



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
FULL SPEED ALL THE TIME... Blue Devil Brian Henry, top, went full speed ahead in all of his matches this season.

Blue Devil Matmen Achieved More Than Many Expected

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"Ryan Jennings served as an excellent captain and was a true leader on this team. His contributions can't be measured in wins and losses. He was a hard worker who set a good example and I watched him get better and better as the season went on. He was really finding his groove in February and always left everything he had on the mat," coach Kurz said. "Bill Kim definitely surpassed the expectations we had for him as a freshman. Last year, Bill helped us out a lot by keeping his losses close and not giving up big points. This year, he was someone, who we counted on for bonus points and he came through time and time again. Bill's success was no accident. He made himself into a competitive wrestler through his hard work."

Sophomore Mike Kalimtzis won the Union County Tournament (UCT) and district 103-lb. titles and finished with a 23-7 record.

"I was not surprised to see Mike end his season with a county and district title. His technique came a long way this year," coach Kurz said. "He's more of a natural 103 pounder than he was last year, but size still seemed to limit him in the matches he lost. Unless he really grows a lot, I expect him to be back at 103 where he should be competing for a region title."

Sophomore Troy Skibitsky came very close to making the trip to Atlantic City by placing fourth in the Region 3 tournament at 125 lbs.

Skibitsky placed second in the district and finished with a 20-10 record.

"Troy definitely had an adjustment period jumping from 112 to 125, but he did his best wrestling at the end of the year, when you want to be peaking," coach Kurz said. "He had an excellent region tournament and just missed qualifying for the state tournament. I'm sure his loss in the consolation round of the regions will motivate him in the off-season. He and Mike should be joining Christian in AC next year."

Coming up through the ranks, the Blue Devils won the UCT JV championship and several returned home with medals. Ellis Opoku (140 lbs.), Brian Bulger (145 lbs.), Kieran Cline (171 lbs.) crown and Tom Snyder (215 lbs.) captured first. Kevin Castillo (130 lbs.), Mike DeLouisa (152 lbs.) and Ross Workman (160 lbs.) placed second. Austin Slifer (103 lbs.), Pat Currie (112 lbs.) and heavy-weight Kyle Kania placed third. Jey Yingling (135 lbs.) and Luke Gibbons (189 lbs.) took fourth.

Several of those young matmen have experienced varsity time, so next year it can be expected that the Blue Devils will be an even stronger force.

"Overall, this year's team came a long way. We started out 2-6, but finished 9-8. We have a lot of returning varsity wrestlers and we had a number of JV wrestlers who are ready to compete on the varsity level. I'm looking forward to getting back to work with this group," coach Kurz said.

Raider Boys Finished Strong In Rugged Basketball League

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"Union beat us pretty good the first time, we lost by just three the next time. Westfield beat us the first two times, we then beat them in the third game, so we got better as the year went on. The more times the kids played together, the more they improved and that looks good for us next year," Doherty said.

In their final game of the season, the Raiders doused Bridgewater-Raritan, 62-58.

Junior point guard Chuck Oliver mobilized the offense and averaged 19.5 points per game (ppg.) from the field.

"He transferred in, so he was new to the system. He has a lot of talent and one of the top players in the county. He'll be a real solid year player for us next year," coach Doherty said.

Junior guard Pat Doherty played a significant role on both sides of the ball. "He came on late. Last game of the season, he had a career-high 22 points. He's well all-around and someone we hardly ever took off the floor. He is our best defensive player, handles the ball well and a good 3-point shooter," said Doherty.

Junior forward Matt Manns controlled traffic under the glass and really helped inside.

"Very good defender and strong inside presence, so we're looking for him to get better," said Doherty.

Sophomore Matt Jegede, at 6'-5", showed toughness and kept the opponents' defense on its toes.

"He'll probably grow a little and

has a real bright future in front of him. He can play inside, outside and had our best rebound average. He had a number of games where he was between 13 and 14 rebounds," Dougher said.

Senior guard Denzel Clark was the type of kid who did everything that was asked of him. Off the bench, junior guard Tim Bonacum proved to be a solid shooter and is expected to bring lots of good things next year according to Doherty.

"Duran Nelson, a senior and starter for us early in the year was sidelined with an injury in January. He hit some 3-pointers for us and made us more of an athletic team. We also had Alfredo Pawid, a senior, who did kind of everything for us. When people got hurt, he stepped in, played a little guard, a little forward and really had a nice solid year for himself," Doherty said.

When asked what the Raiders' most outstanding achievement was, Doherty said, "The 57-54 win against Westfield at home on February 4. It's always a rivalry; it draws a big crowd and a great atmosphere for basketball. They beat us two previous times, so I thought we really played well as a team."

As to the teams' disappointment, he said, "Not making the state tournament. We made the tournament at least seven or eight times in the past nine years. We were close - a couple of tough losses early in the year and that came back to haunt us. We learned from it and definitely, we'll be in the state tournament next year."



David B. Corbin (SPF/Westfield game) for The Westfield Leader and The Times
MOBILIZING THE OFFENSE...Raider junior point guard Chuck Oliver, No. 11, mobilized the offense and averaged 19.5 points per game.

Jammers, X-Men Grab Wins In FSPY Men's 30+ Basketball

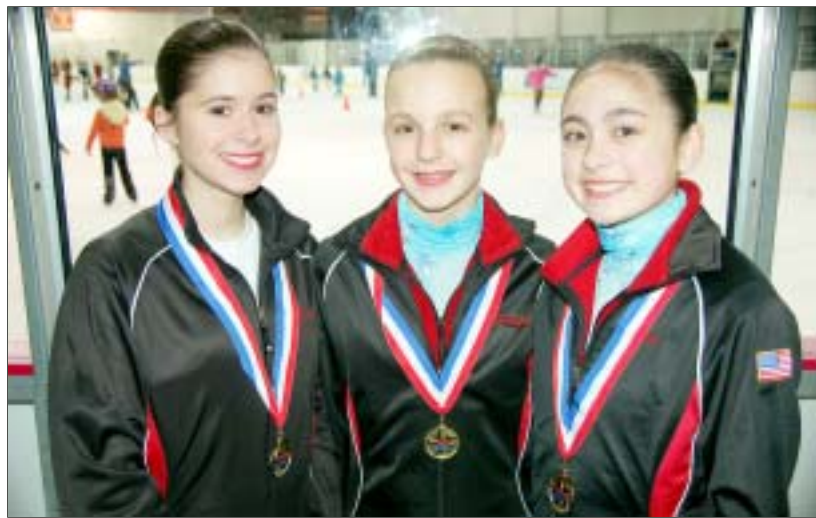
The Jammers clipped the Clippers, 59-34, and the X-Men shaved the Razorbacks, 53-46, in Fanwood-Scotch Plains 'Y' Men's 30+ basketball League actions this past weekend.

The Jammers jumped to a 36-11 lead at the half. Eric Halpin sank 13 points and grabbed eight rebounds. Marlon Brown had six points and seven rebounds. The Clippers were out-rebounded, 30-21, as the Jammers maintained control of the boards in the second half. Without their leading rebounder, the Clippers totaled only 40 rebounds, while the Jammers grabbed 52. Brown grabbed another seven rebounds, while Halpin finished with 18 points and 12 boards. David Berger bucketed 20 points and

Kubi Koseoglu swiped 13 rebounds for the 0-3 Clippers.

With Jason Holley's 15 points the Razorbacks had a 10-point lead late in the first half, but Jamal Berry, Sid Jackson and Troy Sims grabbed a total of 18 boards with 27 points and finished the first half with the X-Men leading, 29-28.

In the second half, the score was close for the first few minutes, but the X-Men began to build a lead. Holley added 10 points, Jason Shann (16 points total) hit eight points and Joe Negley pulled down seven of his 10 rebounds, but it was not enough. Berry finished with 25 points and 12 rebounds, Jackson finished with 11 points and 11 rebounds, and Sims added 10 more rebounds.



SKATING CHAMPS...The Synchroettes Synchronized Skating organization, representing the Essex Skating Club of New Jersey, returned home last week from the 26th U.S. Synchronized Skating Championships in Minneapolis, MN, with a Gold Medal in the Juvenile Division. Three Westfield members, pictured, from left to right, are: Kate Bagger (Junior Division), Jennifer Bagger (Juvenile Division) and Halle O'Hern (Juvenile Division).

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GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS...FSPY swimmers Marcel Green, left, and Alex Skoog, right, both age 12, finished in the top 10 in each of their seven races at the New Jersey YMCA 12U State Championships held at the Ocean County Y.

FSPY Swimmers Place 10th At 12U State Championships

More than 35 members of the Fanwood Scotch Plains Y swim team qualified for the recent New Jersey YMCA 12U State Championships held at the Ocean County Y. The team finished 10th overall and had some outstanding performances.

Marcel Green and Alex Skoog, both age 12, finished in the top-10 in each of their seven races. Green took first place in three races, including the 100-IM where he set a team record,

St. Bart's Softball Sets 'Draft Night'

What separates the St. Bartholomew Men's Oldtimers Softball League from others in the area is that new teams are chosen each year. This makes it easy to meet the 150 players, in what sometimes seems more like a "fraternity" than a softball league. This year's player draft will be held on Friday, April 23, at 7 p.m. at the St. Bartholomew School Cafeteria, on the lower level.

Sunday practices at LaGrande Park at 10 a.m. begin on April 11. The practices are open to all St. Bart's players, including rookies.

In an effort to cooperate with the Recreation Department, the league has reduced the regular season by two games. This is because the demand for playing fields has increased. This year the league will try a double elimination playoff format. Based on the results of this new format, the league will decide next winter whether to revert to the old playoff format.

and the 50-fly where his 25.59 set a team record but also broke the meet record by more than half a second. His 24.11 time in the 50-free was another team record and put him in second place by one one-hundredth of a second.

Skoog finished seventh or better in each of his races and was in the top five in all but two. His meet opened with a fourth in the 50-back and ended with a second in the 200-free. Skoog and Green teamed with Alex Wang and Jason Steinberg to touch second in the 200-medley relay, and with Enzo Butrico and Matt Auda to touch seventh in the 200-freestyle relay.

Head Age-group Coach Chris Karelus said, "It's been great working with all these swimmers throughout the year, and to see some of the fine performances by the whole group is very rewarding."

Several other FSPY swimmers scored points for the team (top 16 individual finishes), including 11-12's Amanda Banasiak in the 50-free and Sarah Davis in the 50-fly.

The 9-10 swimmers also swam well with points being tallied by Erika Frazier in the 100-breast and the 50-fly (sixth), as well as Julie Stankiewicz in the 50-fly (eighth), Emily Lockatell in the 50-free and Micaela Valli in the 200-free.

Brody Rash placed eighth in the 100-breast, while Colin Sullivan scored in the 100-IM. Rash and Sullivan were joined by Nick Heath and Tyler Daniskas to touch sixth in the 200-freestyle relay.

Kids Fishing Derby Set for Echo Lake Park

The Newark Bait and Fly Casting Club will be hosting its 30th Annual Kids Fishing Derby at Echo Lake Park in Mountainside from April 17 through May 9. Participants must register on Saturday, April 17.

The Newark Bait and Fly Casting Club has been presenting programs for children for almost 100 years. Members are also certified as instructors in the Hooked on Fishing - Not on Drugs program.

Prizes will be awarded to the winners of various contests. Bait will be supplied and fishing rods will be available. All individuals and youth groups are welcome to attend. Please call Frank Stack, president, at (908) 245-9070 for further information.

UCRFC Mudturtles Erode West Shore United, 32-15

The Union County Rugby Football Club (UCRFC) U19 boys A-side faced a big early-season challenge when they traveled to Philadelphia this past weekend to play West Shore United (Harrisburg, Pa.) in the Saint Joseph's University High School Showcase.

West Shore was the no. 4 ranked U19 team in the nation in 2009; however, UCRFC rose to the occasion and grabbed a 32-15 victory. The Jr. Mudturtles scored first as Zack Basicio pounced on a loose ball to score a try. Jon Brucia added the conversion, making the score 7-0. Joe Ondi scored on an interception to increase the lead to 12-0.

The UCRFC scrum was dominant all day and this was emphasized as

they took down a lineup and drove over the line with James Brady scoring the try (17-0, UCRFC). West Shore got a try back before halftime.

In the second half, Ondi scored two more tries to bag his hat trick. Ryne Morrison converted one and Brucia added a penalty kick. With 10 minutes remaining, UCRFC led 32-5. West Shore battled to the end and scored two tries.

The U19 boys B-side, the U13 boys and U15 boys were rained out. The A-side U19s will play Parsippany in their first league game. The U19 boys B-side play Essex today and West Milford on March 21. The U15 boys also play Parsippany and the U19 girls head out to play East Hampton in their first league game.

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