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THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section
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FORD SINKS 15 POINTS, PULLS DOWN 13 REBOUNDS

No. 12 Tiger Boys Pull Away From Raider Cagers, 62-47

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

Michael Henderson sank nine of his game-leading 23 points in the fourth quarter to lead the No. 12 Linden High School boys basketball team to a 62-47 victory over Scotch Plains-Fanwood in Scotch Plains on January 27. Trying to rebound from a very low scoring third quarter, the 15-1 Tigers found the mark in the final quarter and pulled away from a close

game with a 23-14 sprint. Gavin Ford led the 6-10 Raiders' effort with 15 points and netted seven of his points in the fourth quarter. Greg Bayard nailed three 3-pointers, two early in the fourth quarter, and Sean Young, who had 10 rebounds, put in eight points. Brian Dougher sank six points, including a 3-pointer, and Kyle Gates hit a 3-pointer. Charles Miller had 10 points and 12 rebounds for the Tigers while LJ McGhee scored

11 points. Ford, who had a game-leading 13 rebounds, said, "I box out. If I box out, I can get a lot of rebounds."

Henderson was indeed the man to watch and proved it by banging in three of his five 3-pointers in the first quarter. The Raiders did take an early 5-4 lead but the Tigers rattled off 10 unanswered points and finished the quarter with an 18-13 lead.

Ford rolled in a lay up, was fouled and hit the free throw at the beginning of the second quarter to make the score 18-16 but the Tigers again answered with a nine-point run, highlighted by another Henderson 3-pointer. The half ended, 34-27, in favor of the Tigers.

After the break, the Raiders hounded Henderson and no one scored a point until Young pushed in a lay up with 4:26 left in the third quarter. Both teams were missing their shots. Henderson was held scoreless and the Raiders won the quarter, 6-5. Tiger point guard Nick Russo hit a 3-pointer with 15 seconds left in the quarter.

"We worked as a team to stop Henderson from scoring. If we stopped him, they would not score," said Ford of his team's success in the third quarter.

As to the shooting, he said, "I guess

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David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WATCHING THE FLOW OF THE BALL...Raiders Jeff Marable, No. 5, Sean Young, No. 33, and Gavin Ford, No. 43, watch the flow of the ball in the game against No. 12 Linden.

SHAFFER WINS VIA TECH FALL, BOYD RECORDS PIN

Blue Devils Win 4 of 5 Bouts In 53-21 Mat Loss to Cougars

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

Realizing there was no chance of winning the match having forfeited eight bouts, the Westfield High School varsity wrestlers did manage to win four of five bouts contested in a 53-21 loss to host Cranford on January 26. The Blue Devils won two bouts via fall, one via technical fall and another by majority decision.

Prior to the varsity match, the Blue Devil junior varsity team had a very good outing in its match with the Cougar junior varsity. Afterwards, Blue Devil Sam Kramer got the varsity match rolling with a fall in 1:52 over Matt Petrozziello using an underhook and an arm bar at 112-lbs.

At 119-lbs, Blue Devil Matt Kamel has been showing a lot of improvement and won a 9-0, majority decision

over Cougar Jim Provence. Kamel recorded a spin-behind takedown in the first period, added a two-point tilt in the second then tacked on a double-leg takedown and a three-point nearside cradle in the third period.

After being stunned 7-6 in his bout with Raider AJ Watson on January 19, Blue Devil Andrew Shaffer won his second straight bout and upped

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NEAR PHOTO FINISH...Blue Devil Emily MacNeil, left, and Governor Livingston Highlander Chrissy McCurdy near the finish line in the 440-yard race. McCurdy managed to cross the line first by a footstep.

VETERANS MACNEIL, ONISHI LEAD BLUE DEVILS

Blue Devil Track Girls Retain Union County Indoor Crown

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

Veterans Emily MacNeil and Annie Onishi provided the leadership and majority of the points to push the Westfield High School girls to their second straight Union County girls

indoor track and field championship at Dunn Center in Elizabeth on January 31. MacNeil and Onishi played a major role in amassing 40 of the Blue Devils' 45 points, enough to nip the Rahway girls who finished second with 41. Scotch Plains-Fanwood finished

fifth with a total of 22 and Union Catholic finished 13th with two points.

MacNeil won her fourth straight 880-yard title by breezing past the finish line in 2:31.4 followed by Jahliha Smith of Plainfield at 2:33.2 and Onishi at 2:34.2. Rahway held a 30-14 lead before the 880 event but MacNeil's 10 points and Onishi's six tied the score.

"It's really important to defend. I want to come back and win it again. I feel pretty good. I'm confident! I hope I can go out and run well. It's really important for the team points," said MacNeil prior to the 880-yard race.

After winning, she said, "I feel pretty good. I could have gone faster but I wanted to save something for the 4x4 (4x400)."

Earlier, in the one-mile event, Onishi was running in fifth place until the final lap when she put on a strong kick to pass Jenn Hanke of Cranford and Jessica Rodriguez of Roselle Catholic to finish third with a time of 5:38.3. Summit's sensation Samantha Lee won with a time of 5:31.2.

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David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times

TEMPORARILY IN CONTROL...Blue Devil Dan Whitney, top, attempts to catch Cougar C.J. Ferrara on his back in the 171-lb bout.

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