

Story on page 9
of The Westfield Leader



KORZENESKI RALLIES TO WIN, DORAN TECHS; A.J., KALNINS, SMITH, SHRINER, GLUCK PIN

Cougars Rout Woodbridge in Mat Group Section, 52-14

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

Acquiring team points proved to be very difficult for the fifth-seeded Woodbridge Barrons when they faced the fourth-seeded Cranford Cougars in the quarterfinal round of the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 4 Wrestling Tournament at Cranford High School on February 4. The 13-5 Barrons found themselves in a 21 to minus 1 hole before they could place a team point on the scoreboard in a 52-14 Cranford triumph.

Referring to a previous setback, Cougar Head Coach Pat Gorman said, "Some of these kids are remembering a beating [loss to Westfield] that they took not too long ago and that's fueling the fire. Sometimes that happens. You learn a lot from a loss. I felt they [Westfield] wrestled great that night and we did not. They wrestled better than us."

The 14-4 Cougars shot right

Probitas Verus Honos

out of the chute when Pat Kalnins punished Anthony Zecchino with a four-point barrel roll-to-back move and an arm bar walkover nearfall before pinning him in 5:11 with his walkover arm bar at 120-lbs. At 126-lbs, after pulling off a five-point elevator-to-back move in the second period, Cougar Jimmy Gluck showed Nick DiLauro the lights in 5:54. Dean Smith recorded three takedowns and an arm bar stack nearfall before pinning Justin Langan in 3:26 with a tight waist stack at 132-lbs to up the Cougars' lead to 18-0.

The next bout turned out to be a battle between Cougar Jack Korzeneski and Jaden Catalano

at 138-lbs. Catalano initiated a Merkel takedown and Korzeneski escaped. Catalano won a scramble for another takedown and Korzeneski escaped. Korzeneski escaped in the second period and Catalano escaped in the third period to take a 5-3 lead. Korzeneski reached down

deep and with 11 seconds on the clock, he caught Catalano with a low lateral drop five-point move to win 8-5. During the bout, the Woodbridge coach was penalized a team point for pursuing a discussion too long with the ref. Hence a 21 to minus 1 team score.

"Being my last home match ever in my career, I thought there's no way I am losing. After taking a tough loss on Friday, I knew that stung. I didn't want to feel that again. The kid was tired and he was fading. I knew I had more in the tank and that I was the better wrestler," Korzeneski explained.

On his ceding a Merkel takedown in the first period, Korzeneski said, "He had it locked

Support Local Journalism

goleader.com/subscribe

BALLYHOO

See & Subscribe at goleader.com/ballyhoo

Submit commentary and items for publishing.
Email to ballyhoo@goleader.com

l'ennemi du journaliste

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE