

Arts & Entertainment

Tomorrow's Sportscasters Trained At Summer Camp With WF Ties

By JOSH HAMERMAN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD — Bruce Beck, WNBC-TV weekend sports anchor and weekday sports reporter, knew from an early age that he wanted to be a sportscaster.

In high school, the Livingston native often entertained his basketball teammates by delivering play-by-play commentary during bus rides to away games. In the summer of 2002, Mr. Beck, along with his friend and fellow sportscaster Ian Eagle, opened the Bruce Beck and Ian Eagle Sports Broadcasting Camp to give today's aspiring sportscasters career guidance and hands-on training.

The five-day program takes place at Montclair State University's Yogi Berra Museum and Learning Center, and teaches participants crucial skills such as interviewing coaches and players, anchoring, hosting and producing a talk radio show, sideline reporting, using a TelePrompTer, giving play-by-play coverage on TV and radio, and more.



Photo Courtesy of David Siroy
PRACTICE...As part of his experience at the Bruce Beck sports camp, Brad Speck practices a "stand-up" prior to a minor league baseball game.

"I always wanted to enter this business, but there was never a vehicle like this when I was in high school," Mr. Beck told *The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*. "I think it's a terrific head-start and a great learning experience for youngsters who wouldn't have had a chance to do this until recently."

Mr. Eagle, the New Jersey Nets' TV announcer who contributes to CBS Sports, WFAN Radio, and YES Network, echoed Mr. Beck's sentiments.

"I wouldn't change the path I took to broadcasting, but it would have been great to have some insight into the business at an earlier age," he said. "When you're in high school and you try to visualize yourself going forward into the next chapter of your life, you look for guidance. I certainly have no problem sharing my experiences and trying to help in any way I can."

In addition to the above material, the camp curriculum includes field trips to Giants Stadium and the NBA Entertainment studios, and time with guest speakers. Past speakers include Yogi Berra, WWOR-TV's Russ Salzberg, and Westfield resident Matt Loughlin, a sportscaster for Fox Sports Net New York and MSG Network. The week concludes with a final project — delivering play-by-play of a minor league baseball game.

David Siroy of Westfield, the camp's general manager, told *The Leader/Times*, "We don't just want to give students an understanding of what sports broadcasting is — we also want them to experience it first-hand."

Praising the two chief instructors, Mr. Siroy said, "Ian is more professional with a great sense of humor, and Bruce is your stereotypical rah-rah camp counselor. I think he forgets he's a big-time sportscaster."

"They're both well-liked, true professionals," he added. "For them to run a camp like this means they have to love it, because they don't need to do it and they're exhausted at the end of every day."

Mr. Siroy noted that young men and women between ages 14 and 18 are eligible for the camp, but enrollment is limited to 60 people.

"We could take as many kids as possible, but it wouldn't be the same," he said. "We try to keep it to a smaller number of students so Bruce, Ian, and the rest of the staff can get to know



Photo Courtesy of David Siroy
SPECIAL INTERVIEW...Westfield High School senior Brad Speck is interviewed by News 12 New Jersey's Joey Wahler prior to doing a play-by-play of a minor league baseball game.

everyone personally."

Mr. Beck and Mr. Eagle keep in touch with camp alumni, many of whom have requested letters of recommendation during the college application process.

Returning campers participate in an advanced program that covers topics such as producing and delivering a highlight package and a 5-minute commentary report. These students work with Larry Londino, Chairman of Montclair State University's broadcasting department, and Mike Quick, host of MSG Network's "High School Sports Weekly."

Brad Speck, a Westfield High School senior, used his experiences under Mr. Quick's instruction as the focus of his college application essays. Brad was one of the original participants during the

Queen of Arts

Craft Projects, Books, Patterns All Year 'Round

Stepping Stones, Papers, Albums Chandelier Earrings, Trimmings

By MICHELLE HELEN Le POIDEVIN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

In my backyard, I have been working on an iris garden to memorialize my grandmother, who passed away last year. Besides the iris bulbs we sprinkled around the grounds, the garden needed a special sign or stepping stone to distinguish the area.

Milestones Products' "Mosaic Stepping Stone Kit" filled the tall order. Using the kit's simple directions and plentiful supplies, such as stone mix, a plastic mold, and a bag of stained glass shards, I crafted the octagonal Japanese iris stone (pictured, center) and carved my grandmother's initials with the writing tool supplied in the kit. Gram would have been proud.

Listen up, scrapbookers! WorldWin papers offer you endless splashes of color with their fade-resistant Doublemates series, ideal for stamping and card-making. Their translucent vellums, Vellum Naturals, floral vellums, and new glistening Petalics papers, which especially add a regal quality to scrapbook pages highlighting weddings and birth announcements.

As a scrapbooker, WorldWin's Doublemates have been a Godsend to work with. The color on one side of the cardstock can be used to complement the other side's hue when creating background mats and frames for your photos. I'm never at a loss for options. This weekend, I used two different blue Petalics papers for a page featuring a new baby boy in our family. This is one of the best pages in my scrapbook because the shiny, quality paper added just the right dimension to my layout.

A vibrant "Vineyard" mini album by Kolo showcased Mother's Day photos from a trip to Peddler's Village in Pennsylvania with panache. This company produces some of the most crisp, cheerfully-colored archival products in the industry. Most of the albums can be tied up with a matching ribbon for easy access and a clean, finished look.

products are super-sturdy. If you change your mind about using a trim and wish to remove it, the products are prone to ripping and tearing easily.

Arctic Frog scrapbooking products can best be described as peppy, edgy, fun and bold. Six collections, including "Business Casual," "Play Clothes" and "Garden Party," make pages pop. The alphabet stickers feature unique scripts and coordinate with the company's papers and accents.

Finally, in the world of jewelry design, Darice has provided chandelier earring forms that, once your elegant earrings are completed, are guaranteed to garner heaps of compliments. The jewelry giant manufactures about six different versions of these forms and I used one of the sets to craft the earrings pictured, above.

Any fashionista knows that chandelier earrings are all the rage and nothing is more stylish than using beads in various sizes and colors to coordinate with your sizzling summer outfits. Besides Darice's chandelier forms, you'll need beads, a pair of pliers, wire cutters, headpins and an imagination without limits.

You'll be so proud when folks ask you, "Where did you buy those earrings?" and you can respond, "Oh, I made them myself."

For more information on the products mentioned in this column, visit www.milestonesproducts.com; www.worldwinpapers.com; www.kolo-usa.com; www.paperspectives.com; www.arcticfrog.net; and www.darice.com. The Milestones kits are also sold at AC Moore. Kolo albums are available at Barnes and Noble, and Michaels carries most Darice products.

camp's 2002 inaugural session, and has returned every subsequent summer.

He had the opportunity to utilize what he absorbed at the camp when he called basketball, lacrosse, baseball, and volleyball games for Westfield's TV-36.

"A lot of people think sports broadcasting is just an easy 'one, two, three, I'm on the air' type of thing, but it's not," he said. "There's a lot of hard work and preparation that go into it."

This year's camp term is Brad's last. In the fall, he will begin his freshman year at King's College in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., where he plans to study radio broadcasting.

"The camp helped me organize my life better, and it gave me a crash course in the

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New to the Kolo collection is the Hudson book-bound pocket photo album, the Noci 4-inch by 6-inch brag book for those proud grandmas and parents of recent graduates, and my personal favorite, the Mini Mini, which comes in 10 cute colors and has room for your favorite tiny photos. At \$3.75, the 2 1/2-inch by 2 1/2-inch Mini Mini is not only affordable, but convenient. Kolo suggests using these little wonders as tree ornaments, gift tags or mini brag books.

Paperspectives, a family-owned and operated company with over 57 years in the business, is manufacturing some of the most adorable coordinating papers, "Trim Paks," and charms. The baby collection (complete with pacifiers and babies nestled in peapods) and candy corn stripes (with an adorable witch) by artist Jayna James are rich in color and the illustrations are gorgeous.

Cynthia Zittel designed the "Arbor Snowflakes" papers and paks for Paperspectives, which make a winter scrapbook page a delight to design. Her "Heirloom Stitches" collection lends a hand-stitched quality to layouts calling for a nostalgic, down-home feel.

Best of all, Paperspectives products are super-sturdy. If you change your mind about using a trim and wish to remove it, the products are prone to ripping and tearing easily.

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Poet, Father of Longtime Westfielder Memorialized by Native Italian Town

By MARYLOU MORANO
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD — The poet Giuseppe Incalicho, father of longtime Westfield resident Mario Incalicho, was recently honored by Fondi, Italy, the town of his birth, located about 70 miles south of Rome.

The highlight of the ceremony, which took place on May 4, was the naming of a piazza in honor of the poet. Mario and his wife, Mary Ann, and many friends were in attendance. Also present were Fondi mayor, Luigi Parisella, as well as other dignitaries.

Two classes of students from the local school recited some of the poet's writings, and several people gave speeches, including Mario Incalicho. The event was televised locally in Fondi.

Giuseppe was born in Fondi on February 25, 1889. His father died when he was 5, and at age 12 he quit school and took over the support of his family. Although denied a formal education, Mr. Incalicho never abandoned his love of knowledge and of reading, and on his own he studied the great Italian authors, Pellico, Manzoni, Leopardi and Carducci.

Mr. Incalicho immigrated to America around 1910, and settled on Staten Island. He married a girl from Italy, and with her had four children. Although he lived in the United States for the remainder of his life, he never



Photo Courtesy of Mario Incalicho
POINTING WITH PRIDE...While in Fondi, Italy, Westfielder Mario Incalicho points to a street sign commemorating his father's legacy as a poet.

lost his love for Fondi, which was the subject of much of his poetry, and earned him the name "The Cantor of Fondi."

Over his lifetime, Giuseppe authored thousands of poems, which have been published in 11 volumes. All his writings were in Italian. He was the recipient of many literary awards, both in Italy and the United States.

"My father was a sensitive, kind and

caring man, and this all came out in his poetry," explained Mario.

"I've had a 'delayed reaction' to his work," he continued. "I knew about his writing when I was young, but my father didn't make a big deal out of it."

What the younger Incalicho does remember about his father is that he "wrote endlessly" on any scrap of paper he could find. After his father's death in 1971, Mario found poems scribbled on the outside of an envelope.

In addition to his poetry, Giuseppe also wrote a number of novels, which were never published. He also penned a biography, "The Countess of Fondi," based on the life of 15th century Countess of Fondi, Giulia Gonzaga. The work is currently under consideration for publishing.

'Old Gypsy' Role Goes To Jackson of Westfield

By MICHELLE HELEN Le POIDEVIN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD — Although he modestly admitted that the role of the "Old Gypsy" in the New Jersey State Opera's rendition of Verdi's *Il Trovatore* is "very, very small," Gregory Jackson of Westfield is aiming for big success once he graduates Mason Gross School of the Arts in October.

"I've been singing all of my life, ever since I went to church at Redeemer Lutheran Church," he told *The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*.

The 24-year-old vocal performance major played bass before he entered Westfield High School (WHS), where he became a football player. Proving that his love of music was not entirely lost, when he attended Roanoke College in Salem, Va. for one year, he studied singing. He transferred to Union County College and then enrolled in courses at Mason Gross.

"I really owe it all to Jay Tramm, one of my professors at Mason Gross," said Gregory, adding that Mr. Tramm is also the New Jersey State Opera's Chorus Master.

"What never fails to impress me about Gregory is how seriously he takes his commitments," Mr. Tramm told *The Leader/Times*. "He is always prepared and gives his best. As a conductor and a teacher, this combination is critical to success in any field. Gregory will have a bright future in whatever he decides to do and I hope to work with him for many more years to come."

When asked about the scope of

his "Old Gypsy" role, Gregory, who is also a member of *Il Trovatore*'s chorus, said, "He's an old guy who basically says, 'The sun is coming up, we need bread, let's go.'"

Currently, Gregory is trying to organize a vocal studio, searching for students who would be focused, professional and dedicated to their craft. He has spoken to his former WHS music teacher, Bill Mathews, about the project.

In addition, he will sing in a production of Handel's *L'Allegro*, which will be staged at Lincoln Center during the Mostly Mozart Festival. He said the experience

will be especially unique because he will be singing in the pit while the dance troupe performs on stage.

"Before I can become a successful solo performer," Gregory told *The Leader/Times*, "I feel that I must be a part of various choruses."

Being involved with the New Jersey State Opera, he said, has afforded him many memorable opportunities as a performer and has helped him network in his industry.

"I'm very grateful to them," he said. "They are a wonderful group of people."

Il Trovatore will be staged on Friday, June 10, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, June 12, at 3 p.m. with a student matinee on Thursday, June 9, in Prudential Hall at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark.

For tickets and more information, please call (973) 623-5757. To contact Gregory about his vocal studio, please e-mail gregoryjackson@hotmail.com.



Photo Courtesy of Kara Shovlin
THEY COMMAND THE DANCE FLOOR...Kara Shovlin and John Russitano of "Make You Wanna Dance" are pictured during the show's taping of swing dance lessons on June 2 at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School.

Dance Duo Bridges Age Gap on Show

By MICHELLE HELEN Le POIDEVIN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

SCOTCH PLAINS — John Russitano, co-host of "Make You Wanna Dance" told *The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* on Friday morning about how he and co-host Kara Shovlin, "crossed the generation gap" with an interesting exchange of dance techniques.

The previous evening, at the television studios of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, Mr. Russitano and Ms. Shovlin taught 1950s-era

swing dancing to Chelsea Donnelly, a member of the school's Raiders Dance Team.

Last month, Chelsea and another member of the dance team, Stephanie Santiago, taught Mr. Russitano and Ms. Shovlin the finer points of hip-hop dancing.

"It was kind of a touché," said Mr. Russitano, adding that the episode, the last one of the season, will air on TV-34 and TV-35.

In addition, the dynamic dance duo, who are Westfield residents, will

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Coming Soon in A&E:

- Michael Pollack provides an update on Rachel Gordon's "Big House" reality show;
- Lisa Basile attends the next Fanwood Arts Council poetry reading;
- Queen of the Arts explores summer cooking, craft activities.



Get Outta The House

By CAROL F. DAVIS
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

On Sunday June 12, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., some of Plainfield's finest Victorian porches will feature antiques for sale during the Van Wyck Brooks Historic District's **Third Annual "Tea 'n' Tiques."** David Willis will appraise your antiques on the porch at The Pillars Bed and Breakfast, 922 Central Avenue, for \$5 per item, and an elegant afternoon tea will be served on the wrap-around porch of the Coriell Mansion, 957 Central Avenue, for a \$10 donation. The district runs from Central Avenue between West Ninth Street and Randolph Road to Madison Avenue from West Ninth Street to Stelle Avenue.

The Beacon Hill Jazz Ensemble, formed in 2004 to play the music of the Dave Pell Octet, is now **The Beacon Hill Swing Band**. They will return to the Watchung Arts Center on Friday, June 17, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$13, and are limited to 100 seats on a first-come, first-served basis. Reserve by calling the center at (908) 753-0190 or by e-mailing WACenter@aol.com.

There will be a **British Picnic** on the Great Lawn of the Frerlinghuysen Arboretum in Morristown on Sunday, June 12, from noon to 5:30 p.m. Bring a picnic basket with British-style treats, or put anything you like inside. No one will know. There will be a free concert by the Philharmonic Orchestra of New Jersey, tours of the mansion and gardens, and cricket and croquet. Please call (973) 326-7600 or visit www.morrispark.net for information.

If you would like a role in Neil Simon's **Last of the Red Hot Lovers**, the Westfield Community Players will hold auditions on Sunday, June 12, at 1 p.m. and Tuesday, June 14, at 7:30 p.m. at 1000 North Avenue, West in Westfield. Be ready to rehearse beginning in mid-August for a run in October. They will need to cast Barney and his three females. For specifics, please call them at (908) 232-9568.

On Sunday June 12, at 3 p.m., the **NJWA Concert Band** will perform the world premiere of **Escape From Russia** by composer Philip Teperov. The two-hour concert will be held at the Westfield Y, 220 Clark Street in Westfield. Other works include pieces by Offenbach, Tikhonov, Lang, Bilik, Rimsky-Korsakov and Rodgers. Tickets are available at the Westfield Y, the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts in Westfield and also at the door. For further information, please call (908) 789-9696 or e-mail njwaband@att.net.

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