Lutkenhouse sped to second on a passed ball into the 'dirt'. Thornton then hopped a single to the right side of the infield as Lutkenhouse dashed home for the first Blue Devil run.

Ryan drew a walk to put runners on first and second. With Liz McKeon now at the plate, Thornton flew to third on another passed ball into the 'dirt'. After McKeon made an out, Kristen Leonardis stepped to the plate. Turturiello threw another pitch into the 'dirt' and Thornton raced home with the tying run.

After Wagner retired the side with the help of a nice charging play by Thornton

at shortstop, the Blue Devil offense threatened again in the bottom of the fifth. Wagner hopped a leadoff single up-the-middle and moved to second on a beautiful sacrifice bunt by Abby O'Neill. Corbett bounced a ground out to second as Wagner advanced to third. Phillips stepped up and hit a sizzling grounder which was scooped up by the shortstop and thrown to first for the third out.

The Highlanders added a threat of their own in the sixth. Jen Calabrese skid a single up-the-middle. Blue Devil Ryan made a great running catch of a foul ball

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Raider Girls Ransack Lady Minutemen, 13-0

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

Senior Jill Mazzagetti blazed as she struck out eight, walked two and allowed only one hit to lead the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School softball team to a comfortable 13-0 shutout of the Elizabeth girls in Scotch Plains on May 18. The Raiders amassed a 13-hit assault on the helpless Lady Minutemen.

The Raiders nibbled a run in the bottom of the first when Michelle Evans

bopped a one-hop single past third, stole second and third, then scampered home off Wendy Underwood's infield single.

After Amy Paul got the only Minutemen hit with a single to left in the top of the second, the Raider offense stepped up their assault with three more runs in their portion of the inning. Jan Weiner sliced a double just off the left fielder's glove and stole third. Marissa Lorenz smacked an RBI double down the third

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



David B. Corbin for The Leader and The Times
400-HURDLES...Raider Erin Brandt clears a hurdle en route to placing third at the Group 3 Sectionals.



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
SAFE AT THIRD...Blue Devil Shannon Wagner slides safely into third during the game with the Highlanders. Westfield beat Governor Livingston, 3-2, when Wagner scored the dramatic winning run in the seventh inning.



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
THROW TO FIRST FOR THE OUT...Raider Jill Mazzagetti, No. 25, whips the ball to Jan Weiner at first to get the Lady Minuteman runner out.

VINEGRA, BRAHM SERVE WINNERS Devil Volleyballers Win Third-Straight UC Title

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

Seniors Suzanne Vinegra and Kate Brahm went on a serving rampage and the Westfield High School girls volleyball team easily seized its third-straight Union County volleyball title by downing the Union High School girls, 15-4, 15-3, in New Providence on May 20.

to give the Blue Devils their third point. The Farmers got the serve when the Blue Devils were charged with hitting the net. After the Farmers got one service point, Vinegra ended any further run when she made a great digging save.

The Farmers tightened the score to 4-3, but the remainder of the game would belong to the Blue Devils. Server Margaret Kostro put the Devils ahead 5-3, then Union won the serve and added another point. On the next Farmer serve, Blue Devil senior Kelly Langton made a convincing block to give the serve to Vinegra.

This was a special championship to win since five of the teams in the tournament were ranked in the top ten in the state. The fifth-ranked Blue Devils knocked off the fourth-ranked Union Catholic girls to reach the finals and the sixth-ranked Farmers defeated the third-ranked Elizabeth girls to reach the finals. The Summit High School girls, who lost earlier, were ranked eighth in the state.

Amy Coccoaro made the first four service points to put the Blue Devils in front, 4-0. Megan Devitt made a nice kill

From that point, Vinegra was untouchable. She ran off 10-straight points to give the Blue Devils a 15-4, first game win. During that time, Langton added more great blocks to insure the Blue Devils' dominance.

The Farmers added some fight at the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

CITRIN CLEARS 13-6 IN POLE VAULT Devil Girls Come in 11th; Boys 12th in Group Track

Senior Dave Citrin cleared a personal-best 13-6 to take second in the pole vault as the Westfield High School boys placed 12th and the girls placed 11th at the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 4 Track and Field Championships held at Hub Stine Field in Plainfield on May 22-23. The Blue Devil girls finished with eight team points and the boys totaled 11 points.

Doug Springer of Randolph, who

also cleared 13-6, placed first in the pole vault by virtue of less misses at that height. Even though taking second, Citrin never cleared 14-0, but just nipped the bar with his chest on his descent.

The Blue Devil foursome of Steve Dennis, Dave Geissler, John Cognetti and Bill Zachar combined for a time of 3:30.9 to place fifth in the 4x400-relay

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

Farmer Boys Eliminate Blue Devils in Sectionals

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

An early strike gave the Union High School baseball team all it needed to eliminate the Westfield High School boys from the quarterfinals of the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 4 baseball tournament in Union on May 21 by a score of 4-1. Although the Blue Devils out-hit the Farmers, they were unable to put any of them together to mount an offensive.

a one-hop, ground-rule double over the 330 foot mark in left-center field. Orsini moved to third on Don Seeley ground out to the second base man, but was also stranded when Schmidtberg recorded another strikeout.

Junior Blue Devil Lamont Turner smashed a triple to deep center in the top of the first, but was stranded on third. The Farmers did put some action together in their half of the inning. After Bill Votapek grounded out to Bob Baykowski at short, Nick Javas drew a walk. Javas proceeded to steal second, then sped to third on a dropped ball by the catcher. Jason Perriera was hit-by-a-pitch and Farmer pitcher Tony Schmidtberg stepped to the plate.

Although no runs were scored by either team in the middle innings, there were several good and interesting plays. Orsini made a nice catch in center, the Farmer shortstop Votapek made a good fielding play in the fourth inning and Cruz who would have drawn a walk was called out for stepping out of the batter's box. Freisen pulled a slick inside-out single to left-center in the fourth. Farmer Ferrise was caught off first but scampered to second on a late throw, then later was nailed in a double play after Turner caught a pop-up and fired it to second in time to catch him off the bag.

The Blue Devils threatened in the sixth. Perez squibbled a grounder which spun off the glove of first baseman Izbicki. Freisen stepped up and sliced his third hit of the game to left field. After a dispute about courtesy runners, the game resumed. Baykowski walked to load the bases, but the Farmers got out of the inning unscathed when the next Blue Devil grounded out to short for the third out.

Freisen retired the side in the sixth and the Blue Devils came to bat in the seventh. With two outs, Seeley slammed a triple over the right fielder's head. Turner dug in and skid a single up-the-middle, driving in Seeley, but Schmidtberg struck out the next batter to preserve the victory.

The left-handed Freisen sliced a lead-off single to left-center field, but was also stranded when Schmidtberg struck out the next three batters. The Farmers responded with another run in the bottom of the second when Mike Ferrise walked, stole second, then scored on a well-executed hit-and-run play off the bat of Javas.

Freisen retired the side in the sixth and the Blue Devils came to bat in the seventh. With two outs, Seeley slammed a triple over the right fielder's head. Turner dug in and skid a single up-the-middle, driving in Seeley, but Schmidtberg struck out the next batter to preserve the victory.

In the third inning, Phil Orsini thumped

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BUCCOLA SLAMS HIS 7TH HOMER Morristown Colonizes Raiders in Sectionals

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

Sophomore Rob Ogilvie mixed his pitches very well and kept the powerful Raider batters off-balance as the Morristown High School baseball team defeated the Scotch Plains-Fanwood boys, 7-3, in Scotch Plains on May 22. The Raiders could muster only three hits in the game.

took a 1-0 lead when Delmar Patterson ripped a double, moved to third on a wild pitch, then scored on a single by Gewirtz.

The Colonials came back with two runs in the second. Tom Olivo drilled a double and Mike Ryan cleared the bases with a home run.

After pitcher Dave Gewirtz retired the side in the top of the first, the Raiders

The Colonials upped the score to 4-1 in the third inning. Todd Friedman bashed a double and Ogilvie walked. Olivo reached first safely on an error, then an error by the Raider shortstop allowed Friedman and Ogilvie's courtesy runner Barry Spiro to score.



David B. Corbin for The Leader and The Times
THE PITCH...Raider pitcher Dave Gewirtz makes his delivery during the game with Morristown.

Colonial Dave Molinaro yanked a single down the third base line to lead off the fourth. Chris Emonds laid down a beautiful bunt to move Molinaro to second. Pete Churnov pulled off a great drag bunt for a single as Molinaro sped to third. The Raider infield moved in and Scott Saccamono of the Colonials hit a check-swing single over the second baseman's head to score Molinaro. Friedman drove in Churnov with a chopping

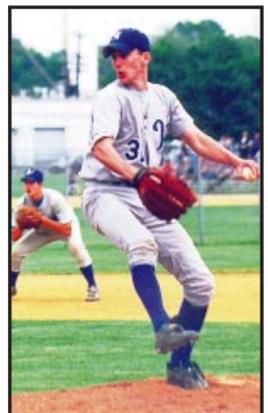
CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
READY, GET SET, BANG!...Blue Devil Scott Berzofsky waits for the gun to go off to start the 800-meter run at the Group 4 Sectionals in Plainfield on May 23.



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
BLUE DEVIL FEARSOME FOURSOME...Four talented golfers await their tee time during a successful match with Cranford on May 21. Pictured, left to right, are: Brian Mann, Brent Bramnick, Ron Kashlak and Doug Brandely.



David B. Corbin for The Leader and The Times
THE DELIVERY...Blue Devil Greg Freisen makes his pitch against a Union batter.



David B. Corbin for The Leader and The Times
THE SWING...Blue Devil Phil Orsini prepares to swing during the game with Union.

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