



FINE INAGURAL ICE HOCKEY SEASON...The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School JV ice hockey team finished second in the regular season in their division.

N. Hunterdon Ladies Stump Blue Devil B'ballers, 70-42

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

"They were a well-polished team. We scouted them and I think our girls went out and played very hard. It's just that they were a better team tonight," said Blue Devil Head Coach Joe Marino. "They were outstanding! Tewksbury! We thought we could shut her down and Gabby O'Leary did a nice job of shutting her down. But those other girls hit also."

Blue Devil sophomore Erin Miller (6 rebounds, 2 assists) led all scoring with 20 points, including two 3-pointers. Miller, who netted nine of her points in the fourth quarter, had much success from the free throw line, hitting 8-for-9. Sophomore Gab O'Leary (3 rebounds, 3 assists) banged in three 3-pointers and finished with 11 points. Juniors Casey El Koury (3 rebounds) and Katie Cronen (3 rebounds) sank five and four points, respectively, and freshman Tara Handza scored two points. Danielle Infantino had three rebounds and LeaAnne Skorge had two.

The 14-10 Blue Devils got caught up in a fast-paced tempo and committed several fouls in the first quarter - two by Miller. The Lions who went to the line hit 8-for-9 and sparked a 14-0 run before Miller sank a 3-pointer to end the quarter, 19-10.

A lesson was learned, with reference to fouling, in the second quarter but the Lionesses went on a rampage of thievery that paid off in another 14-0 run that also ended when Miller sank her second 3-pointer but the margin swelled to 37-16 by halftime.

The Lionesses added an 11-0 run in the third quarter, which was ended by O'Leary's 3-pointer. Tagliareni answered with a 3-pointer, and Miller followed with a lay-up and a free throw to end the quarter, 53-24.

The final quarter resulted in a tradeoff of points with the Blue Devils holding a slight, 18-17, edge. Miller hit five of her free throws and two lay-ups, while O'Leary hit her third 3-pointer and added a 2-pointer. Hilary Murray, Hatalla and Mary Kate Townsend each netted four points in the quarter for the Lionesses. Sarah Vanderveen scored three points and Kayleigh Nydick added two.

"They are a well-coached team. You can see that it is a good program and I think the coach had them ready for us," said Marino.

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|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|
| Westfield | 10 | 6 | 8 | 18 | 42 |
| N. Hunterdon | 19 | 18 | 16 | 17 | 70 |



GETTING THE PASS THROUGH...Blue Devil Tara Handza, No. 5, passes the ball past Lady Lion defender Hilary Murray.

SPF JV Icemen Finish Second in Division

Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School's newest Raider team, the hockey-playing Icemen, completed their inaugural regular season in second place in their 10-team JV division heading into the playoffs.

The Raiders prepared themselves for the championship run with a high-profile helper, Sergei Starikov, co-owner of New Jersey's youth hockey organization Penguins and a former Devils defensive star. Starikov who is loaded with Gold Medals for winning eight World Championships and Olympic tournaments, led the Raiders' practice together with their head coach, Pete Haubruck, and goalie coach, Greg Tsinker.

Starikov's judgment following the practice: "They have great potential and already fit right into the fine reputation the Scotch Plains-Fanwood has earned with its numerous sport programs."



TOUGH OFFENSIVELY AND DEFENSIVELY...Raider Robert Lewis, No. 2, pulled down 10 rebounds and put up 12 points in the 51-32 victory over the Blue Streaks in the first round of the North Jersey, Group 3, Section 2 tournament.

YOUNG NETS 16 PTS.; LEWIS, BAYARD GET 12 EACH

Raider B'ball Boys Discharge Blue Streaks in Sections, 51-32

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

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School boys' basketball team sapped the energy out of the Warren Hills Blue Streaks, 51-32, in the first round of the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 3 tournament in Scotch Plains on February 28.

Raider senior guard Robert Lewis controlled the glass, taking down 10 rebounds, and pushed in 12 points. Sean Young led the offensive machine with 16 points but also grabbed eight rebounds, handed out two assists and had two swipes. Junior guard Greg Bayard pumped in 12 points, including two 3-pointers, handed out four assists and had three steals. Sophomore guard Brian Dougher had nine points, three rebounds and four steals.

Stifling defensive tactics by Lewis, Young and Dougher resulted in 10 turnovers. Warren Hills got 13 points from Phil Jacobson.

"They came out a little nervous playing in their first state tournament game and that got to them a little bit offensively but we then started playing the way we were playing all year," said Raider Head Coach Brian Doherty. "We turned people over, started hitting shots and we played

exceptional defense. They took away our deep scoring threat but other guys stepped up. Sean stepped up and Brian stepped up. Lewis, he just gives us a lot of energy and he stepped up. DJ Garrett came off the bench and added more energy by getting loose balls and getting on the ground, so it was a true team effort."

The Raiders opened up the game with stifling defense under the glass by Young and Lewis. Dougher and Bayard forced five Blue Streak turnovers. Offensively, Dougher connected from down town, Young rolled in a lay up and a free throw, Lewis tossed in a base-line jumper and Bayard netted a two-pointer for a 10-4 lead.

It was a sleepwalker type of a second quarter as both teams shot poorly and searched for offensive weaponry. The Raiders looked to capitalize off long-range hits but stiff Blue Streak aggressive play caused several misfires. Bayard, however, successfully pulled the trigger with a 3-pointers and a pull-up jumper and Young added a lay up as the Raiders maintained a 19-13 advantage at halftime.

The Raiders returned to the floor composed in the second half and got the job done early with an 8-1 run, then extended the lead to grab a 17-13 ad-

vantage. Lewis and Dougher hit four points each and Young had three while Bayard and Garrett each added two.

The Raiders broke loose to outscore the Blue Streak, 15-6, in the fourth quarter. Lewis sank six points, including 4-for-4 from the free throw line. Young bucketed five points, 3-for-4 from the stripe. Dougher hit a base line jumper and Bayard added two free throws.

"It's States time! It's my first time being here and it will be my last, so it's time to step it up as a senior and be a leader out there," said Lewis. "Along with the rest of the seniors, we want to make sure that the younger kids are able to go on and get that great experience so that they'll be stronger next year. We did not know what to expect, so it was about us coming out and playing the way we play. We have tons of scorers on the team. I had opportunities, saw them and took them."

Doherty added, "We think that we have a chance to win the sectional but the big test comes against Number 1 seed Colonia in their place. There will be a lot of energy, it will be a tough one but we're looking forward to it."

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|-----------------|----|---|----|----|----|
| Warren Hills | 4 | 9 | 13 | 6 | 32 |
| Sc. Pl.-Fanwood | 10 | 9 | 17 | 15 | 51 |

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