

No. 20 Raiders Overwhelm Linden Matmen, 57-16

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

While resting standouts Derek Francavilla – ranked fourth in the state at 125-lbs – and Andrew Silber – ranked third at 171-lbs, the 20th-ranked Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School wrestling team overwhelmed then 5-1 Linden, 57-16, in Scotch Plains on January 23. The 11-1 Raiders recorded six falls, three forfeits and one decision while the Tigers recorded one fall, a majority decision and two decisions.

Linden's top Tiger, heavyweight Ronnell Orr opened the bout with a 5-0 decision over senior Andrew Loomis. Orr recorded a fine ankle pick takedown in the first period then added an escape and set up a double leg takedown later in the bout. Orr also showed strong top riding – keeping on his toes to apply pressure – and breakdown skills.

Raider freshman Dave DeNichilo at 103-lbs, showing continued improvement, pinned Rani Rodriguez in 1:37 and freshman Sal Gano followed with a first-period, 1:33 fall over 112-lb Mike Pisarski to put the Raiders ahead 12-3. Senior 119-lb Ronnie Ferrara faced a strong but raw Ralph Calistine, who was, however, hard to keep down for a while, but he did manage to put him away in 2:27.

Wrestling in place of Francavilla at 125-lbs, Ricky Olsen came up against a fast and very strong Will-

iam Cooper who worked an effective roll through cradle to pin Olsen in 2:43, narrowing the score to 18-9. No Tigers set foot on the mat against Steve Mineo at 130 and Pat Mineo at 135, so the Raiders increased their lead to 30-9.

Raider Eric Connolly displayed the smoothest exhibition of the evening against 140-lb Mark Horzepa. Connolly exercised two takedowns to three-point near fall maneuvers and added another near fall from a crab ride to grab a 13-0 lead into the third period. Once again, Connolly turned Horzepa to his back near the outer ring. Sensing Horzepa's effort to scoot off to save a team point, Connolly quickly changed the pinning combination and clamped him with a cradle in 5:10.

Raider AJ Watson kept his wits about him with a physical Marco Rendesos and pulled out a 5-4 decision at 145-lbs and Pedro Coyt at 152-lbs, who had just recovered from a neck injury, wasted no time with Eric Meikle and showed him the lights in 1:02.

Linden won via decision at 160-lbs and majority decision at 171-lbs then Charlie Bachi faced off with a very muscular 189-lb Nick Dutto but caught him off-guard with a head throw in 3:09. Raider junior Marc Fabiano at 215-lbs strutted to center mat to receive a forfeit and to finalize the scoring.

Devil Matmen Top Millburn; Fall to Caldwell, Passaic Valley

The Westfield High School wrestling team evened its record to 6-6 with a 41-30 win over Millburn while losing, 46-24, to Caldwell and, 50-24, to Passaic Valley (PV) at the Paul J. Finn Memorial Tournament in Millburn on January 24. Blue Devils Rob Mench and Tom DelDuca each recorded two falls and a decision.

Mench stuck Millburn's Ricky Chandler in 1:44 and decisioned Caldwell's Joe Cortese, 8-1, at 103-lbs then pinned PV's Steve Kolanskowski in 2:20 at 112-lbs. DelDuca edged Millburn's Seth Podhoretz, 3-2, then pinned Caldwell's Pat Fazzini in 4:37 and PV's Joe Fitzgerald in 0:53 at 145-lbs.

Blue Devil Lee Tomasso at 152-

lbs pinned Millburn's Jordan Less in 1:30 and PV's Frank Urhack in 2:48 but was stopped in 1:31 by sixth-ranked Steve Martell of Caldwell. Andrew Shaffer at 160-lbs pinned Millburn's Alex Rice in 4:34 and won by 9-6, decision over Caldwell's Mike Kane.

Colin Willard at 171-lbs pinned Jorge Aspiazu of Millburn in 0:32 and Caldwell's Anthony Gargiuolo in 5:18. Heavyweight Nick Gismondini won a 2-1 decision over Caldwell's Tom O'Brien and received a forfeit against Millburn. Craig Hewit at 130-lbs decisioned Millburn's Dave Spektor, 8-6, and Dan Whitney at 140-lbs won by disqualification over PV's Anthony Rivera.



Fred K. LeComte for The Westfield Leader and The Times
HITTING A JUMPER...Blue Devil Joe Korfmacher fires in a jumper against East Side. Korfmacher netted six points and seven rebounds.

Blue Devil Cagers Hold Off Red Raider Boys, 57-50

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throwing it away, nervousness sets in and anything can happen. You can't sleep on a team like that and that included me. That ball has to be golden to us. Fortunately, we were able to hold them off."

The Blue Devils out-pointed East Side, 11-2, in the first quarter then

Cocozziello went on an offensive blitz in the second quarter netting seven points, including a three-pointer. Hayes and Power added two and Bryant added two from the stripe to give Westfield a 24-8 cushion.

The Blue Devils continued their offensive accuracy while the defense, led by Korfmacher, caused turnovers that led to a 13-6 Westfield advantage in the third quarter and a 23-point lead.

With five minutes remaining in the game, the Red Raiders shelled the basket 14 times, including eight 3-pointers. DaSilva nailed five 3-pointers. The Blue Devils frayed the net with 20 points, including 10 from the stripe. Hayes hit a jumper and three free throws. Blackmon scored five points, Korfmacher hit for four and Cocozziello nailed six points, including four free throws in the final 1:05.

Korfmacher, who played perhaps his best game of the season said, "We controlled most of the game, but we knew from the start that they had a good three-pointer. It appeared as if they really weren't into the game, perhaps they took us for granted. We came out strong, scored quickly, built up a sizeable lead and made a statement that we were here to win."

East Side	2	6	6	36	50
Westfield	11	13	13	20	57

Raider Matmen Get 2nd in JV Tourney

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Junior Varsity wrestling team – with the absence of three wrestlers – placed second in the JV Wrestling Tournament on January 24 with 179 points behind Roselle Park with 202 points. Eight Raiders advanced to the finals and three – Dakim Gaines (130), Joe Bachi (140) and Anthony Bora (189) – placed first. Bora was voted Most Valuable Wrestler of the tournament.

SPF Placements:	
130: Dakim Gaines	1st place
140: Joe Bachi	1st place
189: Tony Bora	1st place
103: Matt Fliessner	2nd place
119: Ricky Olsen	2nd place
160: Malcolm Shell	2nd place
171: Steve Betau	2nd place
215: Nick Giannaci	2nd place
152: Andre Melendez	3rd place

COCOZZIELLO NETS 16; BRYANT, 9 Blue Knight Cagers Cool Blue Devil Boys, 58-48

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

Team patience and quickness combined with Blue Devil turnovers opened the door for the Irvington High School boys basketball team to jump to a 20-point, second-quarter scoring burst and continued determination rewarded the Blue Knights a, 58-48, victory over host Westfield on January 20. Jan Cocozziello led the 6-5 Blue Devils with 16 points and forward Terrence Bryant banded in nine points, including two 3-point hits from downtown. Joe Korfmacher sank seven points, Eric Hayes struck one from long range and finished with five points while Billy Hearon and Tyshon Blackmon scored four points each.

Blue Knight center Shawn Colewell accounted for 17 points, including seven in the fourth quarter, and forward Jennell Wilburn scored 14.

"It was not a good day for us," said Blue Devil Head Coach Kevin Everly. "We struggled offensively and turned the ball over eleven times. We had their number in the first quarter, then in the second quarter they changed their defense and we didn't react to it very well. Once more, we had some mental lapses. On the positive side, Hearon came in and played very well. He stepped it up and accounted

for just one turnover."

The 7-5 Blue Knights were at the right place at the right time, gathered most of the rebounds and galloped to an early, 6-0, first quarter. However, the Blue Devils answered and showed their best flare with a 14-6 sprint to take a 14-12 lead by the end of the quarter. Cocozziello, on a few eye-ball popping spin moves, added six points and Blackmon put in five.

The 20-7 gallop in the second quarter, that included a 10-point run, gave the Blue Knights a 32-21 lead at the half. Bryant nailed a 3-pointer and Cocozziello and Korfmacher each added two points.

"Turnovers, turnovers," expressed coach Everly. "Turnovers turned into easy baskets for them. Our guys found it difficult adjusting against them. Teams must earn their points, otherwise you're not successful and we were not."

The Blue Devils kept pace in the third quarter when Bryant and Korfmacher pushed a seven-point run and outscored the Knights, 13-11. The Blue Knights shifted personnel in the fourth quarter and the Blue Devils continued their turnovers and missed shots. Irvington hit seven of eight shots to maintain the upper hand.

Irvington	12	20	11	15	58
Westfield	14	7	13	14	48

Local High School Boys Varsity Basketball Results:

JANUARY 20:

Dayton 57, Union Catholic 49
Chris Varga bucketed 13 points and Mike Seaman scored seven for the Vikings.

Union Catholic	19	8	8	14	49
Dayton	13	8	18	18	57

JANUARY 22:

Scotch Plains-Fanwood 55, Irvington 51
Derrick Caracer netted 20 points, 15 rebounds and 15 blocks for the Raiders. Sean Fuller scored 12 points, Lance Thomas sank 11 and Mike Walker had six points.

Sc. Pl.-Fmwd.	10	8	9	17	11	55
Irvington	7	13	16	12	3	51

North Plainfield 60, Union Catholic 41
Viking Shannon Brown bucketed eight points.

N. Plainfield (10-0)	28	9	19	4	60
Union Catholic	9	8	15	9	41

JANUARY 23:

Governor Livingston 53, Union Catholic 34

Mike Amalfe, Bryan Beal and Jason Hollowell each scored nine points for 7-3 GL. Chris Esperon sank 12 points for UC.

Gov. Livingston	20	10	15	8	53
Union Catholic	7	6	15	6	34

JANUARY 24:

Scotch Plains-Fanwood 50, Cranford 48

Lance Thomas had 15 points and Mike Johnson, who finished with nine points, nailed two 3-pointers and a free throw in the final minute for the Raiders.

Sc. Pl.-Fanwood	14	12	15	5	50
Cranford	10	11	12	15	48

Westfield 62, Shabazz 50

Jan Cocozziello fired in 17 points and Terrence Bryant sank 16.

Shabazz	16	8	6	20	50
Westfield (8-5)	9	18	17	18	62

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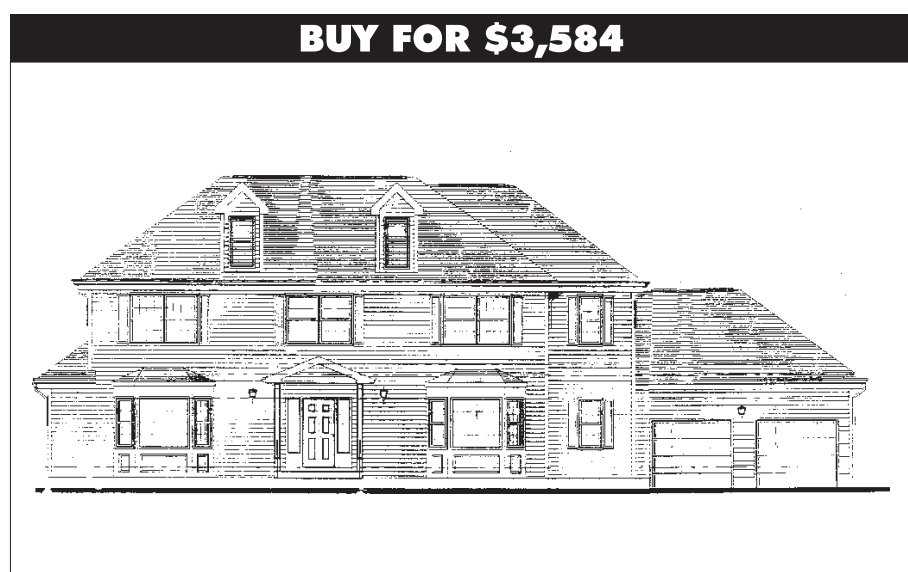
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