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THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section
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HAYES NETS 19, FORD AND LEWIS HIT 14 POINTS

Raider Boys Rumble Past Blue Devil Hoopmen, 66-52

By FRED LECOMTE
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Two rivals, two young teams and high emotions set the stage before a packed house at Scotch Plains-

Fanwood High School on January 6. The hosting Raiders came on strong in the second half to grab a 66-52, victory over the 2-6 Westfield Blue Devils.

The 3-4 Raiders put four men in double figures. Senior forward Gavin Ford and junior guard Rob Lewis each netted 14 points. Junior forward Sean Young scored 13 and senior forward Jeff Marable scored 10. Sophomore Greg Bayard came off the bench and sank seven points.

Blue Devil senior point guard Erik Hayes led all scorers with 19 points and scored 10 of his points in the fourth quarter. Junior forward Josh Gerckens bagged 12, including one from long range. Senior guard Billy Hearon sank nine, had four assists and four steals and senior forward Bryan Power scored seven points, including a three-pointer. Sophomore Tom Bonard connected from downtown and went 1-for-2 from the stripe.

"Before we came out, we talked about trying to be a tougher team, rebounding, taking charges, being aggressive, getting loose balls and we're working at that," said Blue Devil Head Coach Kevin Everly. "We did some good things, but we had some lulls in the game where they out-hustled us and we were unable to match up their intensity and their toughness. Hayes on the court is our pure scorer and he played a good game. We missed having Mike Venezia today because he's our other scorer. Basically, we rely on those two to do all the scoring and without one of them a lot of the responsibilities goes to other guys who are not used to doing it."

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BATTLING FOR CONTROL... Capturing the basketball was anything but easy as Blue Devil Billy Hearon, middle, Raiders Jeff Marable, No. 5, and DJ Garrett get it on under the board.

MILLER SCORES 20, KLIMOWICZ 14 PTS, 13 BOARDS

Veteran Lady Raiders Down Blue Devil Hoopsters, 65-40

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

Four years ago (2001-2002), the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School girls basketball team realized a promising future with the emergence of three very talented freshmen in Jenny Burke, Hillary Klimowicz and Maura Gillooly. With the trio's addition, the Raiders let it be known that they were going to be contenders for Union County dominance and finished their season with a remarkable 21-5 record.

On January 6 in Westfield, the defending Union County Tournament champions led by that veteran trio, with the assistance of several young players of their own, defeated a very

youthful Blue Devil team that seems to have displayed a similar brightness that the 2001-2002 Raiders did. The Raiders came home with a 65-40 victory but the Blue Devils showed a spark that could turn into quite a blaze in the future.

The Blue Devils hung with the Raiders, sans Klimowicz, in the first half and trailed just 23-17 at the buzzer. However Klimowicz, supported by a full-court press that created many turnovers, emerged and led the Raiders on a 21-8 tear in the third quarter. She hit seven of her team-leading 14 points - bringing her career total to 1,602 - in the quarter and played only six minutes

in the final quarter. Klimowicz, who was 4-for-5 from the line, finished with seven blocked shots, 13 rebounds and four assists.

Senior Raider guards Jenny Burke and Elizabeth Decataldo bucketed 12 points apiece, with Decataldo connecting on 2-of-3 from three-point range. Junior forward Lauren Benevento sank 10 points, pulled down 14 rebounds and made three blocked shots to go along with a game-high five steals. Senior Maura Gillooly netted seven points, one 3-pointer, and a team high five assists.

The Blue Devils, with their passing quickness and team speed, showed a

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CLEARING IT AS COOL AS A CUCUMBER...Raider "Iceberg" Bryant clears 5'10" at the Union County Boys Indoor Track Relays. Bryant and teammate Sean Smith each cleared 5'10" to claim first in the team high jump.

BROADBENT'S KICK HELPS DEVILS WIN SPRINT MEDLEY

Raiders Take 2nd, Devils 4th At County Boys Track Relays

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

Elizabeth High School placed in seven of the eight events to win the Union County Boys Relays at Dunn enter in Elizabeth on January 5 but it was a very small margin that determined the difference between second place and fourth. The Scotch Plains-Fanwood boys won two events and added a second place, a fourth and a fifth to nip Union (32 points) and Westfield (31.75 points) for second place with 34 points.

The Raiders' strength came in the field events. Heavers Mike Allemen at 39'3", John Badala at 39'6.5" and senior Ted Acosta at 46'0" won the team shot put with a total distance of 124'3.5" and Sean Smith and Iceberg Bryant each cleared 5'10" to win the team high jump with a height of 11'8".

Prior to the high jump event, Raider coach Rich McGriff said, "We should win it if they jump well. Sean has been over six feet and Iceberg has been over 5'10". We are looking to get over 12 feet. Usually 12 feet wins."

With reference to the shot put victory, Raider coach Jeff Koegel said, "Teddy has been throwing around 46-47. John's a sophomore and Mike, he's a freshman, big kid though! He looks like a senior. We went in thinking we could throw around 120 feet. We did better than that. It's consistency! Some teams might have a 50-foot shot putter but then they drop off after that. When you have a three man rather than a two man (shot put team), balance pays off more."

The Blue Devils were masters of the distance events and won the first of their three first places in the second event of the evening, the distance medley relay, with a time of 11:25.8 to outpace by more than a lap the Cranford Cougars who came in second at 12:04.5. Kris Kagen ran the first leg, finishing his 880 yards in 2:13.4. Scott Steinberg ran the 440 in 59.7. Rob Broadbent finished the 1,200 leg in 3:26.9 and anchor Jeff Perrella glided across the finish line, finishing his mile in 4:45.8. The Raiders finished fourth at 12:07.8.

Relating the difference between spring track and the tightness of the laps in indoor track, Kagen said, "You

try to do as best you can. It is slippery. You take kind of an outside turn. In indoor track, it's not a matter of time, it's a matter of beating people."

"I almost fell on the first turn," said Steinberg. "You've got to change your speed all the time. Your momentum doesn't carry you through."

"It was my first indoor race here, so I didn't want to take it out too fast and fall," said Broadbent. "I knew we would be in the lead after Kagen and Steinberg. I just wanted to maintain that and get the biggest lead that I could. Once I got a good pace I kept it."

"We came here to run hard and run against the best Union County has to

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