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# THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section  
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## OSLISLO, ZIMMERMAN, SMITH RECORD KEY VICTORIES

### Cougar Wrestlers Rumble Past Scrappy Raider Matmen, 44-15

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

Experience was definitely on the side of the visiting Cranford High School wrestling team that recorded a 44-15 victory over a scrappy Raider squad in Scotch Plains on January 4. The 4-0 Cougars won 10 of the 14 bouts but the primary focus was on three bouts in the upper weight classes that featured tough opponents on both teams.

The match began at the 106-lb class where Raider Ethan Costanzo was trailing Ronan Waters, 2-0, but managed to clamp him in a cradle 21 seconds into the second period to give the Raiders a 6-0 team lead. But the fans were really waiting for the showdowns that were to come towards the later portion of the match, beginning at 182-lbs with Raider Alex

Oslislo facing Justin Alpaugh-McLean and following with bouts between Cougar Zach Blevins and Zach Zimmerman at 195-lbs and Raider Eddie Smith and Matt Doran at 220-lbs.

"Cranford, they are a tough team. They got their kids going in the off-season. You see they are coached very well. They are talented. We are young, we are inexperienced but man, not getting pinned, wrestling tough for six minutes coming up to our hammers! You can see the philosophy that we are teaching, aggressiveness, non stop, conditioning. You can see that the younger guys are picking it up. Even our 106 pounder, Ethan Costanzo, getting a pin. That was outstanding," Raider Head Coach Marc Fabiano expressed.

Oslislo initiated a single trip

takedown and Alpaugh-McLean escaped but Oslislo used his football skills to add a double-leg tackle. Oslislo let his opponent up in an effort to add another takedown but the first period ended. Oslislo escaped in the second period to take a 5-2 lead then Alpaugh-McLean escaped in the third period. The two battled on their feet but when Alpaugh-McLean attempted a throw, Oslislo countered with a five-point lateral drop to claim a 10-3 decision.

"We have been working on the upper body throws. You can see it in his eyes, he believes in himself. He believes his skills. He's pushing Eddie. He's pushing Zimm. They are pushing each other. It's only going to get better from here," Coach Fabiano promised.

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David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
SUCCESSFUL COUNTER THROW...Raider Alex Oslislo, top, successfully pulls off a five-point counter throw on Cougar Justin Alpaugh-McLean in their 182-lb bout. Oslislo won his bout 10-3 but the Cougars won the match 44-15.

## RUKA SINKS 14 PTS, GOFF HITS 13 PTS, PETGRAVE 11 PTS

### GL Highlander Boys Fend Off Cougar Cagers' Rally, 58-48

By ALEX LOWE  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

The Governor Livingston High School boys basketball team built a huge lead against Cranford then hung on for dear life during a 58-48 victory on January 3 at Martin Gym in Cranford. Matthew Fallor scored a game-high 27 points for the victors. Governor Livingston led by as many as 21 points midway through the third quarter before withstanding a furious Cougar rally, which cut the lead to two points with just over three minutes remaining in the game.

The two teams played a back-and-forth game over the first quarter and a

half, exchanging leads five times. But with Governor Livingston ahead, 19-16, halfway through the second quarter, the Cougars went on a prolonged dry spell that saw them outscored 22-4 by the Highlanders. Governor Livingston surged to a 41-20 lead with just over three minutes left in the third quarter.

"It wasn't so much anything they were doing as much as it was us," said Cranford senior Cole Blazek, who scored eight points. "We just weren't doing the things we needed to do. When one person starts missing shots everyone seems to follow. It is a mentality we had last year when we only

won three games. Fortunately we were able to pick it up and pull it together and play with more intensity, which got us back into the game. When we are communicating with each other on the court our team is almost unstoppable."

With the game seemingly lost, Cranford initiated an improbable comeback effort that started with a 3-pointer from Hunter Goff followed by a pair of inside baskets from Arjun Petgrave and Joe Correa. Then another three-point bomb by Jeremy Ruka pulled the Cougars to within 41-30 with just over a minute still re-

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David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
MAKING HIS MOVE TO THE BASKET...Cougar Hunter Goff, No. 1, makes his move to the basket in the game against the Governor Livingston Highlanders in Cranford on January 3. The Highlanders topped the Cougars, 58-48.



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David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
MIXING IT UP UNDER THE BOARD...Blue Devils Sam Stravach, No. 22, Emma Pietrewicz, right, with Grace Klag and Lily Maz, No. 10, in the background, mix it up under the boards with Oak Knoll Royal Greta Criqui, No. 5.

## LISANTI 8 PTS, 4 ASST, 7 RBS; DOBOSIEWICZ 10 RBS, 6 PTS

### Blue Devils' Run in 3rd Stops Oak Knoll Lady Cagers, 46-35

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

Stubborn defense followed by a barrage of assists that set up an 11-0 run in the third quarter catapulted the Westfield High School girls basketball team from a two-point deficit to an eventual 46-35 triumph over the Oak Knoll Royals in Westfield on January 3. Junior Faith Dobosiewicz added emphasis to the Blue Devils' defense and senior Ali Lisanti, not only contributed well defensively, but also dished out several assists that put her team over the top.

Lisanti finished the game with eight points, including a pair of 3-pointers, and made her defensive presence known with seven rebounds, a block and a steal, while leading the team with four assists. She has held a hot hand recently with 15 points, including four 3-pointers, in a win over Union, and a 14 point game, including another four 3-pointers, in a victory over Edison.

"She's doing really well," commented Dobosiewicz. "Three-pointers are really her thing. I know she wants to play in college and I think she can do it. She's really stepped up her game. First-game jitters really out of the way. She got her confidence back."

"I feel like my defense really accelerates my offense and then I feel like I see the court really well. If someone goes, I will give it to them and see what happens. People will look for me. If they notice I can shoot, they will give it to me. It's a whole team effort really," Lisanti pointed out.

Dobosiewicz's hands-on policy created a team momentum that became quite contagious. Dobosiewicz, who scored six points (1 3-pointer), led the team with 10 rebounds, and added a blocked shot and a steal to go with an assist. Senior Sam Stravach after a scoreless first quarter, put up 10 points the rest of the way to lead her team. Stravach also had six rebounds, an assist and a steal. Charlotte Durse (assist, steal, rebound) scored two of her four points during that 11-0, third-

quarter run that began with Lisanti's second 3-pointer.

"Faith really accelerates our offense," Lisanti said. "She gets us pumped up on defense and that gets us going. People start getting more intense and looking for the ball."

Freshman Grace Klag had a strong showing under the boards, especially in the first half when she scored seven of her nine points, four from put-back rebounds. Earlier in the season Klag could get the rebounds but had difficulty putting the ball in the net.

"We have been working on post moves. She a strong player and she knows she can make them. She had freshman jitters but now she got them out and she's playing really well," Lisanti said.

"We have been working on lay-ups during practice and following our shots. I think Grace did a really good job on fixing that. She's improving really well," Dobosiewicz added.

Freshman Chloe Kreuzer has also worked well into the scheme and fin-

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## Blue Devil Icemen Defeat Montclair, Morris Knolls

The Westfield High School varsity boys hockey team extended the holiday spirit into early 2019 with victories over Montclair and Morris Knolls. The Blue Devils have extended their winning streak to four games. First up was a conference match-up against Montclair. The Blue Devils were able to sweep the season series from the Mounties with a 4-1 victory. Westfield then took to the road and dispatched the Morris Knolls Golden Eagles, 4-2 in Wayne.

Westfield Head Coach Joe Bertucci was quite aware that it takes a team to achieve goals. "We aren't a group of superstars, so we need everyone to contribute," said Bertucci, who added, "Every player has to do their job for us to be successful."

Bertucci and his three assistant coaches, George Giresi, Brendan Hickey and Spencer Truesdale, have been coordinating line changes with distinction this season.

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photo courtesy of Varsity Vantage  
CONTROLLING THE PUCK...Blue Devil junior iceman Brendan Hiltz, No. 20, controls the puck in a recent game. The Blue Devils have won four straight games.

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