

George Washington Unanimously Elected President - 2-4-1789

# THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section Pages 9-12

## DEVILS, RAIDER BOYS, GIRLS BREAK MEET RECORDS

### Blue Devil Boys, Girls Sweep Union County Swim Tourney

By J.B. RAYMOND  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Westfield vs. Scotch Plains-Fanwood (SP-F)! Does the sport even matter? When the two teams get together, whether it's on a field, a pitch, a court, a diamond, a track, a course or a pool, sparks are going to fly.

And so it was again on January 30, when the schools' swim teams joined the rest of the county for the Union County Swimming Championships at Rutgers' fast-as-heck pool. When the smoke had cleared, two things were very obvious: 1) Westfield had again swept the team titles, giving the girls 18 in-a-row and the boys 11 straight (53 out of 54), and 2) SP-F is going to be a very difficult team for any team to beat in the state tournament later this month, especially its boys team.

The girls meet was first, and no less than seven meet records fell, with SP-F starting the record-smashing with

Caitlin English, Kelsey Rossi, Becca Dunn and Hannah Markey hitting the pads in 1:52.19 to win the medley relay. It would be the Raiders' lone first place, although senior Rossi had a couple of strong swims, a 54.36 in the 100-free for fourth, and a 1:07.22 in the 100-breast, which bettered the meet record but was second to Governor Livingston's Abby Pires.

Both freestyle relay marks fell. New Providence won the 200-free relay in 1:38.25, just ahead of Westfield's Anna Fetter, Emily Budnick, Meredith Smith and Suzanne Lemberg, whose second place 1:39.25 was a school record.

And the Westfield High School (WHS) girls brought down the house in the final event, with Becky DeLaFuente, Fetter, Smith and Lemberg clocking 3:34.86, a school record, six seconds faster than the old meet record, and one of the fastest times in state history.

DeLaFuente rebroke her school record in the 100-fly with a 58.41, although touched out by a New Providence freshman, then won the 500-free in a lifetime best 5:07.83 and did another lifetime best 54.25 leading off the last relay. Fetter had a crazy-fast day, going 2:12.59 in the 200 IM (a three-second drop) and 1:00.38 in the fly, both lifetime bests, and swimming on both free relays. Lemberg had four season-best swims, and Smith had three, with her 200 just a fraction from her best.

But all the performances contributed to WHS's 418 points (SP-F had 354 for second). Emily Budnick had best times, and so did Jess Cronin, Kelsey Wilson, Meg Kavaney (a four-second drop in the 100 breast) and Meg Myers, whose three-second drop in the breast got her onto the Top 15 List.

"It was just about the individual

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## Blue Devils Nab 500th Career Mat Victory - See next page



WORKING ON AN ESCAPE...Blue Devil Erik Gozdieski, pictured front, attempts to escape the grasp of Cougar Connor Londregan in the 152-lb bout on January 29. Gozdieski won, 6-3.

David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times

## SLIFER, HENRY PIN; CLINE WINS MAJOR DECISION

### Cougar Matmen Hold Down Westfield Blue Devils, 42-22

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

Many key match-ups had to go its way if the Westfield High School wrestling team wanted to pull a mild upset over the strong Cranford Cougars in Westfield on January 29. Both teams' head coaches juggled their bouts like a chess match, and in the end, the 12-4 Cougars came up with a 42-22 victory.

The Cougars were awarded forfeits in the first and final scheduled weight classes with heavyweight Joe Brady and Julian Campo at 215 lbs, respectively, but the 3-7 Blue Devils won the first head-to-head bout when Austin Slifer converted a slick duck-under takedown to a half Nelson to pin Diego Castro in 1:47 at 103 lbs.

The big upset of the evening came in the next bout at 112 lbs. Blue Devil Mike Kalimtzis, who had just become the Union County Tournament (UCT) 103-lb champion, scored a double-leg, spin-around takedown on Mike Helmstetter, who then escaped and added an alert lateral drop takedown with three seconds left in the first period. Helmstetter gained three points with a Saturday Night Ride nearfall, but Kalimtzis escaped and added a duck-under takedown. In the third period, Kalimtzis dropped under for a double-leg takedown attempt, but Helmstetter hipped forward with a walkover to a front double grapevine pin in 4:13.

"You got to give that kid credit.

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Mike didn't clear his arm on his shot, and he took advantage," Blue Devil Head Coach Glen Kurz said.

"People don't know about Mike, because he is behind Ian (Henry) and Joe (Giaccio) in the lineup. He's like our best-kept secret. Maybe after this, people will know who he is," Cougar Head Coach Darren Torsone said. "He is a smart wrestler. He's great with his hips. In that match, he used his hips two times in key moments, and it helped him out."

Leading 4-0, Cougar Ian Henry hit Anthony Aldana with a barrel roll takedown and added a Jimmy John nearfall to grab a 9-1, majority decision at 119 lbs.

The next key bout arrived when Cougar Joe Giaccio, the UCT 112-lb champ, jumped up to 125 lbs to meet Troy Skibitsky. Giaccio scored a low-single takedown and an escape to carry a 3-0 lead into the third period. Skibitsky escaped and attempted a

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GOING UP FOR THE JUMP SHOT...Blue Devil Charlotte Lorentzen, right, takes a jump shot in the game against Plainfield on January 28 in Westfield. Lorentzen finished with five points, four rebounds and an assist.

David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times

## VENEZIA NETS 19 PTS, MARKOWSKI 6 ASSTS, 4 STEALS

### Lady Blue Devils De-feather Cardinal Basketballers, 46-31

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

Shooting percentage may have taken a nosedive in the first and second quarters, however the Westfield High School girls basketball team still dominated the Plainfield Lady Cardinals throughout en route to a 46-31 victory in Westfield on January 28.

The 6-7 Lady Blue Devils controlled the boards in the first quarter and had many opportunities to score from close range and blow the game wide open, but the shots were not falling. The Blue Devils did, however, win the quarter, 10-5, and senior guard Amanda

Markowski, who finished with nine points, including a 3-pointer, led the mini charge with four points.

"We recognized the first couple of minutes that we really needed to step it up in the second quarter. We kind of bounced out of it," Markowski said. "Maybe it was because we were practicing guarding number 2 [senior guard Chanel Johnson], who is their main player, but she ended up not playing. I don't want to give that as an excuse, but we picked it up in the second quarter."

Perhaps the absence of Johnson, the Cardinals' most athletic player,

may have lowered the bar mentally for the Blue Devils.

"It could! It's good that we realized then to pick up our game and don't let our level go down," Markowski said.

"That could have been a possibility, but we were just not making our shots. We missed a lot of easy shots inside. We didn't play up to par. That's for sure! It was almost like they let their guard down today," Blue Devil Head Coach Joe Marino said. "They did not have the fire they usually do when they come out."

Markowski, who led her team with

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