

**COLDER SEALS WIN; BRADY REMAINS UNDEFEATED**

# Highlanders Win Final Bout; Stop Cougar Wrestlers, 36-31

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

JP Christiano claimed a 6-1 decision over Steve Shaunberg at 160-lbs. to give the Cranford High School wrestling team a 31-27 lead with two bouts remaining, but Zach Heissler topped Chris Keim at 171-lbs. and Frank Colder pinned Errol Petgrave at 189-lbs. to give Governor Livingston High School a 36-31 victory in Berkeley Heights on January 14.

The 6-4 Cougars grabbed a 12-0 lead when Julian Campo tripped Matt O'Sullivan's light switch to the "off" position at 5:14 at 215-lbs., and heavy-weight Joe Brady improved to 12-0 by clamping Anthony Manganiello to the mat at 3:18.

everything, looking for the fall but the kid fought real hard staying off his back," said Giaccio.

At 130-lbs., Highlander Mike Stepien pinned Carmine Pellino with a single arm bar in 3:43 to lift his record to 15-2. Cougar Matt DiGiovanni nipped Joey Hoy, 3-2, in the 135-lb bout, in what was perhaps the most exciting match of the night.

"I tried to break the match up into three periods, so my goal is to go out there and win all three. I looked for the arm bar or tilt, but he had a really good defense. On bottom, I have confidence, and feel I can escape on anyone. I did that with the first two but lost the third period, which brought it real close, and I was not happy with

"I went to the high crotch second and third period and got the takedown both times," said Londregan.

"We started out just the way we wanted. The two big guys got pins. We looked to get two extra points at 119 and hoped Carmine (Pellino) would not get pinned at 130," Cougar Head Coach Darren Torsone said. "Matt DiGiovanni came out here with a great match, beating the runner-up in the county last year, and 140 could have gone either way. We bumped up, trying to get some wins, because we knew they were strong at 145. At 152 and 160, we looked for a pin in one of those matches, but their freshman (Haddad) was tougher than I thought he would be. The 171-lb match could have gone either way as well. We were hoping to get that one win and finish up at 189. The kids wrestled tough on both sides and I think and it was a good night."

"When we got to 152, he made the move there by putting Christiano up at 160. I thought we had a good shot at winning with the freshman, but he just did not get it done and got beat by a point at the buzzer. Hoy's match, I knew was going to be very close. I had 135, 140 as key matches. If I had those, I was pretty sure I was going to win," said Highlander Head Coach Rick Iacono.



ROCKING HIM TO SLEEP... Cougar Julian Campo, right, has Highlander Matt O'Sullivan firmly clamped in a cradle in the 215-lb. bout. Campo pinned O'Sullivan in 5:14.

"Julian and I knew we could take them. Just double leg takedowns, right to his back. I then tilted him, got points until they called it a pin. Twelve points; both pins," said Brady.

Freshman Jonathan Mele got the 8-1 Highlanders in the win column with a fall over Diego Castro at 1:29 at 103-lbs.

"I kept working the bar, I then switched off a little bit, got a diversion of it and finally stuck him," said Mele, who improved to 13-4.

At 112, Anthony DeFranco stacked Cougar Ian Henry via a fall at 1:48. Joe Giaccio tallied three takedowns and an arm bar, half nelson combination to shut out 119-lb. Ryne Morrison, 12-0. "I worked my bars, tilts, just about

that," said DiGiovanni.

At 140-lbs., Cougar Eric Knight overcame a 4-0 deficit and got a third-period takedown to send the bout to overtime with Victor Orozco, who regrouped to squeeze out a 6-4 victory to narrow the Cougars' lead to 25-21.

"I knew this was going to be more mental toughness than physical and come right down to the wire. Overtime, I took bottom, knew the roll was there, felt the pressure and just went for it," said Orozco.

At 145-lb. Patrick Eichner swamped Cougar Jim Dwyer at 2:56 to put the Highlanders on top for the first time, 27-25. Connor Londregan regained the Cougar' lead with a 6-5 win over Shane Haddad.

- 215- Campo (C) p O'Sullivan, 5:14
- Hwt: - Brady (C) p Manganiello, 3:18
- 103- Mele (GL) p Castro, 1:29
- 112- DeFranco (GL) p Henry, 1:48
- 119- Giaccio (C) d Morrison, 12:0
- 125- Brian Buontempo, (C) won forfeit
- 130- Stepien (GL) p Pellino, 3:43
- 135- DiGiovanni (C) d Hoy, 3:2
- 140- Orozco (GL) d Knight, 6-4
- 145- Eichner (GL) p Dwyer, 2:56
- 152- Londregan (C) d Haddad, 6-5
- 160- Christiano (C) d Shaunberg, 6-5
- 171- Heissler (GL) p Keim, 5-0
- 189- Colder (GL) p Petgrave, 1:59

**Online Cougar Exclusive Union County Wrestling:**

For Cranford High School sports, check out the Online Exclusive Cougar pages at - www.goleader.com - Go to bottom of main page - Click Cougar Pages. Union County Wrestling results will be on the following page.

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MAKING IT DIFFICULT TO SHOOT... Blue Devil Pat Sabatino, top, makes it extremely difficult for Raider Chuck Oliver to get off a shot in Westfield on January 14.

**OLIVER SCORES 26, HESS HITS 22, SABATINO NETS 13**

# Hess Rises in Fourth as Devils Top Raider Hoopmen, 56-50

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

Friendly rivalries can be great! And, this time, the Westfield High School basketball team got a timely and special effort from junior Ryan Hess, who netted 15 of his 22 points in the final quarter, as the Blue Devils pushed past the Raiders, 56-50, in Westfield on January 14.

Senior center Pat Sabatino got the job done defensively and offensively as he tossed in 13 points and ruled the boards with 13 rebounds. Senior Max Fusaro scored 10 points, including two three-pointers, Jaraad Rogers scored six points, Joe Kasmarsky three and Hugo Nolasco finished with two points.

Raider junior Chuck Oliver inflicted devastating offensive damage, hitting five three-pointers to lead all scorers for a career-high 26 points. Junior Patrick Dougher drained two three-pointers and converted two layups for 10 points. Alfredo Pawid netted six points and Tim Bonacum dropped in four points with six assists and had four steals. Matt Manns and Matt Jegede each contributed two points.

"The last time we played them it was a very good game too. They just got hot making three's all over the

place and went on an 11-0 run in the third quarter. We were a little uncharacteristic, knowing that they were a perimeter base team. We had to stop that and eventually we did some things with a few traps, trying to get some turnovers. It just came down to the end. We were patient, Ryan made some big shots down the end and iced the game a little bit," said Westfield Head Coach Kevin Everly.

Both teams struggled with their shots in the first quarter. Oliver, however, hit two three-pointers as the quarter ended 7-7. In the second quarter, the offensive employment by the 5-4 Blue Devils found the mark underneath the basket, but the Raiders' shots were off the mark. Westfield dazed the Raiders with a 13-0 run to take a 25-16 lead to the locker room at halftime.

The third quarter featured numerous lead changes, but a sudden offensive surge by the Raiders, highlighted by Oliver's three long-range shots and Dougher's two 3-pointers had the Blue Devils reeling. The Raiders cruised to an 11-0 run to gain a 38-35 lead to close out the quarter.

The Blue Devils regrouped in the final quarter, controlling both sides of the boards, while penetrating inside for the easy lay-up, yet the lead

continued to be a back-and-forth battle until the game knotted at 50-50. Hess took matters into his hands by banging in a leaping one-handed shot. Later, Oliver stole the ball and converted the layup to tie the score, 52-52, but he was called for charging. Hess stepped to the stripe and converted both of his shots and Sabatino answered in turn with the game's final points.

"Both teams played very well. It was a game of runs. They made the run the first half. We responded in the second half," Raider Head Coach Dan Doherty said. "It just came down to who could make plays at the end. Unfortunately for us, they made a couple extra plays, a couple of more shots than we did at the end, but I'm happy with my team and they way we played. We responded being down nine at the half and took the lead back. Charles (Oliver) was unbelievable; did a great job as did everyone else with the little stuff. Dougher came out shooting better and Alfredo Pawid did a good job subbing with Doran Nelson out. He did a fabulous job on their big kid because he's tough and he really shut him down."

Sc. Pl.-Fanwood	7	9	22	12	50
Westfield	7	18	10	21	56

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