

OT Goal Sinks Blue Devils In Hockey 2nd Round, 3-2

Westfield Blue Devils ice hockey coach Dennis Doherty had only one regret following his team's 3-2, overtime loss to the Morristown Colonials in the second round of the New Jersey Public A State Hockey Tournament on March 4 at Mennen Arena. "I wish we could have the first seven minutes of that game back," said coach Doherty after watching

his team fall behind 2-0 on goals by Morristown's Jordan Klotz and Trey Peacock in the opening seven minutes. "We were nervous in the early going, and they took advantage. That was the difference in the game." Looking more comfortable as the game progressed, Westfield narrowed the gap to 2-1 at 6:42 of the middle period when junior forward Nick

Attanasio completed a nice individual effort with a shot to the top corner of the net. Junior forwards CJ Meyer and Henry O'Brien drew assists on the goal. The third period belonged to Westfield starting in the first minute of play when Attanasio narrowly missed scoring on a shot that rang off the crossbar. Many in the crowd speculated that the shot may have crossed the goal line. With 2:21 remaining, Meyer knotted the score, 2-2, following a mad scramble in front of the Morristown net. Attanasio and O'Brien earned assists. The Blue Devils outshot the Colonials 9-3 in the period and 27-19 in regulation. At the 6:51 mark of the overtime period, Klotz pounced on a rebound in front of Westfield goaltender Morgan Bungerz to win the game for the eighth-ranked Colonials, who advanced to play Toms River South on March 6. Toms River emerged a 5-3 winner in that contest.



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
WRESTLING ONLY THE BEST...Blue Devil Christian Barber's, front, losses, which were all by one point or in overtime, came from a state runner-up, a state third placer, a state fourth placer, a state eighth placer and a three-time state qualifier.

Lady Blue Devils Had Strong Run Toward End of Season

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This season, Venezia sank 34, 3-pointers and hit 97-for-128 from the charity line for a 76 percent average. She led the team with 241 rebounds, which included 62 offensive rebounds, and also led with 42 blocks, while adding 31 steals and 26 assists. "Diana started slowly. I think she felt that she needed to carry the team. After a while she relaxed. After that she really started to produce. She was not selfish. She was an excellent leader," coach Marino said. Senior point guard Amanda Markowski bucketed 282 points, including 15 3-pointers, and was 37-for-53 from the line for a 70 percent average. She also pulled 83 rebounds (28 offensive) and led the team in steals with 94 and assists with 78. "Amanda is smart, intelligent! She knew how to set the table for others. She was always looking for others. When the opportunity knocked to score, she did," said coach Marino. Junior forward Katie Ponce added speed and power to the game and made the majority of her 157 points via the lay-up. Ponce was second in thefts with 59 and second in assists with 62. She also pulled 117 rebounds (39 offensive).

Several reserves also got in some court time. Nicole Bilica scored 24 points, 12 rebounds, two blocks and two steals. Gabby Cerami had 13 points, 21 rebounds, four assists and two steals. Sara Nelson had 14 points, 14 rebounds, seven blocks and two assists. Anne Knisley had 12 points, 12 rebounds and three assists. Nikki Aronson had six points, 15 rebounds, three blocks and three assists. Jessica Mondon had 10 rebounds, seven steals, eight assists and one point. Krista Embrett had 14 rebounds, three assists and two points. Erika Jakub had three rebounds, an assist and four points. Kristina Scaglione had two assists and a rebound. "Danielle Miller, Charlotte, Anne Knisley and all of the other girls on the floor did their share. They had the team concept. There was no individual. They always focused on the team as one," coach Marino said.



David B. Corbin for The Leader and The Times
STRONG DEFENSIVELY...Blue Devil Danielle Miller contributed strong defensive play with 38 steals and 53 rebounds.

"Katie has been playing with us since she was a freshman. She brought a lot of fire and intensity. She pretty much set the pace of how we were going to play. When she's on fire, everybody fed off that and brought the game to the next level," coach Marino said. Senior guard Danielle Miller contributed mostly defensive skills with 38 steals and 53 rebounds but did score 59 points and dish out 38 assists. Charlotte Lorentzen broke into the starting lineup more and more as the season progressed and finished with 81 rebounds, six blocks and 10 steals, to go with her 61 points and 12 assists.

BARBER MADE STATES; KALIMTZIS UCT, D11 CHAMP

Blue Devil Matmen Achieved More Than Many Expected

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

Many expected this year's Westfield High School (WHS) wrestling team to suffer through a dismal season, since WHS graduated a bumper crop of talent last year, but that did not happen. With a large, athletic freshman class injected into the program, positive thoughts emerged. That positive attitude increased when the Blue Devils defeated Rahway, 38-28, in late December. Since that time, the Blue Devils recorded key victories over Scotch Plains-Fanwood, Piscataway, Linden and, on January 30, they tapped (WHS) wrestling history twice with a 45-22 victory over Elizabeth, making it the 500th win for the program and the 100th career victory for Glen Kurz as the Blue Devils' head coach. Individually, junior Christian Barber (140 lbs.), a two-time District 11 champ, faced off with some of the most talented wrestlers in the area. Many times this season, he jumped up a weight class or even two to compete against the other team's best wrestler. Barber finished with a deceptive 24-8 record—three very close

losses to Brearley's Dan Ries, who placed eighth in the NJSIAA tournament, and his last an 8-6 decision to Willingboro's James Green, who placed second in the NJSIAA tournament. "Christian had a tremendous year, but I know he still has another level," Blue Devil Head Coach Glen Kurz said. "I don't know if there's another wrestler in the state who faced as tough of a schedule as he did. His losses, which were all by one point or in overtime, came from a state runner-up, a state third placer, a state fourth placer, a state eighth placer and a three-time state qualifier. He had a number of wins over state qualifiers. I expect him to make the same jump that he did from his sophomore year to junior year. He's already planning his off-season wrestling schedule. If he's not on the podium in Atlantic City next year, it will not be for a lack of work." Senior Brian Henry (145 lbs.), "the 100 percent, six-minute man," wrestled his best in the region tournament with big wins over Rich Weslock (Roselle Park) and Pat Eichner (Governor Livingston of Berkeley Heights). He

finished 19-13. "Brian Henry is possibly the best example of overachieving we've had. While he came to us with some natural tools, he didn't know how to wrestle and made a lot of mistakes. Over the last two years, he seemed to get better and better every time he stepped on the mat," said coach Kurz. "One of the things we really try to teach is the mental aspect of the sport, and I can't think of a wrestler who has mentally broken more opponents than Brian Henry. He's had so many matches where he fell behind early, but he just kept going after his opponent and wore him down. Even in matches where he lost, his opponents laid on the mat or the floor completely drained. You almost feel sorry for them. That's the way we want all of our wrestlers to compete." Senior Bill Kim had a banner year and finished 21-12 at 171 lbs., while senior Ryan Jennings (135 lbs.) finished 10-9 and Chris Tomasso (160 lbs.) finished 10-10. Junior Erik Gozdieski (152 lbs.) contributed some important wins.

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