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# THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section - Pages 11-14

## COUSAR TAKES SECOND, BLUE DEVILS ELIMINATED

### County Mat Tourney Yields Close Bouts and Mild Upsets

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

A returning state champion and a runner-up had their work cut out for them, barely squeaking by, and three top-seeded wrestlers were dethroned at the Region 3 Tournament in Union on March 3. A few more top-seeded matmen also pulled out close victories in what turned out to be a very interesting tournament.

Second-seeded Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School 191 pounder Gary Cousar fell in the finals to South Plainfield's John Foscolo but

his bout with Beiermeister. "I wanted to take shots and add some back points but he would fight them off. But he did catch me on one," explained Cousar of his bout with Zappulla. "I believe Gary is capable of coming back in the Super Regions," said Raider Head Coach Dave Bello after his bout with Foscolo. "He's got the talent, he's in good physical condition and he has been there before. Maybe he was a little too nervous out there. He looked a little tentative. In the finals, you can't be tentative."

the wrestlebacks, scoring four takedowns and an escape to record a 9-4 win. "I tried to stay aggressive because I know most people won't beat me on my shots. So, I just wanted to keep him worried about me," pointed out Francavilla of his bout with Pincus. In his bout for third place, Francavilla, although initiating the action, became a victim of four defensive takedowns and eventually lost, 10-3, to Seton Hall Prep's Jack Decker.

Lucas Francavilla won his 137-lb. quarterfinal bout, 10-7, over Brian Rathbun of Parsippany Hills but adds an interesting "twist" with his arms and leg. Francavilla defeated Rathbun, 10-7, in the 137-lb. quarterfinal bout.

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Raider junior Matt DeNichilo dropped a tough, closer than indicated 7-3 decision to Roselle Park's Nick Panetta in the quarterfinals then was eliminated in the wrestlebacks, 6-4, by Jay Fabian of Seton Hall Prep. Raider 147-lb. freshman Andrew Silber was all over Barringer's Lorenzo Morris, picking up an 11-0, majority decision in the opening round. But his next bout pitted him with top-seeded Rob Verhoeven of Cranford, who clamped him in a cradle in :22. Silber then dropped his wrestleback bout with Ahmed Salam of Parsippany Hills, 4-3.

"I'm very happy with the way the kids performed. We had a couple of freshmen advance and Francavilla (Derek) with a banged up face and dislocated finger, took fourth. Lucas was in the deepest weight class and was in the hunt," said Bello.

Blue Devil junior heavyweight Chris MacKay, the lone Westfield representative, was out-pointed by Mike Cain of Watchung Hills, 7-4, in the opening round. At 152-lbs., Vin Finaldi of Hanover Park grabbed an 18-3, 3:41, technical fall over Raider freshman Charlie Bachi.

Governor Livingston sophomore Shawn Coughlin won his 217-lb. quarterfinal bout by pinning Diego Alvarado of Morristown in 4:47 with a half Nelson.

"He came at me pretty strong and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times

NORMAL DAY FOR A CONTORTIONIST...Raider Lucas Francavilla, right, is collecting back points on Brian Rathbun of Parsippany Hills but adds an interesting "twist" with his arms and leg. Francavilla defeated Rathbun, 10-7, in the 137-lb. quarterfinal bout.

## SMITH NETS 14, GRABS 5 STEALS, PULLS 6 REBOUNDS

### Paladin B'ballers Sprint Past Lady Vikings in Parochial A

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

Two spirited girls basketball teams vied for supremacy in Scotch Plains on March 1 but the Paladins of Paramus Catholic stepped it up a notch in the second half to sprint past Union Catholic, 47-40, in the quarterfinals of the Parochial A tournament. The 19-6 Paladins loosened the 22-3 Vikings' tight defense in the third quarter with a combination of successful outside shooting followed by inside penetration.

Senior Shrita Smith was the most successful Viking in nearly every aspect of the game as she netted 14 points, snatched five steals and pulled down six rebounds. However the Vikings, who had 25 rebounds against Mount St. Mary on February 25 when they awarded Coach Kathy Matthews with her 500th career victory, pulled in only 15 against the Paladins.

On the other hand, Paramus Catholic dominated the boards, especially in the second half. By game's end, Tricia Indoe, who netted 10 points, pulled down 13 rebounds and Stephanie Finke, who sank 13 points — nine of ten from the free throw line — grabbed 11 rebounds.

Both teams were somewhat shaky

in the first quarter. Smith began with a few bad passes but quickly recovered to create three steals and convert to six points. Teammate Lauren Huber, who finished with 12 points, added six in the quarter to guide the

Vikings to a 16-10 lead. Both teams alternated scoring in the second quarter and the Vikings held a 23-18 lead at the half. Smith added four points and Paladin Maria

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times

USING A HEAD FAKE...Viking Jessica Ballweg, No. 21, looks one direction and passes to a teammate in the Parochial A game against Paramus Catholic.



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times

SHOOTING A HALF IN THE QUARTERS...Raider Gary Cousar, top, shoots a half on Boonton's Bill Beiermeister in the 191-lb. quarterfinals. Cousar tipped Beiermeister in 3:22.

remains in the hunt for a state title. Cousar began his move to the finals by rolling Boonton's Bill Beiermeister around the mats before tossing him with a mouth-opening Japanese whizzer and pinning him in 3:22. In the semis, Cousar scored a series of takedowns on Ed Zappulla of Colonia but took some chances and temporarily got himself in some difficulty. But Cousar twisted Zappulla to his back with a cork screw to record the fall in 4:54.

"When he tried to push in on me, I said to myself 'here it comes', so I threw the whizzer," said Cousar of

Raider freshman Derek Francavilla at 105 bagged two birds with one stone by defeating Roselle Park's Rob Dent, 6-3, to advance to the semifinals. Previously, at the Union County tournament, he dropped a decision to Dent.

Next, during his semifinal his bout with Dan DeAndrea of South Plainfield, he dislocated his finger, quickly had it reset and continued, but dropped a 7-2, decision. Despite his injury and observing his brother Lucas dislocate his elbow, Derek — who really weighs 97 pounds — went right at Ryan Pincus of Madison in

## Vineland Swimmers Entangle Lady Blue Devils in Public A

The 2000-2001 Westfield High School girls swim season ended with a 113-57 loss to powerful Vineland in the NJSIAA Public A Division championship meet a week ago Tuesday at Rider University.

Vineland had avenged its lone loss of the season when it eliminated four-time defending champion Cherry Hill East in the South Jersey

final. Meanwhile, the Blue Devils had to battle past Morristown to win the North Jersey crown, then upset West Windsor-Plainsboro South in the state semifinals.

The Blue Devils, coached by Martha Heintzelman and Jamie Ruzala, posted a 12-3 record — losing only to top-ranked Immaculate Heart, No. 2 Vineland and a

very strong Shawnee squad — while winning the Union County championship and the sectional title.

All in all, it was an outstanding season for a WHS team that lost three standouts to graduation a year ago — Abby and Jesse Coxson, and Katie Bartholomew — then had veteran coach Bev Torok step down. Then, to compound things, Westfield suffered a huge blow in early January when senior co-captain Ashley Saul, the team's best swimmer, decided to stop swimming competitively.

"We won counties, sectionals and we got to the state finals ... what's there to be ashamed of?" said senior Jenny Fowler, whose win in the 50 freestyle was WHS's lone victory vs. Vineland.

There was nothing to be ashamed of for a Westfield team that was without stars, but very deep on talent. Heintzelman had a bevy of seniors to call on — Fowler, Chrissy Schwebel, Stephanie Kolterjahn, Nikki Herttua and Kerry Hart being the most reliable. Juniors Chrissy Romano, Chris Kolenut, Becky Fallon and Jane Anderson were dependable, as were sophomores Alexa Vantosky, Heather Lane and Julie Vanarelli. Even the huge freshman class contributed to the team's success, led by Suzannah Fowler and Kellie Leighton.

Against Morristown, Fowler swept the sprints, while Kolterjahn and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

## Lady Raiders Crack Nutley Cagers, 46-32

By FRED LECOMTE  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

A first-quarter, 17-2, flurry by the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School basketball girls told the tale as the Raiders cracked ninth-seeded Nutley, 46-32, in the opener of the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 3 NJSIAA tournament on February 26 in Scotch Plains.

"Go out there and handle the press," stressed Raider Head Coach Brian Homm before the game, "They're going to be physical, they're going to bang us and they will be aggressive. We cannot back down, so we need to hold our ground in order to run our offense."

Homm was elated as his hoopsters became the aggressors, the bangers and the physical team that stormed all over the hardwood scoring 17 points in the opening quarter. Senior guard Najwa Glover had six of her eight points in that quarter.

"We were well prepared," said Glover, "We came out with a lot of confidence and got the momentum on our side. I just came out and did the best I could for the team."

The Raiders continued their razzle-dazzle style and extended the lead to, 26-12, by halftime.

The Raiders fell into a scoring lull in the third quarter but still maintained a sizable, 38-20, lead. Sophomore forward Lindsay Pennella dominated both sides of the board and demonstrated total enjoyment while scoring at will for a game high 18 points.

"We went out and pressed, hustled and did everything right," said Pennella, "We focused on defense allot and kept our heads in the game throughout, basically trying to outplay them early on."

Senior center Erin Gillooly established her dominance as well on the court while netting 12 points. "We kept them bottled up the entire game," commented Gillooly, "We did allot of talking on defense, so that style of communication allowed nothing to get by us, as a result, they didn't get too many clean shots."

A happy coach Homm commented, "We started real strong early on and jumped out with a comfortable lead, but it was Kellie LaForge (3 points), Katie Blum (4 points), Meghan Reddington and Colleen Coyle (4 points) and the rest of the team who were the vital components of this victory, so that was nice."

Nutley (10-14) 2 10 8 12 32  
Sc. Pf-Fnw (13-9) 17 9 7 13 46



Fred Lecomte for The Westfield Leader and The Times

RAIDER VERSES RAIDER...SP-F Raider Meghan Reddington, No. 10, tries to find a crack in the Nutley Raider defense in the North, Section 2, Group 3 game.

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