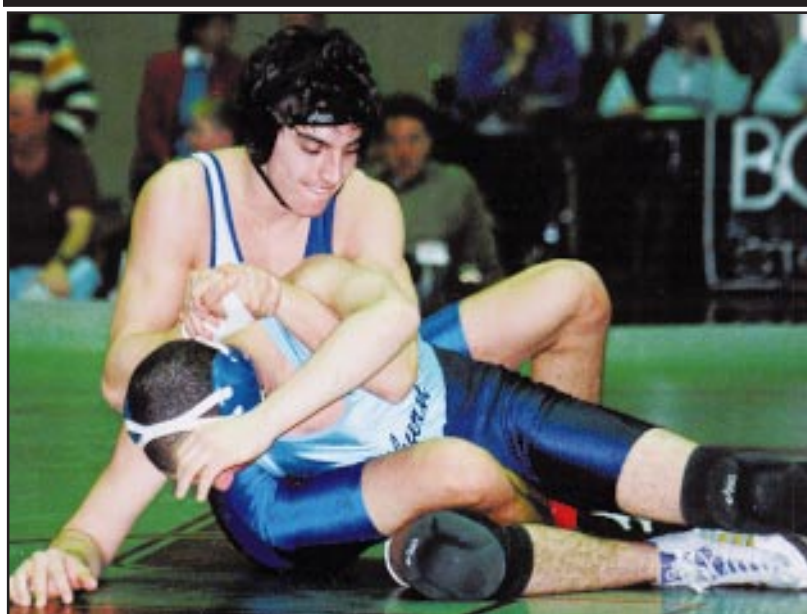


THE WEEK IN SPORTS

LOCAL TEAMS HAVE BEEN EXPERIENCING INCREASED NUMBERS

Western Union County Offers Several New Jersey State Wrestling Contenders



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
WORKING HIS WAY TO THE STATES...Last year, Blue Devil Onur Tezucar caught fire toward the end of the season and placed fifth in the state at 147-lbs.

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

Last year, Western Union County was represented well at the New Jersey State Championships in Atlantic City. This year, several of those contenders return to make their mark on the state wrestling scene. In addition, nearly every team appears to have been in a numbers building mode. Virtually every team has been experiencing increased turnouts.

Representatives from eight high school teams have been profiled in

this article and a general description of their accomplishments and outlooks for this season have been noted.

* Denotes "Dark Horse Candidate."

** Strong contender for a district title and good placement in the region.

*** Very strong contender for a Region 3 title and good prospect to place high in the state tournament.

No star means that the wrestler is a good prospect to do well in a district tournament and has the potential to progress further.

Westfield Blue Devils

The Blue Devils are low in experience and are still in a rebuilding phase but increased their turnout to 28 wrestlers. Glen Kurz is now the Head Coach and Don MacDonald has shifted to Assistant Coach. Many coaches and wrestlers, however, will be focusing on senior Onur Tezucar who caught fire last year and blazed his way to Atlantic City.

***Onur Tezucar - 152, Senior. Tezucar caught fire, won the District 11 and Region 3 Tourna-

ments and wrestled his way to fifth place at the state tournament at 147-lbs. Tezucar finished his season at 27-4.

This year, Tezucar will wrestle at 152-lbs and, since he got the taste of glory at the states, he seems to be quite motivated to do even better.

Mike Kivetz - 160-171, Junior. Kivetz must have liked the roar of the crowds because he always seemed to like scores which totaled in double figures. Last year, at the districts, he won a 12-10 decision to place third at 154-lbs. Kivetz finished with a 13-9 record. Kivetz has grown physically but still could make some noise at the heavier weight.

Scotch Plains-Fanwood

The Raiders will have another strong team and their numbers are up. They feel that they can make an impression in the Watchung Conference and in Union County.

***Tony Melendez - 130-135, Senior. Melendez is a two-time returning District 12 Champion and a returning Union County Champion in the 127-lb class. Last year, Melendez lost a close 9-7 bout in the Region 3 finals to Nick Cileto of Colonia. Melendez fell one match short of taking the trip to Atlantic City. He finished with a 24-7 record.

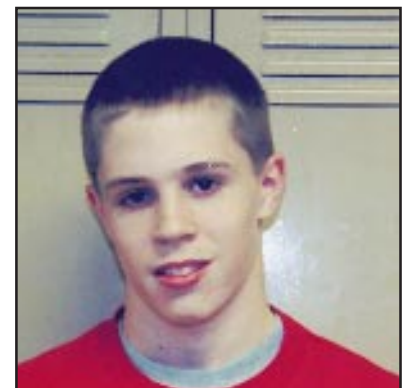
This year, at 130-lbs, Melendez will most likely be the top-seed at the districts but is in a very competitive weight class in Region 3. He has the talent to make the trip to Atlantic City.



Donny DeFilippis - 140-145
New Prov. Pioneers



Onur Tezucar - 152-160
Westfield Blue Devils



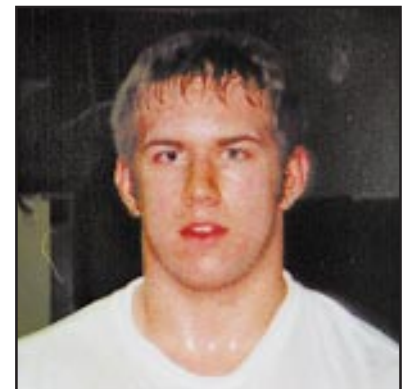
Brett Vanderveer - 119
GL Highlanders



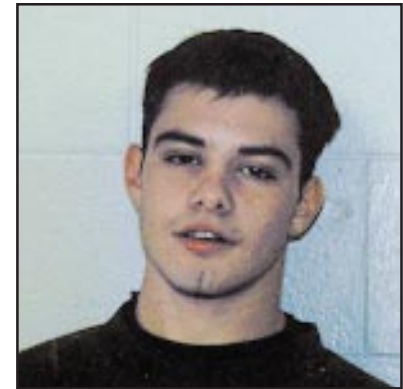
Tony Melendez - 130-135
SP-F Raiders



Todd DeWitt - 152-160
A. L. J. Crusaders



Pat Ekstrom - 215
Cranford Cougars



Shawn Stueber - 130-135
Rahway Indians



Aaron Morton - 171
Plainfield Cardinals

**Josh Ricca - 160, Senior. Last year, Ricca placed second in the districts at 154-lbs. and lost in the Region 3 Tournament to a very tough Todd DeWitt from A. L. Johnson. Ricca finished with an 18-11 record.

At 160-lbs., his competition in the district tournament may come from sophomore John Foscolo of South Plainfield. In the counties, his stiffest competition may come from returning champion Kevin Kolbeck from Roselle Park.

***Scott Paterson - 189-215, Senior. Paterson is a "Dark Horse" candidate because he is relatively new to the wrestling scene; however, he is very strong and rugged and possesses

TEZUCAR, KIVETZ LEAD THE WAY Devil Matmen Increase Size, Need Experience

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

Last year, the Westfield High School wrestling team had 24 wrestlers, mostly young. This season, the Blue Devils' numbers have increased to 28 and the team is even younger. With such a young team, experience is needed, so the Blue Devils are still in a rebuilding phase.

Last year, the Blue Devil Matmen lost only four seniors to graduation, but they were indeed quality wrestlers. Dan Todd wrestled 127 and finished with a 15-11 record, Jeff Kivetz, who wrestled 132 last year finished 16-12 and Nick Friedman placed first in the district at 142 and finished with an 18-9 record. Mike Baly had a fabulous wrestling career, winning over 90 matches, and finished his senior year with a 25-4 record. Even more impressive, all four wrestlers were outstanding academically.

This season, the brunt of the responsibility will lie in the hands of senior Onur Tezucar and junior Mike Kivetz who will lead the very young team by example.

Kivetz had a "rock and roll" style

as a sophomore and was involved in several high-scoring bouts. Last year, he placed third in the District 11 Tournament at 154 and finished with a 13-9 record.

Tezucar caught fire toward the end of last year after being upset in the county tournament. From that point on he was on a mission. Tezucar captured the District 11 and Region 3 crowns at 147, then placed fifth in the states, finishing with a 27-4 record.

This year, Tezucar appears to be highly motivated and is definitely more physical than last year. "I'm not caring who is in my weight class at this point," said Tezucar. "I'm just going to go out there and wrestle my hardest against whom-ever it is."

Tezucar added, "I'm more motivated toward wrestling tough the entire season. My first priority is making weight, then next, I want to place in the top-three in the state."

The Blue Devils are very thin in the lower weight classes and may forfeit a few weight classes in the beginning until some of the newer

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Rugged Raider Matmen Look Very Balanced and Strong

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

Attention was received in a big way last year, when the Scotch Plains-Fanwood wrestling team presented seven finalists on the mats at the District 12 Tournament in South Plainfield and came away with three champions. Two of the first-place finishers and two of the second-place finishers have returned. In addition, the Raiders have 34 wrestlers on the team.

Team Captain senior Tony Melendez leads the Raiders to what appears to be an even more promising season. Melendez won the district title at 125-lbs twice in a row and was last year's region runner-up in that class. He needed to win only one more match to make the trip to the state championships.

"Tony is doing a great job and is a good team leader," commented Head Coach Mike Artigliere. "He is a very tough top-wrestler and will always do his best to get an opponent on his back. He is definitely more patient and always takes advantage of an opening when it presents itself."

Junior Dave Loewinger placed second in the districts at 105-lbs last year and finished with an 18-11 record. This year Loewinger will compete at 112-lbs. Senior Josh Ricca also placed second in the districts at 154-lbs and compiled a record of 19-11. This season, Ricca will wrestle at 160-lbs.

Senior Jim Feeley won the district heavyweight crown and finished with a 19-10 record. Feeley has added 12-15 pounds of muscle and hurts the scale at 260 pounds.

"He is a big kid and he has bulked up the right way," stated Artigliere. "Jim is much better on his feet this year and he is working hard on position wrestling."

Artigliere was particularly pleased

with the addition of senior Scott Paterson who will compete in the 189-215-lb classes.

"Scott is doing a great job. He is really picking up his skills well," said Artigliere. "It's great to have that addition."

With respect to the large turnout and strong nucleus of additional veteran wrestlers, Artigliere pointed

out, "Dave Bello still being in the school really helps out the program and our recreation program is also doing very well."

The Raiders have their eyes set on making big waves in the Watchung Conference; however, they are aware that there will be turbulence ahead.

Knowing that they have good po-

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David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
NOT JUST A GAME...Blue Devils Pete Anzelone, left, and Tom Langton, right, take the game of basketball very seriously.

Devil Boy Cagers Return Three Strong Starters

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

Three strong senior starters will be leading the way for the Westfield High School boys basketball team this season. However, with the exception of 6'9" senior center Tom Langton, the Blue Devils will not be showing much size. Skill and discipline will be the key.

"We will be small," said Head Coach Kevin Evely. "But we have a disciplined team and that will be a plus."

The man to watch will be Maurice Boatwright who led the team in scoring last year with 229 points. He has a great touch and is a fine outside shooter. Boatwright is also a great ball handler and may be bringing the ball down court. If he is not guarded closely, he will score.

The big man in the center is Langton, towering at 6'9". Last year, he pulled down 67 rebounds and hit for 57 points. Langton is bigger than he was last year and will feel even more comfortable in the position.

"Tom is jumping better this year and is positioning himself better," said Evely.

Senior Pete Anzelone will acquire more responsibility as a forward. Last year, he contributed 95 points, set up eight assists and yanked down 35 rebounds.

"Our team leaders are Pete, Mo (Boatwright) and Tom," said Evely. Langton is the team captain.

Evely will be looking primarily to his juniors and sophomores to fill in the open positions and to be doing the substituting. Also, knowing that he has a small team, Evely pointed out, "We will mix between zone and man-to-man. We may start man-to-man but will keep changing. We have

a lot of smart kids."

Evely will look to senior forward Oliver Janney to be one of his starters. Senior Matt Rosen and junior Jeff Weber will be seeing action as guards. Juniors Brian Kemp, Lawrence Persky and Mike Sonacki along with sophomore Mark Kolvities also will be seeing some action this season.

Also aware of the possible effects of having a small team, Evely said, "Rebounding will be our biggest challenge. We must be fundamentally sound and disciplined."

Bowers and Ballweg Named Girls Soccer All-State 1st Team

Scotch Plains-Fanwood High senior Christine Bowers and Union Catholic Viking sophomore Jessica Ballweg have been selected to the Star Ledger 1998 All-State Girls Soccer First Team list. In addition, two other Vikings and one Westfield Blue Devil have been named to their respective All-Group list.

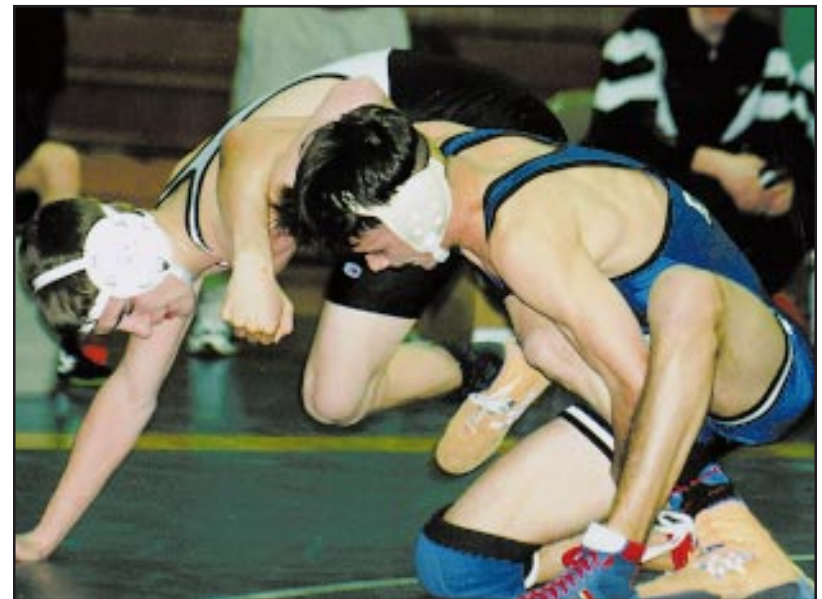
Bowers, as the leader of a very young Raider team, recorded six shutouts this season as a goalie and has amassed 42 shutouts in her high school career. She is expected to attend the University of Georgia in Athens next fall.

Ballweg, a midfielder, has taken advantage of her mastery ball control and kicking accuracy to nail 18 goals and set up 17 assists.

Vikings Jessica Broderick and Lissette Brandao have been selected Second Team All-Group 2 and senior Blue Devil Liza Yannuzzi has been selected Third Team All-Group 3.



David B. Corbin for The Leader and The Times
ALL-STATE...Senior Raider Christine Bowers has been selected First Team All-State for her skills as a goalie.



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
VERY TOUGH ON TOP...Raider Tony Melendez, front, has been very effective on the top position.

<h3>November Scholar Athlete</h3>		
<p>SURGENT'S Life SCHOOL OF GYMNASTICS • Ages 6-18 • Small Classes • Ability Grouping Westfield 469 South Ave 908-317-0523</p>	<p>Westfield High School TARA BHANDARI...Senior Girls cross country. Number four or five runner on the Blue Devil 'Pac' who recently set the "Standard of Excellence" by recording the best average time for any previous Westfield girls X-C 'Pac' at Branchbrook Park in Newark. She has a string of academic achievements which may be unparalleled by anyone in her class except one or two other students. Tara takes extremely progressive courses and is ranked in the top 2 or 3 in her class. The Scholar-Athlete of the Month has been created by The Westfield Leader and has been made possible by the listed sponsors.</p>	<p>Century 21 Taylor & Love 436 South Ave Westfield 654-6666</p>
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