

MORGAN MILLER DRIVES FOR 20 POINTS; J. McCOY SCORES 8 POINTS, GRABS 5 STEALS**Cougars Top Mountaineers for Girls Hoops Title, 38-32**By **DAVID B. CORBIN***Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times*

Outside shooting was ice cold in the first half, so senior forward Morgan Miller came up with another idea. She began driving toward the basket and found the success that the Cranford High School girls basketball team needed to defeat the West Orange Mountaineers, 38-32, in the championship game of the Coaches vs. Cancer Tournament in Cranford on December 29.

Miller, who had no points in the first quarter, began her drives to the basket in the second quarter and finished the game with a game-leading 20 points, including two 3-pointers and hitting four of six from the stripe. She also added a rebound, an assist and a steal.

"I think penetrating was definitely key, because it makes the defense uncomfortable. Even if you don't get a shot, you draw the defense towards you, and you have open shooters or you get fouls. It put pressure on them instead of passing the ball around the 3-point line," Miller explained.

The 3-2 Mountaineers took advantage of the 4-0 Cougars' frigid shooting and tentative defense to seize a 14-8 lead after the first quarter. Chisom Amaefuna sank four of her team-high 12 points and Allison Mejia put in four of her seven points in the quarter. Cougar forward Carly Maucione (3 rebounds) banged a 3-pointer, while Mairead McKeary (5 points, steal, rebound) had three points

and guard Jess McCoy (4 rebounds), who led the team with five steals, put in the first two of her eight points.

In the second quarter, Miller's driving strategy drew some fouls.

She hit three of four free throws and added a lay-up, and McCoy added a lay-up, while the Cougar defense limited the Mountaineers to just two points to cut the lead to 16-15 at the half.

job of slowing us down. When we are slow on defense, our offense doesn't really click. We picked up on defense, and that's when our offense started to come, Cougar Head Coach Jackie Dyer said.

the ball on the outside, we either got shots in the paint, got fouled or kicked it back out opening shots from the outside," Miller said.

The Cougars won the third quarter, 11-9, to take a slight 26-25 lead. Point guard Jenna Goeller, who finished with four assists, managed to pass the ball into McCoy, who sank a lay-up, and out to Miller, who banged a 3-pointer. Center Kaitlin McGovern (4 rebounds, 2 points, tipped pass, block) had a key theft that set up a lay-up.

Miller really caught fire in the final quarter and bucketed 10 of the team's 12 points to seal the deal.

"In years past, we have always been known as the outside shooting team, but we have been working and concentrating on taking the ball to the basket, giving Kaitlin the ball when she is posting up, having more of an inside game. Today was a good example of what happens when we use our inside game. Same thing happened with New Providence. We were down and we started bringing the ball to the basket. It's when we picked it up and started winning," Coach Dyer said.

The only disappointing part of the final quarter was that the Cougars' free throw shooting slipped to 33 percent (3-for-9) during that span.

"We are going to be working on that. We take about 100 free throws a practice. We might go to about 150," Coach Dyer promised.

West Orange	14	2	9	7	32
Cranford	8	7	11	12	38

David B. Corbin for *The Westfield Leader and The Times*

DRIVING TO THE BASKET...Cougar Morgan Miller, No. 3, found out that driving to the basket could be lucrative in the championship game with West Orange. Miller finished with 20 points, including a pair of 3-pointers.

"The first half was a little slow. We are not a slow team. We like to pick up the ball and go. West Orange was doing a really good

"I think it was probably one of the worst starts we've had this season. We were a little flustered with their defense pressure, but I think we adjusted to it well. We were composed. We started doing a lot. Instead of just moving

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REGGIE GREEN SINKS 20 POINTS, GRABS 15 BOARDS; STEFAN FEDORCHAK SCORES 17**Basketball Boy Cougars Peel W. Orange, 60-53, for Title**

By DAVID B. CORBIN

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Despite an early jolt from the West Orange Mountaineers, the Cranford High School boys basketball team eventually found the right formula to come up with a 60-53 victory in the championship game of the Coaches vs. Cancer Tournament in Cranford on December 29.

Junior forward Reggie Green, who scored 10 of his team's 13 points in the first quarter, sought out teammate Stefan Fedorchak for some offensive support and got it to help the 4-1 Cougars outscore the Mountaineers in each of the remaining three quarters. Fedorchak (1 assist, 1 rebound) scored all 17 of his points in those quarters.

"In transition, we were able to get the ball down court. Stefan and I have been playing ball together for years. We can find each other on the court," said Green, who finished with a game-high 20 points.

Green, who also had three assists, pulled 15 rebounds, and four of his offensive rebounds he converted to lay-ups. Junior forward Kurt Rutmayer also got into the act underneath the boards with six rebounds, a steal and a blocked shot. Rutmayer finished with 10 points.

"We started a little slow offensively, and we were lucky that Reggie got us going early on. Once they tried to limit Reggie's touches and collapse on him in the post, we were able to find the open man, and they were able to convert," Cougar Head Coach Ryan Huber said. "I also feel that Kurt and Reggie did a very good

job controlling the boards."

Cougar point guard Sean Babos (1 steal, 1 rebound) controlled the offensive scheme and also got into the scoring act, especially from the second quarter

the pace, and I feel Sean Babos did a great job controlling the tempo of the game," Coach Huber said.

Just after the opening tip-off, however, the Mountaineers con-

three 3-pointers, but it was DeChavez who was very hard to contain as he finished with 24 points, including three 3-pointers.

Cougar senior Eric Garguilo (2

shooter. He is very athletic. We felt that with Eric guarding him, he would be able to contain him. Eric picked up some early fouls, and I think Stefan did an outstanding job defending him, while Eric was out with foul trouble," Coach Huber said.

The Mountaineers won the first quarter, 14-13, but Fedorchak hit a 3-pointer and a jumper, and Rutmayer pumped in four points to help the Cougars take a 24-23 lead at the half.

The Cougars finished off the third quarter with a 7-0 run to grab a 42-38 lead. Rutmayer banged a 3-pointer, Green rolled in a lay-up and Babos sank a pair of free throws as a result of a technical foul. All five Cougar starters got in the scoring column to win the fourth quarter, 18-15.

During the awards ceremony, Babos was named to the All-Tournament Team and Green was named Most Valuable Player.

"It was a great team effort. We got contributions from everybody. It was a great win for us," Coach Huber said.

West Orange	14	9	15	15	53
Cranford	13	11	18	18	60



David B. Corbin for *The Westfield Leader and The Times*
GUARDING A TOUGH MOUNTAINEER...Cougar Stefan Fedorchak, No. 5, guards Mountaineer Carlo DeChavez in the championship game. Fedorchak scored 17 points in the 60-53 Cranford victory.

onward to finish with 12 points. Babos led the team with four assists.

"We spoke in our pre-game how we wanted to control the tempo of the game and dictate

controlled the tempo and bucketed the first seven points. Senior guards Carlo DeChavez and Khayeff Crump were giving the Cougars headaches. Crump finished with 13 points, including

points, 2 steal, assist) ran into foul trouble while covering DeChavez, so Fedorchak came on to assist.

"DeChavez is a very good player and a dangerous three-point

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Cougar Matmen Get 4th at Bloomfield Tourney

The Cranford High School wrestling team placed fourth among nine teams at the Bloomfield Holiday Tournament on December 30. Passaic Valley (P) took top honors with 189 points, followed by Clifton (Cf) at 168, Mount Olive (M) at 165 and Cranford (Cr) at 134. Caldwell (Ca) placed fifth at 113, followed by Bloomfield (B) at 100, Kearny (K) at 85.5, Verona (V) at 84 and Ridge (R) at 31.

Cougar JP Christiano took top honors at 170-lbs with a pin over Jeremy Soto (Cf) in 5:33. After receiving a first-round bye,

Christiano pinned Kyle Christiansen (B) in 1:10 to reach the title bout.

Ian Henry placed second at 126-lbs after dropping a 5-3 decision to Anthony DePasque (Cf) in the title bout. Earlier, Henry pinned Steve Nash (K) in 57 seconds and pinned Matt Messina (M) in 11 seconds. Cory Markovitch placed second at 152-lbs when he was nipped, 6-4, by Dylan Offering (M) in the title bout. Markovitch pinned Fehd Seddiki (Ca) in 2:47, then seized a 17-4, majority decision over Dave Cruz (P) to reach the finals.

Nick Diaz placed second at 182-lbs. He snatched a 4-2 decision from Joe Galioto (Ca), then pinned Dave Kowalczyk (Cf) in 0:06 before losing by fall in 2:10 to Tom Witt (K) in the title bout. Matt Russo defeated Andrew Trejo (MO), 6-5, to reach the 195-lb title bout where he dropped a 4-3 decision to Kerem Ozgerek (P). At 120-lbs, Gavin Murray pinned Austin Oliver (R) in 1:01, the lost, 8-6, to Ed Aristizabal (P), who won the title. Murray placed third with a 6-2 decision over Bob Hildenbrandt (V).



David B. Corbin for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*

COUGAR ATHLETES OF THE WEEK... Megan Byrnes, a senior on the varsity winter track team, recently won the 800-meters at the Merli Invitational in Toms River with a time of 2:33. Stefan Fedorchak, a junior on the varsity basketball team, averaged 16.5 points this past week to help lead the Cougars to the Championship at the Cougars vs. Cancer Tournament.



Cougar Snacks



Lady Cougars Upend ALJ B'ballers, 47-31

Junior Jessica McCoy rolled in 12 points, pulled down 11 rebounds and snatched five steals to lead the 5-0 Cranford High School girls basketball team to a 47-31 victory over the AL Johnson Crusaders in Clark on January 3. The Lady Crusaders, led by Cyndi Wilson with 14 points, slipped to 1-4.

Cougar junior point guard Jenna Goeller scored 12 points, including three 3-pointers, and added two steals. Senior Morgan Miller sank 11 points, including a 3-pointer, and had two assists. Carli Maucione, Kaitlin McGovern and Mairead McKeary each scored four points.

Cranford	11	10	17	9	47
AL Johnson	4	9	13	5	31

UC Viking Boys Stun Cougar Cagers, 60-48

The Union Catholic High School boys basketball team outscored the 4-2 Cranford Cougar boys, 18-9, in the fourth quarter to seize a 60-48 victory in Cranford on January 3. Viking junior guard Damon Lynn led all scorers with 24 points, including three 3-pointers and nine free throws, while teammate Brandon Reid sank 10 points.

Senior Kurt Rutmayer led the Cougars with 16 points, including a 3-pointer and seven free throws. Reggie Green and Stefan Fedorchak each had nine points. Sean Babos had five points and Chris Folinusz added four points.

Union Catholic	15	14	13	18	60
Cranford	17	11	11	9	48

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Lady Cougars Crunch Nutley Cagers, 50-28

Junior forward Morgan Miller sank 20 points, including four 3-pointers, to lead the Cranford High School girls basketball team to a 50-28 thrashing of Nutley in the first round of the Coaches vs. Cancer Tournament in Cranford on December 27. Jess McCoy and Jenna Goeller (two 3-pointers) each bucketed eight points, and Mairead McKeary sank six points, while Jen Carovillano and Carly Maucione each scored four points.

Nutley	3	8	8	9	28
Cranford	23	12	5	10	50

Cougar Cagers Crack Nutley Boys, 66-53

The Cranford High School boys basketball team jumped on the Nutley Pirates, 17-8, in the first quarter and rolled to a 66-53 victory in the first round of the Coaches vs. Cancer Tournament in Cranford on December 27.

Junior Reggie Green bucketed 23 points and pulled down 15 rebounds, while Stefan Fedorchak pumped in 16 points, including a pair of 3-pointers, and Sean Babos nailed 14 points, including two 3-pointers. Eric Garguilo had five points and Kurt Rutmayer netted four points.

Nutley	8	12	14	19	53
Cranford	17	16	21	12	66

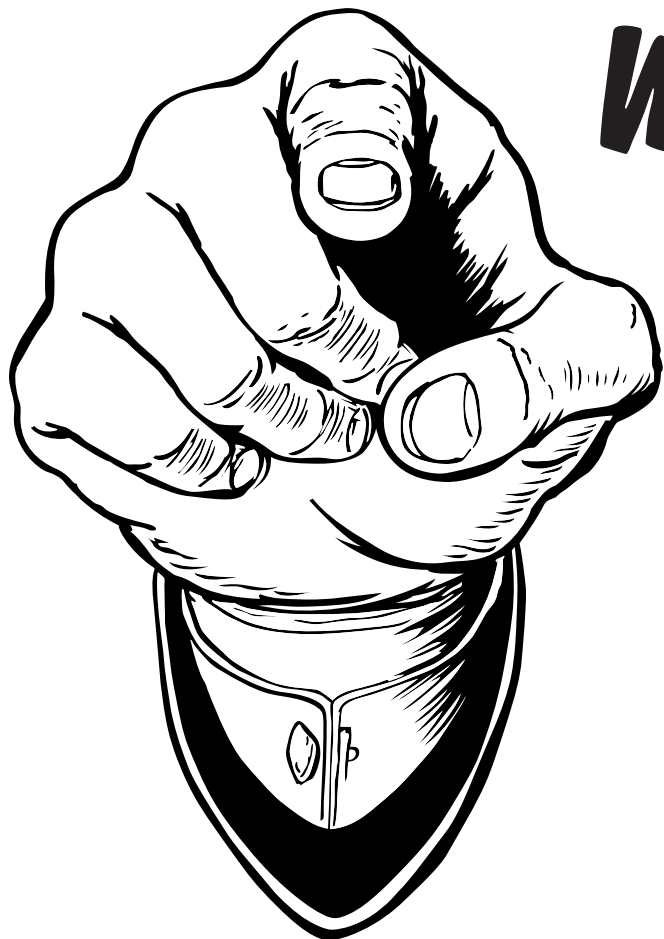
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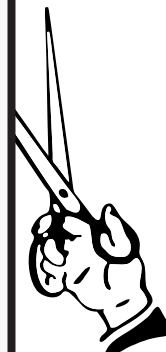
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