



Fred K. Lecomte for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
THE WINNING TOUCH...Ally Walls nails a 3-pointer at the buzzer to give the Vikings a 37-36 win over the Lions in the UCT semifinals.

## WALLS NAILS 1 AT BUZZER FOR WIN UC Viking Cagers Burn Lions , 37-36, in Semis

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

Junior guard Ally Walls' one-handed shot from 3-point range with :00 remaining enabled the Union Catholic High School girls basketball team to grab a 37-36 victory in the semifinals of the Union County Tournament on February 23 at the Dunn Center in Elizabeth.

The 17-5 Vikings' success on defense could be attributed to not only having an excellent starting five but also because of their bench, which enabled them to maintain that tenaciousness.

Junior guard Leslie Hendricks led the Vikings with 11 points, including nine in the first quarter. Senior team captain Kathryn Murray finished with 10-points, four rebounds, one assist and a steal. Walls hit a double-triple for six points, junior guard Courtney Harris bucketed six points, snagged five rebounds, made two steals and had two assists. Jackie Burton gathered in seven rebounds and netted two points. Roselle Catholic senior guard Meagan Malone finished with a game-high 12 points.

"This was certainly an exciting win for us because we were the underdog," said Viking Head Coach Kathy Matthews. "Our kids just showed no quit. There's a lot of mental toughness in this group. During the last two to three minutes, we just managed the game really well. We got that three-point shot to tie, unfortunately we had a foul that should not have happened, but that same kid came back and hit that buzzer beater. It was just a great win for our kids and it shows, 'A', that the game is not over until it's over and 'B', if you don't quit and you keep

playing hard, things can fall your way, and they did. They don't have quit in them, they're just tough kids."

Led by Hendricks' nine points, the Vikings took a 13-11 lead in the opening quarter. Harris and Burton added one bucket each. Defense prevailed in the second and third quarters where the 16-5 Lions outscored the Vikings, 15-8, carry a five-point lead into the final period.

The Vikings slipped behind, 34-27, with two minutes remaining, but picked up the intensity and ran several set plays allowing them to get the good looks. Murray fired in a 3-pointer and added a point from the stripe. Then, Walls struck the hoop from 3-point range to knot the contest at 34-34 with 17 ticks left.

The Lions clawed ahead on back-to-back free throws, however, with just three seconds remaining, Arielle Belk fired off a perfect inbound pass to Walls who was able to lift off an unbalanced shot that caught nothing but net.

"We knew it was going to be tough to come back and beat them again. They pressured us the entire game and we didn't back down. No one let up during the last few minutes and you could not have asked for anything more," said Walls. "On the offensive end of things, Hendricks drew a foul during the last few seconds of the game and stopped the clock. Belk made a great pass and it all just came together. As soon as I got the ball I knew I had to shoot it. When it came out of my hand, I just knew it was going in. There was no doubt in my mind."

Union Catholic	13	4	4	16	37
Roselle Catholic	11	7	8	10	36

## WHS LOST ONLY TO TOP 3 TEAMS Blue Devil Girls Were Indeed Swimming Elite

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

It was definitely a weekend of "Fast Times at Westfield High" for the Westfield High School (WHS) girls swim team.

Coach Jaime Ruzsala's team, ranked No. 4 in the state, took on perennial state tournament rival West Windsor-Plainsboro South on February 25 in the Public A Division semifinals at The College of New Jersey in Ewing. With best times in just about every event and more than 4,000 power points, the Blue Devils advanced to Saturday's final with a 92-78 victory.

The opponent in the final was Vineland, ranked No. 1 in the state and the three-time defending Public A champions. WHS came to swim, power pointing just under 4,100 and getting a very rare 1-2-3 sweep over the Fighting Clan in the breaststroke. In the end, Vineland had too many guns and took a 105-65 decision.

"We swam really well," Ruzsala said. "I'm proud of the girls. They didn't just show up to get hammered."

A South Jersey newspaper got the feisty coach riled up after the meet when they asked her how it felt to be going up against an elite team like Vineland. "I just said, 'We're an elite team, too,'" she said. "And we are."

The 1-2-3 sweep in the breaststroke came with seniors Amanda Dickson and Jackie DeLaFuenta both going 1:09 plus and sophomore Katie Morgan clocking her second straight 1:11.

Among the other highlight swims

for WHS in the final were senior Kirsten Selert qualifying for this weekend's Meet of Champions in the 50 (25.65) and 100 (55-plus), and some outstanding butterfly swims by sophomores Brittany Reyes (1:01.12), Kylie Fraser (1:01.15) and Chrissy Isabella (1:05 plus, down from 1:11 two weeks ago).

Dickson had a big IM swim Friday, qualifying for Y Nationals with a 2:13 plus.

"I was very proud of the girls," Ruzsala said. "They went down there to compete (against the state's top team) and that's what they did. We swam a lot of best times. I've spent a good part of the weekend updating our top times list."

The WHS girls finished the season with a 12-3 record, losing only to Vineland, Immaculate Heart Academy and Mount St. Mary, the top three teams in the state. Westfield shared the Union County championship with Scotch Plains-Fanwood, which captured the state Public B title last weekend, and also was second to Mount St. Mary at the 26th Pirate Invitational.

Ruzsala loses eight strong seniors to graduation: Dickson, DeLaFuenta, Selert, Lauren Winchester, Liz Trimble, Christine Clark, Neda Semaika and Lisa Zhang. But there is a very strong nucleus returning, with Reyes, Fraser, Morgan, Liz Hawkins, Alexi Kuska, Darrell Ann Smith, Julie Cederroth, Isabella and Callie Meserole, among others.

## Blue Devil Icemen Share Cent. Conference Crown

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

The Westfield High School hockey team began its week on February 22 with an exciting, 5-4, overtime victory over the Summit Hilltoppers in the semifinals of the Van Cott Tournament. On February 26, the Blue Devils skated to a 2-2, overtime tie with top-seeded 18-5-2 Verona at South Mountain Arena in the finals to gain a share of the Central Conference White Division.

Summit had previously defeated Westfield twice during the regular season and was the number two seed in the tournament. Westfield was the third seed. Summit struck first early in the game, but the Blue Devils re-

sponded with first period goals by senior Captain Brent Davis and junior Assistant Captain Sal Esposito.

Westfield's 2-1 lead after the first period remained unchanged until Summit scored two goals in the third period to take a 3-2 lead. The Blue Devils continued to play strongly and responded with two consecutive goals, one from senior Ryan Madaras and another from junior Jay Anderson. But this game was destined to have a dramatic finish and the Hilltoppers tied the game inside the final three minutes to force overtime.

During overtime, both teams had several opportunities to win with Summit missing a nearly empty net and



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
EYING UP THE BASKET...Raider Jenny Burke considers shooting from the outside but scored eight points in the final quarter driving inside.

## Raiders Top Vikings, 59-36, For UC Ladies Hoop Crown

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

early in the quarter until Burke, who finished with 10 assists, took advantage of Klimowicz's 6'3" height and began making high passes to her.

"We originally tried to push it down the floor and run a secondary offense but we realized that we needed to get more screens. We wanted to attack and get it to Hillary as usual," said Burke.

Once the Vikings tightened up on Klimowicz, Gillooly, who finished with 11 points, banged in a 3-pointer at the end of the first quarter and added two more in the second quarter to give the Raiders a commanding 32-13 lead by halftime. Raider Allie Zazzali, who finished with eight points, also had five points in the quarter, including a 3-pointer.

In the third quarter, Viking senior forward Kathryn Murray, who finished with 14 points, and junior guard Ally Walls hit five points apiece, including a 3-pointer from each, but Klimowicz netted six more points to give the Raiders a 13-12 edge in the

quarter. With Gillooly effective from the outside and Klimowicz dangerous under the boards, Burke, who finished with 12 points, drove to the basket and rolled in eight points in the final quarter. Elizabeth DeCataldo, who finished with six points, scored four in the quarter.

"It was good to hit some outside shots to open it up for Jenny. They started guarding me tight," said Gillooly.

"The floor opened up a lot because Maura, Elizabeth and Allie were hitting outside shots," said Burke.

Viking Leslie Hendricks scored five points and had seven rebounds while Courtney Harris and Meaghan Dyckman each contributed four points. Raider Lauren Benovegno and Gillooly also contributed five rebounds each.

"We were intense the who way. I'm proud of our girls," said Klimowicz.

Union Catholic	7	6	12	11	36
Sc. Pl.-Fanwood	14	18	13	14	59

**LONG BEACH ISLAND**  
*right for your family*

**Kenneth Rempell**  
Cell: 609 618 2630

E-mail: ken@remPELL.com    www.lbiREALPROPERTIES.com

New Construction • Buy/Sell • Rentals

Office: 609 494 2300    **OCEANSIDE REALTY**    MLS

GRAND OPENING!

CONTINENTAL PROPERTIES

ACTIVE ADULT COMMUNITIES

Concierge Service

Massage Service Available

State-of-the-art Fitness Centers

On-site Beauty Salon

Clubhouse with Pool

# FIVE STAR LUXURY

## IN LIVINGSTON

"FIVE STAR LUXURY" means, simply, world-class in every way. Introducing The Enclave at Livingston Country Club - five-star living for active adults over 55.

Set in prestigious Livingston, less than a mile from The Mall at Short Hills, this exclusive gated community brings you an array of resort-style services, from concierge service to a social director, to transportation to local shopping venues.

At the clubhouse you'll find an opulent grand ballroom, café and espresso bar, beauty salon and massage and wellness room. Work out in the state-of-the-art fitness center or swim in the heated pool. Or sharpen your game on the putting green or tennis court. On rainy days, play a game of billiards or relax in the library.

Your ultra luxury residence boasts nine-foot ceilings, a

gourmet chef's kitchen with stainless steel appliances and a distinctive marble bathroom with soaking tub and whirlpool. French doors lead to a private balcony or patio where you can relax or entertain.

With its pampering service, great location and spectacular amenities, The Enclave at Livingston Country Club is New Jersey's premier adult community. Come see for yourself!

ULTRA LUXURY RENTALS FOR ACTIVE ADULTS\*

Priced from \$1,410 per month

**Directions:** From Route 78/24 Westbound: Take Exit 7C (JFK Parkway/Livingston/Caldwell) Proceed on JFK Parkway and follow signs for The Mall at Short Hills onto JFK Parkway/Livingston. Proceed on JFK Parkway past The Mall at Short Hills to the traffic light at the intersection of JFK Parkway and South Orange Avenue. Turn left onto South Orange Avenue. Proceed approximately 3/4 mile and turn right into the community.

Continental Properties Communities of Distinction.

\*One member of each household must be 55 or more. ♦ All prices subject to change without notice.