



WINNING A TIGHT BOUT...Raider Joe Bachi, top, defeated Viking Paul Crutchlow, 3-0, at 160-lbs

## BAKER GETS FASTEST PIN IN 0:23 Raider Wrestlers Level Par Hills Vikings, 52-21

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

Junior 215-pounder Keith Baker got the 4-1 Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School wrestling team on a roll that resulted in a 52-21 victory over Parsippany Hills on December 30 in Morris Plains when he recorded the fastest of seven Raider pins on the afternoon.

Baker tossed Viking Anthony Corigliano to his back in 23 seconds, using a devastating lateral drop then heavyweight Joe Blaes wrestled a fine bout to hold Viking big man Spencer Williams to a 1-0 victory.

Raider Dave Casmas won a wild, 11-8, decision over Zack Adamczyk at 103-lbs. After recording three reversals and two escapes, Cosmas turned Adamczyk to his back for a three-point nearfall to account for the margin of victory.

The Vikings won the next two bouts by fall to take a 15-9 team lead but, from that point until the final bout, the Raiders would roll off eight straight victories beginning with Sal Gano's 4:43 (half nelson, body press) fall over Joe Molloy at 125-lbs. At 130-lbs, Mike Ferrara made a good stab at beating Baker's fall, but had to settle for a 43-second pin.

At 135-lbs, Raider Ricky Olsson punished Jason Morales with a five-point lateral drop takedown and a double arm bar before settling him in 3:00 with a muscle lateral drop.

"I wanted to try the throw. It worked! I worked my moves on top and built up a nice lead. It does feel good to get somebody in a double arm bar. It's very tough to get out of. It is a devastating move," said Olsson who added, "I muscled him over with a nice Gable to get the pin in the end."

Rob Desiato scored a reversal and an under-hook nearfall on 140-lb Mike Egan and added two more reversals before pinning him in 4:45 with a lever half nelson. Next, 145-lb Pat Mineo tried nearly every trick in the book to pin the very conservative Tim Shevelone, but had to settle for an 11-2, majority decision. Toward the end of his bout, Mineo let Shevelone escape in order to work a possible pinning move from the takedown position.

"A lot of guys who I am wrestling are just trying not to get pinned so it's tough with them on bottom not trying to get out," said Mineo. "But I got to keep working through that. I'm more comfortable on my feet so, usually I will cut him and go for my takedown. I wanted to go for a duck under and work a Turk but he is one of their tougher kids. He put up a good fight."

At 152-lbs, Trevor Cannon used a leg scissors and a power half/head smother to quell Jay Rakoski in 1:42. At 160-lbs, Joe Bachi scored a takedown and added a penalty point to defeat Paul Crutchlow, 3-0. At 171-lbs, Dave DeNichilo used a head-and-arm slip through takedown, then shifted to a crunching half nelson to pin Hannes David in 1:18.

**BOUT SEQUENCE:**  
215: — Baker (S) p Corigliano, 23  
Hwt: — Williams (P) d Blaes, 1-0  
103: — Casmas (S) d Adamczyk, 11-8  
112: — Jose Sosa (P) p Jeremy Cinafonte, 1:11  
119: — Ben McNeil (P) p Wes Morrison, :46  
125: — Gano (S) p Molloy, 4:43  
130: — Ferrara (S) p Herka, :43  
135: — Olsson (S) p Morales, 3:00  
140: — Desiato (S) p Egan, 4:45  
145: — Mineo (S) md Shevelone, 11-2  
152: — Cannon (S) p Rakoski, 1:42  
160: — Bachi (S) d Crutchlow, 3-0  
171: — DeNichilo (S) p David, 1:18  
189: — Joe Melenka (P) p Joe Sebolao, :34



## Devil's Den You Can't Always Get What You Want

By BRUCE JOHNSON  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Any time people vote on something, not everybody is going to agree with the results. Amazingly in this country, you can actually win something — like, oh say, a presidential election — without getting the most votes. (Or by making sure some votes aren't actually counted.) America is one place where majority does not always rule.

(Whoever thought up electoral votes anyhow? Why should my vote count for more if I live in California than if I live in Pennsylvania or New Jersey? It's just my single vote, no? Talk about a dumb idea.)

Anyway, here are some interesting results from the recent Top 885 Musical Artists of all-time, as voted on by the listeners (all over the country, via the computer) of WXPX 88.5 FM in Philadelphia. (You can view the entire list at [www.wxpj.org](http://www.wxpj.org).) Whether you agree with the results or not, at least XPN does it right — whoever got the most votes was the winner.

Obviously, you're never going to please everybody. And really, picking between the Beatles and Bob Dylan is way harder than, say, picking between Paris and Rory on the Gilmore Girls, or that perennial toughie, White Diamond or White Castle on the ride home.

XPN's voters went with the Beatles. I went with Dylan. But the Beatles of the post-1965 era (*Rubber Soul*, *Mystery Tour*) were certainly excellent. (And give a listen to producer George Martin's new *Love*, a mashed version of many Beatles classics!) Dylan, of course, was tremendous from the start as a folkie/protest singer, turned it up several notches with *Highway 61 Revisited* and hasn't stopped, adding later-day classics like *Blonde on Blonde* and *Blood on the Tracks*, all the way through this year's excellent *Modern Times*.

There really shouldn't be very many problems with the top two picks, in whichever order. But at No. 3, the Rolling Stones? Sure, people still pay millions and millions of dollars to watch their exploding light show (to hide the fact they don't have it musically anymore?) and to watch Jagger parade around on stage like a fool.

Maybe in 1963 or 1964 ... even 1965. But this is 2007. The Stones haven't had a really good album since the Beatles broke up in the late '60s, or since the death of Brian Jones, the Stones' founder, visionary and finest musician. And that was after he'd been dumped from the group by the less-visionary, less-talented but more money-oriented Mick Jagger and Keith Richards. (Sounds eerily simi-

lar to the situation with Brian Wilson, the leader of the Beach Boys, who wanted to spread his musical wings in the late '60s, while cousin Mike Love wanted to keep raking in the money from teenagers buying Wilson's sun, surf, and cars-oriented songs.)

Seriously, the Rolling Stones ahead of Bruce Springsteen? Led Zeppelin? Neil Young? The Who? Van Morrison? David Bowie? Elvis (at No. 19?) Presley? The Beach Boys? U2? Even the Grateful Dead?

There were other shaky picks: the Ben Folds Five came in at No. 78, while Curtis Mayfield was 356, Jerry Lee Lewis 611 and the great Dion DiMucci 728 (seven hundred and frigg'n' 287)!

Oh, and I'll take Paris and two large cheeseburgers with pickles and onions at the White Diamond.

**JERSEY UPDATE**  
Until Gary Kehler became WHS's football coach in 1961, there was very little rhyme or reason to the numbering of jerseys, as far as positions.

The unbeaten 1947 team, under coach Joe Freeman, lined up across the line with end Dick Fischer (35), guard Dick Batt (44), center Ted Frankenbach (31), guard Al Eichhorn (41), tackles Bob Schmitz (24) and Charles Hemminger (51) and end Gerry McGinley (14). In the backfield it was Charley Schrepe (13), Rick McGinley (40), Bud Wilson (38), Rudy Lantz (27) and Sam Mitchell (20).

In 1960, in Les Zorge's final year as coach, his single wing lineup across the front was end Dwight Winn (37), guard Greg Weiss (48), center Tom Nelson (36), guard Pete Braun (49), tackles Bob Duncan (46) and John Griner (44) and end Scott Ellis (43), with backs Reitze (41), Jim Kovacs (50), Bill Bryant (31) or Clark Byam (52), and Ross Mannino (42) or Eddie Galauski (32).

Kehler came in and had the ends wearing jerseys in the 40s, guards in the 50s, tackles in the 60s, centers in the 70s, quarterbacks in the teens and running backs in the 20s and 30s. Later the ends were the 80s, tackles 70s, guards 60s, centers 50s, quarterbacks teens, running backs 20s, 30s, 40s. These days some players even wear single digit numbers.

Here are a couple of other interesting facts about WHS jerseys:

After wearing No. 45 as a sophomore safety at WHS in 1958, Jim Leitz moved to Orchard Park, N.Y., before his junior year. He was a Parade High School All-American there

and had his jersey, No. 791, retired. He was later a Little All-American at Williams College. The speedy Leitz had figured to become the feature back in Zorge's run-dominated single wing attack, so that job went instead to Bob Wolfgang in 1959 (who ran for 251 yards vs. Dayton, still No. 2 on the WHS all-time list) and Dave Reitze in 1960 (who carried a school record 249 times for 1,274 yards, still No. 2 all-time).

Staying in that era, how about Pete Braun, arguably the finest offensive lineman and linebacker in school history? He wore 46 as a sophomore in 1958, 48 as a junior and finished up with 49. He earned All-State honors as Nos. 48 and 49.

Another interesting jersey situation is Dom Sisto, the team's blocking back/quarterback in 1939, when he wore No. 86, and 1940, when he switched to No. 11. In 1941, first-year coach Spittin' Joe Freeman wanted captain Bob Lowe at blocking back, so Sisto was moved to guard, although the mighty mite kept his No. 11.

As expected, we missed a name or two when we listed different jersey numbers as possibilities to be retired. Without rosters/programs for most of the past 15 years, we went by memory, and somehow managed to forget Jan Coccoziello, the multi-talented quarterback and safety who wore No. 12 a couple years ago.

With Coccoziello joining Ted Vreeland, Loren Rodewig, Dwight Davies, John Brown, Joe and Tom Della Badia, Todd Prybylski and Lou Rettino, No. 12 ranks right up there as a potential jersey number to retire with No. 14 (Dom Urciuoli), Gerry McGinley, Bill Clarke, Bob and Roger Brewster, Joe Monninger, Matt McDonough, Kevin Morris, Brian Butts, Pete Antonelli) and No. 22 (Doggy Porst, Jim Lambert, Charlie Clark, Ken Blackwell, Tim Green, Owen Brand, Dondi Chambliss, Billy Byrne, Doug Kehler, Chuck Mueller, Mark Nelson, Dave Duels, Kevin Dowling), among others.

We will bring this up with coach Jim DeSarno. It'd be awesome for the WHS football program to retire a number at Kehler Stadium, say at halftime of either the SPF or Cranford game, or the Thanksgiving Day game when it's at home, and have as many of the players who wore that jersey as can be located be there for the event.

**HOLIDAY UPDATE**

The WHS boys basketball team had a successful title defense at the Butch Kowal Memorial Classic in Rahway. After knocking off previously unbeaten St. Peter's Prep 35-32

in the first round — even holding the preppies scoreless during the second quarter — WHS beat South Plainfield 53-39 in the semifinals before handing previously unbeaten Rahway a 69-54 loss in the final.

The WHS girls basketball team started the holidays with a bummer of an overtime loss at Kinnelon on Dec. 23. But they bounced back in the Pepe-Levee Memorial Tournament in Springfield, handling Bernards (first round) and Dayton (semifinals) before knocking off Oak Knoll 45-27 to go 3-0 in the round-robin event.

The WHS wrestlers competed in the Roselle Park Tournament, finishing eighth. Sophomore John Barnes placed second at 119, the only Devil to make finals or consolations.

Interestingly, all three WHS teams will face archrival SPF to open up 2007, the 4-1 boys hoopsters away today at 4, the 4-2 girls home today at 4, and the 3-1 wrestlers away tomorrow at 7.

**GOOD READING**

If you didn't get a copy of the latest issue of *Sports Illustrated*, with the Sportsman of the Year on the cover, pick one up and read "The Game of the Year" by Chris Ballard. It's a story about a football game between two small high schools in rural Arkansas, two former powerhouse teams who've fallen on hard times and brought winless records into the game back in October. It's a story about a player scoring nine touchdowns and having his team lose. It's a story about a team that hadn't attempted a PAT kick all year winning in overtime on a PAT kick. It's a story about a player named Gus (Goose) Johnson, who is a younger, smaller and real-life version of "Radio" in the movie of the same name. The coach allows the diminutive and challenged Goose to practice with the team — at safety on the scout team, so he won't get hurt — but he never gets into a game until the final minutes of the final game, when ... well, read the story and find out what happens.

**DEVIL OF THE WEEK**

This week's winner of a free sub from Al the Owner at Westfield Subs (261 South Avenue East) is Mike Venezia. The senior co-captain scored 24 points in the semifinals and 26 in the final of the Butch Kowal Memorial Classic in Rahway, as WHS successfully defended its title.

*The Devil's Den* appears Thursday in *The Westfield Leader* during the scholastic season. Contact us with comments, complaints, story ideas or note-type items at [bj1019@aol.com](mailto:bj1019@aol.com). **GO DEVILS!**

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