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THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section
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DOUGHER NETS 24, VENEZIA SINKS 19, BONARD 15

Raiders Scorch Blue Devils In, 63-57, Double OT Classic

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

Junior guard Bryan Dougher and junior forward Lordly Okarter pretty much did it all to lead the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School boys basketball team to a 63-57, double overtime victory over Westfield before a packed house in Scotch Plains on January 4.

Dougher (12 rebounds, 4 assists) scorched the net with 24 points, including three 3-pointers, and forced the second overtime. Okarter (9 rebounds) bucketed 12 points and was key in the second overtime. Darnell Dortch sank a season-high 12 points and pulled in eight rebounds. Junior

guard Danny DeCataldo scored his 11 points, including a 3-pointer, in the second half. Freshman guard Reggie Solomon and junior forward Rob Zekunde each added two points.

Guard Mike Venezia led the 4-2 Blue Devils with 19 points, including four 3-pointers, and pulled down 10 rebounds. Tom Bonard bucketed 15 points, including four from downtown, hit 3-for-3 from the stripe and had 12 rebounds. Forward Santo Nardi finished with nine points and six boards. Mike Lessner scored seven points, Dan Pritsker had five and Thony DiIorio added two.

"Dougher proved he's one of the best unknown guards in the state.

That shot at the end was great but I think the game was won by our big guys coming off the bench, blocking ten shots. Okarter played a great game. Dortch played a fabulous game and that's where we ended up beating them," said Raider Head Coach Dan Doherty. "This is a game you have to play with energy because it's a rivalry. It's a great crowd. It's a great team with a great player named Venezia and we responded. We re-emphasized what we planned on doing with the zone, rebounding the ball, getting the ball down low offensively and then at the end when you have a great player like Bryan, who

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ATTEMPTING THE RIGHT STUFF...Blue Devil Casey El Koury, No. 12, attempts to stuff the ball held by Raider Lauren Mains but also grabs her arm and commits a foul. The Blue Devils defeated the Raiders, 70-43.

MILLER BUCKETS 21 POINTS, ZAZZALI PUMPS IN 12

Lady Blue Devil Cagers Rock Raiders in 2nd Q., Win 70-43

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

Free throws littered the air in an emotionally charged basketball game that was won by the Westfield High School girls over archrival Scotch Plains-Fanwood, 70-43, in Westfield on January 4. Interestingly, it was the first time this century (2000) that the Blue Devil girls have defeated the Raiders.

The two teams combined for 62 free throws, with the Blue Devils hitting 19 of 26 (73 percent) and the

Raiders hitting 23 of 36 (63 percent), which translated to an abundance of fouls. Also, there were several fouls recorded in which no players went to the charity line.

Since pre-season, the 5-2 Lady Blue Devils, who lost to the Raiders last year, 33-19—the game was tied 15-15 entering the fourth quarter—and 51-35, were chomping at the bit to settle the score against their rivals.

The first chink in the 4-3 Raiders' armor appeared in the first quarter when the Blue Devils broke an 11-11 tie with a 10-6 run, which included back-to-back 3-pointers from Tara Hanzda (6 points, 3 steals, 2 assists) and Miller. Raider Allie Zazzali put in eight of her 12 points and, earlier in the quarter, Blue Devil Katie Cronen (2 rebounds) penetrated inside and scored five of her six points.

"That's what our game plan was, try to get Cronen inside because they

were going to be sleeping on her. She's got a good little left hand and she got the job done," said Blue Devil Head Coach Joe Marino.

The Blue Devils inflicted a huge dent with a 23-7 run in the second quarter. Part of the damage, however, may have been self-inflicted because the Raiders were way off in their shooting from the field. Meanwhile, Miller (7 rebounds, 2 steals), who finished with 21 points, hit from all over the court, drove to the basket, drew fouls—hitting 5-for-6 free throws—and netted 14 points in the quarter.

Trailing 44-24 at the half, the Raiders could never recover and remained out of their game. Each team went to the line eight times. The Raiders sank seven but the Blue Devils, who sank

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WORKING ON AN ARM BAR...Blue Devil Colin MacKay, top, works on an arm bar in an effort to turn Raider Mike Ferrara to his back in the 130-lb bout. MacKay won, 4-0.

MACKAY, BOYD, CANNON, DESIATO WIN KEY BOUTS

Raiders Get Lion's Share, Ice Blue Devil Wrestlers, 58-15

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

Jockeying for a more advantageous position for the Union County and District 11 tournaments, which will take place on January 26 and February 16, respectively, the hosting Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School wrestling team grabbed the lion's share by winning six of the nine face-to-face bouts en route to a 58-15 victory over Westfield on January 5.

The 7-1 Raiders also received five forfeits, which included the first two weight classes of the evening—heavyweight and 103-lbs. Then Tristan Bundy scored three takedowns and a tilt to claim an 8-0, majority decision

over Blue Devil Nick DeFraitais at 112-lbs to make the team score 16-0. "Tristan has been pushing himself really hard in practice, going with bigger kids. Wrestling 112, it's going to make it real difficult for others to score on him," said Raider Head Coach John Scholz.

Blue Devil John Barnes came to life, after ceding a takedown and a two-point tilt to Jawan Gaines, to rack up a 12-8 lead before registering a 3:53 fall from the takedown at 119-lbs.

"John is the kind of guy who can make a mistake and he recovers from it very well. The mistakes he's making, he's making because he is aggressive. I have no problem with that,"

said Blue Devil Head Coach Glen Kurz. "He still has a good amount of fine tuning to do but you can't question that kid's heart and intensity."

At 125, Raider Sal Gano used a tight half nelson to pin Joe Panarese in 52 seconds then Blue Devil Colin MacKay scored a takedown and a reversal to win a 4-0 decision over Mike Ferrara at 130-lbs. MacKay attempted some hard-nosed half nelson, arm bar maneuvers but could not turn the mat savvy Ferrara.

"He was staying tough on bottom. I was dominating on top. I just had trouble turning him. I wrestled smart and 4-0 is perfectly fine with me.

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