

Raider Wrestlers Improved, Finished 17-8, 2nd District

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on very strong to place fifth in the UCT, third in the district and fourth in the region, finishing at 20-19.

"The biggest surprise was probably Danny VanBrunt going on a nice run and placing fourth in the region. He was a first-year wrestler that fell into a varsity spot by default. Coach [Marc] Fabiano did a nice job of fast-tracking him into a varsity wrestler. Not to mention that he wrestled up 30 pounds at 220 half the season," Coach Gavor said.

Four sophomores, Alex Mirabella (182), Brian Lapham (138), Tommy Cunningham (120) and JT Beirne (113) made huge contributions. On several occasions, Mirabella, who finished 20-13, made good on his Merkel maneuver to gain valuable team points. Lapham, who placed fourth in the UCT at 132-lbs, jumped up to 138-lbs, placed second in the district and finished 27-11. Cunningham placed second in the district and finished 21-15, while Beirne placed fifth in the UCT, third in the district and finished 25-11.

"The sophomores continue to impress me with JT, Tommy, Brian and Alex all having 20+ win seasons," Coach Gavor noted. "Lapham got off

to a slow start this year but did a nice job of bouncing out of his slump and doing what was expected. He battled with some injuries, but pulled together to be a reliable starter at 132."

Freshman Jashmar Philippe (106) finished with a 15-9 record. Senior Dom Pigna placed fifth in the UCT at 152-lbs and finished 13-9. Senior Steve Carrion (126) finished 17-13 and senior Matt Blank competed at 160-lbs. "Everyone is going to be working hard in the off season to improve on this past season. The one thing that I stressed this year was to get bonus points by any means necessary. In order to hang with the tougher competition, it is necessary to capitalize when we have a chance to get a pin. The kids responded very well. We registered 138 pins and only gave up 78. We picked up some tougher competition, and we are looking to build on that again next season. We have some feelers out to some of the tougher programs in the area so these kids will be seeing top competition. Our county keeps getting better and better, so we have to keep up with everyone else. We are confident that the younger guys will be able to fill the lineup nicely next season," Coach Gavor said.



The Westfield Blue 4th grade boys basketball team

Westfield Blue 4th Graders Win Division Title

The Westfield Blue 4th grade boys basketball team used a combination of defense, hustle and balanced scoring to finish in first place in the American division of the Garden State League and capture the championship of the Branchburg March Madness tournament.

The team received great point-guard play from Ezra Budashewitz and Ryan Pettit, while Dylan Kronick, Gerard Bryson and Griffin Dagosta provided strong outside play. Big men Jack

Spellman and Sebastian Birse provided outstanding interior play and received plenty of support from Patrick Reynders and Braden Stryker. Swingmen Matt Melao, Sean Hazard and Colby Shovlin provided excellent play on both ends of the court.

Under the guidance and leadership of Head Coach Ron Shovlin and assistants Todd Dagosta, John Pettit and Kevin Spellman, the boys completed their season with an overall record of 18-5.

FSPY 30+ Men's Basketball Semifinal Playoffs Results:

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains "Y" (FSPY) Men's Basketball League held its semifinal playoff round on March 17 and the "Luck of the Irish" smiled on Courtmasters and Fast Break. Both teams now hope their pot of gold is the two-foot tall golden basketball trophy to be awarded to the winner after next week's championship.

That game will feature the sharp shooting of Courtmaster's 32-point-per-game scorer Jack Ryan against a Fast Break squad with four players averaging double-digit points.

Sunday also marked the League's second annual Family Day celebration. Kid's activities, included free-throw shooting contests, King of the Court games and duck-duck-goose games, with winners taking home lollipops and licorice. The Mom's got into the fun too with a rendition of the "Harlem Shake" during an intermission.

Sponsors Recognized: League sponsor Brian Walter of

Oh Brian's Pub (Fanwood), Trophy sponsor Steve Filler of Cutting Edge Industries (Linden), Team sponsors: Got Skillz' player Jason Shann (Info-Prompt of Fanwood), Double Dribble player Peter Chemidlin (Family Investors Company of Fanwood), Courtmasters' (owner Cindy West of Club West of Fanwood), Hooptown (owner Sharon Steele of Sharon Steele Real Estate/Coldwell Banker of Cranford), Above the Rim sponsor (owner Ron Marcovecchio of Fanwood Clipper of Fanwood), Fast Break (owner Cheryl Mulligan of The CALM Approach Therapeutic Massage of Cranford).

Local legend Lee Gallman "DJ" of the event and had music and sound effects creating an NBA-stadium-type vibe to the day. Countless volunteers and FSPY staff were involved in the festivities and recognized for their contributions to the League, which just completed its fourth regular season.

Courtmasters, Fast Break Vie For FSPY Men's Hoops Title

The third-seeded Courtmasters leveled second-seeded Hooptown, 78-57, and top-seeded Fast Break edged Above the Rim, 61-60, to advance to the Fanwood-Scotch Plains "Y" championship game, which was held on March 24.

Courtmasters clung to a 43-39 lead at the half, but in the second half, Jack Ryan found the range and totaled 30 points. The Masters outscored Hoop Town, 35-18, in the second stanza. Courtmasters' Jason Pompeo added 19 points and Joe Encarnacion sank 13. Hooptown's Brian Parker had 26 points, Steve Calao added 13 and Scott Lowder had 11.

Above the Rim outpaced Fast Break most of the game and held an 11-point lead with about six minutes to play. The Breakers stepped up, used pressure defense and got perfect free throw shooting from Jason Holley (6-for-6 down the stretch) to tie then take the lead with

less than a minute in regulation. Above the Rim inbounded the ball with three seconds remaining, and Jamal Berry sank the possible game-winner, but the officials waved it off as time had expired.

Holley was 8-for-9 from the line in the second half and finished with 25 points. Jerry Baglien had 16, while Tim Gray and Steve Lee added nine each. Berry led Above the Rim with 25 points. Joe Negley netted 11 points and Kevin Adams and Adam Mertz had seven apiece.

Double Dribble out-skilled Got Skillz, 68-63, in the consolation game. Got Skillz took the early lead and led 38-35 at the half. Kevin Gannon scored 26 points, Ian Brown added 17 and captain Ara Movsesian sank 12 for Got Skillz. Double Dribble's Chris Mattina tossed in nine 3-pointers en route to 33 points. Mike Ruccio followed with 11 and Keith Karyczak added 10 points.

FSPY Court Masters Impede Fast Break for Hoops Crown

After 10 weeks of a regular season and three weeks of playoffs, it finally came down to two teams to decide which would claim the trophy for the Fanwood-Scotch Plains "Y" Men's Basketball 2013 Championship. On one end of the court was Fast Break, the team with the best regular-season record. At the other end were the Court Masters, the team that would play underdog in this postseason.

Fast Break did, however, struggle in the second half of the season, as they staggered to the post season bye-round. In their dramatic semifinal, come-from-behind victory last week, additional cracks in their armor were exposed.

Court Masters crept through the season but did finish strong. Unlike, Fast Break they did not have a first round bye then in the championship game, they thumped Fast Break, 82-63.

Fast Break jumped to a 27-21 first-quarter lead behind the play of Jason Holley and Tim Gray. Meanwhile the Court Masters were trying to find their rhythm as Jack Ryan kept the game from getting out of hand too early.

In the second quarter, the Court Masters rallied to being down by only one point by halftime with a score of 41-40 in spite of Holley's 17 first-half points. But, that's because Ryan answered with 23 points.

As the third quarter ticked on, Fast Break started to take a lead that stretched itself to nine points. By quarter's end, Court Masters narrowed the score to 54-50.

With approximately nine minutes remaining in the fourth quarter, after Ryan missed three straight free throws, the Court Masters caught fire offensively and defensively. Fast Break's pace turned into a crawl, while Court Masters were speeding up. With six minutes to go, Court Masters seized a seven-point lead.

Court Masters controlled the ball for the final minutes, while Fast Break fizzled and broke down. Ryan finished with 40 points and also earned the prestigious clutch award, known as the Playoff's MVP award. Greg Gardner, named to the All-Defensive team, chipped in 14 points and seven assists. Holley, named to the All-Offensive team, dropped 25 points and grabbed 14 rebounds for Fast Break. Gray had 19 points, eight rebounds in the losing effort.

The 2013 Awards were given out prior to the presentation of the Championship trophy. The monthly valuable player awards for December 2012, January 2013, and February 2013 were handed to Brian Parker, Holley and Marlon Brown. Additionally, Parker was named the MVP for 2013.

ALL-OFFENSE TEAM:
Jamal Berry, F
Jason Holley, F
Marlon Brown, PG
Jason Pompeo, SG
Brian Parker, C

ALL-DEFENSE TEAM:
Jamal Berry, F
Eric Lai, F
Marlon Brown, PG
Greg Gardner, SG
Steve Lee, C

Srs. Lead FSPY Swim Team In 'Y' State Championship

The Fanwood Scotch Plains "Y" (FSPY) swim team won six events, broke two state records and broke 13 team records "TR" at the New Jersey YMCA State Championship meet held from March 8-10 at Franklin and Marshall College.

Seniors Ryan Gajdzisz, Molly Gaynor and Jodie Thompson earned first-place finishes with record-breaking swims. Gajdzisz won the 500- and 1,650-freestyle events. He also set a team record in the 1,000-free (9:35.73), finishing second. Gaynor and Thompson were members of the 200- and 400-medley relay teams, which finished first with new "Y" state records. Seniors Joe Baron and Harry Clewell finished 13th in the

200-free (1:51.86), the 200-back (2:03.61) and the 200-individual medley (2:06.82).

Sarah finished in the top-five in the 50-free, 100-free and 200-free. Isabella Iacona finished ninth in the 1,000-free, setting the team 13-14 age group record (10:54.98). Julie Stankiewicz scored in individual events and joined Davis, Iacona and Annemarie Kearns on the eighth place 200-medley relay. Casey Daudelin, Kate Musso, Davis and Stankiewicz took fifth in the 200-free relay.

Gajdzisz scored in six individual events and in four relay events. Joe Baron and Anthony Gurrieri joined him on the 200-free relay (fourth), 400-free relay (fifth) and the 400-



Pictured left to right, are: bottom row; Savannah Llewellyn and Molly Gaynor; back row, Sara Cronin, Ryan Gajdzisz and Jodie Thomson.

50-free and 16th in the 200-back-stroke, respectively.

Thompson, Gaynor, Savannah Llewellyn and Sara Cronin touched first at 3:47.10 in the 400-medley relay, breaking a 23-year old N.J. USA record. This foursome also placed first in the 200-medley relay (F&M pool record 1:43.92 - TR), second in the 200-free relay and fourth in the 400-free relay (3:30.69 - TR).

Thompson won the 100-breast-stroke. Gaynor touched second in the 100-fly (56.39 - TR) and third in the 200-fly (2:06.22 - TR). In her leadoff leg of the 400-medley relay, Llewellyn set a team record in the 100-backstroke (57.37). Cronin won the 200-free, touched second in the 100-free and set team records in the

medley relay (eighth). Tyler Lessner, Alex Skoog, Harry Clewell and Gajdzisz took seventh in the 200-medley relay. Lessner also scored in the 200-free and 400-medley relays. Skoog scored in the 100-back and the 400-free relay.

Ages 13-14: Nick Giardiello touched fourth in the 1,000 free (10:10.24 - TR) and sixth in the 400IM. Nolan Kearns scored in 200IM (5th), 100-breast (6th) and 400IM (7th). Eric Chang scored in the 100 and 200-backstrokes and joined Kearns, Nick Heath and Jon Baron on the 11th place 200-free relay and 13th place 200-medley relay.

Probitas Verus Honos



THREE-PEAT CHAMPIONS...The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Immaculate Heart of Mary 7th grade girls basketball team captured the Clark Crusaders Winter Tournament Championship and the Garden State League Championship for the third consecutive year. Additionally, the girls won the Wayne Turkey Shootout and the Wayne March Madness Tournament of Champions. The three-year team record is 110-12. Team members include: Maddy Bord, Isabella DiDario, Nya Downing, Danielle Mrozek, Katie Mrozek, Erika Muskus, Brianna O'Brien and Alex Scariati. Coaches: Frank Scariati and Jeff O'Brien.

FC Premier Barcelona Begin Spring U12 Boys Soccer Season

The Westfield FC Premier Barcelona U12 boys soccer team started its spring campaign by playing in the very competitive Ironbound Spring Warmup Tournament this past weekend. They played the 11th-ranked team in NJ Ironbound Azurri on March 15 to a 0-0 tie.

On March 16, they beat the No. 8 Randolph Bulls, 3-2. Barcelona gave up an early goal a couple of minutes into the game but recovered to take a 2-1 lead at halftime. Randolph scored halfway through the second half to tie the match then Barcelona scored with five minutes remaining and held on to secure the win.

After the preliminary games they were tied with the Ironbound Azurri on points and beat them in penalty kicks to become the first seed in their bracket.

On March 18 in the semifinals, they faced No. 12 Vista Dragons, who defeated them last year in the championship game. Barcelona netted a goal 10 minutes into the match. At halftime the score was 1-1. Barcelona scored again to go up 2-1 but gave up the equalizer only minutes later. At the end of regulation the score was 2-2. Barcelona won on penalty kicks to advance to the championship game.

Barcelona was defeated in the championship game by the No. 1 team in NJ and No. 2 team in USA, the Cedar Stars Academy.

Barcelona's efforts earned them a No. 9 ranking in NJ. The FC Premier Barcelona team is made up primarily of Westfield boys and their surrounding towns.



The FC Premier Barcelona U12 boys soccer team



ABOUT TO MAKE A PASS...Westfield U14 Juventus player Joe Aguirre winds up to make a pass in the game against the Monroe Revolution.

WF U14 Juventus Boys Tie Monroe Revolution, 2-2

The Westfield U14 Juventus boys soccer team tied the Monroe Township Revolution, 2-2, in an exciting game in Monroe on March 17. Owen Ripperger's goal in final minutes saved the Juventus from a loss.

Most of the first half was scoreless with Westfield goalie Spencer Beals making some great saves, but in the 33rd minute, Ripperger received a perfect through ball from Stefan Crigler and made an amazing chip-shot over the goalie for the 1-0 lead.

After halftime, the tide seemed to switch to Monroe's side. Off a free kick, the ball was placed perfectly in

the top right corner of Westfield's goal to even up the score. Less than five minutes later, another screaming shot flew in from 25 yards out, and just like that, it was 2-1 Monroe.

After Westfield's many valiant attempts to score, the game came down to one last corner kick from Bracco Dumancic. He lined it high into the box, and Ripperger was ready for it. With both teams holding their breath, he sneaked the ball right inside the pole for the game-tying goal. In the final minutes, both teams made ferocious attempts to score, but both defenses held strong.



WBA 7TH GRADE CHAMPIONS...The WBA Heat made a great playoff run that included victories over the two top-seeded teams and captured the boy's 7th grade basketball championship with a 38-34 victory over the Mavericks. Pictured, left to right, are: front row; Juandre House, Matt Dente, Jeremy Pinto, Teddy Diamantopoulos, Linus Koglin and Matt Doyle; back row, Eric Knauss, Tyvon Araya and Jack Cerria; Coaches are Curt Knauss and Al Dente.



WF PAL Matmen Cap Season at State Tourney

The Westfield PAL Youth Wrestling teams capped off a very successful 2012-2013 with a great showing in this year's Youth States tournament. Overall the various level of Westfield Youth wrestling had nine kids qualify this year.

In the Bantam division, Jack Martin took seventh, Luke Jacobs ad-

vanced to the round of 12 and Chase Turnoff and Jack Price both qualified. In the Novice division, CJ Composto won the title, Luke Hoerle placed eighth, Jake Bencivenga advanced to the round of 12 and Jonathan Heard qualified. Finally, at the Intermediate division, Zach Rabinowitz placed sixth.