

# Rahway Wrestlers Capture Union County Mat Crown

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Rahway's Joel Acevedo in 21 seconds with a lateral drop.

"It was sad to see my brother lose. I couldn't let that get to me. If he wanted to get physical with me, I wanted to show him that I could do the same thing. He came upper body. I had my chance, so I dropped him to his back," said Mineo.

Fabiano, seeded first, received a bye then added a 21-second fall and a 5-2 decision to reach the finals to meet Rahway's Andre Neblett. Fabiano recorded a duck under takedown in the first period, a second-period reversal and a third-period takedown to emerge victorious with a 6-5 decision.

"This means so much! I always wanted this," said the joyfully emotional Fabiano, undefeated at 20-0. "The coaches knew I could do it. They pushed me. I wanted it so bad. They are great wrestlers, both those guys (Ronell Orr and Neblett). I did not want to go into overtime. I wanted to end it right there."

Westfield entered only five wrestlers and finished with a second place and two third places. Andrew Shaffer received a bye, then pinned Steve Ferrao of Cranford in 1:38 with a half nelson to reach the 152-lb semifinals to face Raider AJ Watson, who had defeated him, 7-6, in the dual meet. Shaffer recorded five takedowns, two escapes and a two-point tilt to earn a 14-2, majority decision.

"I had one word in my mind. Terrorize! I was so unhappy with my loss to him in the dual meet. This was my chance. I stayed away from his legs.

Now I'm going to the finals," commented Shaffer.

In the finals, Shaffer was defeated 11-5 by Panther Troy MacDermant

Prior to his loss to Shaffer, Watson received a bye and pinned Union's Tom Mohan in 2:32 with a very unique double, back arm bar, back trip to a double grapevine.

10, then finished fourth after being topped by Brearley's Hany El Shiek.

Blue Devil Sam Kramer, seeded fourth at 112-lbs, received a bye, then pinned Rahman Fuquan of Elizabeth in 3:26 with a half nelson, arm bar. After being defeated by Rahway's Wilson, he pinned Union's Ryan Lockwood, then recorded a 13-2,

by placing second at 119-lbs. Gano marched to the finals with a bye, a 5-4 decision over Pioneer Wade Baldwin and an 8-4 decision over Elizabeth's Eric Ogada. In the finals, Panther Joe Blackford won via fall in 1:08.

After trailing Ogada, 4-0, Gano came back strong and sealed the victory with a 3-point guillotine maneuver. "I had to do something to get to the finals. The hard work in practice helped me come back and get him," Gano explained.

Raider Dakiem Gaines came on strong to place third at 130-lbs. After defeating Rahway's Oscar Zuniga, he was defeated by top-seeded Panther Brian Swick in the quarterfinals. In the wrestlebacks, Gaines received a forfeit, pinned Mike Newman of Johnson and took third place by pinning Pioneer Mike Boccicelli in 1:23 with a half nelson, arm lock.

Raider Nick Giannaci ended things nicely by pinning Panther Anthony Weiland in 1:42 with a Turk, half nelson in the 215-lb third-place bout.

"After I lost to Boyden, I got my head right. I wanted to get the Turk in then get the half. Basic moves are going to win matches," said Giannaci.

Previously, Giannaci received a bye and defeated Rahway's Jon Veras, 5-2, before being edged, 5-4, by Brearley's Jesse Boyden, the eventual champion, in the semifinals.

### TOP 10 TEAMS:

1. Rahway (R) 196.5, 2. Roselle Park (RP) 182.5, 3. New Providence (NP) 179, 4. Scotch Plains-Fanwood (S) 153, 5. Union (U) 123, 6. Brearley (B) 105.5, 7. Linden (L) 101, 8. Cranford (C) 99, 9. Johnson (J) 83, 10. Elizabeth (E) 74.5

### CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND:

- 103: — Anthony Priore (J) tf Peter Terrezza (NP), 15-0, 5:18
- 112: — Ryan Wilson (R) p Adel Afzal (NP), 1:32
- 119: — Joe Blackford (RP) p Sal Gano (S), 1:08
- 125: — Ross Baldwin (NP) tf Ross Soares (RP), 15-0, 5:43
- 130: — Tom Duffy (U) p Brian Swick (RP), 5:57
- 135: — Darrion Caldwell (R) p Steve Mineo (S), :54
- 140: — Pat Mineo (S) p Joel Acevedo (R), :21
- 145: — Peter Jacangelo (U) md Marc Neuwirh (NP), 15-2
- 152: — Troy MacDermant (RP) d Andrew Shaffer (W), 11-5
- 160: — Pat Hogan (C) p Jesse Von Linden (U), 5:11
- 171: — CJ Ferrara (C) tf Jose Nazario (U), 18-2, 4:19
- 189: — Shane Mallory (NP) p Jose Otero (Plainfield), 2:27
- 215: — Jesse Boyden (B) d Julio Loperena (L), 10-4
- Hwt: — Marc Fabiano (S) d Andre Neblett (R), 6-5

### THIRD PLACE:

- 103: — Nelson Orellana (Plainfield) p Robert Piper (B), :29
- 112: — Sam Kramer (W) md Kevin Blatt (RP), 13-2
- 119: — Eric Ogada (E) tf Rob Coughlin (Governor Livingston), 15-0, 5:15
- 125: — Ralph Celestin (L) d Joe Miraz (B), 2-1
- 130: — Dakiem Gaines (S) p Mike Boccicelli, 1:23
- 135: — Mike Coler (ALJ) d Ben Aumenta (GL), 3-1
- 140: — Mark Mross (RP) d Mark Horzepa (L), 2-1
- 145: — Carlos Nicasio (R) d Marco Renderos (L), 4-3
- 152: — Hany El Shiek (B) p AJ Watson (S), 5:04
- 160: — Sherrick Goodridge (R) p John Granados (NP), 1:02
- 171: — Dan Whitney (W) d Alex Allman, 3-1
- 189: — Rich Tabor (E) md Jim Sinatra (RP), 10-1
- 215: — Nick Giannaci (S) p Anthony Weiland (RP), 1:42
- Hwt: — Ronnell Orr (L) d Manny Lewis (B), 10-5



Fred Lecomte for The Westfield Leader and The Times Times Sports Editor/Assistant Publisher Dave Corbin relates his feelings to Leader/weight title.

"It was kind of like a double Gable. This time I was standing, so I did an inside trip and threw him to his back," Watson described. "It worked out good!"

In the wrestlebacks, Watson defeated Rahway's Sidney Graham, 16-

majority decision over Panther Kevin Blatt to capture third place.

Blue Devil Dan Whitney, after receiving a bye, fell victim to a cement mixer fall at the hands of Rahway's Alex Allman in the 171-lb quarterfinals. He regrouped to record a 10-3 decision over Panther Mike Kurant and won by injury default over Johnson's Scott Diaz. In the third-place bout, Whitney again met Allman but, this time, he recorded a third-period escape and a head-and-arm takedown to win 3-1.

"I beat him earlier this year. He pinned me yesterday. I gave it all I got. I'm happy with the way I performed today," said Whitney.

Raider Sal Gano upped his stock

## Raider Hoopsters Stop Lady Cougars, 42-33

Senior guard Jenny Burke scored eight of her team-high 12 points in the second half to help the 13-5 Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School girls basketball team hold down a late Cranford Cougar rally for a 42-33 win in Scotch Plains on February 1.

The Raiders jumped out to a 13-3 lead in the first quarter and used a 12-6 edge in the third quarter to build a 34-17 lead before the Cougars outscored SPF, 16-8, over the final eight minutes. Cranford's Lisa Levonas had a game-high 13 points, hitting eight in the fourth quarter.

Senior center Hillary Klimowicz finished rolled in nine points while adding 10 rebounds, five blocks and two assists. Rebecca Flanagan netted six points for the 9-8 Cougars.

**CRANFORD (9-8)**  
Levonas 3-1-4-13, Porter 0-0-2-2, Kellner 1-0-2-4, Rutmayer 1-0-0-2, Flanagan 3-0-0-6, Minizelli 0-0-2-2, Cartwright 2-0-0-4.

**SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD (13-5)**  
Gillooly 1-1-0-5, Burke 6-0-0-12, Decataldo 2-0-1-5, Benevengo 2-0-1-5, Klimowicz 4-0-1-9, Kaye 1-0-1-3, Mains 1-0-1-3, Spady 0-0-0-0.

Cranford	3	8	6	16	33
Sc. Pl.-Fanwood	13	9	12	8	42



Fred Lecomte for The Westfield Leader and The Times PUTTING ON THE FINISHING TOUCH...Blue Devil Dan Whitney tries to finish off Roselle Park Panther Mike Kurant, but settles for a 10-3 victory in his 171-lb bout.

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David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times GOING FOR THE SINGLE LEG...Raider Marc Fabiano, left, attempts a single leg takedown on Rahway's Andre Neblett in the heavyweight final.

## A Prelude to the Union County Tournament

# Raider Matmen Gear Up For 4-Way Race in UCT

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

The picture for the top seeds in the individual weight classes got a little clearer on February 2 when the hosting Scotch Plains-Fanwood (SPF) High School wrestling team defeated Union, 43-28, and Roselle Park (RP) edged Rahway in a 32-28 thriller before a packed house at Rahway High School gym. As of this date, however, the team title appeared to be up for grabs among four contenders — the SPF Raiders, RP Panthers, Rahway and the New Providence Pioneers who stunned Rahway, 36-29, on January 26.

In the 13-3 Raiders' win over 11-4 Union, Farmer Pete Jacangelo put a strong bid in for the top seed at 145-lbs by recording a fall over Anthony Ferrante in 1:55. Jacangelo had already defeated strong contender Carlos Nicasio of Rahway, 11-3.

Raiders Steve and Pat Mineo remained undefeated in Union County bouts at their respective 135-lb and 140-lb weight classes and heavyweight Marc Fabiano, also undefeated, should have received at least a second seed. Nick Giannaci, whose only county loss was to Linden's Julio Loperena, looked to receive a seed in the top three at 215-lbs.

In the showdown between the 9-0 Panthers and the 8-2 Rahway Indians, the deciding bout of the evening came at 189-lbs. Indian Jon Veras, who was leading entering the third period, was on the verge of recording a pin late in the period. Unfortunately, his over zealousness caused him to get a little off-balance and Panther Jim Sinatra took advantage and rolled him to his back to record a fall four seconds before the buzzer. That created, at least, a nine-point swing in the team score.

Another missed opportunity for Rahway came in the 119-bout between Indian Joe Andes and Panther George Branco. Andes recorded a first-period takedown but received a stalling warning in the scoreless second period. In the third period, a second warning resulted in the award-

ing of a penalty point that would come back to haunt Andes. Branco escaped to tie the bout, then recorded a takedown but Andes countered with a reversal to send the bout into overtime — without the penalty point, Andes would have won, 4-3, in regulation. In overtime, Branco scored a takedown to grab the win.

Indian Ryan Wilson proved he was a shoe-in for the top seed at 112-lbs by recording a 9-0, majority decision over Kevin Blatt and teammates Darrion Caldwell (2004 New Jersey state champion at 119-lbs) at 130-lbs and heavyweight Andre Neblett recorded devastating victories. Panther Troy MacDermant secured his dominance at 152-lbs by pinning Sydney Graham in 3:25 and Joe Blackford, ranked seventh in the state at 119-lbs received a forfeit at 125-lbs.

### SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD 43, UNION 28

- 125: — Ricky Olsson (S) d Joe Sulkowski, 12-5
- 130: — Tom Duffy (U) p Dakiem Gaines, 2:50
- 135: — Steve Mineo (S) p Tim Lessel, 1:15
- 140: — Pat Mineo (S) p Brian Guimardo, 3:22
- 145: — Jacangelo (U) p Ferrante, 1:55
- 152: — AJ Watson (S) p Tom Mohan, 5:37
- 160: — Joe Bachi (S) won forfeit
- 171: — Jose Nazario (U) p Bob Beatha, :25
- 189: — Tom Aherm (U) d Chris Pflaum, 3:0
- 215: — Giannaci (S) won forfeit
- Hwt: — Fabiano (S) won forfeit

### ROSELLE PARK 32, RAHWAY 28

- 140: — Mark Mross (RP) md Joel Acevedo, 17-9
- 145: — Nicasio (R) d Eric Wright, 7-1
- 152: — MacDermant (RP) p Graham, 3:25
- 160: — Sherrick Goodridge (R) d Rich Benner, 4-2
- 171: — Alex Allman (R) d Mike Kurant, 3-0
- 189: — Sinatra (RP) p Veras, 5:56
- 215: — James Huezro (R) d Anthony Weiland, 6-0
- Hwt: — Neblett (R) p Mike Lefano, 1:55
- 103: — Craig Montgomery (RP) d Juan Herrera, 2-0
- 112: — Wilson (R) md Blatt, 9-0
- 119: — Branco (RP) d Andes, 6-4, OT
- 125: — Blackford (RP) won forfeit
- 130: — Ross Soares (RP) md Jon Santoni, 12-1
- 135: — Caldwell (R) p Brian Swick, 3:12

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