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# THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section  
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## GANO EARNS 100TH CAREER WIN, MINEO GETS 115

### Blue Streaks Nudge Raiders For Sectional Wrestling Title

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

Seemingly always cruising under the radar, Raider senior Sal Gano "quietly" but swiftly earned his 100th career victory with a 23-second fall with two bouts remaining in the North Jersey, Group 3 Section 2 wrestling championship match between Scotch Plains-Fanwood and Warren Hills in Washington on February 8. Unfortunately, the Raiders' bid for their first sectional title fell short when the host-

ing Blue Streaks won the final bout to eke out a 33-29 victory.

The 17-5 Raiders were trailing the 16-11 Blue Streaks, 30-20, entering Gano's 125-lb bout with Anthony Gaito. After Gaito feigned a takedown, Gano countered with a Mallory step-over to end the bout.

"Sal getting his 100th win, that was fabulous! He goes under the radar a little bit," Raider Head Coach John Scholz expressed.

Considering his blip on the radar,

Gano answered, "I actually like being the underdog."

Looking back to his very first varsity win, Gano said, "I just wanted to show Scholz what I've got. I went out there and pinned the kid (Kearny). My junior year, when I won my first couple of matches, I knew that I could do it (win 100)."

Next, Raider Mike Ferrara did not have to endure any inclement weather as he took it to Storm Deemer, 7-1, in

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REGISTERING CAREER VICTORY NUMBER 100...Raider Sal Gano, top, made quick work of Warren Hills 125-pounder Anthony Gaito, pinning him in 23 seconds with a Mallory to record career victory No. 100.

## DOUGHER SCORES 17, VENEZIA SINKS 16, BONARD 15

### Blue Devil Boys Rumble Past Raider Cagers in 4th, 61-49

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

Two rivals and high emotions set the stage before a packed house on Senior Day at Westfield High School on February 8. Senior Dan Pritsker hit two triples and two doubles in the fourth quarter to lead the Blue Devils to a 61-49 victory over Scotch Plains-Fanwood, avenging a 63-57, double overtime loss on January 4.

Senior guard Mike Venezia scorched the nylon with 16 points, including two 3-pointers, for the 11-8 Blue Devils. Pritsker finished with 13 points, including two 3-baggers. Senior guard Tom Bonard (9 assists) tickled the twine with 15 points, including 5-for-5 from the stripe in the

fourth quarter. Senior forward Santo Nardi scored six points. Sophomores Tony Dilorio, Mike Lessner and Joe Kopsner netted five, four and two points, respectively.

"We made some adjustments and were able to get them out of zone in the second half. We were patient and played like we were supposed to play," said Blue Devil Head Coach Kevin Everly. "I thought we did a pretty good job defending their penetration with dribble screens. We reiterated a couple things during halftime and talked about box-outs because they were a little stronger and a little more athletic than us in the backcourt and the front court."

Junior guard Bryan Dougher (3

assists, 3 rebounds) carried the load for the 11-10 Raiders with 17 points, including two 3-pointers. Senior guard Greg Bayard scored 10 points, with two 3-pointers. Senior Darnell Dortch (4 rebounds) put up seven points. Junior Lordly Okarter (4 rebounds) and sophomore Kevin Maroney (5 rebounds) each finished with six points and junior Greg Zabel netted a three-bagger.

"It was a good game, good rivalry. Pritsker hit a couple of shots that really set the tide. I thought Mike (Venezia) and Bryan (Dougher) played to a stalemate, which you expect. Greg (Bayard) and Bonard were right there but their third kid (Pritsker)

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PUTTING ON A LOT OF PRESSURE...Raider Brittany Veeck, center, sticks very close to lead runner Laura Gallo in the one-mile run. Veeck passed Gallo but placed second to Summit's Samantha Lee, who had a great kick in the final three laps.

## ADAMS WINS SHOT PUT, EPPINGER WINS HIGH JUMP

### Hilltoppers Top UCT Track, Viking Girls 4th, Raiders 5th

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

Summit got a lot of mileage from its high school girls' middle distance and distance teams to outpace the field at the Union County Track and Field Championships at Dunn Center in Elizabeth on February 7. The Hilltoppers had a team total of 54 ahead of second-placed Cranford with 38 and third-placed Union with 36. Union Catholic (UC) placed fourth with 32 and Scotch Plains-Fanwood finished fifth with 30.

Raiders Lauryn Adams and Erin Rossi have been taking turns all season out-throwing each other in the shot put but, this time, it was Adams who topped the entire field with a personal-best shove of 37'1" to out-distance Dayton's Ashley Little who had a toss of 36'3.75". Rossi finished fourth with a shove of 32'7".

Raider sophomore Brittany Veeck gave Hilltopper Samantha Lee a run for her money in the one-mile race. With Cranford's Laura Gallo in the

lead, Veeck decided to take the lead just after the half-mile point then Lee took over the lead with three laps remaining and held to cross first in 5:29.1 followed by Veeck at 5:31.7. Viking Jill Roth finished sixth with a time of 5:49.7.

"Brittany ran about 20 seconds faster tonight than she did last year at this meet. The track isn't very well suited for her long legs. The turns don't help her. Samantha is compact and her shorter stride helps her better," commented Raider coach Jeff Koegel who added, "I would have liked the pace to go out a little bit faster. The second half was about four seconds slower than the first half but I am very pleased with how she ran."

Raiders Cathy Harley at 12:51 and Cassy Valdes at 12:51.5 finished 4-5, respectively, in the two-mile run.

UC Viking Katie Eppinger, whose best height is 5'4", cleared 5'1" to win the high jump and teammate Tiara Brown cleared 4'10" to place

fourth. Cranford's Kara Stull and Shantia Smith finished 2-3, respectively, with a height of five feet. Viking Jen Seniszyn crossed third in the 60-yard dash with a time of 7.4 and teammate Alisa Harris crossed fourth in the 440-yard run with a time of 1:04.8.

Prior to the high jump event and midway through the meet, Viking Head Coach Mike McCabe was considering his best bets for placement.

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