



Photo Courtesy of Chris Sorbo

FIRING IN THE GOAL...Blue Devil Matt Rittendale, No. 48, fires the puck past the Cougar goalkeeper to make it 3-1 in the second period of the Union County Tournament semifinal on February 1. Westfield won the game 5-1.

Lady Blue Devils Top GL, Lose Squeaker to Pat's

The Westfield High School girls basketball team overwhelmed the Governor Livingston Highlanders, 47-17, in Berkeley Heights on January 31 then two days later on February 2, dropped a 43-41 squeaker to the hosting once-defeated Patrick School.

Very stubborn defense on the part of the Blue Devils kept the Highlanders starving for offense throughout the game, especially in the first quarter when Westfield seized a 16-2 lead. Shannon Devitt, who put in 10 points, led the Blue Devils with 16 rebounds and eight blocked shots. Molly Ryan scored 12 points and added five assists, four steals and two rebounds. Lauren Sgro had eight points and a pair of rebounds. Danielle Rinaldi (4 rebounds, 2 steals), Grace Elliott (3 rebounds, 3 assists, 3 steals) and Lily Maz (2 assists) each contributed four points, while Sam Stravach (2 blocks, 2 rebounds) scored three points and Nicolina Albano added two points. Jenna Iorio (3 steals) and Casey Popowski each had three rebounds. Lindsay Gerrato led the Highlanders with six points, eight rebounds

and four steals, and Stacey Berliner scored five points and added three steals. Michelle Coyle (3 rebounds) and Fiona Kerr each had two points. Laura Romano (4 rebounds, 2 blocks) and Shannon Polimeni each added a free throw.

The 12-4 Blue Devils took a 13-8 lead over the 18-1 Patrick School in the first quarter and held a 25-18 edge at the half but the Pats tied the score after three quarters. Qadashah Hoppie led the Pats with 15 points, while Aliyah Powell scored 11 points, including trip 3-pointers, and Za'naja Jones added six points.

Ryan led Westfield with 15 points, including three 3-pointers, six steals, two assists and four rebounds. Elliott had 11 points, two rebounds and a steal and Devitt had seven points, five rebounds and an assist. Rinaldi netted four points, three assists and three rebounds. Iorio (5 rebounds, 2 steals) and Sgro each scored two points.

Westfield	16	8	8	15	47
Gov. Livingston	2	6	5	4	17
Westfield	13	12	8	8	41
Patrick School	8	10	15	10	43

Blue Devil Boys Get 4th at Track Sectional

The Westfield High School boys winter track team placed fourth with a total of 25 at the North 2 Sectional Meet at the Bennett Center on February 4. Spencer Weigand finished third in the 800-meters with a time of 1:59.77, while Matt Meusel at 4:26.41 and Jake Triarsi at 4:30.81 finished 3-5 in the 1,600. Aditya Singh took fourth in the 3,200 at 9:44.59.

Weigand and Cameron McLaughlin took fifth in the 4x400 with a time of 3:33.91. Coston O'Brien placed fourth in the shot put with a shove of 47-2.75 and Phil Dwyer placed sixth in the high jump with a clearance of 5-6. For the girls, Erica Lawrence took second in the shot put with a distance of 33-5.75 and Leah Norton took sixth in the pole vault with a height of 8-6.



RAY BAILEY AWARD RECIPIENT...The Ray Bailey Award was presented by Jack Ford from the Martin Wallberg American Legion Post 3 to Conor Root at the Varsity Football Awards Dinner held December 15. Ray Bailey was an athlete for Westfield High School and an outstanding baseball player for the American Legion Team in the late 1950s when he was tragically killed. Since the 1960s, Post 3 has presented the Ray Bailey Award to the Senior Varsity Football player with the highest grade point average. Pictured, left to right, are: Allan Betau Post Commander, Amy Root, Conor Root, Steve Root and Jack Ford Post Adjutant.

St. Mary Cagers Beat Westfield Boys, 43-21

The hosting St. Mary (Elizabeth) boys basketball team held the Westfield Blue Devils to zero second-quarter points for a 21-8 halftime lead en route to a 43-21 triumph on February 2. Papie Roberts led St. Mary with 16 points and Deshawn Latham added eight points.

Matt LaCorte led Westfield with 10 points, including a pair of 3-pointers. Adam McDaniel netted four points and Chris Wagner had three points, while Jeff Gagum and Tristan Quallis each had two points.

Westfield	8	0	11	2	21
St. Mary (Elizabeth)	11	10	17	5	43

Lady Crusaders Reject Raider Cagers, 56-39

An all-out 23-4 surge by the AL Johnson High School girls basketball team proved too overwhelming for the visiting Scotch Plains-Fanwood Raiders in a 56-39 loss on February 2.

Summer Sheppard (2 3-pointers) and Abbe-Gayle Burton scored 16 points and 15 points, respectively, for the Raiders, while Maggie Leahy and Brianna O'Brien each scored four points. Amy Wysocki, Meaghan Gallagher and Kristina Palella each scored 14 points for the Crusaders and Sabrina Parin scored 11 points.

Sc Pl-Fanwood	4	11	14	10	39
AL Johnson	23	6	17	10	56



Courtesy of Marilyn O'Connell

FENCING CLUB...The WHS Fencing Club has over 20 members, who practice at the Advance Fencing and Fitness Academy in Garwood, with coaches Jerome Guth and Janusz Mlynek. Pictured in front row are: Natalia Zeller MacLean (foil, Captain), Emma Downer (foil), Emily O'Connell (saber), Cooper Metzger (saber), Nicco Chin (saber); back row: WHS Coach Ryan Daly, Sam Fritz (epee), Nick Weiner (epee), Gaspard Ronget (saber), Alex Rossen (foil).

WHS Fencers Make Mark at NJSIAA Event

Nine Westfield High School fencers competed in the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) fencing qualifier tournament, in all three weapons categories: saber, foil, and epee on Janu-

ary 28. This is the first time in several years that Westfield was represented at a NJSIAA fencing event. Nicco Chin, who fences saber, qualified in the March 5 Championship Tournament.

Capece, McGov' Win 100th

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

AJ Bencivenga completed his stretching of Dylan Santelli in 48 seconds with a front double grapevine at 152-lbs.

McGovern faced a tough opponent in Charlie Buckley at 160-lbs but he quickly took a 2-0 lead with a single-leg lift takedown. He added an escape and two low single-leg takedowns near the edge of the mat in the second period then received a penalty point in the third to claim an 8-1 decision and his 100th victory.

"He's good. He usually wrestles 52 but he decided to bump up. I think it made it more special to go out there and get a tough win for a hundred wins," McGovern said. "It feels good! Just all the hard work, all the hours we put in wrestling, working out, everything leads up to this. That's what it's all about."

At 170-lbs, Matt Doran delivered a double-leg takedown and added an escape to defeat Austin Oguh, 3-1, then at 182-lbs, Concina scored five takedowns and a nearfall before clamping Tyler Stoecle with a cradle

in 3:36. At 195-lbs, Dylan Budnik exercised a single-leg/waist throw takedown and a duck undertakedown then pinned Aly Mohamed with an arm bar/tight waist in 1:17. Senior Owen McDermott thought he would have the quickest pin of the evening when he bulldogged Jacob Perez to the mat in 16 seconds at 220-lbs but senior Alex Esposito tackled Cearon Doroughety to his back in eight seconds at 285-lbs.

The final bout at 106-lbs became the closest when Pat Kalnins eked out a 6-5 decision over Rebecca Pizuto.

CRANFORD 72, BREARLEY 0:

113: — Kanterman md Kebea 15-5
 120: — Capece tf Silva 18-3 3:50
 126: — Halpin p Machado 2:12
 132: — Scorese p Villarreal :21
 138: — DiGiovanni p Luna 2:56
 145: — Nigro p Braun 2:54
 152: — Bencivenga p Santelli :48
 160: — McGovern d Buckley 8-1
 170: — Doran d Oguh 3-1
 182: — Concina p Stoecle 3:36
 195: — Budnik p Mohamed 1:17
 220: — McDermott p Perez :16
 Hwt: — Esposito p Doroughety :08
 106: — Kalnins d Pizuto 6-5

Cougars Crush Irvington, Raiders Fall in Mat Sections

The top-seeded Cranford High School wrestling team crushed Irvington, 64-9, in the first round of the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 3 Tournament in Cranford on February 6, while the hosting fourth-seeded Woodbridge Barrons denied the fifth-seeded Scotch Plains-Fanwood Raiders, 45-18, in the first round of the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 4 Tournament.

At Cranford, Cougar Patrick Kalnins pinned Wolfeneger Michel in 2:32 at 106-lbs. Anthony Capece pinned Clervin Renaud in 42 seconds at 120-lbs. Conor Halpin grabbed a 14-0 major decision over Brinsler Xavier at 126-lbs. Chris Scorese claimed a 15-0, 3:51 tech fall over Jefferson Jean-Paul at 132-lbs then Tom DiGiovanni pinned Shamir Fraser in 18 seconds at 138-lbs. Mike Nigro took a 5-1 decision over Peter Dumerand at 152-lbs.

Cougar Matt Doran pinned Rich Norman in 1:51 at 160-lbs and Brian McGovern claimed a 16-4 major decision over Jerwin Martilus at 170-lbs. Vince Concina pinned Tyhmir Lassiter in 2:53 at 182-lbs, Dylan Budnik (195-lbs) pinned Nashawn Brooks in 3:38, Anthony Ramirez (220-lbs) pinned Martineau Pierre-Louis in 3:38 and Alex Esposito (285-lbs) pinned Carl Napoloen in 1:29. Blue Knight Terrell Ashman beat Evan Kanterman, 5-1, at 113-lbs. Clerson Xavier pinned AJ Bencivenga in 2:53 at 145-lbs.

At Woodbridge, Raider Jack Cannon defeated Harry Brand, 6-2, at 145-lbs. Justin Sidebottom beat Gilbert Hill Sosa, 16-10, at 132-lbs. Nino Natale (120-lbs) and Matt Fleck (126-lbs) received forfeits. In a highly anticipated showdown, Woodbridge's Bryan McLaughlin defeated Sam Wustefeld, 7-1, at 182-lbs.

Barron Xavier Laracuate (106) won a 9-0 major decision over Mike Fleck, Jaden Catalano (113) topped Jeremy Lenart, 8-5, and Jack Quinn (138) won a 12-4 major decision over Jacob Perone. Yehia Mosaad (152) took a 24-112 major decision over Mike Ramos and Marquan Payne (160) pinned Alex Oslislo in 1:26. Zach Cottrell (170) pinned Zach Fleischman in 1:10 and Nick Nyers (195) beat Ed Smith, 11-4. Vince Zecchino (220) pinned Bobby Mount in 16 seconds and Alex LaGrippa (285) pinned Billy Root in 5:42.

Raider Matmen Defeat Union Farmers, 54-17

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School wrestling team defeated the Union Farmers, 54-17, in Union on February 1. In the key match-up of the evening, Raider Nick Palazzola took on Union County Tournament champ Nick Zuena and emerged with a 6-3 victory at 152-lbs.

Jack Cannon pinned Urbain Charles-Saint in 2:37 at 138-lbs, Mike Ramos pinned Dom Prata in 3:43 at 145-lbs, Zach Fleischman pinned Justin Valente in 1:32 at 170-lbs, Mike Fleck pinned Andrew Grayson in 3:30 at 106-lbs, Jeremy Lenart pinned Liam Grahl in 1:47 at 113-lbs and Justin Sidebottom pinned Aseem Kumar in 1:15 at 120-lbs.

At 132-lbs, Raider Mateo Velez topped Anthony Dominguez, 6-3, while Sam Wustefeld (182-lbs) and Liam Hickey (285-lbs) received forfeits. At 126-lbs, Farmer Kyjuan Hutchins won by 18-3 tech fall over Jacob Perone. Dellison Nkrahene pinned Ed Smith in 3:25 at 195-lbs, Bob Emanuel nipped Bobby Mount, 4-3, at 220-lbs and Joram Morinvil beat Zach Zimmerman, 10-4, at 160-lbs.



FINALLY TEAMMATES...Jarek Gozdieski (Westfield High School '16) and Brian Lapham (Scotch-Plains-Fanwood '15) are now teammates wrestling for Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pa.

Wardlaw-Hartridge Freshman D'Amore Wins GMC Swim Title in 500-Freestyle

Logan D'Amore of Scotch Plains, a freshman at The Wardlaw-Hartridge School in Edison, captured the 500-yard freestyle championship in a time of 4:43.68, setting a new W-H record in the process, at the Greater Middlesex County (GMC) Swimming Championships in Perth Amboy.

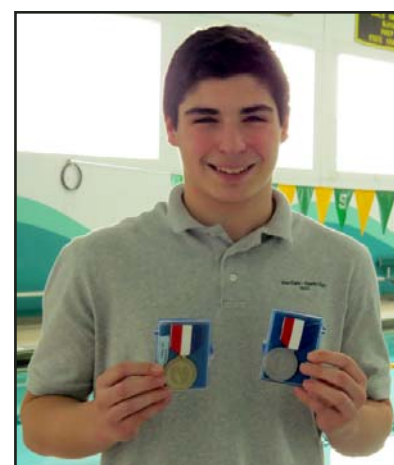
D'Amore, the fourth seed, surged

ahead in the final 200 and built his lead to win the race by almost five seconds. D'Amore became the first Wardlaw-Hartridge athlete to win a county championship since Katie Buchbinder of Scotch Plains won the GMC first singles tennis title in the fall of 2012. D'Amore also qualified for the NJSIAA Meet of Champions in both the 200 and 500 free events.

Lapolla Receives Honor At Int'l Lax Tourney

Scotch Plains' Maggie Lapolla a freshman at Union Catholic Regional High School, was selected "Best Offensive Player" at Lax Cup 2017, an international lacrosse tournament in The Netherlands, on January 14-15.

Lapolla was a member of USA Team Liberty, a team composed of select high school athletes from all across the country. Team Liberty traveled to The Netherlands to compete against local clubs and National selection teams. The Swedish National Team placed first, Team Liberty placed second and Dutch National Team placed third. During Team Liberty's visit they put on teaching clinics for local club teams and youth programs.



Logan D'Amore



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times

HEADING NORTH TO PLAY FOOTBALL...Cranford senior Ryan Bakie, flanked by his father Joe and mother Dawn, had signed to play football at Bryant University in Smithfield, R.I. next fall. A three-sport athlete, Bakie is backed from left to right by coaches Kerry Drexler (asst. football), Ryan Huber (head basketball), Erik Rosenmeier (head football), Dennis McCafferty (head baseball) and Director of Athletics Darren Torsone.

Raiders Top Cougars, 64-50

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

year so a lot of the guys playing this year are playing together for the first time."

Leading by eight at 51-43 with 5:30 to play, Scotch Plains-Fanwood finally produced the run that would put the Cougars down for good. Lamont Cruise scored on a fast break lay-up followed by a Heisey inside basket to make it 55-43. Dwight Laylor (8 points) added a lay up to make it 57-43. Another three-point basket from Cougar Bakie made it 57-46 with just under three minutes left in the game. Laylor then scored on a put back to keep the lead at 13, 59-46.

"Dwight does all the little things that turn out to be big things when you put them all together," said Scotch Plains-Fanwood Head Coach Steve Siracusa. "He was big on the boards today and came up with defensive stops for us at key moments. We've got a lot of players that we can roll in and out without there being a drop off in performance and Dwight is one of those guys who gives us a lift whenever he is in the game."

The Raiders closed out the game by going 5-for-6 from the free throw line to keep Cranford at bay. Nigel Nelson had 10 points for Scotch Plains and Drubulis added eight. Chris Librera

led the Cougar effort with 13 points.

The Raiders remain tied atop the UCC Valley Division standings with Rahway. Both teams sport 8-1 divisional records. Cranford meanwhile sits mired near the bottom with a 2-6 divisional record. Scotch Plains-Fanwood figured to be no worse than the fifth or sixth seed in the upcoming Union County Tournament bracket, which was to be released earlier this week.

Cranford	9	14	15	12	50
Sc Pl-Fanwood	17	14	14	19	64

Cougar Cagers Sting Lady Farmers, 48-46

Cam Wichelns pumped in 24 points, including a pair of 3-pointers, and added three assists and three steals to lead the Cranford High School girls basketball team to a 48-46 victory over the Union Farmers in Cranford on February 2. Caroline McCaffrey, Caroline Kelly, Lauren Santarelli and Olivia Speer each scored six points. Nneka Moneme and Allison Seater each scored 11 points and Krizia Aponete scored 10 points for the Farmers.

Union	17	7	16	6	46
Cranford	10	20	11	7	48

Devilfish Deliver Big Swims At 8U 'Y' Championships

The Westfield Area YMCA 8U swim team competed at the NJYMCA 8U Region A Championships held at Raritan Valley Community College on February 4. The littlest Devilfish had many big swims. Seven-year olds Kaylie Gao and Ava Maloney finishing first in the 25-free and 25-breast, respectively.

TOP 16 SWIMS:

7U Boys: Ryan Droskoski 2nd (50-free, 25-fly); Ryan Kimelman 8th (25-breast), 10th (25-back); Benjamin Zhou 7th (25-breast), 9th (25-back), 14th (50-free); 4th - 100-free relay (Droskoski, Kimelman, Max Laskow, Zhou)

7U Girls: Olivia Constable 7th (25-breast); Mira Emamy 8th (25-back), 9th (25-breast, 50-free); Kaylie Gao 4th (25-free), 13th (25-fly); Claire Hoffman 15th (50-free); Jane Kavanagh 3rd (25-free), 10th (25-fly); 2nd - 100-medley relay and 3rd 100-free relay (Constable, Emamy, Gao, Kavanagh)

8U Girls: Emelia Dengler 6th (25-fly), 14th (100IM), 15th (50-free); Madeline Edmondson 14th (25-back), 15th (25-free), Ashley Gao 8th (25-breast), 15th (100IM); Abigail Thein 15th (25-fly); 6th - 100-medley relay (Dengler, Edmondson, Gao, Naomi Kamins); 10th - 100-free relay (Dengler, Edmondson, Kamins, Thein)

8U Boys: Brendan Laczynski 14th (50-free); Clark Seeder 10th (25-breast), 16th (25-free); 12th - 100-free and 100-medley relays (Laczynski, AJ Li, Seeder, Javy Thompson)

Completing the team at championships were: Allie Cicia, Ella Del Gatto, Avery Hoffman, Sabela Malki, Bridget Mulkeen, Emma O'Brien, Julia O'Brien, Mia O'Reilly, Elizabeth Ritter, Bridget Troy, Katie Twilley, Cecilia Wiggins, Elizabeth Williamson, Emily Williamson and Madeline Yong.

Probitas Verus Honos



The FSPY Girls White team defeated West Essex "Y" swim girls, 198-133

FSPY Girls White Team Tops West Essex 'Y' Girls, 198-133

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains (FSPY) Girls White team won its final dual meet of the season on January 28, topping the West Essex "Y", 198-133, at WEY's Livingston facility.

Individual Medley (IM): Anna Linenberg won the 11-12 200IM, while Faith Best clinched first in the 13-14 200IM. Aubrey Bagdonas won the 15-18 200IM.

Freestyle: FSPY's 8Us swept the 50-free when Jamie Trela, Sophia Francesca Isleta and Sophia Monteith finished 1-2-3. Brooke Labarge won the 9-10 100-free. Avery Higinbotham and Jessica Rojek placed 2-3 in the 11-12 100-free, while Aislinn Mooney and Hannah Davis won the 13-14 200-free and 15-18 200-free, respectively.

Breaststroke: Phoebe Kaplan and

Sophia Yalcin placed 2-3 in the 9-10 50-breast, and Katelyn Gaulin, Alex Moore and Jessica Rojek swept 1-2-3 in the 11-12 50-breast. Aislinn Mooney won the 13-14 100-breast.

Backstroke: Kate LaBarge won the 9-10 50-back, while Alex Moore and Sarah Phillips touched 1-2 in the 11-12 50-back. Julia Yick, Hope Best and Amaya Wilkerson swept the 13-14 100-back. Aubrey Bagdonas, Maya Grantz and Isha Rai finished 1-2-3 in the 15-18 100-back.

Butterfly: Amy Jiang placed second in the 8U 25-fly and Brooke Labarge placed second in the 9-10 50-fly. Anna Linenberg won the 11-12 50-fly and Emma Route won the 13-14 100-fly.

For information, please call the "Y" at (908) 889-8880 or visit www.fspymca.org.