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THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section
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David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
HAVING A VERY HOT HAND...Blue Devil Tom Bonard, No. 3, hit four 3-pointers and finished with 16 points in the game against the Cougars.

DEVILS MACKAY, BOYD; RAIDERS GANO, MINEO, GIANNACI, BAKER WIN TITLES

Raiders Claim 4 Champs, Blue Devils 2 At District 11 Wrestling Tournament

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

Westfield (W) and Scotch Plains-Fanwood (S) High Schools will be well represented at the Region 3 wrestling tournament in Union, which began its preliminary round on February 28. At the District 11 tournament in Westfield on February 25, the Raiders had four champions, four second-places and three third places to qualify 11 wrestlers and the Blue Devils had two individual champs, two second places and three third places to qualify seven matmen.

Rahway (R), which had five champs, edged out the Raiders for the

team title with a total of 210.5 to the Raiders' 199.5. Cranford (C) had two individual champs and placed third with 136 points and Westfield took fourth with 121 points. Elizabeth (E) was fifth at 115, Malcolm X. Shabazz (X) was sixth at 23, and Linden (L) and Newark Central (N) tied for seventh with six points.

Blue Devil Head Coach Glen Kurz was named District 11 Coach of the Year. The last time coach Kurz qualified seven wrestlers for the Region 3

Raider junior Pat Mineo won his third straight district title with a 13-4, majority decision over Erik Ogada of Elizabeth at 140-lbs. In the semifinals, Mineo had two takedowns and two near-falls on Cranford's Steve Chencharik, who avoided being pinned with his very flexible shoulders until Mineo finally found the right position and recorded a fall in 3:40 with a hip throw.

"Once I found out my (arm) bars weren't working, I decided to cut him

decision over Raider Trevor Cannon. MacKay recorded three near-falls, three reversals and three takedowns to claim his first title.

"I feel I could have done better on bottom. I made a mistake on my last shot. But hey it happens! I won by major decision. That's good enough for me," analyzed MacKay. "I would like to see three more champions from Westfield. Not just me!"

In the semis, Mackay pinned Cranford's Frank Krov in 1:43.



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
BATTLING FOR THE DISTRICT 11, 215-LB TITLE...Raider Keith Baker, top, battles it out with Blue Devil Steve Cruikshank for the 215-lb title. Baker seized the crown with a 7-2 victory.

ROGERS, BONARD EACH NAIL 4 THREE-POINTERS

Blue Devils' 'Trips to Win', Defeat Cougar Cagers, 85-71

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

Eighteen 3-pointers burned the interiors of the two nets as the Westfield High School boys basketball team defeated rival Cranford, 85-71, in a run-and-gunfest on Senior Day in Westfield on February 22. The entire starting five for the 13-8 Blue Devils hit for double figures, while three of the five Cougar starters hit for double figures.

The Blue Devils banged in 11 "trips" and senior Terron Rogers, who had eight assists and four steals, made the best of Senior Day by pumping in 18 points, including four 3-pointers. Three of his threes came in the first quarter, which pushed his team to a 26-19 lead.

"This probably was my best day of

the season. I was wide open a lot of times and I just knocked them down. I had to do it for my mom and my dad," said Rogers.

Point guard Tom Bonard, who had 13 assists and eight rebounds, sank a 3-pointer in each quarter and finished with 16 points.

Blue Devil Dan Pritsker also finished with 18 points and led a 20-14 run in the second quarter with eight points, which included two 3-pointers. Mike Venezia, who had six points in the first quarter, finished with 17 points and buried his remaining 11 points in a 24-18, third-quarter run. Senior Josh Gerckens steadied his way to 10 points and pulled in eight rebounds. Freshman Mike Lessner contributed six points, including the Blue Devils' 11th 3-pointer in the

final quarter.

The man to stop for the young 7-18 Cougars was Simon Smith, and the Blue Devils had their difficulties. Smith scored heavily in every quarter, especially the third where he bucketed 11 of his game-leading 30 points.

"We knew that he has been the go-to guy. He has been scoring at least 20 points a game for the past several games. Basketball is a game of scoring. We just had to get more bats and score more runs than they," said Bonard with a smile.

Cougars Chris Snyder, who sank 17 points, and Andrew Ciencin, who totaled 11 points, each pounded in three 3-pointers. Chad Faulcon had eight points and Jack Bender hit a 3-pointer.

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HELOCK, MURPHY, FOX, HENKELS, LARKIN EMERGE

Lady Raider Swimmers Win Sectional and Public B Titles

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

Within a span of five days, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School girls swim team won the North Jersey, Section 2, Public B title and its second straight NJSIAA Public B title. Last year, the Raider girls won their first NJSIAA crown with a 95-75 victory over Princeton.

First, the No. 8 ranked Raiders annihilated Montgomery, 118.5-51.5, for the section crown on February 21 in Bayonne then, after beating Princeton, 95-75, on February 23, the Raiders slipped past No. 4 Haddonfield, 88-82, on February 26 at the College of New Jersey in Ewing. Under Head Coach Jessica Hulnik, the girls have won three sectional titles.

In the lopsided victory over Montgomery, coming off a shoulder injury, sophomore Melissa Helock got back into the flow of things by winning the 200- and 500-yard freestyle events with respective times of 2:01.17 and 5:33.04. Jillian Murphy won the 50-free and 100-free with respective times of 25.44 and 56.57 and Becca Fox won the 100-breast-stroke and 200-IM with respective times of 1:11.77 and 2:19.48. Murphy and Fox also swam on winning relays.

"Even though hampered by a shoulder injury for most of the season, she has been able to step up and swim well for us during the state tournament performances," Hulnik said of Helock.

Kristen Henkels, Brittany Larkin, Allison Haggan and Murphy won the 200-free relay with a time of

1:48.33. K. Henkels, Larkin, Fox and Mary Henkels won the 400-free relay with a time of 3:57.68 and Kate Johnson, Fox, Murphy and Mary Henkels won the 200-medley relay in 1:55.52.

"I expected the score to be a little closer. Montgomery is a great team, but it seemed like they were a little off of their times that day and we were right around ours," said Hulnik. "The girls swam very well that day."

Although there were no personal best times against Montgomery, the Raiders got crucial personal bests from Murphy, who won the 50-free in 24.72, and Larkin, who won the 500-free in 5:37.9 - 12 seconds better - against Haddonfield. Helock touched first in the 200-free with a time of 1:59.54 but the best break came when Murphy at 1:00.53 led a 1-2-3 sweep in the 100-butterfly followed by Kate Kosenik at 1:04.42 and Haggan at 1:04.92.

But it came down to the final event, the 400-free relay, to determine the championship. Helock, Mary Henkels, Fox and Murphy pooled their talents to touch first with a time of 3:43.97.

"Jillian has had a phenomenal year. She has been the go to person most of this year and has taken on some different events to compensate for not having Melissa at some of our meets. Anything we have asked her to do, she has done and done very well," stated Hulnik. "Becca, as always, does a great job. I often put her in back-to-back events and she always performs very well. It's great that we have some-

one like that who can handle that type of workload. She mostly swam

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