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THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section
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Raider Cagers Rally to Grab Third in Kowal Hoops Classic

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

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood boys basketball team caught fire to rally past South Plainfield, 50-46, to capture third place in the John "Butch" Kowal Tournament in Rahway on December 29.

The Raiders got a 26-point effort from junior guard Greg Bayard and a 15-point effort from Bryan Dougher to soar past Summit in the first round, 63-57. Then they were overshadowed, however, by Rahway in the semifinals, 60-44 on December 28. Dougher

poured in 28 points and Bayard sank eight points.

A very strong shooting finish in the fourth quarter catapulted the 4-2 Raiders past South Plainfield. Senior forward Darnell Dortch led the Raiders with nine-points, four assists and four rebounds. Junior guard Dan DeCataldo finished with seven points, connected from downtown, hauled in two rebounds, had two assists and added a steal. Sophomore Reggie Solomon netted six points, had two assists and swiped two basketballs. Coming off the bench, sophomore

forward Kevin Maroney and junior Greg Zabel each scored four points and junior forward Rob Zekunde added a bucket and two rebounds. Bayard and Dougher combined for 16 points and six rebounds. Junior Lordly Okarter contributed two points, three rebounds and an assist. Shamai Santiago led the Tigers with 15 points.

"We didn't play hard in the first half at all so I started different guys looking for a good combination in the second half. They played hard and

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CONCENTRATING HEAVILY ON DEFENSE...Raider Lordly Okarter, No. 32, sticks close to his opponent in the 50-46 victory over South Plainfield at the Kowal tournament.

CASTRORAO, SHAFFER EACH GRAB FIFTH PLACES

Blue Devil John Barnes Gets Second at Park Mat Tourney

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

Westfield High School Blue Devil sophomore John Barnes stepped up another level when he placed second at 119-lbs at the Park Invitational wrestling tournament, which featured powers Howell, Roselle Park, West Milford and Hanover Park. Howell, the defending champions, retained the title with 189.5 points, while the

hosting Panthers finished second at 161.5. The Blue Devils had 40 team points.

Howell entered nine wrestlers in the finals and claimed six champions. The Panthers entered six into the finals and had three champions. The Madison squad that finished fifth claimed two individual champions.

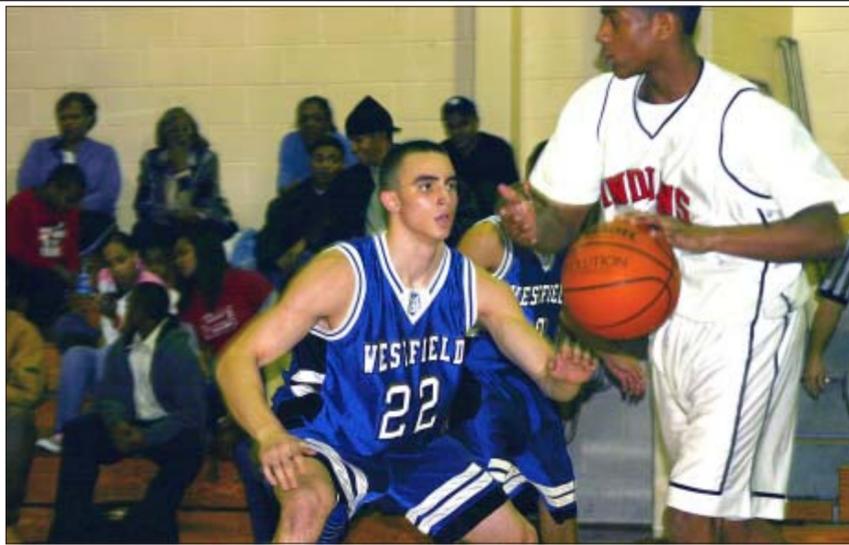
Barnes, seeded third, pinned Dan Gallego of Morristown in 4:58, then

met second-seeded Panther Anthony Zangari, who placed fourth in the Union County Tournament last year at 103-lbs. After being taken down in the first period, Barnes came to life, scored two second-period takedowns, then added two more takedowns and a three-point nearfall to grab an 11-5 victory and a trip to the finals. Although receiving no

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THE FINISHING TOUCHES...Blue Devil Andy Castorao, top, stuck Marcus Ruiz of Piscataway in 4:54 then he claimed fifth at 152-lbs when he pinned Hanover Park's Matt Mellilo in 3:04.



MORE THAN JUST A FINE SCORER...Mike Venezia, No. 22, was not only strong offensively but he was also a strong part of the Blue Devils' defense that held Rahway in check in the Kowal championship game.

VENEZIA PUMPS IN 26 POINTS, BONARD BUCKETS 17 Blue Devils Rip Indians, 69-54 To Grab Kowal Hoops Crown

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

Since an opening-season loss to Linden, the Westfield High School basketball boys has rolled off four straight victories when they thrashed Rahway, 69-54, to repeat as John "Butch" Kowal Memorial Classic champions in Rahway on December 29. The Blue Devils reached the finals by first eliminating St. Peter's, 35-32, then by humbling South Plainfield, 53-39, in the semifinals on December 28. Last year, the Blue Devils claimed the title by ripping St.

Peter's of Jersey City, 56-35.

The Blue Devils were on their game offensively and defensively against the Rahway Indians. Senior guard Mike Venezia sank 26 points, including four 3-pointers. He pulled down nine rebounds and committed larceny with three steals. Tom Bonard nailed 17 points, including one from downtown, finished with 14 assists and swiped three basketballs. Dan Pritsker (4-for-5 free throws) pumped in 14 points. Anthony DiIorio netted seven and Mike Lessner went 4-for-4 from the foul line. Wendel Simmons led the Indians with 13 points.

with a team like this and forcing to score off a half court. Offensively, our goal was not to turn the ball over and make them pay when they started gambling."

The Blue Devils jumped on the Indians with a 13-4 first-quarter run. Pritsker hit seven points, including a 3-pointer. Venezia banged in a 3-pointer and Bonard added the remainder.

In the second quarter, the Blue Devils gave the Indians a multiple look defensively, which confused them. Meanwhile, Venezia hit for 10 more points, including a three-pointer. Bonard put in six points and Lessner hit 4-for-4 from the stripe to increase the lead to 33-18 at the half.

With a 22-16 run, the Blue Devils elevated their lead to 55-34 by the final quarter. Venezia burned in eight points, Bonard bucketed five-points,

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SPF's Alleman Breaks Meet Record in Shot

Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School junior Mike Alleman set a meet record in the shot put with a personal-best heave of 56'11.75" at the 11th Drew Invitational indoor track meet at Drew University in Madison on December 29. The previous record of 54'10.25" was set five years ago by Mike Mozer of Kennelton.

Raider Erin Rossi won the girls shot put with a shove of 35'9". The Raider foursome of Kyle Grizzard, Mike Katz, Mike Chervenyak and Kyle Rowbotham won the 4x400 relay with a time of 3:38.34. Westfield High School Blue Devil Evan Friedman won the 800-meter run with a time of 2:06.57.

"We basically came out with a game plan that we wanted to make them a half-court team and our kids executed it. As a young team, we thought that they would struggle a little bit, so we really worked on our transition and worked on offensive rebounding," said Blue Devil Head Coach Kevin Everly. "We're really starting to take pride in our defense, holding teams to thirties and doing a really good job making scenarios when we're eliminating transitions and easy baskets

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