

SPORTS

AROUND NEW JERSEY

Skylanders pound Rockland, 22-9

The Associated Press

FRANKFORD — Vinny Joyce was 4 for 5 with two triples, three RBI's, and three runs scored, in Sussex County Community College's 22-9 victory over Rockland County Community College, Thursday.

Coach Todd Poltersdorf was thrilled with the way his team has played recently.

"We've been playing exceptionally well," he said, "and today we exploded offensively."

With the win the Skylanders winning streak reached double-digits. Poltersdorf also said the team has benefitted greatly by the play of Matt Feci, who was 2 for 3 with an RBI and two runs scored.

"Matt has been playing very well for us," Poltersdorf said. "He's been a big part of our winning streak."

SCCC 22, Rockland County Community College 9				
RCCC (4-10)	150	110	2	— 9 8 5
SCCC (17-12)	222	151	0	— 22 23 0

WP: Angel Garcia (3-1)
 LP: Kevin Gizzi (2-3)
 2B: (RCC) Juan Roseio (SCCC) Tom Moroney, Mike Riggs 2, Vinny Joyce 1
 3B: (RCC) Jose Ojeda, Vinny Joyce 2.

Basketball

GONZALEZ SET TO BE NEW SETON HALL COACH: In Newark, Bobby Gonzalez will be Seton Hall's new basketball coach, an athletic department official said.

A news conference was scheduled for 1 p.m. today at the school, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to avoid pre-empting the formal announcement.

Gonzalez coached Manhattan for the last seven years and led the Jaspers to NCAA Tournament appearances in 2002-2003 and 2003-2004. Before that he was an assistant at Xavier, Providence and Virginia.

Horse racing

Lawyers for four charged in race-fixing case assail state's evidence: In Trenton, lawyers for four people charged in a conspiracy to fix races at the Meadowlands Racetrack by injecting horses with banned substances assailed the state's evidence at a hearing in front of a state racing commission panel.

The three-judge panel of the New Jersey Racing Commission is expected to rule in the next week on whether to suspend or revoke the licenses of the four, a group that includes Eric Ledford, a leading harness driver at the Meadowlands who faces criminal charges of conspiracy to rig a publicly exhibited contest.

"There is no evidence my client did anything or conspired with anyone to do anything," said Howard Taylor, an attorney representing Ledford.

Volleyball

VERNON — Jeremy Palmieri had 11 digs, eight kills, two blocks and an assist to lead Vernon past East Side Newark 25-20, 25-21.

"He hit the ball hard," Vernon coach Jeff DeYoung said. "His defense behind the block was crucial."

Teammate Ken Murphy had 17 assists, four digs, two blocks and a kill.

The Vikings (1-1) travel to Wayne Hills on today at 4 p.m.



Photo by Anna Murphey/NJH

Pope John's Brynn Merritt hasn't let a cross-country foot injury stop her from having a breakout track season.

Merritt

Continued from Page B1

Two days before her doctor visit, with the pain at its worst, Merritt helped Pope John win its first ever Non-Public A title by placing fifth.

"I have a high tolerance for pain," Merritt said. "The doctor said I probably didn't realize I had a stress fracture because I was used to pain."

It wasn't the first time she competed with a severe injury.

Her entire freshmen year, which included cross country, basketball and outdoor track, Merritt had torn ligaments in her ankle.

She resisted treatment until the doctor left no choice but surgery. As a result, Merritt missed her entire sophomore cross country season.

But for how great Merritt is at dealing with pain, she's equally, if not more, remarkable at recovering from it.

In the seasons directly after ankle surgery, she finished sixth in the mile at the Parochial track championships and fourth in the SCIL cross country Festival.

After the foot fracture, Merritt pushed herself through a rigorous rehabilitation regiment, which included weight-lifting

and aqua-jogging.

The result: Four months after the diagnoses, she became an Indoor Track All-American as part of Pope John's 4x800 relay team.

"I guess I was born with competitiveness," she said. "Plus, I knew I couldn't let my friends and my teammates down like that."

Merritt began her final high school track season injury-free. She said her foot felt fine in a 104.5-35.5 victory over Vernon on Tuesday. She won two events — the mile in 5:54 and the 800 in 2:29.9.

If Merritt progresses even a little from last year, when she took third in both the mile and two-mile at the Non-Public Championships, she's in for a medal-laden spring.

Then it's on to Boston College, where she plans to continue running long distance.

But before she leaves Pope John, Merritt has four goals for this spring:

1. Help Pope John win the Non-Public A title. (The Lions finished second last year).
2. Break a 5-minute mile. (Her best time last year was 5:11).
3. Become an outdoor track All-American.
4. Don't get injured. The last part is out of her control. But then again, she might just keep running anyway.

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS



Photo by Randy Mills/Allprographix.com

Vernon's Silje Karlson eludes an Immaculate Heart Academy defender Thursday afternoon. The Vikings lost 8-6.

Spartans down Lions, 8-7

By Herald Staff

SPARTA — Pope John's Lauren Cartier scored a game-high five goals to lead Pope John, but it wasn't enough to get past Sparta Thursday afternoon in girls lacrosse action.

The Lions trailed 5-3 at the half, but outscored the Spartans 4-3 in the second half.

The Spartans were led by Danielle Jacobs' two goals and two assists.

Sparta 8, Pope John 7				
Sparta (1-1)	5	3	— 8	
Pope John (0-3)	3	4	— 7	

Goals: Jacobs 2 (S), Molina 3 (S), Winowski (S), Mathes (S), Cullen (S), Carlier 5 (P), Dowgin (P), Altenburg (P).
 Assists: Jacobs 2 (S), Molina (S), Winowski (S), Carlier (P), Altenburg (P), Clark 2 (P), Luongo (P).
 Saves: Bellesheim 10 (S), Cavanagh 10 (P).

Softball

HAMPTON — Nicole DiBattista was 2 for 5 including the game winning RBI single in the bottom of the eighth to beat Lenape Valley 4-3.

"The girls really pulled together," Kittatinny coach Heather Mate said. "Everyone of them came through."

Christina Curtis led off the bottom of the eighth with a double, then scored on the DiBattista single.

Curtis was 4 for 5 with two doubles, and two runs scored.

Sparta 8, Pope John 7				
Kittatinny 4, Lenape Valley 3 (8)				
Lenape Valley (0-2)	020	010	00	— 3 6 4
Kittatinny (2-1)	001	011	01	— 4 13 1

WP: Molly Green (1-0)
 LP: Shannon O'Brien (0-2)
 2B: (Kittatinny) Curtis

Jefferson 6, Rutherford 0

RUTHERFORD — Brittany Gerritsen pitched a one-hit shutout to lead Jefferson. Corey Becker's three-RBI double in the first got Jefferson started.

Liz Ashman hit a solo-homer in the second.

Jefferson 6, Rutherford 0				
Jefferson (3-0)	311	010	0	— 6 4 2
Rutherford (0-3)	000	000	0	— 0 1 2

WP: Brittany Gerritsen (3-0)
 LP: Veronica McGarry
 2B: (Jefferson) Corey Becker
 3B: (Jefferson) Megan Kelly
 HR: (Jefferson) Liz Ashman

Pope John 11, Hopatcong 2

HOPATCONG — Megan Pretzman's three-run home run in the fourth inning broke the game open for Pope John.

Dana Inez pitched seven innings, and struck out seven for the win.

Lauren Hurley went 3 for 4 with two RBI, two runs scored and three stolen bases.

Pope John 11, Hopatcong 2				
Pope John (2-0)	012	521	0	— 11 12 3
Hopatcong (1-1)	000	200	0	— 2 8 3

WP: Dana Inez (1-0)
 LP: Carly Claus (1-1)
 3B: (Hopatcong) Sarah Slorio (Pope John) Amanda Kent, Dana Inez
 HR: (Pope John) Megan Prettzman

North Warren 6, South Hunterdon 1

LAMBERTVILLE — North Warren scored seven runs in the seventh inning on six South Hunterdon errors.

North Warren coach Michelle Smith said her team was focused heading into

the final inning trailing 1-0.				
North Warren (3-1)	000	000	7	— 7 7 3
South Hunterdon (0-2)	010	000	0	— 1 7 7

WP: Amanda Becker (1-1)
 LP: Brianna Fulper

Belvidere 4, Hackettstown 0

HACKETTSTOWN — Tiger's coach Todd Boepple said his team made some "outstanding plays in the field," but they were unable to get the bats going.

Sara Lyng was 2 for 3 with for Hackettstown.

Belvidere 4, Hackettstown 0				
Belvidere (3-0)	011	000	2	— 4 3 1
Hackettstown (2-2)	000	000	0	— 0 5 2

WP: Megan Roncoroni (3-0)
 LP: Betsy Clark (2-2)
 2B: (Belvidere) Ali Ritter
 3B: (Belvidere) Melissa Jones

Sussex Tech 9, Bloomfield Tech 8

SPARTA — Sussex Tech was trailing 7-0 when Heather Lewis hit a three-run home run in the third inning to start the Mustang comeback.

"We needed a jump start," Sussex Tech coach Ed Paiva said. "We needed at least one run in that inning and thankfully we got four."

Brittany Kelly's two RBI single in the fourth inning gave the Mustangs the lead.

Sussex Tech 9, Bloomfield Tech 8				
Bloomfield Tech (1-1)	700	000	1	— 8 9 4
Sussex Tech (1-0)	004	221	0	— 9 6 4

WP: Rachel Halliwell (1-0) Struck out 11, 1 walk 7
 innings 9 hits, 4 earned.
 LP: Melissa Ramos (1-1)
 2B: (Bloomfield Tech) Vivian Elock.
 3B: (Bloomfield Tech) Shawna James.
 HR: (Bloomfield Tech) Ashley Arce. (Sussex Tech) Heather Lewis.

Baseball

STANHOPE — Lenape Valley's Matt Gailums drove in the game winning run in the bottom of the eighth of Lenape Valley's 10-4 win over Kittatinny.

After five-and-half innings, the game was tied at two. The Patriots pulled away scoring eight in the eighth.

"We are going to have big innings," Lenape Valley coach Dave D'Olivo said. "I told the guys if they can keep the strikeouts under four a game, we will score some runs."

Gailums was 2 for 3 with 2 RBI. Teammate Pat Groome went deep with a solo shot in the fourth to tie the game at two.

Jeff Kistle was 2 for 3 with home run for the Cougars.

Lenape Valley 10, Kittatinny 4				
Kittatinny (1-1)	001	010	2	— 4 8 4
Lenape Valley (2-0)	100	108	X	— 10 7 3

WP: Dan Pregno (1-0)
 LP: Ryan Ryan (0-1)
 2B: (Lenape Valley) A.J. Kaskie, (Kittatinny) Teddy Wetkiow.
 HR: (Lenape Valley) Pat Groome, (Kittatinny) Jeff Kistle.

Pope John 11, Hopatcong 0

HOPATCONG — Rob Guild's grand slam in the first inning was part of a 10-run first inning for Pope John.

Ed Frias went 2 for 2 including a two-run home run for the Lions. Teammate Mike Lindsy was 2 for 3 with two doubles. Scott Braun was 2 for 2 for Hopatcong.

Pope John 11, Hopatcong 0

Pope John (1-2)	100	(10)0	— 11 12 1
Hopatcong (0-3)	000	00	— 0 3 1

WP: Frank Decker (1-1)
 LP: Chris Moore (0-2)
 2B: (Hopatcong) Devin Ruggieri, (Pope John) Mike Lindsy 2.
 HR: (Pope John) Ed Frias, Bob Guild.

North Warren 14, South Hunterdon 4

NORTH WARREN — An 11-run fifth inning was all North Warren needed.

Mackenzie King hit his first home run of the season for North Warren.

North Warren pitcher Garrett Meagher recorded his second victory of the season. He pitched two thirds of an inning, struck out one, and didn't allow a hit.

North Warren 14, South Hunterdon 4				
South Hunterdon	102	010	0	— 4 5 3
North Warren (3-0)	003	0110	0	— 14 10 2

WP: Garrett Meagher (2-0)
 LP: A. Rinz (0-2)
 2B: (North Warren) Shane Crone, Christian Joest, Garrett Meagher.
 HR: (North Warren) Mackenzie King

Golf

HAMPTON — Wallkill Valley's Nick Amato and Tim Pleskach each shot a 39 to lead the Rangers past host Kittatinny.

Amato recorded six pars and Pleskach had five.

"Give Wallkill Valley credit," Kittatinny coach Jim Green said. "We knew it was going to be a toss up, but they came to an away course and played well."

The Cougars were led by Joe Lampeter's 39. The senior had three pars and a birdie.

Wallkill Valley 161, Kittatinny 165				
At Hidden Acres				
Par 35				

Wallkill Valley: Rob Zimmerer 43, Nick Amato 39, Derek Ulcni 40, Kevin Neidinger 53, Tim Pleskach 39, Carly Borgiel 45.
 Kittatinny: Joe Lampeter 39, Dave Salantri 52, Becky Kohberger 43, Matt Green 41, Craig Gerth 43, Chris Mikulka 42

Sparta 166, Lenape Valley 197				
At Farmstead				
Par 33				

Sparta (166) Josh Webb 38, Ken MacFarlane 44, Matt Poloniak 43, Sean Rossi 41, Ryan Kerr 48, Mike Ryan 51.
 Lenape Valley (197) Kyle Ticoftan 50, Rod Sigler 55, James Reilly 48, Keith Flaherty 56, Ryan Williamson 49, Jim Mauer 50.

Vernon 166, Jefferson 186				
Great Gorge				
Par 36				

Vernon (166) Kyle Faris 41, Sean Lennon 42, Dan DiClemente 41, Billy Malone 42, Ben Chianchiano 43, Doug Turner 45.
 Jefferson (186) Erik Kristoffenen 45, Ernie Oaks 53, Brad Gale 45, Kevin DeBlasio 46, Jay Holbdynski 50, Jeff Mayhew 57.

Newton 163, Pope John 176				
Sky View				
Par 36				

Newton (163) Kyle Reinhardt 38, Robbie Schultz 41, Shane Edwards 42, Brian Kedash 42, Matt Kienz 42, Chris Graham 44.
 Pope John (176) Brian Bachrach 42, Mike Holenstein 43, Kevin Rogers 45, Robert Clark 46, Nick Derella 48, and Chris Hennessy 49.

North Warren 206, South Hunterdon 266				
Heren Glen				
Par 36				

North Warren (206) Chris pellek 37, Will Camerlingo 40, Mike Camerlingo 42, Kevin Connors 42, Mike Pirrello 45, Chris Esposito 45.
 South Hunterdon: (266) Ben Gross 47, Kyle Davis 51, James Seimko 54, Brent Gordon 54, Bill Hood 60, Dan Morely 61.