

MILLER STEALS 12, BUCKETS 20; VENEZIA SCORES 9

Blue Devil Lady Cagers 'Rob' Dayton, 43-24, in Pepe-Levee

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

Junior guard Erin Miller went on a thievery rampage with 12 steals and her team added 10 more to lead the Westfield High School girls basketball team to a 43-24 victory over Jonathan Dayton in the Pepe/Levee Memorial Tournament in Springfield on December 29. The Blue Devils, who won the tournament last year, went on to defeat Oak Knoll, 45-27, to finish 3-0 in this round-robin format on December 30.

The acts of theft surely kept the Dayton Bulldogs' scoring opportunities low but, when there were no acts of theft, the Blue Devils' defense stuck to them like glue, especially to sophomore forward Jacqueline Kuczynski, who did finish with 12 points.

"She's fast! Her instincts are like a cat," Blue Devil Head Coach Joe Marino said of Miller. "She sees it and she just goes for the ball. She finishes strong."

"I usually look at their hips. You can always tell where they are going by the way their hips are moving," explained Miller who not only had 12

steals but also batted the ball away several times. "We have been learning that our whole lives from our dads and in practice we do defense a lot."

"We knew that if we could trap them in the front court they couldn't bring it to the backcourt. Our goal was to keep the ball up as far as possible so (Number) 34 (Kuczynski) couldn't get it," said Blue Devil point guard Gab O'Leary.

Miller finished with 20 points, seven rebounds and three assists and Stephanie Slodyczka added three steals, Danielle Infantino and Tara Handza (2 points, steal) each grabbed three boards and Katie Cronin had five rebounds and two points. But freshman Diana Venezia (2 steals, 2 rebounds), who finished with nine points, got things started by penetrating the inside and bucketing all seven of the Blue Devils' first quarter points.

"We wanted to get the post established. Once we got that established, we could open up the perimeter," explained Marino.

After yielding a successful free throw to Kuczynski, the 3-2 Blue Devils rolled off the remaining 16

points of the quarter to take a 23-7 lead at halftime. Miller sank eight points, including a 3-pointer. O'Leary (3 assists, 2 steals) hit two free throws, while Keri Pringle (7 rebounds) and Venezia added two points each.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

Blue Devil Cagers Rap Bernards Girls, 65-34

The Westfield High School girls basketball team rumbled over Bernards, 65-34, on December 27. Junior Erin Miller poured in a team-leading 28 points (three 3-pointers), made four steals, grabbed five rebounds and added four assists.

Gab O'Leary sank seven points and had three assists. Dianna Venezia pulled down 12 rebounds and had six points. Casey El Koury, Keri Pringle (4 rebounds) and Cyndi Matthew each had four points. Tara Handza had three points, Danielle Infantino and Stephanie Slodyczka netted two points and Charlotte O'Leary added one.

Westfield	13	23	12	17	65
Bernards	4	12	12	6	34



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
HAVING A VERY PRODUCTIVE WEEK...Raider Ricky Olsson, top, manhandled 135-lb Viking Jason Morales and pinned him in 3:00 with a muscle lateral drop. Olsson also won the 135-lb crown at the Goles Invitational.

GANO GRABS SECOND TITLE; ZAMZAM, OLSSON WIN

Raider Matmen Take Fourth In John Goles Invitational

By DAVID B. CORBIN
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Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School senior Sal Gano claimed his second John Goles Invitational wrestling title and teammates Ricky Olsson and Mike Zamzam picked up their first titles at Warren Hills High School on December 28. Edison won the team title with 179.5 points and the

Rahway Cagers Stop Raider Boys, 60-44

The Rahway High School boys basketball team advanced to the finals of the John "Butch" Kowal Memorial Classic after defeating Scotch Plains-Fanwood, 60-44, in the semifinals at Rahway on December 28. Bryan Dougher netted 28 points, including four 3-pointers, and Greg Bayard scored eight points for the 3-2 Raiders.

Eric McCloud banged in 19 points, Wendell Simmons scored 16 points and Ronnie Sawyer bucketed 12 for the 4-0 Indians.

Sc. Pl.-Fanwood	10	14	8	12	44
Rahway	10	14	12	24	60

Raiders, who sent seven wrestlers into the finals, finished fourth in the eight-team tournament with a total of 132.5.

Seeded first at 125-lbs, Gano received a bye then grabbed a 17-0, 5:01 technical fall over Gaito of Warren Hills before pinning Tony Colon of Edison in 1:13 for the title. Last year, Gano won the 119-lb crown with a 6-3 victory over Ricky Chandler of Millburn.

"Sal just went out there, manhandled him and pinned him," said Raider Head Coach John Scholz. "He's focused. He's on fire!"

Seeded second at 135-lbs, Olsson defeated Deemer of Warren Hills and Pelham of Newton before stopping Gary Thompson of Edison in 1:00 for the crown.

"He had a bad start at Seton Hall but, since that day, he came back. He had a great tournament," said Scholz.

Zamzam found out what it looked like to stand on the top podium when he earned a 12-2, majority decision over Sparta's Ben Prohl for the 171-lb title. Zamzam also beat Barilla of Warren Hills, 8-2, and Kooyound of

Edison, 5-0. "Mike, a second-year wrestler, is stepping up to the plate. He's a strong kid! He's a little rusty in a couple of move areas but he put stuff together," said Scholz.

Raider senior Pat Mineo was denied his second Goles title when he was defeated, 9-0, in the 145-lb finals by Newton's Austin Alpaugh, a state qualifier at 140-lbs last year. Mineo, seeded first received a bye and pinned Korach of Warren Hills.

Sophomore Mike Ferrara placed second at 130-lbs after being defeated 8-0 by Newton's Kyle Huber. Earlier, he received a bye then pinned Romero of Edison in 1:15.

Trevor Cannon was defeated 11-4 in the 152-lb finals by Millburn's Chase Helwig. Cannon defeated Artigiore of Warren Hills, 2-1, then reached the finals with an 11-3 victory over Sparta's Baccarella.

In the 215-lb finals, Raider Keith Baker had a battle but dropped a 7-4 decision to Ben Kissane of Newton. Earlier, he received a bye then pinned Slevin of Sparta in 5:07.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
GETTING INTO THE ACTION UNDERNEATH...Blue Devil freshman Diana Venezia, No. 15, draws heavy coverage from the Dayton Lady Bulldogs underneath the basket.

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