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# THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section - Pages 13-17



**A BUTTERFLY IN THE WAVES...**Blue Devil Matt Vidovich glides through the water with his butterfly stroke. The Westfield boys won their 44th Union County swimming title in 45 tries.

## COPPA CAPTURES 200 & 500 FREE

### Blue Devil Boys Seize U.C. Swimming Title

Two years ago, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School boys broke Westfield's streak of 42-straight Union County swimming titles - the longest in the nation of any high school sport. But on February 2 at Dunn Center in Elizabeth, the Blue Devils easily won their second-straight title by out-pointing second-place Summit, 312-231. The Raiders placed third at 211.

Blue Devil sophomore Zach Coppa won two individual titles in freestyle events. First, he left Raider Steve Swenson in his wake in the 200, taking first with a time of 1:52.73. Swenson was second at 1:56.64 and Blue Devil Devin Power took fifth at 2:00.24. Then

Coppa glided to victory in the 500 with a time of 5:06.71, beating Raider Eric Swenson who finished second at 5:13.21.

Blue Devil Ryan Bartholomew at :23.04 touched first in the 50 freestyle ahead of Raider Chris Smith at :23.42. Blue Devil Sean Baran placed fifth at :23.88.

The Raider foursome of Eric Swenson, Ryan Hauptman, Steve Swenson and Smith won the 400 freestyle relay with a time of 3:30.45 followed by the Blue Devils at 3:31.56. Governor Livingston (GL) placed sixth at 3:50.52. Raiders Hauptman, Steve and Eric Swenson and Smith teamed to win the 200

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## FRANCAVILLA GETS 2ND; LEE, DECAMPO, LEO, MACKAY, REYES TAKE 5TH

### Raider Cousar Wins Second U. C. Crown; Raiders Take 7th, Blue Devils Place 12th

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

Raider senior Gary Cousar successfully defended his 189-lb. title at the Union County wrestling tournament held at Union High School on February 3. Once again, Roselle Park captured the team title, totaling 236 points. Scotch Plains-Fanwood, wrestling without the services of undefeated 215-pounder Matt Loomis, finished seventh with 94, Governor Livingston placed ninth with 80 and Westfield, wrestling without 130-lb. Ethan Powell, came in 12th with 60 points.

Cousar wrestled like a man possessed. Seeded first, after drawing a first-round bye, he pinned his way through the tournament. First, he pinned Roselle Catholic's Dan Pena in 1:31 using a side-arm bar with a tight waist combination. In the semifinals, he squashed Nick Jahn of A. L. Johnson in :55 using a leg scissors and a half nelson. Then in the finals, Cousar practiced a takedown clinic before flattening Dave Peist of Cranford with an under-half nelson in 5:12.

Earlier in the week, during a dual meet against Union, Cousar was caught in a quick pin.

"I was on a mission. I wanted to keep the title and I had some rage about my match with Stein," explained Cousar. "I'm better than that." "He was a man on a mission," pointed out Raider Head Coach Dave Bello. "He's now wrestling the way

that he is capable. His timing is perfect. He had a great tournament. I couldn't be happier with him."

Raider junior Lucas Francavilla, who placed second last year at 125, advanced to the 135-lb. finals before dropping a 10-3 decision to highly-advanced freshman Charles Mueller of Union. Seeded second, Francavilla defeated GL Highlander Eric Serrano, 6-1, then recorded two takedowns and two nearfalls before crushing Lou Panetta of Roselle Park with a tight waist and an arm bar in 5:17.

Raider Charles Lee grabbed fifth place in the 130-lb. class but hit a little road block early on. Wrestling against Corey Walker of Linden, Lee was disqualified for inflicting an illegal body slam. In the consolations, he won his first bout by decision, then followed with a 13-3 majority decision over Cranford's Anthony Donofrio. After losing by decision to Rahway's Gene Ronkiewicz, Lee received a forfeit to take fifth.

The Blue Devils did come up with four fifth-place finishes and got an especially fine performance from 112-lb. sophomore Joe DeCampo. DeCampo defeated Nick Dowling of New Providence, 6-2, then lost by decision to tournament champion Amin Queen of Elizabeth. In the wrestle backs, DeCampo received a bye, then beat Marc Yospin of Brearley, 9-4, making good use of a Guillotine maneuver. After dropping a 5-0 decision to Nick Zangari of Roselle Park, DeCampo clamped Highlander Tim Vanderveer with a cradle in 4:06.

With reference to his bout with Yospin, DeCampo said, "I work on the Guillotine in practice and have some tough partners working with me which helps me with tough wrestlers like him."

After placing fifth, DeCampo commented, "I felt that I wrestled well throughout the tournament even against Amin Queen. That helped my confidence. I started finishing my shots."

"He had a great tournament. He wrestled well against Queen and gained confidence. You could see his improvement just over the course of two days," pointed out Blue Devil Head Coach Glen Kurz.

Blue Devil junior John Leonardis

had several battles on his journey to fifth at 125-lbs. In his first bout, Leonardis was nearly pinned by Cranford's Chris Peneherra in the first period when he fell victim to a Cement Mixer maneuver but he fought back with two reversals, a

of Elizabeth in 4:53. Next, he rocked Rahway's Sean Horton to sleep in 4:03 with a cradle then was edged, 3-2, by Highlander Mike Fullowan. The remainder of the road was simple as he was awarded fifth via forfeit. In a few of the bouts, Leonardis



**ON HIS WAY TO A 2ND UC TITLE...**Raider Gary Cousar, top, controls Cranford's Dave Peist en route to his second Union County title.

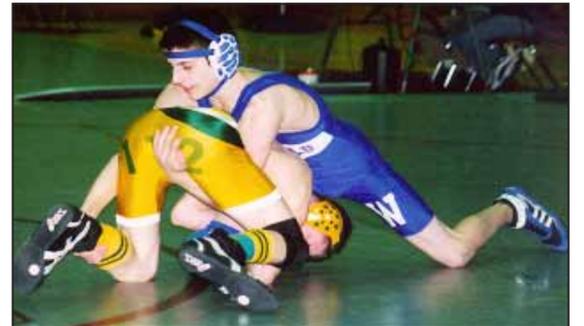
takedown and a two-point nearfall to tie the bout at 8-8, forcing overtime. Using an effective duck under, Leonardis took Peneherra to the mat to claim the victory.

In the quarterfinals, Leonardis was tripped up by eventual champion Altay Vigilante of Brearley, but quickly recovered to pin Neil Ezzell

found himself operating from a deficit and explained, "Maybe I was off balance, but I just told myself that I had to get going and wrestle a full six minutes."

Blue Devil senior Justin Reyes earned fifth by pinning Linden's Corry Gary with a headlock in 3:36.

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**HAVING A FINE TOURNAMENT...**Blue Devil 112-pounder Joe DeCampo, top, controls New Providence Pioneer Nick Dowling and eventually places fifth in the UC tournament.

## DESERIO PUMPS IN 15, DEVILS WIN 3RD-STRAIGHT

### Blue Devils Come From Behind, Defeat Ridge Hoopmen, 52-42

By STEVEN KRAKAUER  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

To start the season 3-10 looks pretty poor in most people's book. But when that same team wins three games in a row, things begin to look up. That's exactly the situation with the Westfield Blue Devils boys basketball team. On January 31, at Westfield High School, the Devils defeated Ridge, 52-42, upping their record to 6-10.

Highlighting the game for the Blue Devils was junior big-man Dan DeSerio, who led his team in three categories. He dropped 15 points, stole four balls and came through with two big blocks. Additionally, DeSerio crashed the boards well, finishing with 10 rebounds.

Westfield started a peculiar lineup, with usual bench stars Adam Turner and Louie Mercer in the game at the tip-off. One reason may have

been junior Jay Cook's having been banned for two games due to unsportsmanlike conduct.

The Blue Devils, like many other times this season, played catch up ball most of the game and were down by just one point in each of the first three quarters. But when the final buzzer sounded, the story was different.

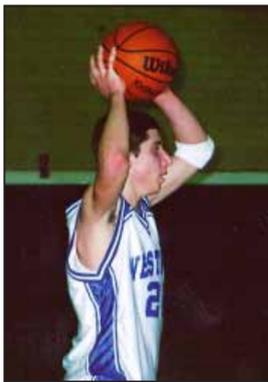
Ridge junior Jeff Burns recorded the first two points of the game and would prove to be a major offensive factor during the entire game. Burns fired in 20 points and scored all 12 of the Red Devils' points in the third quarter. Red Devil Jon Morra, who scored two points, proved to be influential under the boards as he grabbed 10 rebounds.

The Blue Devils were thieves in the first quarter, robbing Ridge four times in the first four minutes. Unfortunately, their turnovers were not converted as they managed only to put nine points on the board in the first while the Red Devils sank 10.

The Blue Devils spread the scoring wealth in the second half. Juniors Mercer scored eight of his 12 and Co-Captain Jimmy McKeon netted five of his seven in the second half. Also in the half, junior Adam Turner scored all eight of his points.

Defensive thievery also played a

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Steven Krakauer for The Leader and The Times  
Blue Devil Jim McKeon



Steven Krakauer for The Leader and The Times  
Blue Devil Adam Turner

## PENNELLA NETS 16, LAFORGE GRABS 8 REBOUNDS

### Cougars Creep Back to Claw Lady Raider Cagers, 48-42

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

Complexions can change drastically in a game. Things were looking rosy for the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School girls basketball team at the end of the first quarter against Cranford; however, faces turned white as the Cougars crept back to win, 48-42, in Scotch Plains on February 1. First the Cougars nailed a barrage of three-pointers in the second quarter to narrow their deficit, then they successfully cut off the Raiders' offensive scheme in the second half.

"They were effective with their three-point shooting so we started playing them man-to-man," said Raider Head Coach Brian Homm. "We did not play the way we should have played. They out-hustled us and out-played us. They deserved to beat us today."

Raider sophomore Lindsay Pennella and junior Erin Gillooly were effective offensively with 16 and 12 points, respectively, and junior Kellie LaForge led in rebounds with eight. However, Cougar Lauren O'Donnell fired in 16 points - with four three-pointers - and Gillian Murray sank 13.

The Raiders were in control in the first quarter and Pennella was blazing. Within less than four minutes, she scored eight points to give the

Raiders a 10-4 lead. Next, fine inside passing to Gillooly, who netted six points in the quarter, gave the Raiders an 18-10 lead, although O'Donnell managed to hit two of her three-pointers.

The Raiders increased their lead to 24-12 early in the second quarter, but

a little paleness set in after the Cougars scored 10 of the next 12 points, concluded by back-to-back three-pointers from O'Donnell and Melissa Montalvo.

Then, in the second half, Cougar Head Coach Brian Chapman reorga-

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**MAKING SURE OF CONTROL...**Raider Kellie LaForge makes sure that a Cougar won't steal her rebound.

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