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THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section
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Steve Kim (Image Photo) for The Westfield Leader and The Times
SOARING TO LOFTIER HEIGHTS...Blue Devil Adam Wendell cleared 6'2" to place second in the high jump event.



Steve Kim (Image Photo) for The Westfield Leader and The Times
STILL THE LEADER OF THE PACK...Raider Bob Wallden crossed first in the one-mile and the two-mile events.



Steve Kim (Image Photo) for The Westfield Leader and The Times
DEVIL OF A RUN IN THE 880...Blue Devil Dan Lynes finished second to GL's Mike Carmody in the 880-yard event.

WALLDEN WINS 2, WILLIAMS ONE

Raider Boys Capture U. County Track Title

Seniors Bob Wallden and Ray Williams amassed a total of 44 team points to lead the Scotch Plains-Fanwood boys to the Union County (UC) Boys Indoor Track and Field title at Dunn Center in Elizabeth on January 30. The Raiders totaled 58 points to outdo runner up Plainfield at 45 points. Governor Livingston placed fifth with 22 points and Westfield tied with Elizabeth for sixth with 18 points.

Wallden earned 20 team points with first-place finishes in the one-mile run and the two-mile run. He fought off Cranford Cougar K.C. Brown by three seconds in the mile, winning in 4:41.5, then, he dusted Cougar Ed Clinton by nearly five seconds in the two-mile to finish in 10:08.7.

Totalling 44 team points, Williams, who had been nursing a knee injury, **CONTINUED ON PAGE 12**

DEVIL TOMASSO, SP-F MINEO, GL'S VANDEVEER, PRICE GET THIRD

Francavillas, DeNich, Regenye Capture UC Mat Titles; Mac, Connolly Get 2nd

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

Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Raiders Matt DeNichilo and brothers Derek and Lucas Francavilla each grabbed top honors in their respective weight classes and Governor Livingston senior Jon Regenye won his class at the Union County Wrestling Tournament (UWCT) held in Union on February 1-2. Westfield High School junior Dan MacDonald rose to the occasion and came home with a second-place as did Raider sophomore Eric Connolly.

For the sixth year in a row, Roselle Park (RP) won the team title with 216 points followed by Cranford (C) at 158 and Scotch Plains-Fanwood (SPF) at 156.5. Governor Livingston showed well, placing seventh at 112.5 and Westfield had a good tournament, finishing ninth at 106.5.

Senior Dan Appello (RP) became the first wrestler in UWCT history to win titles in four different weight classes - 103, 112, 119, 125. Senior Stefano Sarracino of Brearley claimed his 100th career win by capturing the 130-lb. crown. Raider coach Dave Bello was named Union County Coach of the Year for the second time - the first was in 1998.

Senior Lucas Francavilla, now 17-0, had something to prove and did. Appearing in his third UCWT final, he was defeated last year in the 135-

lb final by Union (U) Farmer Charles Mueller. This time at 140-lbs., Francavilla, after being taken down by Mueller, escaped and added a takedown then beautifully countered a Gramby roll with a half-nelson and a step over to pin him in 1:51.

"He went for the Gramby and I knew it. So I slipped the half in really deep and stepped over," described a very happy Francavilla.

Earlier, Francavilla defeated GL's Eric Serrano, 7-2, and Westfield Blue Devil Lee Tomasso via fall in 3:10.

After his semifinal bout with Tomasso, Francavilla noted, "It's a different kind match. Serrano was a strong kid who kind of clammed up on me and Tomasso is a better wrestler but he opens up more and I can get more points that way."

Tomasso reached the semis with identical 1:26 pins over Ed Hamilton of Johnson and Linden's Eugene Mizell. In the wrestleoffs, he decked Alexis Nicasio of Rahway in 1:21 then claimed third via forfeit.

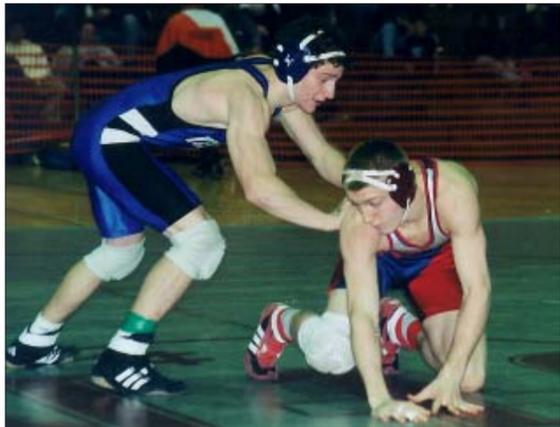
Earlier in the season, DeNichilo, a senior, was leading RP's Jim Garrison, 6-4, but was riding too high and got stuck in a pin. In the 145-lb. finals, **CONTINUED ON PAGE 13**

DeNichilo brilliantly used his knowledge of mechanical advantage to earn a takedown and a three-point nearfall to defeat Garrison, 5-3.

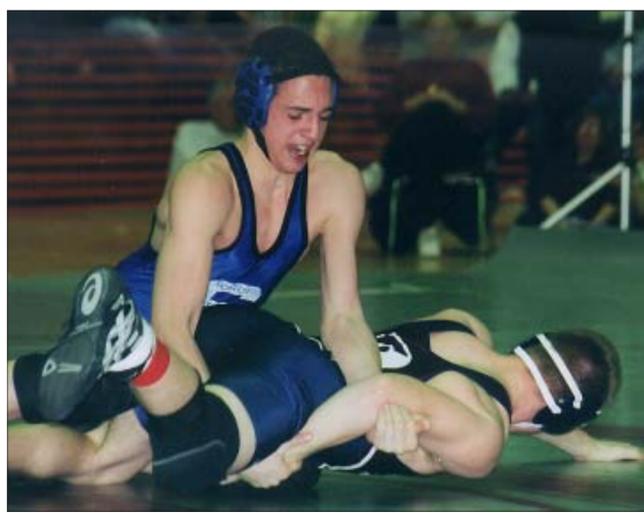
"It felt so good! I didn't really get my full revenge, I really wanted to pin him," explained DeNichilo. "I had him for a second but I could not stick him. But a win is a win. I'll take it."

Seeded second, DeNichilo pinned Union's Jesse VonLinden in 1:43, pinned Ben Gonzalez of Plainfield in 34 seconds in the quarterfinals then entwined Rahway's AIMontesdeoca, using double grapevines in 1:58 after throwing him with a headlock.

"He was driving in very hard so I **CONTINUED ON PAGE 13**



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
BATTLING IN THE FINALS...Blue Devil Dan MacDonald, left, opts to allow Highlander Jon Regenye get an escape in the first period of the 152-lb. title bout.



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
USING MECHANICAL ADVANTAGE...Raider Matt DeNichilo, top, works for a pipe wrench, arm lever tilt on Roselle Park's Jim Garrison in the 145-lb. finals. DeNichilo defeated Garrison, 5-3.

AMANDA DICKSON BEATS PFLUG IN BREASTSTROKE

Blue Devil 'Swim' Girls Win UC Crown by a Breaststroke

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

Team depth with a splash of freshman Amanda Dickson proved to be the formula to earn the Westfield High School girls' swim team its 11th-straight Union County title. Facing a formidable Governor Livingston (GL) squad, the Blue Devils out-pointed the Highlanders 255-227 at Dunn Center in Elizabeth

on February 2. Scotch Plains-Fanwood (SPF) placed third at 137.

Westfield (W) won only two relays and one individual event but had a wealth of second through sixth places to grab the title. Dickson surprised GL's Jen Pflug, the favored, in the 100-yard breaststroke, touching first with a time of 1:10.51. Pflug touched at 1:10.83. Jacqueline Delafuente (W) placed fifth at

1:13.77. "She was a pleasant surprise," said boys' coach Bruce Johnson of Dickson. "She was behind at the start and just kept gaining ground as the race went on."

Johnson noted that Dickson may have been the first Blue Devil freshman to win a UC swim event since 1994. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 13**

COPPA WINS 100, 200; 'BART' WINS 50; SHEN WINS FLY

Blue Devil Swimmers Grab UC Boys Championship

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

The Westfield High School boys swimming team easily captured the Union County Boys Swimming (UCBS) Championship, out-pointing Scotch Plains-Fanwood, 307-223, at Dunn Center in Elizabeth on February 1. Westfield has won 45 of the 46 UCBS titles. Scotch Plains-Fanwood had broken Westfield's streak at 42 - the nation's longest in any high school sport - in 1999.

The Blue Devils placed first in six of the 11 events and were led by Zack Coppa who placed first in two individual events and one relay event. Coppa won the 200-freestyle for the second year in a row with his season's best time of 1:49.3 and out-touched Rahway's Kevin Bobenchick 49.40 to 49.93 to win the 100-freestyle. Coppa teamed with Sean Baran, Ryan Bartholomew and Rob Freundlich to touch first in the 200-yard relay at 1:33.03. The Raiders finished third with a time of 1:35.24.

"His wins were expected but this was his best high school 100 ever,"

pointed out Blue Devil coach Bruce Johnson. "His 200 was the best this year."

Bartholomew claimed first in the 50-freestyle with a super time of 22.42, edging Bobenchick who touched second at 22.98. Raider Dave

Hauptman took fifth at 23.78. Bartholomew also teamed with Freundlich, Devin Power and Josh Schoenfeld to win the 400-yard freestyle relay at 3:33.19. The Raiders placed third in the event at 3:47.35 **CONTINUED ON PAGE 14**

DESERIO NETS 24 POINTS, 10 REBOUNDS, 7 ASSISTS

Blue Devil Cagers Crumble Nutley Hoopmen, 78-32

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

The Westfield Blue Devil boy basketball team broke out of their five-game slump on February 2 in a big way, thoroughly pounding Nutley, 78-32, in Westfield.

Westfield used a team effort in the win, as seven players tallied more than five points. Westfield destroyed Nutley in every statistical category, leading in rebounds 37-12, assists 21-10, steals 8-3 and blocks 5-0.

The first quarter was all Co-Captain Dan Deserio for Westfield, as he scored his team's first nine points. For Nutley, senior Mike DiGiuglieno

scored his team's first seven points. At the end of the first quarter, the score was quite close, with Westfield leading just 13-11.

That two-point deficit was the closest margin Nutley would ever manage. Westfield followed to score more than 13 in the next three quarters (20, 20 and 25 respectively) while Nutley couldn't manage more than 11 (8, 10 and 3 respectively).

By halftime, Deserio had accounted for 16 of his team's 33 points. He finished the game with 24 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists.

Also playing extremely well was Blue Devil junior Eric Turner, who

made up for the absence of two Blue Devil stars, Jim McKeon and Jay Cook. Turner hit three 3-pointers in the game, as well as shooting 100 percent (3-3) from the free-throw line. He finished with 18 points, five rebounds and three assists.

Four Westfield starters didn't play during the fourth quarter, as Coach **CONTINUED ON PAGE 12**



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