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THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section
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SHAFFER, GIANNACI EXACT REVENGE; MINEO GETS 2ND, GANO 3RD

Raiders Qualify Three, Blue Devils One For Trip to State Mat Tourney in AC



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
HEAVILY GUARDED...The Lady Lions heavily guarded Blue Devil Erin Miller, No. 11, throughout the game. Miller finished with 20 points.

MILLER NETS 20; O'LEARY SINKS 3 THREES, 11 PTS

N. Hunterdon Ladies Stump Blue Devil B'ballers, 70-42

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

North Hunterdon had all of its gears operating at near top efficiency when it registered a 70-42 victory over the visiting Westfield High School girls basketball team in the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 4 quarterfinals in Annandale on March 1. Offensively, the Lady Lions sank almost every-

thing that they put up, and defensively they controlled the boards and made timely steals.

Junior guard Michelle Gallagher led the 19-5 Lady Lions with 12 points, including two 3-pointers, but the scoring wealth was shared generously among their starting five and eight substitutes. Of the remaining start-

ers, junior forward Erin Mazzatta scored 10 points, senior Amanda Tewksbury and junior Keri Lasky each sank eight points and sophomore center Emily Tewksbury, who had three blocked shots, contributed two points. Juniors Pam Tagiarieni and Kristen Hatalla came off the bench and bucketed seven and six points, respectively.

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ZAZZALI HITS CAREER HIGH 27 PTS., MAINS NETS 9

Lady Raiders Head to Finals, Tame Tiger B'ballers, 49-45

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

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School girls' basketball team put on an outstanding performance when they walked off with a 66-51 victory over Mendham on March 4 in the quarterfinals, but its best showing of the season came with a 49-45 victory

over second-seeded host South Plainfield in the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 3 semifinals on March 5. Raider point-guard Allie Zazzali led the charge with a career-high 27 points including 10-of-12 from the free throw line.

Raider Lauren Mains banged in nine points, including one from be-

yond 3-point range, and had three pick-offs and four rebounds. Jackie Law was the main thief with five. She finished with six rebounds and knocked in five points. Lauren Benovengo pulled down five rebounds with one blocked shot and Kaylan Jaichon dominated the glass with six rebounds and two blocks. Myra Santiago led the 22-4 Tigers with 15 points.

"We have a date with destiny Monday night. I have tickets to see Dave Mason in New York. I told my wife I've never been so happy to give those things away because I'm busy that night," said Raider Head Coach Bruce Davis. "I'm still in shock that we're here. Nobody but nobody gave us a chance to be in that game on Monday night except maybe Shabazz. They know how tough we are. We played hard and that goes a long way in high-

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Alex Cena (alex@shaleridge.net) for The Westfield Leader and The Times
DRIVING TO THE BASKET...Raider Lauren Benovengo, No. 24, drives to the basket in the quarterfinal victory over Mendham.

Next, he avenged a 10-6 loss in the Union County tournament by pinning Larry Peotter of New Providence (NPr) in 5:58 with a lateral throw in the quarterfinals.

"We have been working a lot all week on just my offense and getting in people's faces. I feel like I am

nipped, 4-3, by Parsippany (Par) strongman Alec Kociski, who got three of his points when he caught Giannaci in a cradle. In the wrestlebacks, Giannaci defeated Brearley's (Br) Conor Shannon, 5-1, then he smothered Joe Bozzomo of Middlesex (Mdx) in 1:55 to gain a

somewhat prematurely leaped up in glee with two seconds remaining, allowing an escape, to score a 2-1 victory and the trip south.

Mineo, the top seed at 140-lbs, used a Jimmy John maneuver (far arm corkscrew crank) to pin Union's Tim Loessel in 2:53 in the



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
EXACTING HIS REVENGE...Raider Nick Giannaci, top, takes control of Parsippany's Alec Kociski in the 189-lb bout for third place. Giannaci was nipped, 4-3, by Kociski in the quarterfinals but this time he won, 2-1, to qualify for the trip to AC.

wrestling the best I have ever wrestled and I'm planning on going to states," promised Shaffer.

After losing to top-seeded Ed McCray of South Plainfield (SoP) in the semifinals, Shaffer made good to his promise in the wrestlebacks as he forged onward with a 6-3 victory over Rahway's (R) Carlos Nicasio, who had previously defeated him for the District 11 title, then, in his second bout with Peotter, he snapped a 4-4 tie with a takedown in the waning seconds to win 6-4 and a trip to Atlantic City.

"I knew it was going to be a tough match. I'm really excited to go to AC," commented Shaffer.

"I have not been in that many matches, which were as exciting as that one, with that much on the line. I have watched him get from where he was as a freshman to where he is now. It's just amazing how much hard work he's put in. You look at our team this year and our team had success because we worked hard. It all started right there. He has been the leader since Day 1. I couldn't be happier to be going down to AC with a better guy," said Blue Devil Head Coach Glen Kurz, acknowledging Shaffer's leadership.

Giannaci was stunned a bit in the 189-lb quarterfinals when he was

rematch with Kociski.

"The coaches made me aware that I wasted a lot of time yesterday, trying to feel the kid out. Now, I wrestled my match, made him feel me out. I worked my moves and wrestled my way," said Giannaci. "I don't want anybody to get in my way. I want to go to states."

Giannaci refused to let Kociski get in his way. Giannaci scored a reversal in the third period and pressured Kociski's face on the mats until he

quarterfinals. In the semis, he went to his strength (takedowns) to defeat Elizabeth's (E) Erick Ogada, 10-4.

"My strong point is on my feet. I feel confident up there, always choosing neutral, especially on a kid like this. You don't want to go on the mat with him. He's big. He's tall. I felt confident with all my front heads. I have been doing great with those. I did a nice ankle pick. I used a lot of stuff, so I'm really happy with that,"

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