



**HARD CORE XFL FANS...**The XFL football game between the NJ/NY Hitmen and the Orlando Rage has attracted many hard core fans to Giants Stadium. Among them have been several Westfield residents. Pictured, left to right, are: front row, Chris MacKay, Dan Hertz and Bryan Clancy; second row, Ryan Schaeffer, Dave Strober, Jeremiah Cole-Kelly and Adam Turner.

# XFL Football Invades East Rutherford

By STEVEN KRAKAUER  
*Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times*

New Jersey finally has their name on a football team playing in East Rutherford. Unfortunately, the garden state is still sharing that duty with the big apple, but it's a start. The XFL's New York/New Jersey Hitmen are the newest sensation to hit the parkway since EZ Pass, and their fan following is gaining.

For those who don't already know, the XFL (not Xtreme Football League - the X doesn't stand for anything) is the newest brain-child of WWF (World Wrestling Federation) owner Vince McMahon. The concept, an NFL football experience combined with slightly skewed rules, scantily-clothed cheerleaders, pyrotechnics and player jerseys sporting names such as "Big Time" and "He Hate Me."

The local squad, the Hitmen, is currently viewed by many as the worst team in the league (2-4). However that doesn't stop a group of around 20,000 fans from coming out to support their team at Giants Stadium. This number is still strong, although it has diminished from the 35,000 that came out for the home opener.

But the Hitmen's struggle on the field doesn't hamper some hard core patrons. *The Westfield Leader/Times* reporter Adam Turner, who is a season-ticket holder, said, "The XFL is a lot of fun. You get a much more in-the-game feel then you do at an NFL game."

The XFL website (XFL.com) states that the XFL will be "the brand of football that hard core football fans haven't seen in a long time and it will connect with fans by returning football to its roots, including fostering a wide-open style of play and faster-paced action while encouraging player individuality to emerge." As clearly shown through their mission statement, the on-field action isn't all that matters in this league. The players recognize the total package as well.

Says Hitmen wide receiver Anthony DiCosmo (from Fair Lawn), "It's good to see fans just having a ball out there.

Whether it's the football, the cheerleaders or the little segments they show on TV, it's all just entertainment. Who cares why people are coming, as long as they're having a good time."

The excitement in the stands is electric. Signs, mostly bashing Hitmen quarterback Chuck Puleri or attempting to entice a cheerleader, can be spotted densely throughout the stadium. Chants, sometimes encouraged by the players themselves, can be heard echoing loudly.

The aura of Giants Stadium is exciting in itself. Hitmen running back Keith Elias (former Giant, from Lanoka Harbor, NJ and attendee of Princeton U.) commented, "I love playing in Giants Stadium. We've got rabid fans here. They make you accountable for what you do on the field."

The rule changes in the XFL range from the mild (no fair catches on punt returns) to the obscure (coin toss replaced with a "scramble for the ball" which consists of a player from each team "scrambling for possession of a football at midfield). Other rules are evident, yet overall contribute minimally to the game play.

Another major change between the XFL and the NFL is the in-your-face camera angles and body mikes. Over 20 players are miked each game, and there are two running cameramen on the field at all times. Also, there are locker room cams to see the action at halftime.

Some feel that the dress and marketing of the cheerleaders objectify women.

Bridget Fitzpatrick, a senior at Westfield High School, said "They're using the cheerleaders to get more viewers, and they're over-publicizing them. But the women did volunteer to do it. And overall I found the XFL very entertaining."

The appeal of the XFL comes from its marketing to it's fans. Jon Schwartz, Director of Public Relations said, "We in the XFL treat the fan like a king. That customer is our number one priority, so we go out of our way to please them."



**SHOOTOUT WINNERS...**The Westfield Hurricanes girls travel basketball team recently won the Great Greenbrook Shootout Tournament. Pictured, left to right, are: front row, Ava Scheininger, Olympia Gaglioti, Kathryn Donovan and Gabrielle O'Leary; second row, Ryan Ferro, Alexandra Pecora, Claire Bennett, Rachel Ganz, Mia Pafumi and Leanne Skorge; back row, Assistant Coaches Tim Donovan and Sandy Chambers and Head Coach John O'Leary.

# JCC White B'ballers Stop JCC Blue Boys, 32-15

Led by Zachary Flanzman's 12 points and Greg Stein's six, the JCC White 3rd and 4th grade basketball team of Scotch Plains closed out it's season with a 5-2 record, by defeating JCC Red of Edison, 32-15, on March 11.

With only one returning member from last year, and the rest of the players all 3rd graders, this was expected to be a rebuilding year.

"These kids practiced hard and played their hearts out, week after week," said White's head coach Ira Riesenberg. "I'm very proud of them."

White exploded for 14 points in the

first quarter, while using a stifling defense to hold Red scoreless. Red finally got on the score board in the second quarter, but White continued to pull away thanks to a couple of end-to-end drives by the team's leading rebounder, David Geller.

Michael Riesenberg added a bucket and had several steals. But it was Flanzman who was on fire, swiping several steals and taking the ball the length of the court for eight of his points, including a sweet, 10-foot pull-up jumper.

White's scoring was rounded out by four points from Alex Davis, and two each from Todd Morling and Matt Simon. Red poured it on the fourth quarter but David van Wert made a great steal to clinch the victory.

# Bernstein Strikes Two Track Golds

Irwin Bernstein of Westfield won a pair of gold medals at the Philadelphia Masters Indoor Track & Field Championships at Haverford College in Pennsylvania on March 10. Representing the Shore Athletic Club in the 65-69 age group, Bernstein won the 400-meter run in 1:12.6. He then returned to the track forty minutes later to register a time of 2:57.2 to capture the 800-meter run.

# Julie Elmuccio Places Ninth in Track Meet

The Hamilton College women's indoor track and field team of Clinton, N.Y. competed at the FCAC Championships on Saturday, March 3, and tied for 19th out of 38 teams. Sophomore Julie Elmuccio of Westfield placed ninth in the triple jump with a distance of 10.59 meters (34'09").

### PUBLIC NOTICE

**BOROUGH OF FANWOOD PLANNING BOARD**  
**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT** on March 28, 2001 at 8:00 P.M. in the Borough Hall of the Borough of Fanwood at 75 North Martine Avenue, Fanwood, New Jersey the Fanwood Planning Board will hold a public hearing to consider the appeal of Sun Tavern for a final site plan amendment Article 9.01A of the Land Use Ordinance of the Borough of Fanwood to convert the second floor into a party/banquet room and the first floor foyer into a tabled area, and such other relief that the Board may deem appropriate on the property at 15-19 South Avenue, Fanwood, New Jersey, also known as Block No. 55, Lot No. 2 on the Fanwood Tax Map.

All interested persons may be present and heard. The file pertaining to this application is available for public inspection during normal business hours from the Secretary of the Board at the Administration Offices of the Borough of Fanwood at 75 North Martine Avenue, Fanwood, New Jersey.

**KENNETH C. DUDA AND LILLIAN DUDA/SUN TAVERN**  
Applicant  
**JOSEPH CASTELLUCCI, ESQ.**  
Peluso, Staufenberg, Castellucci & Hanula  
740 Broad Street  
Shrewsbury, New Jersey 07702  
Attorney for Applicant  
1T - 3/15/01, The Times Fee: \$33.15

### WBA 6th Grade Boys Basketball Playoffs:

**Spurs 40, Suns 38:**  
The lead continually changed sides, but the Spurs emerged victorious and dimmed the Suns.  
**Raptors 40, Mavericks 28**  
The previously undefeated Mavericks were ripped by the Raptors.  
The championship game will be played March 17.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
ESTATE OF: LEON SCHANKER, Deceased.

Pursuant to the order of James S. LaCorte, Surrogate of the County of Union, made on the 9th day of March A.D., 2001, upon the application of the undersigned, as Executor of the estate of said deceased, notice is hereby given to the creditors of said deceased to exhibit to the subscriber under oath or affirmation their claims and demands against the estate of said deceased within six months from the date of said order, or they will be forever barred from prosecuting or recovering the same against the subscriber.

**Bette Degenhardt**  
Executor  
**Richard A. Gordon, Attorney**  
519 Westfield Avenue  
Westfield, New Jersey 07090  
1T - 3/15/01, The Leader Fee: \$19.89

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