

CRANFORD COUGAR HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

WEBB SINKS 16, MILLER NETS 10, GROSS 8 REBOUNDS

Cranford Lady Cougars Stall Viking Basketball Girls, 38-21

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

Stubborn defense has been the trademark of Union Catholic High School girls basketball Head Coach Kathy Matthews, who has harvested more than 600 career victories using that method, and she has taught her former players very well.

Cranford Cougar Head Coach Jackie Huber, who played for coach Matthews when she notched her 500th win, learned well as her team gave the Vikings a dose of their own medicine with a strong defensive effort, which led to a 38-21 victory

in Cranford on January 7.

"I credit the way we play defense to her. When I played at Union Catholic, we were a huge defensive team, and I brought that over when I came to Cranford," said coach Huber, who graduated in 2001. "We work on defense constantly. We talk about always doing the little things, and that's what has been helping us these days to have good leads on teams and win the games."

Senior tri-captain Jamie Webb kept the 5-1 Cougars focused both offensively and defensively. She pumped in a team-high 16 points, including a 3-

pointer, dished out four assists, had three rebounds and two steals, and added two blocked shots. But when the Vikings made their only threat with a 10-0 run at the end of the second quarter and at the beginning of the third quarter to narrow the Cougars' lead to 18-17, Webb got her team back on track to roll with an 8-0 run.

"Jamie! I always say to her, 'you are me on the floor.' So when you see things getting out of hand and you see people in the wrong spots, you need to help them out and tell them where they need to be," coach Huber said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



BATTLING FOR THE BALL...Cougars senior Jamie Webb, No. 15, battles a Viking for possession of the ball. Webb pumped in a team-high 16 points, including a 3-pointer, dished out four assists, had three rebounds and two steals, and added two blocked shots.



ON HIS WAY TO VICTORY...Cougars Brian Buontempo, right, recorded a takedown, a sit-out-turn-in reversal and a three-point cradle to grab a 7-1 victory over Nick McElroy at 125-lbs.

BRADY, GIACCIO, BUONTEMPO, PELLINO GRAB WINS

No. 8 Brearley Bears Silence Cranford Wrestlers, 52-18

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

Bears were not hibernating, despite a very cold winter, when the Cranford High School wrestling team traveled to Kenilworth to face eighth-ranked David Brearley on January 6. The Bears won 10 of the 14 bouts and grabbed a 52-18 victory, but the score was not indicative of the talent on the 5-1 Cougars' team.

The majority of the bouts were hotly contested, especially two that were won by the Bears. The first came in the 125-lb class where Cougar Matt DiGiovanni faced four-year veteran Allen Phillips, who initiated the scoring with an ankle pick takedown. DiGiovanni added a pair of escapes to send the bout into overtime, but Phillips caught him off-guard and took him straight to his back for a 6:09 fall.

"There were some tough matches. We would have liked to get the two matches we lost that were close," Cougar Head Coach Darren Torsone said. "We feel that we could have won those two matches. The score should not have been a blowout like it was."

The second came at 152-lbs. Bear John Balboni took a 3-0 lead after getting an escape and a takedown with three seconds left in the second period, but Cougar JP Christiano cut the lead to 3-2 and attempted a takedown that backfired. Balboni held

on to win, 5-3.

"We are trying to push him in the direction of being more offensive. Hopefully in the upcoming matches, he will be more aggressive. We hope that a match like this will open his eyes and make him be a little more aggressive," coach Torsone said.

"At 152, it doesn't get any better than that. They are quality kids. We were fortunate in some. We hit some big moves when it mattered," said Bear Head Coach Brian Luciani. "The quick pin by Allen [Phillips], the official yelled two and the kid thought the match was over."

"It happens sometimes. I am sure, later on in the season we will see them again, and those kids will get them back, but for now, that's what happened," said Cougar team captain Joe Brady, who had an exciting bout of his own at heavyweight.

Probitas Verus Honos

For Brady, the number five was a charm and so was the number three. Brady amassed five takedowns on Rob Schielke, four that were double-leg tackles. Three put Schielke on his back and the final one ended the bout in 5:56 to make the score 10-6.

"The first 30 seconds was to feel him out. See what he had! I didn't know anything about him. I went out there and said, 'all right! Take him down the first time and everything will be OK.' I just put on a takedown show on him," Brady explained. "I tried to teach him at first, but I said, 'Team points! I'm the captain, so I kept going for the pin. He was wrestling tough, and then the third time, I just got him with it and stuck him. I was thinking that we work way to hard to let this one go by. We were still in it for a while. It was a good match, exciting, very intense."

"That seemed like his best chance of getting him on his back was to take

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Casino Night Benefiting Cranford Project Graduation Set for Jan. 22

CRANFORD - Cranford Project Graduation will host a Casino Night at the Gran Centurions in Clark on Friday, January 22, at 7 p.m. The event, sponsored by the Cranford PTA, will raise funds to sponsor a safe, drug and alcohol free graduation night celebration for Cranford High School seniors. The event offers a night of hors d'oeuvres and games of chance including Black-Jack, Craps, Roulette, Poker and slots. Tickets are \$35 in advance and \$40 at the door.

"As one of the first major community social events after the holiday season, Casino Night offers a wonderful opportunity to connect with friends you haven't seen over the winter, while enjoying a fun filled night in support of a program that effectively reduces some of the more significant risks associated with unchaperoned high school graduation parties," said Kathleen Hartnett, Chairperson for Project Graduation.

The Vegas-style event is a new addition to Project Graduation's existing fundraising efforts and hopes are high that community support will lead to a strong turnout. "Casino Night will be the largest fundraising event tied to Project Graduation," Hartnett said, "and we are counting on the money raised here to fund the majority of the graduation night activities slated for June of next year."

Casino Night is open to anyone over the age of 21. There are several options to support Project Graduation include purchasing or selling tickets on behalf of the Cranford PTA, sponsoring the event and making a donation.

To purchase tickets, please contact: Grace Williams at (908) 276-2767 or gbwilliams4@verizon.net - Mary Ann Ramey at (908) 272-4039 or mampr1@comcast.net - or visit Periwinkle's located at 17 North Union Avenue, Cranford *****

For more information on Casino Night, Project Graduation, sponsorships, etc. please contact: Kathleen Hartnett, Project Graduation Chairperson, at k.hartnett@comcast.net or call (908) 276-9530 or (201) 738-5653

See it all on the web in color... www.goleader.com

The Family Law Department of
Dughi & Hewit Presents

Kristin M. Capalbo, Esq., Mario C. Gurrieri, Esq. (Chair), Richard A. Outhwaite, Esq., and Andrew J. Economos, Esq.

4 Lawyers, 4 Levels of Experience, 4 Hourly Rates

All designed to serve your interests in all aspects of divorce including custody, parenting time, relocation, distribution of assets, alimony, child support, college costs, prenuptial agreements, mediation, domestic violence, palimony, post-divorce changes in financial circumstances, and civil unions

Mention this ad to receive a complimentary conference

Dughi & Hewit, P.C.
340 North Avenue Cranford, NJ 07016
(908) 272-0200 www.dughihewit.com

Helping Accident Victims Everyday

JON BRAMNICK
Certified Civil Trial Attorney
30 Years Experience

recognized as a "Super Lawyer" in the field of Personal Injury Law

BRAMNICK, RODRIGUEZ, MITTERHOFF, GRABAS & WOODRUFF LLC
1827 East Second Street, Scotch Plains
908-322-7000
www.jonbramnick.com

Can Be Reached 24 Hours a Day in an Emergency

Choose

Success

- Choose from over 75 Programs of Study or English as a Second Language
- Spring '10 Semester begins **January 21** (register until Jan. 27)
- Spring '10 Late Start classes begin **February 4** (register until Feb. 10)
- Transfer as a junior to prestigious 4-year colleges or universities
- Flexible class schedules ... days, nights or weekends
- Learn from home with Online Courses or Telecourses
- Only \$94 per credit for Union County residents

Cranford - Elizabeth
Scotch Plains - Plainfield

FOR INFORMATION CALL 908-709-7518 OR
Visit UCC online at www.ucc.edu