



**JONES STRUGGLING**  
Jets running back not having a great season. **C5**

**DEVILS FALL**  
New Jersey can't top Ottawa. **C5**

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## GAME

### HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER

# Boonton girls got game

Soccer players hoping for a team of their own soon

BY JANE HAVSY  
DAILY RECORD

When Michelle Morrison asked her father, Bill, about playing on the Boonton soccer team, he told her she'd be entering a boys world. Certain his daughter could handle herself on the field, Bill Morrison never could have predicted how she would conquer it.

Morrison thrived on the high school team, earning a starting role at center mid-field. The sophomore became the Bombers' playmaker, a blur distinguished from her male teammates by her ball skills and dark brown ponytail.

"They don't really care that you're a girl," Morrison said. "They come at me just like I was a guy. It's good, because it makes me a better player. It makes me want to be just the same as them."

There were nine girls in the Boonton soccer program at the start of the season, four on varsity. Morrison and junior defender Cortney Roller were regular starters, with senior Katie Gambuti one of the first options off the bench. Junior Jen Hesse didn't get much playing time, and recently returned to the cross country team. Freshman Rose Smith is splitting time at goalkeeper for the Bombers junior varsity.

The rest of the Bombers are like their surrogate brothers, making sure opponents know the girls are not to be messed with.

"They demand respect," Boonton head coach Peter Nosal said.

SEE BOMBERS / C3



Sophomore midfielder Michelle Morrison controls the ball for the Boonton soccer team during a game in late September. Morrison is one of nine girls that were a part of the Bombers' coed soccer program at the beginning of the season.

ASHLEY TWIGGS / DAILY RECORD

# Chiefs ride high after first victory

### Football



Week after week, Gary Andolena told his Hopatcong football team to stay positive and keeping working hard because something good was bound happen.

Saturday afternoon, the first-year coach was proven true to his word.

The Chiefs fell behind early and then rallied to beat Wallkill Valley for their first victory of the season, 7-6.

Hopatcong was 20-3 over the last two seasons but was 0-4 coming into the game.

"I wanted the kids to stay positive," Andolena said. "Each week, we got better. We just have to continue to get better. We have to keep working hard, believe in what we're doing and good things will happen. It was a battle to the end with Wallkill. The kids stuck together and that is what we've been preaching."

The decisive score came on a muffed field goal, of all things. The snap was poor, but the Chiefs were ready when the play fell apart because they practice such circumstances.

Holder Alex Marinoni yelled 'Fire! Fire! Fire!' scrambled and then connected with Mario Mascitelli for a 4-yard touchdown pass. Kicker Kyle Imroth booted the extra point, the Chiefs took the lead for good and the defense held on the rest of the way.

"It's something we've been practicing," Andolena said. "It's something we do and the kids executed it. The tight ends and the wings know what to do. Imroth made a great block on the play."

SEE NOTEBOOK / C2



### Yankees fall

New York lost 6-4 to the Cleveland Indians in Game 4 of the ALDS. For more, go to [www.dailyrecord.com](http://www.dailyrecord.com).

# Manning taking comebacks to new level this year

BY ERNIE PALLADINO  
GANNETT NEWSPAPERS

EAST RUTHERFORD — Tom Coughlin would rather his team not gain a reputation for late comebacks. You fight off the ropes, there's just as good a chance of losing as winning, as the Giants proved in 2005.

You remember 2005, right? Eli Manning mounted four fourth-quarter comebacks that year, earning himself a temporary reputation as a second-half weapon. The term "Captain Comeback" was thrown around more than once, even though the Giants lost three of those games. Two of those came in overtime, to Dallas and Seattle.

The point was, Manning found ways to bring his team back from sometimes sizeable

deficits to at least have a chance to win at the end. The Giants remained a tough team, went a division-winning 11-5, and went to the postseason.

If you're getting that old-time feeling again, it's only because Manning is repeating the pattern. Only he's having more success this time.

Sunday's 28-point second half, accomplished after a perfectly disastrous first half in which Manning went 3-for-10 for 22 yards and a bad interception, was his second in the 3-2 Giants' three-game winning streak. He brought the Giants back from 14 down in Washington to win with just over two minutes remaining. He followed that with Sunday's go-ahead score made possible by the first of Aaron Ross' two fourth-quarter interceptions and Plaxico Burress' 53-yard

touchdown catch and run with 7:52 left in the game.

The fourth-quarter heroics do wonders for the reputation, especially if they result in wins. But Manning would prefer faster starts and comfy cushions. As exciting as hitting teams for big second-half points may be, it's never an ideal way to navigate a schedule.

"You look at it in different ways," Manning said. "You don't want to be known like that. But it's also good to be known as a team in the fourth quarter that's playing at their best. That's where you're going to win games."

"If you have to choose between having a good first half and a good second half, you'd always want to have a good second half and be playing well at the end."

So far, so good. The fourth quarter has been their best. They've outscored opponents 44-38 in that period. They have scored nine first-quarter points, and 34 second-quarter points.

They've scored 80 points in the second half, just 33 in the first.

It's an optimistic outlook on the one hand. Manning, despite a 0.0 quarterback rating for the first half Sunday, never got down. And neither did his offense. Despite now having thrown horrible interceptions in the last two minutes of the half the last three games, two of which produced field goals and one of which deprived the Giants of a potential touchdown, they kept fighting.

SEE GIANTS / C5

# Morristown has big game



Morristown's Becky Arnt (11) launches the ball in front of Parsippany Hills defender Toni DeMaio during the Colonials' 9-0 victory on Monday. For more on this game, see C4. For a photo gallery, log on to [www.dailyrecord.com](http://www.dailyrecord.com).

JIM WRIGHT / DAILY RECORD

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