

Blue Devil Bowlers Tie Tigers For WCT Nat. Division Lead

The Westfield High School bowling team currently has a 6-1 record as of January 7 and is tied for first place in the Watchung Conference National Division.

The Blue Devils' most recent win was against No. 2 rated Linden on January 6 at Hyway Bowl in Linden. The Blue Devils out-pinned the Tigers 2,747-2,610 and had a 7-0 sweep, which left both teams with identical 49-10 team points.

The first game was a hard-fought, 884-837, victory. Senior Captain Brian Stotter bowled a strong, at the right time, 192 game. Sophomore Harrison Mercado had a 217 high game and senior Brian Burkhardt had a 186 to assist Stotter.

In the second game, Westfield held on for an 893-863 win. Sophomore super sub Bryan Elsasser led the

Blue Devils with a high game of 202. Stotter, Burkhardt and Mercado all chipped in with solid games to hold back the Tigers, which was led by *The Star-Ledger* Bowler of the Week Anthony Amato (213).

Westfield bowled a season-high 970 in the third game to out-point the Tigers with 910. Mercado had a high game of 234 as sophomore Tristan Bellotti joined in with a 193. Tiger Wadell Ward came from a high JV game of 264 to lead the varsity in the final game with a 230. Elsasser joined the varsity for Westfield after he had bowled a 203 in the first JV game.

The Blue Devils will compete in the prestigious Mid-Winter Classic at Brunswick Zone Carolier Lanes in North Brunswick on Saturday, January 15, at 1:30 p.m.



David B. Corbin for *The Westfield Leader and The Times*

WORKING A TILT...Blue Devil Andrew Shaffer, right, works for a tight waist tilt on Kardinal Nick Cedola in the 152-lb bout. Shaffer won a 16-5, majority decision.

SHAFFER, WHITNEY GET 9TH WINS

Blue Devil Matmen Win Five of Six vs Cardinals

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

Forfeiting eight bouts out of 14 makes it impossible for a team to win a wrestling match, so the best that can be done is to maximize the efforts of the individuals who are competing. Although the Westfield High School wrestling team dropped a 54-25 decision to Kearny - 48 points via forfeit - on January 7 in Westfield, the Blue Devils managed to win five of the six bouts that were contested.

Blue Devils Andrew Shaffer and Dan Whitney both improved their records to 9-2 with impressive victories. Mark Boyd and Matt Kamel each recorded falls and Colin Willard won via decision.

The Blue Devils were en route to make a clean sweep but 119-lb Colin MacKay, who was leading 4-2 at the time and working a little too hastily to get a pin, instead fell victim to a headlock fall in 1:28 to Kardinal Chris Osborne.

Kamel, at 125-lbs, recorded a takedown and two near falls in the first period, then added an escape, two takedowns and a near fall to carry a 14-1 lead into the third period. Kamel took Kardinal Marcus Diniz to the mat and immediately rocked him in a cradle to record a fall in 4:35.

Although not particularly happy with his performance, Shaffer recorded a 16-5, majority decision over 152-lb Nick Cedola. He was especially effective on his feet recording four takedowns, one a slick duck under and another a step back and shoot to a double leg.

"I made a lot of mistakes," con-

fessed Shaffer. "I put myself in some bad positions but I made some progress with my drags. I'm not great with my tilts but I tried them anyway."

At 160-lbs, Boyd shot several times in the first period for double leg takedowns, but always found himself clenching in a head-and-arm situation by Kardinal Brian Wiltrout. In the second period, Boyd pulled off a fine side single takedown with a limp arm then clamped Wiltrout in 2:42.

"He was a lot stronger than I thought. He kept getting my head then finally I took my shot, got around the corner and he tried to roll on me. I let him roll and pinned him halfway through it," Boyd explained.

At 171-lbs, Whitney recorded two takedowns and a reversal before head-smothering Jayce Burton in 3:03.

"I got into his head a little bit then I shot an alright high croch. He tried a type of roll and I caught him there," explained Whitney.

Willard recorded a first period takedown and added a penalty point and a reversal in the third period to claim a 5-1 decision over Joe Topchev at 189-lbs.

WEIGHT SEQUENCE:
103: — Phil Cruz (K) won forfeit
112: — Joey Malaquias (K) won forfeit
119: — Osborne (K) p. MacKay, 1:28
125: — Kamel (W) p. Diniz, 4:35
130: — Don Plaugic (K) won forfeit
135: — Mike Gouveia (K) won forfeit
140: — Kyle Stalk (K) won forfeit
145: — Steve Cedola (K) won forfeit
152: — Shaffer (W) md Nick Cedola, 16-5
160: — Boyd (W) p. Wiltrout, 2:42
171: — Whitney (W) p. Burton, 3:03
189: — Willard (W) d Topchev, 5-1
215: — Joe DosSantos (K) won forfeit
Hwt: — Adam Pearsall (K) won forfeit

Westfield Icemen Hold Own Against Tough Opponents

By ANDREW GOLDMAN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

The Westfield High School Blue Devil Ice Hockey team continued its season with three games last week. Two of the three games were in conference play. The first game was against Watchung Hills.

Watchung took an early 1-0 lead but senior captain Greg Speir scored to tie the game. The game entered the third period with the Blue Devils holding a 3-2 advantage on additional goals by sophomore defenseman Philip Buonocore and Speir's second of the game. However, Westfield was unable to hold the lead and the game ended in a 3-3 tie.

The Blue Devils' week continued with a game against conference foe Verona, who had an 8-1 record prior to the faceoff. The Blue Devils had a one-goal lead in the third period but Verona netted two goals in less than a

minute to grab a 5-4 lead. Westfield did come back to salvage a 5-5 tie.

Sophomore Brian Davidson, senior Brady Lau and senior captain Greg Speir each fired in a goal and junior assistant captain Sal Esposito ripped in two goals. Senior Ryan Madaras contributed with two assists. The Blue Devils nearly won the game after senior captain Brent Davis deflected a shot that got behind the goalie, but hit the post in the game's final minute.

Westfield's week concluded with another game against Verona. Verona jumped out to a 2-0 lead, but Davis scored two goals to tie the game. Verona answered with two more goals to win the game 4-2 and hand the Blue Devils their first conference loss of the season.

Raider Cagers Rout Cougar Boys, 73-48

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School boys basketball team burned in 53 points in the second half to rout the Cranford Cougars, 73-48, in Scotch Plains on January 4. Junior guard D.J. Garrett sank two 3-pointers in the third quarter and added six more points in the final quarter to ignite the Raiders' offense.

Sophomore guard Greg Bayard led the 2-4 Raiders with 16 points and Gavin Ford put up 12 points. Terrence Grier led the 4-2 Cougars with 22 points.

Cranford Cagers Stop Blue Devil Boys, 69-51

The Cranford High School boys basketball team rolled with a 26-11 third quarter to stop host Westfield, 69-51, on January 8. Cougar Terrence Grier burned the Blue Devils netting 39 points, including five 3-pointers, while grabbing 13 rebounds and making eight steals. Eric Hayes scored 16 points for Westfield and Bryan Power put in seven points.

Cranford (5-3)	19	10	26	14	69
Westfield (2-5)	11	9	11	20	51

Cranford	15	10	14	9	48
Sc. Pl.-Fanwood	13	7	21	32	73



David B. Corbin for *The Westfield Leader and The Times*

SETTING UP A HEAD SMOTHER...Blue Devil Dan Whitney, top, begins to turn out the lights on Kardinal Jayce Burton in the 171-lb bout.

Raider Matmen Win 2, Lose 1 At Patriot Duals in Blairstown

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School wrestling team went 2-1 at the Patriot Duals in Blairstown on January 8. The Raiders defeated East Stroudsburg, Pa., 57-16, and Lenape Valley, 37-35, but lost to host North Warren, 42-28.

Raider heavyweight Marc Fabiano won all three of his bouts via first-period falls, the quickest being in 56 seconds over East Stroudsburg's L. Thompson. At 145-lbs, Anthony Ferrante recorded a third-period fall over his Pa. opponent, won a 12-4, majority decision over North Warren's Doug Anderson and nipped Brett Leister of Lenape Valley, 3-2 in sudden death overtime.

Sal Gano won all three of his bouts at 119-lbs. He pinned his Pa. opponent, won 10-8 over North Warren's Kyle Jablon and received a forfeit against Lenape Valley. Pat Mineo won both of his bouts at 140-lbs via pins. Nick Giannaci recorded a fall and received a forfeit.

Trevor Cannon pinned his Pa. opponent at 112-lbs and dropped two decisions. Ricky Olsson at 125-lbs, won via fall and forfeit and lost one via fall. At 152-lbs, A.J. Watson won a 5-2 decision against North Warren but lost his other two bouts. Rob Bethea recorded a 12-9 victory in his only bout at 171-lbs and Keith Baker won via fall against East Stroudsburg.

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