

Raider Swim Girls Win
NJ Section 2, Public B Title

THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section
Pages 9-14

REYES WINS 50-FREE, SWIMS ON 2 WINNING RELAYS

Blue Devil Swim Girls Splash Red Devils in NJSIAA Semis

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

After capturing its 14th consecutive Union County championship in a dramatic 206-199 victory over rival Scotch Plains-Fanwood on February 11, the Westfield High School girls swimming team glided smoothly past Ridge, 109-61, in the NJSIAA North Jersey, Section 2, Public A semifinals in Westfield on February 17. Team depth proved to be the formula to earn the Blue Devils seven first-place finishes, seven second and eight, third-place finishes.

"We came out here not really knowing a lot about Ridge therefore everyone was kind of apprehensive. We knew a lot about their first-place times. They have some really solid swim-

mers, so I think that we stepped up where we needed to step up and, in general, it was a good meet," said Blue Devil Head Coach Jamie Ruzala. "Some of the freshmen got a chance to swim, something which I did not anticipate happening. We had some best times. Irene Goodman had two best times (500 free - 400-free relay). We're looking at Bridgewater next which should be a really intense meet judging by the closeness of the last meet. They're really going to be

ready for us but we'll be more than ready for them too."

Liz Hawkins, Katie Morgan, Britany Reyes and Julie Cederroth combined to take top honors in the opening event, the 200-yard medley relay with a time of 1:57.61. The team of Annie O'Neill, Catherine Maguire, Abby Ryan and Lauren Sullivan touched second in 2:05.32.

Blue Devil Darrell Ann Smith easily swam to first place in the 200 free (2:09.80). In the 200-Individual Medley (IM), Morgan touched second (2:22.45) and Stephanie Albright followed third (2:27.97). Reyes added her second victory of the day, finishing the 50-freestyle in 26.27. Cederroth touched second (27.18) and

Blue Devil Girls Seize Section Swim Title

First Place Results - Page 13

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



GOING OUT FAST AND STRONG...Capturing seven first-place finishes, seven second and eight third place finishes, the Blue Devil girls swimming team beat Basking Ridge, 109-61, in the NJSIAA semifinals.

LAW GETS 12 PTS, 10 RBS; ZAZ 13 PTS, BENO 11 RBS

Lady Raiders Regroup, Stop Lion Cagers, 42-37, in UCT

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

Rattled by a menacing Roselle Catholic defensive effort, the second-seeded Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School girls basketball team found itself in a 14-5 hole after the first quarter but regained its composure to grab a 42-37 victory in the quarterfinals of the Union County Tournament at Rahway on February 16.

The 17-6 Raiders clicked on all cylinders, primarily in the middle quarters. By game's end, senior Lauren Benovengo (3 points) pulled down 11 rebounds and freshman Jackie Law grabbed 10 rebounds and put in 12 points. Junior guard Allie Zazzali, who led the team with 13 points and six assists, bucketed seven points to ignite an 11-5 third quarter run that put the Raiders in the driver's seat 28-23.

"It was a lackluster first half. No intensity in the first half! They slowed down the pace. They took us out of our game. We hung in there though. We got down by nine. We didn't panic," said Raider Head Coach Bruce Davis. "We got back in the game. Down by one at halftime was definitely to our credit. We played a little

bit harder in the third quarter. That gave us some confidence. We held them down defensively. Getting their big girl (Letitia Torres) in foul trouble really helped. We played well enough to win."

With an inability to penetrate the Lady Lions' menacing defense that also prevented any opportunities for clear outside shots, the Raiders were noticeably rattled in the first quarter

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



QUITE AN EXPRESSION...Raider Allie Zazzali, No. 33, raises her eyebrows when a ball is batted away by Lioness Kerri Hickey, No. 31.



A MIGHTY BIG OBSTACLE TO OVERCOME...Blue Devil Terror Rogers, No. 31, finds out that Celtic Rubin Guillaudeaux, No. 34, can be a mighty big obstacle to overcome when he attempts to shoot a jump shot.

LESSNER SINKS 12; GERCKENS SCORES 10, GRABS 9

No. 3 St. Patrick's Outscores Blue Devil Hoop Boys, 87-52

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

Facing the No. 3 ranked team in New Jersey that featured players with such exotic names as Yannick Formbornono, Yves Mbala and Rubin Guillaudeaux, the boys from Westfield High School played as hard as they could in an 87-52 loss to powerful top-

seeded St. Patrick's in the quarterfinals of the Union County Tournament at Cranford on February 17.

The 21-4 Celtics, who have several players in the lineup eyeing opportunities to play for major colleges, spread the offensive wealth among seven players who scored eight or more points. Of those seven players, Jeff Robinson netted 16 points in the first three quarters before resting in the fourth. Corey Fisher put up 12 points, Formbornono, who owned the boards in rebounds, sank 11 points, Altarik Wagner banged in 10 points, including two 3-pointers, and Mbala had nine points.

Freshman Mike Lessner led the 12-8 Blue Devils with 12 points, including two 3-pointers. Senior Josh Gerckens hit for 10 points and had nine rebounds and Mike Venezia sank nine. Senior Terror Rogers, who finished with eight points, nailed two 3-pointers and Dan Pritsker sank a 3-pointer and two free throws. Santo

Nardi entered the game in the fourth quarter, showed two nice moves toward the basket and scored five points. Peter Antonelli hit for two in the fourth quarter and point guard Tom Bonard added a free throw.

"He has really come along and has gotten stronger and stronger," Bonard said of Lessner's performance. "He's been hitting threes, doing things inside, outside. He's been a big help for us."

Although the Celtics had several boys in their lineup who performed a variety of circus act, behind the head, slam dunks, the Blue Devils had a few moves of their own. Probably one of the finest came from Rogers, who stole a ball as it was going out of bounds but had the presence of mind to flick the ball to Lessner who converted for two points. With assists from Bonard, Gerckens and Venezia got under the net to roll in some lay-ups and, of course, Nardi did some fancy footwork to get under the board

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

WF's Perrella Places 2nd in MOC, 3200M

Westfield High School senior Jeff Perrella finished second in the 3,200 meters with a time of 9:22.25 behind Craig Forsy of Colts Neck who crossed in 9:15.11 at the Indoor Meet of Champions at Jadwin Gym in Princeton on February 19.

Forsy, who was trailing Perrella, overtook him in the final 800 meters. Garrett Ellis of Union Catholic finished sixth in the 200-meter dash with a time of 23.62.



Prudential

New Jersey Properties

Full-Service is our standard. Quality is our difference.



Westfield

To be Built! Exquisite nine room Colonial features five bedrooms and three and one-half baths. Time to customize to your needs. Convenient to town and NYC transportation.

Presented at \$1,189,000



Westfield

Located on pretty Knollwood Terrace, this lovely seven room Colonial offers formal living room with fireplace, formal dining room, eat-in kitchen and three bedrooms. The 60x153 wooded property provides 'add on' potential.

Priced at \$749,000



Scotch Plains

Better than new! Nine room Colonial home built in 2000, in the Woodland Estates section, features 4 bedrooms, first floor office and two and one-half baths. Professionally landscaped, neutral decor, immediately occupancy possible.

Priced at \$739,000

Resale | Fine Homes | New Homes | Resort Properties | Relocation | Mortgage | Title | Insurance

WESTFIELD OFFICE | 215 North Avenue West | Westfield, NJ | 908.232.5664

© 2006, An independently owned and operated member of Prudential Real Estate Affiliates, Inc. Prudential is a service mark of The Prudential Insurance Company of America. Equal Housing Opportunity.



Hye-Young Choi

#1 Realtor in the Westfield Office 2005
11 Years

email: hye-young@att.net

Contact Hye-Young Choi Today for the Perfect Home!



Magnificent custom 5 BR, 4 full, 3 half BTH Tudor built by Stone Creek Realty LLC on prestigious Highland Ave. The finest architectural detail and craftsmanship. 3 stop elevator, motorized chand. Lift/foyer, coffered ceilings, oak HWFLS throughout, archways, 5 FRPLCS, old world oak paneling, fabulous finished walkout bsmt with exercise rm, great rm, English pub, epicurean EIK w/Viking appl., temperature controlled wine cellar 4 zn HT/AC. \$3,200,000

WESTFIELD OFFICE
209 CENTRAL AVENUE
908-233-5555, EXT. 169
DIRECT LINE: 908-301-2015



© 2005 Coldwell Banker Real Estate Corporation. Coldwell Banker® is a registered trademark licensed to Coldwell Banker Real Estate Corporation. An Equal Opportunity Company. Equal Housing Opportunity. Owned and Operated by NRT Incorporated.