

CRANFORD COUGAR HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

TROTTER, GREEN NET 15 PTS EACH; 'PAP' 4 ASSISTS Minutemen 'Steal' 49-35, Win Over Cougar Basketball Boys

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

Thievery was abound on both teams; however, the Elizabeth High School boys basketball team seized the lion's share, along with dominating the boards, to outpace the hosting Cranford Cougars, 49-35, on January 4.

Minuteman Hakeem Rogers was the chief thief with nine steals, including four in the first quarter. Rogers also finished with 13 points, as did teammate PJ Walker (5-for-6 free

throws), who also had a pair of steals. Jermaine West added seven points and two steals, and Jamel Harmon put in eight points and added two steals.

Senior guard Sean Trotter had the most steals for the Cougars with four. Senior forward Bryan Fitzsimmons (3 rebounds, assist) took two charges and had a steal. Senior Joey Papandrea (rebound, tipped pass) also took a charge and had a steal. Senior guard Mark Osofsky (2 assists), junior

guards Sean Babos and Eric Garguilo, and sophomore forward Reggie Green, who led the team in rebounds with four, each had a steal.

Trotter and Green led the 2-3 Cougars with 15 points each, and Papandrea bucketed five points. Usually relying on hitting from 3-point range, the Cougars sank only two - one by Trotter and one from Papandrea. But they did find some success, especially in the first half,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



PRESSURING A MINUTEMAN...Cougar senior guard Joe Papandrea, No. 2, tries to prevent a Minuteman from making a move toward the basket or passing inside to a teammate.

SHIMONOV, SCHELICH, GRANT, CACCHIONE EXCEL

Cougars Jump to Good Start In Winter Indoor Track

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

Smiles lit up the faces of the Cranford High School boys and girls winter track teams and their coaches after the Cougars got a great jump start in their meets in December and their first meet of the new year on January 4.

"We had a few split squad meets earlier in December that we 'knocked the rust off' for the Indoor season," Cougar Head Coach Peter Kane said.

Junior Rebecca Shimonov placed first and sophomore Bryanna Grant finished third in the 55-meter hurdles at the Ultimate Sports Track Meet in December. Grant also placed second

in the triple jump. The next day a small group of Cougars went to the Bishop Loughlin Games in New York City (NYC). Shimonov, Megan Schetelich, Gillian Burke and Grant competed in the 55-hurdles. In the triple jump, Grant jumped a county-leading 34'5. Kate Evans ran the 300-meters in a county-leading time of 45.81. Senior Natalie Englese ran a county-leading 1:40 in the 600-meters. Shimonov soared a county-leading 15'4" in the long jump. Mike Zanfardino and Billy Haussner competed in the 1000-meter event.

"This was for a training a competition experience that was awesome for all of them," expressed Coach Kane.

The same day the bulk of the team went to Toms River for the Merli Invite. Kristen VanBenschoten had a personal record (PR) toss of 29'7" in the shot put. Tom Feeney at 10:21 and Mike Cassidy at 10:23 finished 1-2 in the 3,200 meters, and Eli Howard at 10:34 crossed fourth. George El-Khoury placed fourth in the 1,600 with a time of 4:47.

On January 4, the Cougars traveled to Toms River again for the Burns Relays, because the meet was postponed from December 29 due to the snow.

"It gave us a chance take a look at what we can do in the relays and take

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



HANGING ON TO PREVENT A REVERSAL...Cougar Cory Markovitch, top, hangs onto Blue Devil Brian Bulger's arm to prevent a reversal in the 160-lb bout. Markovitch won, 11-6.

HELMSTETTER STUNS KALIMTZIS, DWYER CLINCHES

Cranford Shocks Blue Devils In Mat Showdown, 38-24

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

Enough swings bouts and a stunner went in the direction of the Cranford High School wrestling team in a 38-24 victory over host Westfield on January 10.

Crafty weight-class shifting was also involved in the process, which began in the opening bout of the evening at 171-lbs. Blue Devil Christian Barber, ranked fourth in the state at 152-lbs, bumped up in hopes of facing off with Cougar J.P. Christiano,

who usually competes at 160-lbs. Cougar Head Coach Darren Torsone, however, had different ideas and bumped Christiano up to 189-lbs in order to beef up his more inexperienced heavier weight classes.

Barber took care of business and pinned Rob Kessler in 3:46 with a tight waist and an arm bar. Christiano also took care of business, recording two takedowns, two near-falls and a reversal to grab an 11-0, majority decision over Mike DeLouisa.

The first toss-up bout, 215-lbs, went in favor of the Blue Devils. Kieran Cline had a reversal and added two stalling penalty points to beat Ray El-

Khoury, 4-0, but he had difficulties turning him to his back with a half nelson.

"I felt like he was clamping up a lot. At one point, he actually figure-fouled my legs just so he didn't get pinned. I think they were working on not getting pinned by our half nelsons," explained Cline, who added, "We aren't there yet, but I know we are going to work harder, and we are going to come out stronger to make up for our loss today."

"He did not listen to what we told him to do. Half nelson! We told him to stay with that series!" Blue Devil

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Probitas Verus Honos



WORKING THE WRIST/HALF NELSON MANEUVER...Blue Devil Kieran Cline, top, attempts to turn Cougar Ray El-Khoury to his back with a half nelson in his 215-lb bout but has trouble freeing his leg for more leverage. Cline won, 4-0.

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