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# THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section  
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## DOUGHER SINKS 18, SHEEHAN 13 Raider Cagers Outlast Blue Devil Boys, 54-45

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

Junior Kevin Maroney sank seven of his 16 points in the final four minutes of the third quarter and senior Brian Dougher sealed the deal by hitting eight of his game-leading 18 points in the fourth quarter to give the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School boys basketball team a 54-45 victory over host Westfield on December 15.

The Blue Devils, comprised solely of juniors and sophomores were led offensively by juniors Chris Sheehan and Mike Lessner, who put in 13 and 12 points, respectively, but they were unable to keep up with the rebounding dominance of the senior-strong Raiders led by senior Lordly Okarter, who pulled down 11 boards. Maroney was strong also with 10 rebounds.

"That was the turning point. Our shots were off-target early on but we absolutely controlled the boards," said Raider Head Coach Dan Doherty.

"The biggest thing that hurt us was our rebounding. Even last year, being 6'1" across the board, we never got out-rebounded like today. We are basically four juniors and three sophomores. Our guys are good players but sometimes, physical maturity takes time. It was juniors and sophomores against seniors and that was the edge," said Blue Devil Head Coach Kevin Evely.

"Kevin and the guards got in that second and third shot. We are a little bigger than them. Lordly Okarter did a great job on rebounds," said Dougher.

The Blue Devils kept pace with the Raiders and had the score knotted at 14-14 with less than a minute remaining until Dougher nailed a 3-pointer and Reggie Solomon, who bucketed two

threes earlier in the quarter and finished with nine points, added a free throw. "Everybody on our team knows how to score. Scoring doesn't necessarily rest on my shoulders. Kevin played great. Reggie played great," Dougher said.

The Raiders held a 27-21 lead at the half but relinquished it when Lessner put in six points and junior Tony Dilorio (3 points) and sophomore Pat Gray (6 points) each sank two points each to tie the score midway through the third quarter. But the Raider defense tightened and Maroney's burst ignited a 10-point run to end the quarter 41-31. Dougher took over in the final quarter.

"We were having match up problems. I think we took Brian out. They had a guard on Kevin so we sent him down to the post. Then they went with a bigger guy toward the end of the (third) quarter so we put him at the point then he put us up ten. Then our experience took over in the fourth quarter," coach Doherty explained. "Our defense picked up. We gave up 14 points in the first quarter but after that we tightened up. They did a run and we handled a run. Last year at this time, we might have caved in on a run. We hit our foul shots. It's all about getting a win."

"Brian Dougher is tough to beat when the game gets tight. He is going to make some big shots," said coach Evely.

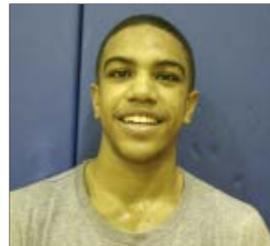
"They ran nice sets, extremely well coached. Danny DeCataldo was pestering their point guard all game and forced a lot of turnovers," said coach Doherty. "Second time around, they are going to be tough."



Kenny Knapp (119) Brearley Bears



Trevor Cannon (152) SPFF Raiders



John Barnes (125) Blue Devils



Craig Montgomery (119) RP Panthers



Joe Lospinoso (135) Brearley Bears



Jorge Branco (140) RP Panthers



Peter Terrezza (112) N. Prov. Pioneers



Jesse Boyden (215) Brearley Bears

## Brearley Bears Remain the Team to Beat For Union County Wrestling Dominance

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

The David Brearley Bears of Kenilworth proved they were the "New Sheriff in Town" when they won their second straight Union County Wrestling championship by dethroning perennial power Roselle Park (Panthers). The Kenilworth team sent eight Bears to the finals and claimed five individual champions. There appears to be little doubt that these snarling Bears will, once again, take a healthy swat at anyone who attempts to snatch their title away from them.

The Panthers, however, are just waiting to get another shot at them and so are the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Raiders, who placed third in the county last year. Both teams should be competitive. The New Providence Pioneers, who finished fourth, have one returning county champ and a runnerup but they are very young. A majority of the county teams have larger freshmen and sophomore contingents than junior and seniors, so the aim would be to build strong teams for the future.

**BREARLEY BEARS:** The Bears qualified 13 wrestlers for the Region 3 (R3) tournament, producing three champions, and qualified seven for the NJSIAA tournament in Atlantic City (AC), returning

with a third, fourth and a sixth place finish. Eight region qualifiers return, including five NJSIAA qualifiers. The Bears also defeated the Panthers to claim the sectional title.

The Bears face the third-toughest schedule in the state, wrestling seven of the top-10 teams but they have the firepower throughout the lineup to make it fun to watch.

"It's great for these guys to see that type of caliber. If everything goes well, then I think we are going to be very competitive," said head coach Brian Luciani.

All weight classes are dependent on certification.

**Top Wrestlers:**  
**Kenny Knapp (jr. - 119):** He is a two-time UC and district champ, placed third at AC at 103-lbs and finished with a 41-2 record.

**Allan Phillips (so. - 112):** R3 qualifier, third in UC at 119-lbs but he will have stiff competition from freshman Danny Reiss, who was a champ at the youth states.

**Rob Piper (sr. - 130):** Third in UC, R3 qualifier at 125-lbs and finished with a 30-10 record.

**Joe Lospinoso (jr. - 135):** He

placed third in UC, second in R3, fourth at AC at 130-lbs and had a 39-6 record.

**Matt Loffa (sr. - 145):** Second in UC, R3 qualifier at 140-lbs and finished 25-10.

**Travis Dilts (jr. - hwt):** Third UC at 160-lbs. Put on some size.

**Umar Taramov (jr. - 160):** Second UC, third R3, won two bouts at AC at 171-lbs and finished 35-9.

**Hany Elsheikh (sr. - 189):** Second UC, second R3 at 189-lbs and finished 33-7.

**Jesse Boyden (sr. - 215):** Three-time UC and two-time R3 Champ, sixth at AC twice and finished 40-5. Has the most career wins in Brearley history.

**CRANFORD COUGARS:** The Cougars return only two Region 3 qualifiers and one wrestler who placed fourth in the UCT. The Cougars, numbering 26 wrestlers, are

comprised mainly of underclassmen so the look is toward the future.

"We are very excited about this season in that we have a team loaded with freshmen and sophomores. We only have four seniors and two juniors," said Cougar Head Coach Darren Torsone.

The team captains are Kevin Aldredge and Mesut Oscan.

"We are expecting big things from Kevin this year and we believe Mesut will do better," said Torsone.

**Brian Buontempo (so. - 125/30):** Second in district at 103. Put on a lot of muscle since last year.

**Mesut Oscan (sr. - 125):** Third in district

**Kevin Aldredge (sr. - 189)**

**Joe Brady (so. - Hwt):** Fourth in UC

**NEW PROV. PIONEERS:**  
CONTINUED ON PAGE 16



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
LOOKING FOR A SET UP...Blue Devil Chris Sheehan, No. 30, dribbles down court, while being hounded by Raider Dan DeCataldo.

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