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RUKA 16 POINTS, 10 RBS; GOFF, BLAZEK 9 PTS EACH

Cougar Basketball Boys Rap Somerville Pioneer Boys, 51-43

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

Senior Jeremy Ruka scored 16 points, including four 3-pointers and hauled in 10 rebounds to lead Cranford to a 51-43 victory over Somerville in a boys basketball game played on January 24 at Martin Gymnasium in Cranford High School. The win raised the Cougars' season mark to 7-5, while Somerville dropped to 7-10.

The contest was a back-and-forth affair with each team making runs at the other. Somerville jumped out to a 9-4 lead in the first four minutes. The Cougars answered with an 11-0 run that took them to a 15-9 lead early in the second quarter. Somerville was held scoreless for a six-minute stretch during the run. Ruka's long-range prowess was key for the Cougars in the first half. Ruka drained three shots from beyond the arc in the first half. Cranford went into the halftime break with a 22-16 advantage.

"I think tonight the difference maker was the defense," said Ruka. "Most of our offensive buckets were because of hard defensive possessions. With my threes, you know, I'm not a great shot creator, so I need my teammates to get me the ball and they did a great job of finding me open around the arc."

Cranford continued to surge in the first two minutes of the third quarter. The Cougars scored nine straight points to extend to a 31-16 lead, forcing Somerville Head Coach Chris Novello to call a timeout during which he removed four of his five starters.

The move paid huge dividends for the Pioneers as they would score the next 11 points to pull within 31-27 by quarter's end.

"I think we got a little sloppy on offense," said Ruka. "Maybe we got a little complacent. We have to do a better job of getting a lead and expanding it. Don't get complacent at fifteen, push for twenty, then push for twenty-five. We just have to run our offensive sets and slow it down. We'll be alright."

Key for the visitors during their 11-0 run was the play of frontcourt standout Ethan Hilliman, who scored eight points in the rally.

"He is a big strong kid," said Cranford Head Coach Sean Trotter. "He is a good player. We tried to stop him as best as we could. I thought we did a decent job of it for most of the game but he went on his run and scored a few points for them but I think we played good team defense the entire game."

With their lead whittled down to four entering the fourth quarter, the Cougars went to work on re-establishing their advantage. Cole Blazek nailed a 3-pointer from the top of the key to extend the lead to 34-27 with 6:38 to play. Kevin Donovan hit a short baseline jumper to increase the lead to 36-27 with 5:44 left in the game. Ruka came up big once again with another three-point shot from the wing making it 44-34 with 3:13 remaining.

Somerville had one more run left in them though. The Pioneers reeled off seven straight points to pull within

44-41 with 1:39 remaining. But Cranford proved to be proficient from the free throw line down the stretch, nailing seven of nine attempts to keep Somerville from closing any more ground in the game's final minute.

"I felt we played great defense the entire game," said Trotter. "That is a very good team. To come out with a win against them is great. We made them work hard the entire game. We've been harping on it all year to play defense. Offense is something that requires patience and takes a lot of skill. Defense is just about working hard, so we try to instill in them that they can play defense very hard on every single possession. Offense is the thing you have to learn and execute properly."

Cole Blazek scored nine points and had three assists for Cranford. Hunter Goff also scored nine and added four rebounds for the victors. The victory left Coach Trotter with a good feeling about his team as they head into the latter portion of their schedule.

"Somerville is a very good team. They've beaten some good teams on their schedule. Basketball is a game of runs. They made their runs, we made ours. We were able to withstand theirs and we pulled this one out. I think we're playing hard. We've been in every game we've played this year except the first one. The kids are young and working hard. I think this was a big win for us to get heading into the end stretch of the season."

Somerville	9	7	11	16	43
Cranford	13	9	9	20	51



more photos at goleader.com
Ballyhoo Sports

David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times

DRIVING TO THE BASKET...Blue Devil freshman Chloe Kreusser attempts to drive past Cougar Lauren Williamson, No. 10, and to the basket in Cranford on January 26. The Blue Devils controlled the boards and topped the Cougars, 43-34.

KLAG GRABS 13 RB, STRAVACH 11 RB, KREUSSER 8 RB

Blue Devils Control the Boards; Top Lady Cougar Cagers, 43-34

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

Control of the boards put the Westfield High School girls basketball team on the offensive and the hosting Cranford Cougars on the defensive resulting in a 43-34 Blue Devil victory on January 26. The 11-5 Blue Devils received double digit rebounds from freshman Grace Klag, who pulled 13, and senior Sam Stravach, who grabbed 11, and also got eight from freshman Chloe Kreusser and five from junior Caroline Dwyer.

"They did a really good job of getting offensive rebounds and that's where we struggled a little bit today," Cougar Head Coach Jackie Dyer said.

Senior KC Pringle led the 6-8 Cougars with eight rebounds and added two blocks, two steals and two points.

Olivia Speer had six rebounds and added seven points. Kirsten Williams finished with three rebounds, six points and two steals. Lauren Williamson had four rebounds and five points and Elizabeth McCaffery had four rebounds and sank a 3-pointer. Ellie Rokicki and Meghan Santarelli had two points and Gianna Toretta added a free throw.

Since the beginning of the season, Klag, who finished the game with 12 points, three steals and a block, has been getting more comfortable at her forward/center position.

"It took some adjusting, just the physicality but I definitely am getting more comfortable out there. It took some getting used to. Again the comfort, I feel I can understand the level of the game better and I am seeing

more things now as opposed to in the beginning of the year," Klag said.

Kreusser, who scored five points, also positioned herself to get rebounds, especially in the first half.

"They weren't really boxing out, so I took advantage of that and was able to get around a couple of their players to get the rebounds," Kreusser explained.

Unlike Klag, Kreusser seemed to be comfortable on the court from the start of the season.

"I definitely was used to it because of summer and the preseason training but I definitely am more comfortable from the beginning of the season to now through practices and being able to play with everyone on the team," Kreusser said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

Blue Devil Icemen Extended Winning Streak to 8 Games

Over the course of two games this week the Westfield High School boys varsity ice hockey team extended its winning streak to eight games before having the streak snapped by 18th-ranked Montclair Kimberly Academy.

The win came against their conference rival Livingston Lancers in a tight 2-1 affair. The last game between these two squads ended in controversy as a late game-tying Westfield goal was nullified by the referee. It appeared the men in stripes would pick up where they left off in the rematch as Livingston was awarded a controversial goal. Regardless, Livingston ended the first period with a 1-0 lead.

In the second period, Westfield junior Trevor Tanella fired a laser from the left circle that found the top shelf for the equalizer. Super sophomores Dan MacDonald and Kyle Azzaretto assisted on the goal.

Despite the tied score, the Blue Devils carried the play for most of the game. Midway through the third period senior Anthony Oliveri, working with line mates senior Alex Park and McDonald, was able to find the back of the net for the eventual game-winning goal. Senior Zack Peterson was stellar in net for the Blue Devils to earn the victory.

After reeling off the eight straight wins the Blue Devils faced a big chal-

lenge against McInnis conference rival Montclair Kimberly Academy Cougars. Westfield was able to match the high-powered Cougar offense in the opening and final periods; however, it was in the second period that the hockey gods were not kind to the Blue Devils.

After falling behind early, Blue Devil defenseman Tanella collected a pass from senior John Humiston and, with a slap shot that the Cougar goalie was unable to handle, knotted the game at 1-1 late in the first period. Unfortunately for the Blue Devils the ice was tilted against them in the middle frame and the Cougars scored three unanswered goals.

In the third period, it was Oliveri lighting the lamp on a feed from McDonald via senior Timmy Rosa. Then Rosa himself (with a payback assist from Oliveri) also found the back of the net to make things interesting. But MKA was too much in the third period and dropped a deuce on Westfield for a final of 6-3. Despite the loss, Peterson was strong between the red plumbing for the Blue Devils.

Westfield's record stood at 10-3-3 and the Blue Devils are ranked 19 in the state and No. 2 in Group B. The stakes only get higher from here as the Blue Devils look to finish the 2018-2019 campaign on a strong note heading into the playoffs.

Follow the WHS boys ice hockey teams on Twitter @westfieldpuck for an informative and entertaining take on the season's activities. Fans can also visit WHSpuckon Facebook and Instagram. See the website for up to date team schedules at www.westfieldhockey.com.



Photo courtesy of James Finver

READY TO MANEUVER...Blue Devil junior Dylan Howard, No. 9, looks to maneuver past an opponent.

Cougar Athletes of Week O'Donnell, & Bowers:

Maggie O'Donnell, a junior on the varsity swim team won the Union County Championship in the 100-yard butterfly and placed second breaking a school record, in the 200-yard freestyle. Jack Bowers, a junior on the winter track team, was the top underclassman finisher at the Union County Championships in the shot put with a personal best throw of 41-10. Jack and the Cougars will compete at the upcoming State Sectional Championships.

Cougar Matmen Rap Highlanders, 61-9

The Cranford High School wrestling team upped its record to 9-2 with a 61-9 victory over the Governor Livingston Highlanders on January 18. Cougar Roman Waters pinned Jason Rosenberg in 2:23 at 106-lbs, Will Fernandez (113-lbs) received a forfeit, Pat Kalnins (120-lbs) topped Jeff Stepien, 10-4, and Jim Gluck (126-lbs) beat Harrison Kelly, 8-2.

Cougar Jack Korzeneski (138-lbs) pinned Spencer Park in 1:42, Conner Halpin (145-lbs) beat Conner Vill, 4-1, and AJ Bencivenga (152-lbs) pinned Kyle Savino in 1:25. Max Nock (160-lbs) pinned Joe Scalera in 4:19. Evan Kanterman (170-lbs) won by forfeit, Justin Alpaugh-McLean (182-lbs) pinned Jacob Quandt in 4:55, Zach Blevins (195-lbs) pinned Tom Puia in 21 seconds and Matt Doran (220-lbs) won by 9-1 major decision over Justin VanOostendorp. Highlander Damon Ippolito (285-lbs) pinned Kevin Shriner in 1:01 and Dave Vill (132-lbs) edged Dean Smith, 9-5.

Blue Devil Cagers Top Pioneers in OT, 43-36

Overtime paid off for the 9-5 Westfield High School girls basketball team that rolled to a 9-2 run to stop the hosting 8-5 New Providence Pioneers, 43-36, on January 22. Blue Devil freshman Grace Klag led all scorers with 17 points and also pulled down 13 rebounds, while senior Sam Stravach netted 11 points and added five rebounds, two blocks and a steal.

Ali Lisanti nailed a pair of 3-pointers and added an assist, a steal and a rebound. Charlotte Dursee had five points, three steals and an assist. Chloe Kreusser had three points, four assists, six rebounds, a block and two steals. Lily Maz had two assists, two steals a point and two rebounds. Caroline Dwyer had six rebounds and two steals and Sam Lefteris had a rebound. Olivia Faucher and Alyssa Nook each scored eight points for the Pioneers, while Kaitlyn Cumiskey had six points.

Westfield	6	5	14	9	9	43
New Prov	12	4	7	11	2	36

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

In accordance with the ordinances of the Township of Cranford, and the statutes of the State of New Jersey, Notice is hereby served upon you that an application for development, Application No. ZBA-18-028 to be located in Zone: R-2, on the premises known as 78 Winans Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey 07016, Block No. 528, Lot No. 36, has been submitted by: The Cranford Dramatic Club of 78 Winans Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey 07016.

The proposed development involves and requires the granting of relief from the following requirements of the ordinance so as to permit: a waiver from Section 255-26J6.c(2) of the Township Development Ordinance which restricts the size of outside signage on a building in a residential zone to a maximum of 20 square feet. The proposed sign would be 36 square feet and replace the current sign on the front of the building and any additional relief that may be required from the board.

The Zoning Board will conduct a public hearing on this matter on February 25 at 7:45 p.m. in Room 107 of the Cranford Township Municipal Building, 8 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey. Any person or persons affected by this application will have an opportunity to present any objections to the proposed development. The Board does, however, have the right to exclude repetitious testimony.

All documents relating to this application may be inspected by the public Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. in the Planning/Zoning Department, Cranford Township Municipal Building, 8 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey.

Applicant:
The Cranford Dramatic Club
78 Winans Avenue
Cranford, New Jersey 07016
1 T - 01/31/19, The Leader Fee: \$39.78

PUBLIC NOTICE

BOROUGH OF GARWOOD ALCOHOL BEVERAGE CONTROL

CHANGE OF CORPORATE STRUCTURE

Take notice that on January 22, 2019 a change occurred in the ownership of Westwood Lanes, Inc. trading as The Westwood, holder of a Plenary Retail Consumption License No. 2006-33-012-002, for the premises located at 438 North Avenue, Garwood, New Jersey resulting in the following person's acquiring in the aggregate one percent or more of the ownership thereof:

Westwood Lanes, Inc. Trading as: The Westwood, 438 North Avenue, Garwood, New Jersey

The Shareholders of Westwood Lanes, Inc. are:

John Scalzadonna, 438 North Avenue, Garwood, New Jersey 07027

Shareholder and Chairman of Westwood Lanes, Inc.

Cindy Williams, 438 North Avenue, Garwood, New Jersey 07027

Shareholder and Chief Operating Officer of Westwood Lanes, Inc.

Any information concerning the qualifications of any of the above current owners, should be made immediately in writing to: Christina M. Ariemma, RMC, Borough Administrator and Municipal Clerk, Borough of Garwood, Municipal Building, 403 South Avenue, Garwood, New Jersey 07037.

Westwood Lanes, Inc.
C/O Darin D. Pinto, Esq.
The Law Offices of Darin D. Pinto, P.C.
376 South Avenue East
Westfield, New Jersey 07090
1 T - 01/31/19, The Leader Fee: \$35.70

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