



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
**PULLING OFF A BIG UPSET...**Blue Devil Marc Boyd, left, fights off the takedown attempt of Tiger Kareem Absolu in their 160-lb bout. Boyd resisted and pinned Absolu in the third period.

**BOYD RECORDS BIG PIN, DELDUCA WINS AT 152-LBS**

**Linden Tigers, 8 Forfeits Top Blue Devil Wrestlers, 51-15**

By DAVID B. CORBIN  
*Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times*  
 Concentrating solely on getting the best from its remaining varsity wrestlers, the Westfield High School wrestling team presented only four competitors against Linden and came up with three victories in Westfield on February 16. The visiting Tigers won eight bouts by forfeit and another by decision to grab a 51-15 victory while the Blue Devils won one bout by pin, another by decision and the third by forfeit.

The most memorable bout of the afternoon came in the 160-lb class when Blue Devil sophomore Marc Boyd resisted the power of Tiger Kareem Absolu and emerged with a stunning fall in 5:11. Absolu recorded two takedowns by power throws in the first period while Boyd recorded an escape. In the second period, Absolu added a reversal but Boyd, with his long legs, kept a strong base, got a standup escape and came back to grab a double leg takedown on the tiring Absolu. Boyd added a reversal in the third period, Absolu escaped but Boyd took him back to the mat and smothered him with an under half nelson and chin hook.

"He was very strong. I found that out in the first period but I knew he would tire as the bout went on. So I kept going after him. I kept a wide base, went after him with a double and the under half was there so I used it," Boyd explained.

In the previous bout at 152-lbs, Blue Devil Tom DelDuca, still testing the water to see how his injured shoulder would hold up, faced a formidable but

cautious wrestler in Marco Renderos. Being the aggressor the entire bout, DelDuca got a duck under takedown in the first period against the reluctant Renderos and added an escape and another takedown in the third period to win a 5-1 decision.

"It's tough to work your moves against someone who is very cautious," said DelDuca. "But I'm feeling more confident with my shoulder and my conditioning is good. I'm going to get another match in before the districts. My weight is already around 145 pounds so I don't have to worry about that."

Blue Devil Dan Whitney had no challenger at 171-lbs and needed only

to walk on the mat to get his hand raised in the air. In the first bout of the evening, Blue Devil Matt Kamel dropped a 6-2 decision to Tiger Mike Pisarski at 119-lbs.

- WEIGHT SEQUENCE:**  
 103: — No match  
 112: — No match  
 119: — Mike Pisarski (L) d Matt Kamel, 6-2  
 125: — Ralph Celestin (L) won forfeit  
 130: — Will Cooper (L) won forfeit  
 135: — John Miller (L) won forfeit  
 140: — Mark Horzepa (L) won forfeit  
 145: — Erik Meika (L) won forfeit  
 152: — Tom DelDuca (W) d Marco Renderos, 5-1  
 160: — Boyd (W) p Absolu, 5:11  
 171: — Dan Whitney (W) won forfeit  
 189: — Ken Jones (L) won forfeit  
 215: — Julio Loperena (L) won forfeit  
 Hwt: — Ronnell Orr (L) won forfeit



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**TOP CONTROL...**Blue Devil Tom DelDuca, top, controls Tiger Marco Renderos in the 152-lb bout. DelDuca won, 5-1.

**Devil's Den**  
**Is it Time to Seriously Consider A Union County Conference?**  
 By BRUCE JOHNSON  
*Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times*

With the recent news that Bound Brook, Manville, North Plainfield and Mount St. Mary of Watchung will be leaving the Mountain Valley Conference, what does that mean for the future of the MVC? And also the future of the Watchung Conference, or a possible return of the old Union County Conference?

With the MVC losing teams every year, Union County schools like Governor Livingston, New Providence, Roselle, Rahway and A.L. Johnson may soon be looking for a more solid league to be a member of... and most of them are former members of the Watchung Conference.

The two biggest — and arguably the two best — conferences are the Shore Conference (44 schools in Monmouth and Ocean counties) and the Greater Middlesex Conference (31 teams from Middlesex County, plus Mother Seton of Clark). The Skyland has now grown to 23 teams, from Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren counties.

What's left of the MVC is all Union County schools, plus Central and Technology from Newark. Would it be that difficult to form a super league of Union County schools? Get Summit back from the Iron Hills Conference, and a Union County Conference would be comparable to any in the state in most sports.

The Watchung Conference has been a nice league for a half century, but it's certainly not the conference it once was. There's more than enough quality schools in Union County to form the state's No. 1 athletic conference: Brearley, Cranford, Dayton, Elizabeth, Governor Livingston, A.L. Johnson, Linden, New Providence, Plainfield, Rahway, Roselle, Roselle Catholic, Roselle Park, Scotch Plains-Fanwood, Summit, Union, Union Catholic, Westfield. And you could include Mother Seton, St. Patrick of Elizabeth and Oratory Prep of Summit.

There's 21 teams, three seven-team (or four of five or six teams) divisions based strictly on size. Call them the Bob Duncan, Frank Ciccarell and Ernie Finizio divisions. Play everybody in your division, plus whatever crossover and non-league games you wanted to fill out the schedule.

It just might work. What do you think?

**CONTEST DEADLINE NEARS**  
 There were NO new entries this week in our Which Year Was the Best for WHS contest, so we're at 12 and counting as the entry deadline of midnight, Feb. 28 quickly approaches. You have four more days to send in (to the email address at bottom of column) your selection of which scholastic year was the best in WHS history, won-lost record-wise. If you are the lucky winner, you'll have a night at the Jolly Trolley with the Corbin brothers, Horace and Dave. It takes two minutes to enter, and could be hours of fun.

**TRIVIA QUESTION**  
 The Gottlick brothers — Rich, Jerry and Phil — each won at least one district wrestling title. Who are the other two Westfield families with three brothers who won district titles?

**CRITERIA REVISITED**  
 We brought this up several months ago, but just in case you forgot: tiebreakers stink! At least this one was in the wrestling team tournament, where you really do need one team to advance. The last time I brought it up was for a regular season match, and that's just dumb, creating a loser.

In this case, Hunterdon Central (which earlier in the year got a tiebreaker "win" over Delaware Valley) got a pin in the final match to earn a 28-all tie with Brick Memorial in the Central Jersey Group 4 tournament. The two officials took nearly an hour, going through the first six criteria, before Brick Memorial got the win on the seventh tiebreaker, most first points. It just seems better to me to have everybody come back the following afternoon/night.

If I were a wrestling coach, I'd make copies of the criteria and put them in BLOCK CAPITAL letters and make each wrestler memorize them. And if we lost on Criteria No. 7, keep me away from sharp objects, tall buildings and bridges.

**GOOD READING**  
 Hot off the presses is "The Eighty-Yard Run" by Theron Hopkins. The Oregon native spent an entire year, traveling from Pennsylvania to California, from Montana to Texas, tracking down 20 of the country's premier high school football programs for a deeper look into what makes them what they are.

The schools are: the Blanco (Texas) Panthers; the Warren Central Vikings of Vicksburg, Miss.; the Valdosta (Ga.) Wildcats; the Orange Panthers of Hillsborough, N.C.; the Bethlehem (Pa.) Catholic Golden Hawks; the Corcoran Cougars of Syracuse, N.Y.; the Washington Tigers of Massillon, Ohio; the Bettendorf (Iowa) Bulldogs; the Valente (Neb.) Rural Badgers; the Sheridan (Wyo.) Broncos; the Russell Rustlers of Great Falls, Mont.; the Kamiakin Braves of Kennewick, Wash.; the Waldport (Ore.) Fighting Irish; the Sutter (Calif.) Union Huskies; the Grant Pacers of Sacramento, Calif.; the Bishop Manogue Miners of Reno, Nev.; the Mayfield Trojans of Las Cruces, N.M.; the Fort Davis (Texas) Indians; and the Katy (Texas) Tigers.

To purchase the book, send \$25 to Theron Hopkins, Twenty Town Press, PO Box 149, Yachats, OR 97498.

**REMEMBER WHEN**  
 Feb. 19, 1972: Joe Wilson breaks Steve Schmitt's school record in the 400-yard freestyle with a 3:55.1 at the Union County Swimming Championships. The time is also a Wallace Pool and Union County meet record. Wilson won state titles a month later in the 200 individual medley and 100 breast.

Feb. 25, 1938: Paul Fitzgerald (100 breast) and Dave Manning (100 back) win individual titles as WHS edges Pingry by one point to win the first Union County Swimming Championship, held at Rutgers.

Feb. 24, 1940: An NJISAA wrestling regional qualifier is held at Roosevelt Junior High School. Union edges Regional (Springfield) for first place with WHS's first-year club team taking fourth.

Feb. 27, 1965: Bob Felter scores 35 points and grabs 17 rebounds as WHS defeats Scotch Plains-Fanwood 79-69 in a Union County Tournament semifinal.

Feb. 26, 1965: WHS divers Steve McCoy, Terry Gass, Mike Ward and Jeff Schaub finish 1-2-3-4 at Eastern Interscholastic championships.

Feb. 27, 1965: Bob Felter and Steve Wright score 17 points each and Jerry Richards contributes 12 points, nine rebounds, five steals and solid defense on Wayne Huckel as sixth-seeded WHS stuns top-seeded Cranford 61-52 to win the UCT basketball title. Cranford (21-2) had a 15-game win streak ended.

Feb. 27, 1965: Dave Perkowski sets a national record (1:01.4) during trials as WHS swimmers capture Eastern Interscholastic championship.

Feb. 29, 2004: Chris Heinen wins two individual races and anchors two winning relays as WHS swimmers top Cherry Hill East 90-80 to win its 20th state championship, the most of any N.J. public school.

March 1, 1947: Bob Clotworthy becomes WHS's first aquatic state champion, winning the first of his three NJSIAA diving titles.

March 2, 1963: Dave Morash earns his second straight state wrestling title, topping Paulsboro's Frank Carfagno 6-4 at Rutgers.

**TRIVIA ANSWER**  
 Dennis (1960 at 130 pounds), Ken (1963 at 130) and Jim Powers (1962 and 1963 at 98), and Tom (1971 at 141), Dave (1975 at 108, 1977 at 129) and Jim Tinnesz (1978 at 188).

Bruce Johnson's Devil's Den appears every Thursday in the Westfield Leader. Contact him with comments or ideas at [bj1019@aol.com](mailto:bj1019@aol.com)

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