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THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section - Pages 11-14

FEELEY BUCKETS 19 AND PULLS DOWN 9 REBOUNDS

Shabazz Bulldogs Bark in 4th, Bite Raider Hoopmen, 67-56

By DAVID B. CORBIN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times
Recently, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood boys basketball team have been quite competitive. The Raiders thrashed Kearny, 52-37, on January 9, humbled Elizabeth, 66-60, two days later, nearly grounded the 10-1 Plainfield Cardinals on January 16 then iced the Comets of Hillside, 76-65, on January 23.
The ninth-ranked Malcolm X.

Shabazz Bulldogs pranced into Scotch Plains on January 25 and thought they would have a cake walk. Instead, the Raiders did some "dogging" of their own and hounded Shabazz until the final quarter. The concerned Bulldogs finally barked back, scored 23 points and bit the Raiders 67-56.
Reflecting on the difference between the first game with Shabazz and this one, Raider Head Coach

Dan Doherty said, "We went after them and played aggressive (in the first half). We took care of the basketball. But we had trouble when we last played them when they beat us by 25 at their place. It was the second game of the year and we turned the ball over a lot."
As to the Raiders' much improved play recently, Doherty said, "Sometimes it makes the losses tougher for the kids to accept because they are giving more on the court. But they are playing a lot better, they're playing together and they know what they are doing."
"Our goal is to look at the county tournament and make some upsets," expressed Doherty.

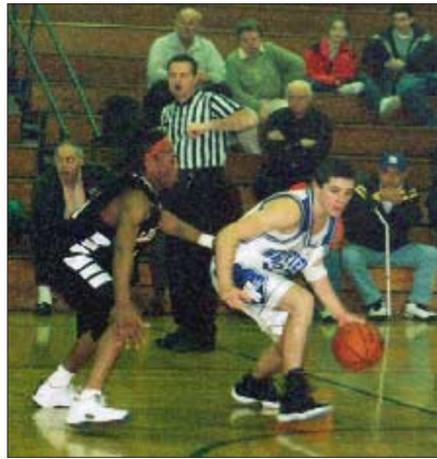
Raider senior Andrew Feeley was consistent throughout and finished with 18 points while pulling down nine rebounds. But the Bulldogs had too many guns. Very strong in the second quarter was Devonne Giles, who fired in nine of his 17 points. He was counterbalanced by Raider Anwar Montgomery, who sank seven of his eight points in that quarter to hold the Bulldogs' halftime lead to 30-27.

"Andrew Feeley has really come along big time," pointed out Doherty. "He's using his body and getting very physical. That has been the main key. Now they (opposition) are keying on him and our outside shooters are hitting more."

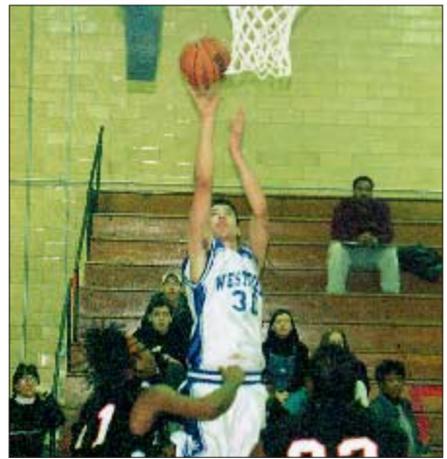
CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
DRIVING THROUGH BULLDOGS...Raider Anwar Montgomery begins to drive through some Malcolm X. Shabazz Bulldog defenders.



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
DRIBBLING PAST A TIGER...Blue Devil Jim McKeon, right, attempts to dribble around a Linden Tiger.



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
GOING FOR TWO...Blue Devil Dan Deserio attempts to sink a basket. Deserio netted 19 points.

DESERIO NETS 19, DEVILS HIT 8 THREE-POINTERS

Blue Devil Cagers Bewilder Linden Tiger Boys, 67-59

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

Mouths must be wide open in Linden. The Linden High School boys basketball team is known as the Tigers. And, Tigers are supposed to roar. However, it was the Westfield boys who growled the loudest when they bewildered the Tigers, 67-59, in Westfield on January 25 to claim their first victory over the Tigers since 1985.

The Blue Devils were sizzling from the outside and riddled the Tigers with eight three-pointers. But that wasn't all. When the Tiger defense compensated by spreading out, Blue Devil junior forward Dan Deserio penetrated underneath and finished with a team-leading 19 points.

"We shot 55 percent from the field and Dan has really stepped up and become a good post player," said Blue Devil Head Coach Kevin Everly. "He has a good feel and can use his body well. He helped us control the boards."

From the onset, the Blue Devils gave the Tigers an impression that they were out to get them. And they did! In the first quarter, the Devils were deadly from the outside starting with junior Adam Turner, who netted

a three-pointer. Then junior Jay Cook began burning the net and, by the end of the quarter, he had nine points which included two three-pointers.
An 18-15 lead was carried into the

second quarter and after Deserio nailed a three-pointer to give the Devils a 23-15 lead, the Tigers adjusted and scored eight-straight points

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

SMITH NETS 11, L. HUBER HITS 10

Lady Vikings Ransack Ridge Cagers, 46-19

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

Dogged defense and keen vision could very well describe this year's Union Catholic High School girls basketball team. That philosophy earned the Vikings another lop-sided victory, this time with a 46-19 win over Ridge in Scotch Plains on January 26. Leading the Vikings offensively were Shrita Smith with 11 points and Lauren Huber with 10.

The clinging Viking defense stuck so close to the Red Raiders' shirts in the first quarter, yielding just four points to Kathy Kelly. In the mean-

time Kenyail Johnson nailed a three-pointer and added a layup and free throw to give the Vikings a 12-4 lead.

Smith, who had seven points in the second quarter, did some offensive dazzling creating three-straight steals and converting the layups. The Viking defense became even more stingy, holding Ridge to only a two-pointer by Lauren Groughe, and adding to the effectiveness was the Vikings' awareness to position themselves in the right spot for rebounds.

"Our big thing is that we run a lot of kids and you (opposition) just get

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

LEONARDIS AND MACKAY PULL IT OUT, GALE WINS

Match Ups, Cougars Pounce Blue Devil Matmen, 54-12

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

How high school wrestling teams match up individual-to-individual can mean a lot as to the outcome of a bout. And it certainly did in Cranford on January 24 as Westfield found itself on the disadvantageous portion of the match up and were pounced by the Cougars, 54-12. Although there were several competitive bouts, Cranford managed to come up with the wins.

"We did not match well. It goes to show you. We beat a Scotch Plains team that had a close match with Cranford, but yet, they beat us up," said Blue Devil Head Coach Glen Kurz. "Not just tonight but this year, they are a better team than we are."

Only three Blue Devils came home with wins and the road to victory for two of them was definitely bumpy. For one, 130-lb. Eric Gale the road to victory was smooth as he received a forfeit.

The first bumpy Blue Devil victory came in the 125-lb. class when John Leonardis pulled out a takedown in overtime to defeat Chris Peneherra, 7-5. Leonardis slicked under Peneherra with a takedown in the first period and began working a single grapevine with a power half nelson. However, Peneherra turned the tables and nearly recorded a pin in the second period, but Leonardis fought out of it and gained a reversal. In the third period, the Cougar gained a reversal and Leonardis knotted the score on a penalty point.

The second bumpy win came in the final bout of the afternoon when heavyweight Chris MacKay found himself in a 1-1 deadlock with Cougar Steve Boborowski with less than 26 seconds remaining. With both wrestlers standing, Boborowski had to take his second injury time out and, by rule, that allowed MacKay to choose whether he wanted to resume wrestling in the top, bottom or standing position. MacKay chose bottom, escaped and won.

"I like that rule," said Kurz. "Our kids don't take any injury time. It

worked to our advantage in that case."

The very first match up - 103-lbs. - went Cranford's way when Tommy Murray scored a takedown late in the third period to grab a 3-1 decision over Blue Devil Matt McManus. Then at 112, state qualifier Pat Daly pinned Blue Devil Joe DeCampo in the second period by taking him straight to his back from a takedown.

The Cougars won another close bout at 119 and took a 12-0 lead when Nick Seeman scored a takedown and an escape to edge Jake

Kramer, 3-1.

Blue Devil Ethan Powell bumped up a weight class to face a very rugged 135-lb. Dan Genovese. A close bout went haywire in the third period when Powell initiated a takedown, but Genovese countered with a five-point pancake maneuver then later added another two points to claim a 12-3, majority decision.

Two more Cougar state qualifiers, Rob Verhoeven at 145 and Greg Donofrio at 160, proved their prowess

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
IN A VERY TIGHT BATTLE...Blue Devil John Leonardis, top, finds himself in a tight bout with Cougar Chris Peneherra. Leonardis won, 7-5, in overtime.

PENNELLA PUMPS IN 17 POINTS

Lady Raiders Ground Hawk Hoopers, 53-29

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

Control of the boards and effectiveness with inside passing earned the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School girls basketball team a 53-29, victory over J. P. Stevens in Edison on Janu-

ary 27. The victory also qualified the Raiders for the state tournament.

The coordination between forward Lindsay Pennella and center Erin Gillooly on offense was superb. Pennella, who finished with a game-high 17 points, got most of her inside feeds from Gillooly. Pennella returned the favor by effectively passing to Gillooly, who had 13 points, as she cut inside toward the basket.

"We did a nice job running our offense although we kind of forced the issue earlier in the game and weren't looking for the cut," pointed out Raider Head Coach Brian Homm. "But later in the third quarter, we settled down and got those layups."

However, what kept the J. P. Stevens Hawks on the defensive most of the time was Raider Najwa Glover, who converted several steals to layups and finished with 13 points. Also, the undersized Hawks had to make their outside shots good because the Raiders consistently grabbed the rebounds.

In the first quarter, the Hawks held the ball to force the Raiders to spread their defense. The Raiders hung tough and went on the offensive as Glover rolled in three layups and Pennella added five points to give their team an 11-4 lead.

The Raiders experienced a need to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
STICKING CLOSE TO A HAWK...Raider Katie Blom, No. 5, tries to stick close to J. P. Stevens Hawk Stephanie Marciano. The Raiders downed the Hawks, 53-29.

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