#### **BOYD, MACKAY RECORD VICTORIES**

# **Brearley Matmen Beat Highlanders, Blue Devils**

By DAVID B. CORBIN After defeating AL Johnson, 41-28,

the Westfield High School wrestling team ran into a buzz saw against 2006 Union County champs and stateranked powerhouse David Brearley in a quad match in Kenilworth on January 6. The Brearley Bears, who defeated the Blue Devils, 69-12, also

defeated Governor Livingston, 47-24. Colin MacKay and Mark Boyd were the only Blue Devils to reach the win column against the 13-1 Bears. MacKay (130-lbs) was defeated earlier in the afternoon by ALJ's stateranked Anthony Priore, who earned his 100th varsity career victory with that win, but he went into his bout with Bear Jem Vigilante with a fierce determination. After scoring a quick takedown, MacKay stacked Vigilante in 1:33 with a double arm bar, sitthrough maneuver.

"There's no way I was going to lose a second match today," commented MacKay

At 160-lbs, Boyd took Brian Zengewald to the mats and pinned him with a far arm corkscrew and a body press in 1:18.

At 119-lbs, Blue Devil John Barnes learned a new move. Unfortunately, the move was presented to him by Bear John Calderone who pinned him with a spladle – the move was created by Collegiate Hall of Famer Wade Schalles from Hollidaysburg, Pa. - in 53 seconds.

Blue Devil Andy Castrorao dropped a tight, 3-1, bout to Steve Margolin at 152-lbs. After a standing first period,

#### **Blue Devil Icemen Top** Cranford Cougars, 4-2

The Westfield High School ice hockey team upped it record to 5-3-1 with a 4-2 victory over Cranford on January 3 at Warinanco Arena in Roselle. Jimmy Bender flicked in three goals and Brian Davidson netted one for the Blue Devils and goalie Eric Zagorski made 22 saves



Margolin slid behind for a takedown then Castrorao escaped. Margolin added an escape in the third period.

The Governor Livingston Highlanders received victories from four of their five big wrestlers against the Bears in addition to receiving a forfeit at 189-lbs.

GL's Rob Coughlin used his leg wrestling proficiency to ride out a 1-0 victory over Margolin at 145-lbs. Mike Mattingly (152-lbs) racked up an escape, a takedown and two nearfall tilts to claim a 9-2 triumph over Bear Tom Mannix. At 160-lbs, Highlander Scott Mack increased his stock quite a bit when he pinned Anthony Evans in 5:42 with a figure four of the head after recording two nearfall tilts, a reversal and a takedown. GL's final win came at 130-lbs when Steve Reedy made the best of a wild bout with Vigilante to grab a fall in 3:36.

At 171-lbs, GL's Matt Fullowan dropped an 8-4 decision to a very tough Umar Tamarov and, at 140-lbs, Erik Midtbo became the recipient a takedown clinic in a 20-7 loss to Bear

#### ary Morristown High School baseball coach Harry Shatel earned. You would think the state's all-time winningest coach would have earned a bit more than that. Current high school athletes get bigger stories when they sign to attend some college. But that's how life goes, isn't it?

A tiny little five-paragraph short,

stuck in the bottom corner of The Star-

Ledger's second sports page on Jan. 2.

That was all the retirement of legend-

You devote hours and years to helping kids, and you get a four- or five-paragraph story in the local paper, summing up your accomplishments. And, except in the rare cases, within a couple years, unlike Norm at Cheers, nobody knows your name.

Think that's not true? How many students at WHS, if given a quiz today, would know who Gary Kehler is and what he did to get the football stadium named after him? How many students walking the halls of WHS today would know that English teacher Shaun Cherewich created the school's lacrosse program in the late 1970s and turned it into a state power? Think

# **Blue Devil Keglers Whip** Linden, MXS, Jefferson

The Westfield High School varsity bowling team extended its record to 12-0 with a 4-3 win over Linden on January 2 and a 7-0 blanking of Shabazz in Watchung Conference (WC) activity. The Blue Devils also defeated Jefferson Township at the Sparta New Year's Eve tournament.

The Blue Devils lead the WC with a 53-3 points advantage over rivals Linden and Elizabeth who both have 45-11 point records. In the Linden match, juniors Jesse Embry and Brett Ettinger led the Blue Devils with series scores of 635 and 602, respectfully. Senior Co-Captain Harrison Mercado shot a 596 series.

Against Shabazz, Ettinger had his high game and tied his high series of the year as he shot games of 279 and 247 to finish with a 703 series. Senior Alex Wronski rolled a 641 series with a high game of 256.

Westfield also bowled in the 21st Annual Brick Tournament on January 6 and edged Lacey Township by shooting a 3,529 series to 3,513. Senior Co-Captain Bryan Elsasser rolled games of 278 and 242 and finished with a 710 series.

On extremely slick lanes, the junior varsity bowling team had its 30game winning streak stopped in a 5-2 win over Linden.

Coach Mike Tirone commented, "It was the first time all year where we did not bowl to our abilities."

The JVs quickly got back on track on with a 7-0 shellacking of Shabazz. Eric Curialle finished with a 644 series. Trevor Yee shot a 608 series and Arley Rojas shot 591

The JVs increased their record to 3-0 verses varsity teams by defeating Middletown North, 7-0, in the Brick Tournament. Rojas rolled a 694 series that included games of 248, 210 and 236. Yee turned in another solid effort with scores of 202, 211 and 210 for a 623 total. Newcomer Justin Frazier-Wright showed promise as he had a 568 series.

This coming Saturday, January 13, the Blue Devils will compete in the prestigious Mid Winter Classic at Carolier Lanes

"There will be 82 teams in the tournament and we will know a lot more about our team," commented Devil's Den

### **State's Winningest Coach** Sails Quietly Into Sunset

By BRUCE JOHNSON
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and

**Erin Miller** Girls basketball

anybody in Clark today knows the difference between Arthur L. Johnson and Howard Johnson, the old restau-

rant/motel next to the Parkway that is now a giant ShopRite? Coaches do what they do. They move on. Life rolls along. And so it goes. But when I saw that short on Harry Shatel last week, my mind filled with memories of long-ago spring days. In the late 1960s, WHS had a baseball coach named Norm Koury. In five years at WHS, Captain Nemo's teams won a pair of Union County championships and played a tough, hardnosed brand of "inside" baseball that has all but disappeared from the face of the earth. Bunts, run-and-hits,

was heaven. After the 1967 season, Koury left WHS to coach at Morristown, where his first team produced similar results. But when his alma mater, Cranford, came calling for a football/baseball coach in 1969, Koury left Mo'town and was replaced by his assistant ... you guessed it, Harry Shatel, himself a former Colonial star.

steals, double suicide squeeze bunts,

and solid defense. If you liked 2-1

games that took 12 innings and saw

both teams combine for six hits, it

That might have been the end of the story but in 1973 I got a job at the Daily Record in Parsippany, which covered Morris County, where Morristown is located. Covering and watching Morristown baseball became a highlight, not just for me, but for just about our entire staff. Even on days off, I would drive to Randolph, or Livingston or Roxbury to join my buddies as we watched Shatel hit infield practice. You can tell a lot about a team during infield practice and nobody, ever, did it better than Shatel. He was like a magician, using two balls simultaneously in the infield, and hitting the balls to the outfielders both right- and left-handed. Hitting popups to the catcher, never an easy thing to do, was a piece of cake for Shatel. It was like a show. I felt we should have scorecards, like diving judges at the Olympics, and flash "10" or "9.5" after each performance.

The one Morristown game that always stands out for me came in maybe 1974 or '75, a game at "The High" against Livingston, with the conference title on the line. With Rick (Hollywood) Sofield on third base after a game-tying triple in the bottom of the seventh, catcher Walt Bastecki, a fouryear cleanup hitter, stepped to the plate. Current thinking would be, a) walk him intentionally, or b) he would step into the batter's box looking to swing.

But this was the '70s and this was Harry Shatel. Bastecki looked for his sign. The pitcher pitched and Bastecki fouled off a squeeze bunt. He looked for another sign. The pitcher pitched and Bastecki fouled off another squeeze bunt. Two strikes. Protect the plate. Just make contact. No need to look for a sign, right? Bastecki looked for his sign. The pitcher pitched and, as Sofield raced toward home, Bastecki squared around and put down the bunt successfully for a 4-3 victory.

Our reporter asked Bastecki if he was surprised that Shatel had him, a slugging catcher and major RBI man, bunting. "No," was the reply.

Even with two strikes? "No. All I knew was, with two strikes, if I missed getting the bunt down, he would have me out here until midnight tonight bunting. And I didn't want to do that."

Things change over the years. But Morristown baseball remained a power through all the years, winning yet another state title under Shatel this past June. Despite their proximity, WHS and Morristown rarely met in baseball — Shatel was 5-5 against the Blue Devils (0-1 vs. Dave Cilo, 4-1 vs. Pete Lima and 1-3 against Bob Brewster).

(The last meeting, a 5-3 Morristown win in the 1995 North 2 Group 4 final, ended the most glorious baseball season in WHS history at 27-3. That WHS team featured Kris Williams, Steve Cheek, Brian Ciemniecki, Ryan Mann and Jorge Amorim. If WHS had won that game, and two more, it would've been the first state title in school history and that team would've ioined the '85 softball team with 30

victories in a season.) In June 2004, I saw that Morristown was playing Steinert in what I figured would be a great state Group 4 final at Toms River East. And, of course, one more chance to relive my past and watch Shatel put his Colonials through that amazing infield drill. I got down there plenty early. Shatel got off the bus and slowly walked to a seat in the dugout, where he stayed the entire game. The infield drill, while still outstanding and fun to watch, was handled by his assistants.

Time, as it always does, was claiming another coach. Saying he had "lost the passion that the kids deserve," the 62-year-old Shatel hung 'em up last week with a 38-year record of 752 wins, 321 losses, and 10 ties that included 12 Morris County championships and three state titles. He'll spend his retirement in Ormond-by-the-Sea, Fla., with his scrapbooks and old team photos hanging on the walls. And he'll probably never know the joy he gave a

bunch of 30-something sports writers back in the 1970s, guys who were high in the saddle themselves back then and loved watching his team play base-

**Devil of the Week** 

#### IN PASSING

We received word the other night that Jim Howard, '75, had lost a long battle with cancer. An outstanding middle guard on WHS's unbeaten 1974 football team, Howard went 25-3-1 and finished third in the state at heavy-

#### weight as a senior. **SWIMMING UPDATE**

The WHS boys and girls swim teams will be competing at the 28th Pirate Invitational this weekend at West Windsor-Plainsboro South. Both teams will be short-handed, with many of their top swimmers (P.J. Harley, Chris DeLaFuente, Kylie Fraser, Alexi Kuska and Jill Kandigan) competing with the club team at the Burgdorff Invitational at Rutgers. The swimmers will be at Pingry this afternoon at 3:30, and host Hillsborough next Thursday at 2:30.

#### HALL OF FAME UPDATE

We ran into Scott Eichhorn at the WestfieldY recently, where the former WHS swimmer works out several days a week. In his youth Eichhorn was a pretty good baseball player, a catcher. He noted that as 12-year-olds on the Tigers, he and Steve Lee had been the team's two representatives in the annual All-Star game, which was interesting because another Tiger 12-yearold that year was Steve Tebbetts, who went on to star at WHS, Florida State, played several years of minor league ball and who had just been inducted into the Westfield Athletic Hall of

Eichhorn went on to be a standout swimmer at both WHS and in college, and Lee was a backup point guard to Steve Reddy on WHS's 1972 state Group 4 champion basketball team. DEVIL OF THE WEEK

#### As always, a big game against Scotch Plains is the quickest way to be Devil of the Week and earn a free sub

from Al the Owner at Westfield Subs (261 South Avenue East). This week's freebie goes to junior guard Erin Miller, who lit up the Raiders for 21 points last Thursday in a 70-43 win. Note: Any wrestlers who are named

Devil of the Week, like Colin MacKay recently, can pick up their sub after their final weigh-ins of the season.

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.

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