



Jim O'Connor (NJ Sport Pics) for The Westfield Leader and The Times
MAKING A PINPOINT SAVE... Blue Devil goalie Eric Zagorski, No. 1 makes a pinpoint save against Summit senior forward Tim Feeley last week. Summit won, 5-3. Jim O'Connor has several pictures of the Westfield ice hockey team and he can be reached at www.njsportpics.com.

Blue Devil Icemen Win First 2 Games of Season

By ANDREW GOLDMAN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

The Westfield High School ice hockey team commenced an important week, which consisted of games against three division opponents, beginning with Summit on January 11. Westfield lost that game 5-3; however, they bounced back to win their next two games (their first two wins of the year) against A.L. Johnson and Nutley.

On January 12, the Blue Devils edged Johnson 8-7. Westfield fell behind only once and responded by scoring five of the next six goals to take a 7-4 lead. However, the Blue Devils failed to hold the lead, which they gained in the third period and needed a goal in the game's final two minutes from senior Captain Brent Davis to break the tie and earn the win.

After the game, junior Assistant Captain Sal Esposito, who contributed four assists, said, "This game was good for us. It was a big win. The bounces finally went our way and we capitalized on it. Now that we have won a game we have gained confidence that will lead to a lot

Viking Hoopsters Top Dayton Boys, 60-35

The Union Catholic High School boys basketball team jumped all over visiting Jonathan Dayton, with a 12-6 first-quarter run and a 23-9 second quarter sprint, to coast to a 60-35 victory on January 14.

Matt Peters and Obi Nwizugbo each scored 12 points for the 4-4 Vikings. Joe Furnaguer netted 14 points for the 4-4 Bulldogs.

Dayton	6	9	15	5	35
Union Catholic	12	23	13	12	60

more wins."

Westfield got three goals each from Davis and senior Ryan Madaras. The other goals were by sophomore Brian Davidson and senior Captain Greg Speir.

The Blue Devils finished the week with a 4-3 win over conference foe Nutley. Westfield jumped out to a 3-0 lead, then blew the three-goal lead for the second consecutive game. Again, Brent Davis came to the rescue to score the Blue Devils' second consecutive game-winning goal. Davis scored two goals and Davidson scored one, as did Speir.

Westfield is hoping to continue its winning ways in order to qualify for states.

MACNEIL CAPTURES FIRST IN 800M

Devil Boys Get 3rd, Girls 8th At Group 3 Indoor Track

The Westfield High School boys tied for third with Oakcrest, each with a total of 18, in the NJSIAA Group 3 Track and Field Championships at Jadwin Gym in Princeton on January 16. The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School boys finished in a five-way tie for 15th with a total of eight points. The Westfield girls placed eighth with a total of 11.

Blue Devil Emily MacNeil took to honors in the 800 meters with a season-best time of 2:19.6. MacNeil has become the first member of the Westfield girls program to win a group level title. In her previous three years, she has placed fourth in this meet. Despite the meet having been held at a much earlier

Blue Devil Boys Rap Union Cagers, 66-58

The Westfield High School boys basketball team outpaced the visiting Farmers from Union to grab a 66-58 victory on January 15. Senior Bryan Power nailed eight of his 15 points in the fourth quarter for the 4-6 Blue Devils.

Tom Bonard scored 15 points, Eric Hayes sank 13 and Mike Venezia bucketed 11 while Billy Hearon and Josh Gerckens each added four points for Westfield. Sean Houston led the 1-9 Farmers with 17 points.

Union	4	24	14	16	58
Westfield	14	14	17	21	66

Raider Hoopmen Burn Minutemen, 60-57

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High school boys basketball team improved to 5-5 by stinging Elizabeth, 60-57, in Scotch Plains on January 13. Greg Bayard, who finished with 16 points, sank three 3-pointers in the first quarter to give the Raiders a 19-15 head start.

Rob Lewis netted 10 points and Gavin Ford hit for eight points and pulled down 10 rebounds for the Raiders. DJ Garrett scored eight points and Jeff Marable put in six. Corey Williams had 18 points for the 5-4 Minutemen.

Elizabeth	15	10	21	11	57
Sc. Pl.-Fanwood	19	17	16	8	60

Lady Raiders Erase Allen Cagers, 55-37

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High school girls basketball team traveled to Nazareth, Pa. on January 15 and returned with a convincing, 55-37, victory over Allen. Hillary Klimowicz had her 10th straight double-double with 13 points and 13 rebounds.

Elizabeth DeCataldo sank 15 points, Maura Gillooly put up 13, Tiffany Smith scored seven and Jenny Burke netted six for the 8-3 Raiders.

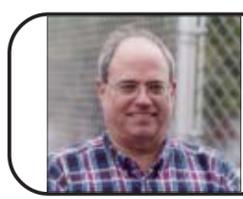
Sc. Pl.-Fanwood	22	14	13	6	55
Allen (6-5)	6	8	16	7	37

date than in past years, her time was her best performance at this meet.

Teammate Annie Onishi, running eighth with 50 meters remaining, put on a strong kick to place sixth in the 800 meters with a season-best time of 2:25.8. It was the first time she placed in the top six to move on to the Meet of Champions. Last year she qualified as a wild card.

Blue Devil Mike Woods cleared 13'0" to take second in the pole vault. Jeff Perrella finished third in the 3,200 meters with a time of 9:53.39 and Rob Broadbent finished fourth in the 800 meters with a time of 2:02.87. Raider Sean Smith crossed second in the 55-meter hurdles with a time of 8.1.

Devil's Den TV Has Ruined Sports For At Least One Fan



By BRUCE JOHNSON
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

When I was a kid, there were four TV stations to watch. If I remember right, they were CBS, ABC, NBC and the Dumont Network. That was it. Four! My current cable hookup gives me over 400 channels, but it could just as easily still be four - The History Channel, TV Land, ESPN Classic (with all post-1970 stuff blocked out) and either American Movie Classics or Turner Classic Movies. (OK, maybe I would need five, because HBO's Carnivale is back for its second season on Sunday nights.)

TV has probably done more to influence American culture than we can imagine... and that isn't necessarily a good thing.

Gary Kehler used to always have the WHS football team over on Sunday afternoons to watch films of the previous day's game. One reason he did that, the rumor goes, was so the kids wouldn't watch NFL games on Sundays and get bad habits. If "GK" thought it wouldn't be productive for his kids to watch NFL games in the 1960s, what would he think today?

How long would Randy Moss last in a WHS uniform if he "mooned" the Union bench after scoring a touchdown? Who cares what the Green Bay fans have done for years, mooning opponent's buses? How long would some of those defensive linemen last when they celebrate over a sacked quarterback? Dick Zimmer would've had the headphones on the ground and be reaming the player out. Would Barry Bonds get away with not running out a pop up if Norm Koury was his coach? How would Neil Home have reacted if Tim Goski showed up Rodman-esque with green hair?

But is it the fault of Moss, Bonds and Dennis Rodman and the others? After all, they're just the by-product of what they've seen for years on ESPN and FOX and all the other non-stop sports shows. ESPN has its Top 10 plays every night, and it's a hot dog lover's delight. You don't make the ESPN

highlights if you just quietly go about your job, as a professional. I was going around the channels the other night and actually watched it. Of the 10 highlights, eight were by players on the losing team... and I wondered if there was a correlation.

Maybe I live with my head in the sand, but I sure prefer the days when guys scored a touchdown and flipped the ball to the ref (not flipped the bird to the fans). And they also didn't have to worry about five or six 300-pound guys jumping on them to celebrate. And end zone dances? How come Jim Brown and Gale Sayers never did them? And what the heck is it with guys wearing black socks? The Mets' Ron Hunt used to get hit by pitches 20 to 30 times every year, but I never remember him charging the mound. Guys used to hit home runs and actually be almost to second base before the ball landed, not still in the batter's box. Players who weren't pitchers could actually lay down a sacrifice bunt. And guys who missed an 18-foot jump shot would actually follow up their shot or at least try for a rebound.

But most of what I like to see is only available in black and white on "Classic." That was all, ironically, from the pre-ESPN era. It's probably wrong to blame all the woes of sports on one television network (especially when absurd salaries are at least equally to blame, but that's another column). But I used to love watching the occasional college football or basketball game. It was special, because it wasn't something that was on very often. Since ESPN and the NFL and NBA deluged the market with games every day and night, I can't even watch it anymore. It might as well be QVC, or the Home Shopping Network... it's just "blah, blah, blah..."

TRIVIA QUESTION

WHS Hall of Famer Tim Goski is No. 7 on the school's all-time scoring list. Bob King, Bob Felter and Boo Bowers are the only 1,000-plus point scorers. Who are Nos. 4, 5 and 6 on the list?

A DAY TO REMEMBER

Pat Daurio, a junior on the WHS boys swim team, had a memorable Sunday in The Bubble at West Windsor-Plainsboro South. Competing in the 26th Pirate Invitational, Daurio became the first Blue Devil since Sean Schafer (1994) to win two events at the Pirate. And Daurio's wins in the 200-individual medley and 100 breaststroke moved him into the No. 2 spot in each event on the WHS Top 15 All-Time List. He trails WHS Hall of Famer Darren Hertell in the IM and two-time state champion Dave Schwartz in the breaststroke. Daurio trains year-round with 1992 WHS swim captain Ed Prepre at the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA.

CONTEST UPDATE

OK, we're now up to FIVE entries in the What Was the Best Year for WHS? contest. It's easy to play (only one entry per person), and free. And if you can guess what school year was the best in school history, you win a night at the Jolly Trolley with the Corbin brothers! Just send me an email with your guess and when the numbers are compiled, you could be a winner. We are going to put a Feb. 3 deadline on your entries, so that gives you two full weeks to come up with your guess. And, should multiple people guess the correct year, there will be a tiebreaker quiz.

MAT MIDGETS

We have received word that the PAL Wrestling program in Westfield is alive and well, and ready to help WHS return to its proper place in New Jersey wrestling. Every top team is the result of an active and vibrant youth feeder system. Coaches John Yingling and Harry Kalimtzis have 40 boys in the K-3 beginner program and another 25 on the Central Jersey Midget Wrestling League team (grades 3-6). There is also a team in the New Jersey Grade School League (grades 5-8).

For more information about the PAL team, please contact Michele Albano at (908) 317-9044 or michele.albano@comcast.net.

REMEMBER WHEN ...

Jan. 22, 1960: WHS wrestlers defeat Roselle Park 20-19. Coach Gary Kehler said, "That puts us on the (N.J. wrestling) map."

Jan. 22, 1994: Shi-Kia Carter scores no points but grabs a school record 25 rebounds in a 39-38 win over Kearny.

Jan. 25, 1975: Heavyweight Jim Howard's third-period escape earns a 1-1 tie that gives WHS a 21-20 win over Hunterdon Central. Moments earlier, John Williams had posted a 7-2 win over Joe Alwater in another key bout.

Jan. 26, 1985: The WHS wrestlers end Hunterdon Central's 49-match unbeaten streak with a 32-22 victory. The Blue Devils featured John Schaefer (108) and Rob O'Hara (115) down below, and a solid middle-upper weights of Mark Giaccone (148), Toly Volkov (158), Mike Stagaard (170) and Jay Factor (188).

TRIVIA ANSWER

John Miles (Class of 1985, 971 points), Dan Deserio ('02, 951) and Spud Monroe ('77, 925). Goski only played two years varsity and had 901 points. King ('63) leads with 1,329, followed by Felter ('65, 1,094) and Bowers ('77, 1,002). All but Goski played three years varsity.

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

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