



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
LOOKING FOR A TURK...Raider Dave DeNichilo, top, looks to throw a Turk ride on Panther Burim Kadrijaj in the 171-lb bout.

Hungry Panthers Make Prey Of Raider Wrestlers, 44-16

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and, instead, got the takedown to salvage a 6-3 decision.

"There were some swing matches that we should have won but we didn't. It was disappointing," stated Gano.

At 135-lbs, Olsson scored a takedown, a nearfall and a reversal on conservative Tom Degnan to claim a 6-0 decision. At 145-lbs, Mineo tallied two takedowns and a nearfall but was frustrated with Panther Dennis Carroll's ability to avoid being rolled to his back.

The fifth key Panther victory came at 160-lbs when Rob Gabriel scored a 3-1 win over Joe Bachi. Then the biggest swing of the evening - 9 team points - came at 171-lbs. Raider Dave DeNichilo held a 5-3 lead until he was taken down at the buzzer to force overtime. Panther Burim Kadrijaj then caught DeNichilo in a headlock and pinned him from the takedown to finalized the scoring.

Blue Devil Bowlers Defeat Irvington, Union Keglers

The Westfield High School varsity bowling team upped its record to 8-0 with respective 7-0 victories over Irvington and Union on December 19 and December 21. The Blue Devils have been unscored upon in their conference matches.

In the 2,843-1,969 victory over Irvington, Jesse Embry had a high series of 610 that included a 227 game. Junior Brett Ettinger chipped in with a 595 series with a high game of 222.

In the 2,877-2,306 triumph over the Union Farmers, senior Harrison Mercado had a high game of 215. Ettinger had high games of 227 and

214. Senior Alex Wronski had games of 246, 219 and 204 to lead the team with a 669 series.

The Blue Devil junior varsity kept alive its 29-game winning streak over the past two years by defeating Irvington, 2,711-1,576, and Union, 2,729-2,084. In the Irvington match, junior Arley Rojas led the team with a 618 series. He had a high game of 224. Junior Trevor Yee also bowled a 211 game. In the Union match, sophomores Kevin Murphy and Matt Marcus had 208 and 235 games, respectfully. Junior Patrick Clancy had a 204 game and Rojas had the high game of the day with a 235.

Blue Devil Hoopmen Muzzle MX Shabazz Bulldogs, 52-41

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be able to make their shots," explained Bonard who had six assists and seven points. "Mike was locking down Blackmon. And Barrino, the kids that we two were covering, those two are their best players. We held Shabazz, who is one of the highest scoring teams in the conference, to 41 points."

"We knew they were going to be much bigger, so this week in practice, we worked on boxing out and using our bodies. It paid off," said Venezia. "You look at our lineup, we are 6'1", 6'1", 6'0" and below. This is the smallest team I ever put out on the floor. I really emphasize the fact of rebounding. They stepped up to it, they are smart kids, they are tough kids," said Blue Devil head Coach Kevin Everly.

game, it takes a little time to get the jitters out and we were able to do that," commented Everly.

Venezia scored all 10 of his team's points, including his second and third 3-pointers, in the second quarter to push the Blue Devils to a 22-17 lead. Lessner hit all five of his points in the third quarter as the Blue Devils' lead inched to 36-30.

"Our stuff wasn't working as well as hoped it would but we got the plays working through Mike. He really stepped up. We stuck to our set plays instead of our motion offense because they were working," said Bonard.

"Going into halftime, we were winning and we were not making our shots. We knew that, if we kept on playing well, the shots would fall and



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SETTING UP THE PLAY...Blue Devil Tom Bonard, No. 3, had six assists and seven points against the Bulldogs.

The 1-1 Blue Devils set up some good offensive plays but could not roll in the lay-ups early in the first quarter and the 1-2 Bulldogs jumped to a 9-2 lead. Then, Venezia and Pritsker (8 points) hit back-to-back 3-pointers, Nardi, who had five assists and five points, muscled in a lay-up and Bonard nailed a jumper to put Westfield up 12-9.

"The excitement of your first home

Raider Matmen Stop Seton Hall Prep, 44-22

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School wrestling team improved to 3-0 with a 44-22 victory over Seton Hall Prep in West Orange on December 21. Pat Mineo (145-lbs), Mike Zamzam (189-lbs), Billy Jacobs (215-lbs), Dave Casmaz (103-lbs) and Sal Gano (125-lbs) all won via fall.

Tervor Cannon (152-lbs) and Tristan Bundy (112-lbs) picked up majority decisions. Dave DeNichilo (171-lbs) and Keith Baker (Hwt) won by decisions.

they did. We turned it up in the second half," said Venezia.

Midway through the fourth quarter, the Blue Devils upped their lead by 10 and resorted to a strategy of drawing fouls that worked. Bonard, who hit five of his free throws, Venezia and Nardi got quite familiar at the charity line.

"We were up by 10. Basically your opponent becomes the clock. Guys like Tom and Mike can handle the ball well. We spread them out and they got to come get you," explained Everly.

"We knew that, once we had the lead, they were going to trap. If we worked the ball around enough, we were going to get easy lay-ups. If we dump it inside, Santo has a big body. He's going to draw fouls. Same thing with Mike! We drew the fouls and fortunately we made the shots," said Bonard.

Shabazz 9 8 13 11 41
Westfield 12 10 14 16 52



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LOOKING FOR INSTRUCTIONS...Blue Devil Matt Shaffer, top, looks for instructions from coach Glen Kurz in his 140-lb bout.

Blue Devils' Good Mat Sense Downs Kearny Kards, 45-33

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out move, so he quickly yanked him to his back to record a fall in 2:34 at 145-lbs to increase the team lead to 33-9.

At 152-lbs, Andrew Castrorao went straight from a takedown to a cradle to settle Cardinal Brian McNicholas in 28 seconds.

"He came fired up! Before that match, he was pumped up. We had to kind of slow him down. Once the ref blew that whistle, he was off the line and ready to go," explained Kurz.

The Cardinals received a forfeit at 160-lbs, but Mark Boyd punished 171-lb. JT Nash with two double-leg takedowns, a nearfall and a reversal before pulling him to his back with a chin hook in 2:21 to seal the team victory.

"Boyd was really aggressive. He got into a couple of positions where he was too aggressive but then he slowed down the pace. I really think, if he's using his best stuff this year, not forcing any unnecessary moves in situations when he doesn't need them, he's going to have a great year," said Kurz. "We were looking at the score after 160 and it's nice to know that you have Mark Boyd in your back pocket up top."

Cardinal Billy Nash pinned Willy Johnson at 189-lbs in 2:25 then the Blue Devils forfeited the 215-lb. and heavyweight bouts.

BOUT SEQUENCE:
 103: — James Vezos (K) won forfeit
 112: — Nick Machado (K) d. Nick DeFreitas, 7-2
 119: — John Barnes (W) d. Vin Ignomirello, 10-5
 125: — Joe Panarese (W) p. Chris Plaagic, 2:45
 130: — Pat Younger (W) won forfeit

135: — Colin MacKay (W) p. Don Plaagic, 1:21
 140: — Matt Shaffer (W) p. Jhon Lopez, 1:28
 145: — Sam Reichbach (W) p. Mo Khwan, 2:34
 152: — Andy Castrorao (W) p. Brian McNicholas, 28
 160: — Joe Ferrara (K) won forfeit
 171: — Mark Boyd (W) p. JT Nash, 2:21
 189: — Billy Nash (K) p. Willy Johnson, 2:25
 215: — Joe DosSantos (K) won forfeit
 Hwt: — John Long (K) won forfeit

Devil Matmen Nip Minutemen, 38-33

The Westfield High School wrestling team improved to 2-0 with a 38-33 victory over Elizabeth on December 22 in Westfield. John Barnes (119-lbs) and Colin MacKay (140-lbs) recorded falls and Mark Boyd (171-lbs) recorded an 18-2, technical fall. Andy Castrorao (160-lbs), Sam Reichbach (145-lbs) and Matt Shaffer (135-lbs) won by decisions. Joe Panarese (125-lbs) and Javon Woods (103-lbs) won via forfeit.

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