

Blue Devil Matmen Focused On Individual Performances

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ference and finished fourth in the Region 3 Tournament, one shy of qualifying for the trip to Atlantic City. Resorting mostly to his powerful double-leg takedowns, he led the team by far in that category with 75.

"Andrew! Over the summer, I could see that he was becoming a wrestler. For a kid with relatively little experience, he really shined this year. Everything he got he deserved. He worked for everything and does everything you ask from him the right way. He doesn't go through the motions. He's only going to get better. Placing fourth in the region is going to leave him a bit hungry. He wants to get down to Atlantic City," said Kurz.

The biggest turnaround came with junior Dan Whitney, who had a sub .500 record last year at 140-lbs. This season, he competed at 171-lbs, placed second in the districts and finished with a stunning 23-9 record.

"He too is relatively new. Dan committed himself to the weight room in the off-season. He showed a lot of maturity this year. I am really proud of what he accomplished wrestling wise and just in general. He will continue to wrestle throughout the summer," Kurz said.

Sophomore Marc Boyd was a very pleasant surprise, led the team in pins with 12 and finished with an 18-9 record.

"Marc was a 160-pounder stuck in a 152-pounder's body," stated Kurz. "He went from 5-12 as a freshman to 18-9 this year, which is a huge turnaround. He did some off-season work. I think he's starting to buy into the fact that you need that off-season work to be successful."

Junior Colin Williard, who qualified for the region tournament last year at 171-lbs, broke into the varsity lineup just in time to qualify at 189-lbs and finish with a 9-3 record.

"I think that shows what kind of potential Colin has. Both years he has

been in and out of the lineup but, both years come tournament time, he's gotten by. He's someone who has not spent as much time in the off-season. If he commits himself to it, there's no telling what he can accomplish," said Kurz.

Junior Matt Kamel showed remarkable progress as the season progressed and peaked in time to qualify for the regions at 119-lbs.

"Matt had what I consider a great year," stated Kurz. "He's a kid that gives you 100 percent every day. He's somebody who listens. He's buying into what we are teaching him."

In addition to the varsity, the Blue Devils had a loyal junior varsity squad that could contribute a few more to next year's varsity lineup.

"As a coach, what made me proudest is that they kept on coming back. They persevered. I don't think any of my kids have really reached their potential yet. They are just starting to tap into it, so there are great things ahead," Kurz commented.



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
LOOKING SOUTH TOWARD ATLANTIC CITY...Blue Devil junior Andrew Shaffer, top, won the 152-lb District 11 Crown and finished with a 23-7 record.

Union County Rugby Club To Battle Providence, R. I.

The Union County Rugby Men's Football Club, the Mudturtles, will host the Providence rugby team from Providence, R.I., at 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 9, at Unami Field on the Garwood/

Westfield/Cranford border. The park is located on the corner of Lexington Ave and South Union Street. The actual field is on South Union Street about 500 feet past the intersection. There is plenty of parking on the street and a parking lot on Lexington Ave.

The Union County Rugby Mudturtles is comprised of over 60 veteran rugby players as well as a newly formed high school aged team from the Union and Middlesex County area. Amongst the eight teams that are currently competing out of New Jersey the Mudturtles have established themselves as one of the most successful teams in the state.

With an impressive haul of State Championships, the UCRFC have also been the National Division II Champions played, Premier Division rugby and finished third in the nation in Division III in the spring of 2001. In 2004 they had their best season since 1989 and advanced to the Division II playoffs.

Rugby in the United States has seen its popularity and exposure boom in the last five years. A roster of players' names and jersey numbers will be given out at the game. Further information regarding the game of rugby or the team is available by calling Chris Clark at (201) 213-1952 or e-mail him at rugby0366@yahoo.com.

Blue Devil Baseballers Have Offensive 'Pop', Pitching, 'D'

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cause pitchers not to throw as many curve balls. If they throw the ball down in the dirt, the threat is there. One of the things we have been working on in our scrimmages is every kid has a green light. If you get thrown out, it's not a big deal. We learn our limits that way."

Defensively, Murray will be behind the plate with a strong backup from junior Dave Kaplow who will also spend time at third base along with Brandon Cuba, Jay Anderson and Diego Betancourt. With Power and Alex Zierler at first, Diaz and Matt Melino at second, and Ricciuti and Josh Gerckens at shortstop, the Blue Devils look to have a solid infield. Hearon and Kim are solid in center and leftfield, respectively. Craig Ellis and Chris Hild expect to be in rightfield. Jayshawn King and Pierce Gaynor will also be rotated in the outfield.

"Some of these young men are working with the varsity but depending upon how things shake out, they could either be with us or they may get more playing time with the JV's. From what I've seen defensively, we have picked the ball up very well. That pleases me," stated Brewster. "I'm a firm believer in the 'Big In-

ning' theory - how many winning teams scored more runs in one inning than the other team scored in the whole game. More than 50 percent of the games are won that way. Our idea is don't give up the big inning!"

In addition to smart defense, the effectiveness of four mound aces Hearon and Ricciuti along with Cuba and Ellis and relievers Anderson, Andrew Streaman and Dave Ganz will help minimize big innings.

"These four pitchers in the off-season have worked hard. They had a number of different pitching coaches who have helped to hone their control, work on their motion. They are way ahead of the game," Brewster said.

With Murray behind the plate, "One of the good things about having any good catcher around is that our backstop is 70 feet back. If our pitchers are unsure of the catcher blocking pitches, they won't throw curve balls with men on base. Michael has instilled enough confidence in our pitchers that they are not afraid to throw those pitches," said Brewster who added, "This whole team loves to work. They will do the repetitive drills over and over again. The potential is there to be very successful."



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
HUGE TURNAROUND...Blue Devil Dan Whitney, top, finished with a fine 23-9 record and placed second in the district at 171-lbs.



SUCCESSFUL HOOPS SEASON...The Westfield Nets fifth grade basketball team just completed a successful season. Pictured, left to right, are: front row; Anthony Valles, Taylor Friss, Chris Albanese, Julia Wanfried, Jack Rickles, Evan Friedman, Greg Flood and Patrick Reilly; back row, Marc Schwarz, Michael Clancy, Peter Wanfried, Andrew Schwarz, Jacob Ziff, Brendan Seery, Tom Malley, John Stelmach, Drew Jackson and Coaches Mark Friedman and Chris Wanfried.



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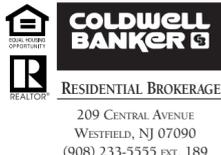


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SHEA CELEBRATES 26 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE



Kathy Shea

Kathryn (Kathy) Shea, a Sales Associate with Coldwell Banker's Westfield office, is celebrating her 26th year in the Real Estate Industry. Shea's long history of outstanding success has earned her the New Jersey Association of Realtors Circle of Excellence Sales Award Silver Level with a

production of over \$12 million for 2004, an honor she has consistently earned since 1980. Shea is always one of Coldwell Banker's top producing real estate professionals and is the recipient of numerous awards including the Coldwell Banker International President's Circle, which recognizes the top 1% of Coldwell Banker agents nationwide. Shea was also the Top Associate in Buyer Controlled Sales in 2003 for the Westfield office of Coldwell Banker.

Having lived in Union County (Scotch Plains, Cranford, Westfield) for more than 35 years, Kathy is able to provide her clients with a level of knowledge that only a resident can offer. She knows and understands the people, the neighborhoods, the schools and the

businesses and can give honest opinions and thoughtful insight into daily life in the community.

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Kathy may be reached by phone at the Westfield office of Coldwell Banker, 209 Central Avenue, 908-233-5555 extension 167, Direct Line 908-301-2020 or by e-mail at kathyshea@aol.com.

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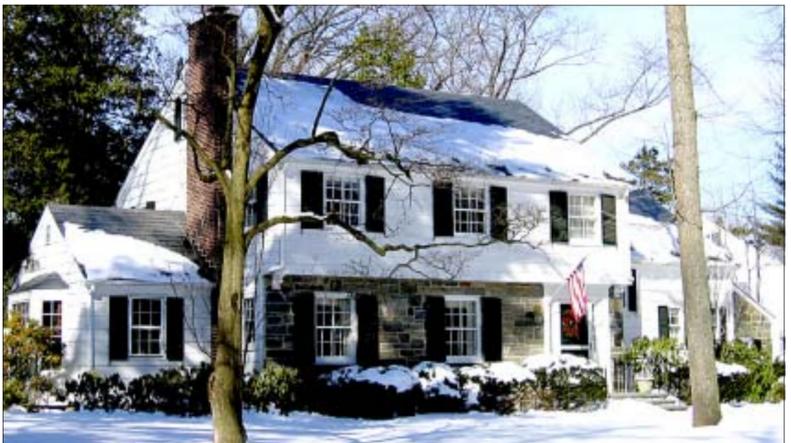


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