

# Brearley/Hackettstown Match Brings Class to Union County

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

Rarely, in recent history, have two, top-20 ranked wrestling teams gone head-to-head in a dual meet in Union County. That rare event took place before a packed house in the David Brearley High School gym in Kenilworth on January 3 with the ninth-ranked Hackettstown Tigers being forced to win the final three bouts to pull out a 33-28 victory over the 14th-ranked Brearley Bears. (Note: Hackettstown is now ranked

5:09 at 160-lbs and state-ranked Zach Ulm had his hands full with Bear Umar Tamarov, but pulled out a 4-3 decision at 171-lbs. Afterwards, the Bears won the next five bouts. "We knew what kind of a wrestler he (Ulm) was. Umar did a great job. He wrestled well," commented Luciani. At 189-lbs, Hany El Shiekh muscled Rich Peter to his back with a short lateral in 3:18. State-ranked 215-lb Jessie Boyden amassed six takedowns, four penalty points and

third period to defeat Nick Souder, 5-2. No. 3 ranked 103-lb Kenny Knapp smothered Cory Kozimor in 3:48 with a hammer arm bar and 112-lb Allen Phillips scored a two-point nearfall in the second period to defeat Travis Tjong, 2-0. Luckson Etienne earned the 2-0 Tigers three team points with a 7-1 decision over Dan Conroy at 119-lbs but Rob Piper got a takedown, an escape and a penalty point to gain a crucial, 4-2 victory over previously 13-0 Keith Morris at 125-lbs to put the Bears ahead 25-18. At 130-lbs, Joe Lospinoso followed with three spin-behind takedowns and an escape to defeat Keith Swanson, 7-2, to set up the drama of the final three bouts. "All the way up and down the lineup, the young kids stepped up. Allen Phillips did a tremendous job. Rob Piper beat one of their better boys. El Shiekh's pin was huge. Boyden did great on his feet. (Bourland) did a great job of not giving up bonus points. DeBeau battled hard and won a key match," said Luciani. "Overall, the boys wrestled hard. They were number nine in the state. We were five points away from them. Now we want to see what else we want to do."

**WEIGHT SEQUENCE:**  
152: — O. Vernon (H) p Evans, 3:31  
160: — Mitchell (H) p Brian Zengewald, 5:09  
171: — Zach Ulm (H) d Tamarov, 4-3  
189: — El Shiekh (B) p Peter, 3:18  
215: — Boyden (B) md Bourland, 17-7  
Hwt: — DeBeau (B) d Souder, 5-2  
103: — Knapp (B) p Kozimor, 3:48  
112: — Phillips (B) d Tjong, 2-0  
119: — Etienne (H) d Conroy, 7-1  
125: — Piper (B) d Morris, 4-2  
130: — Lospinoso (B) d Swanson, 7-2  
135: — T. Ulm (H) p Mraz, 4:49  
140: — Strathern (H) d Loffa, 3-1  
145: — Cory Vernon (H) won forfeit



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
TAKING CONTROL...Brearley's Joe Lospinoso, top, works to slip behind Hackettstown's Keith Swanson in the 130-lb bout. Lospinoso won, 7-2.

eight and Brearley is ranked 12th). The 9-1 Bears held a 28-18 lead entering those final three bouts - 135, 140 and 145-lbs - and needed to win one by decision to clinch victory. After a very close bout, Tiger Taylor Ulm, with a great counter move on Bear Joe Mraz's takedown attempt, clamped in a cradle to record a fall in 4:49 to tighten the score to 28-24. At 140-lbs, Tiger Billy Strathern got a takedown late in the third period to salvage a 3-1 victory over Matt Loffa, making the score 28-27, then highly ranked Cory Vernon received a forfeit to give Hackettstown the victory. "Hackettstown did a great job. They won where they were supposed to win. We pulled some matches out that helped us out a bit. The bottom line is we got outwrestled for five points," said Bear Head Coach Brian Luciani. "There are a lot of things coming up that will make us better because of this match." The Bears, however, fell into a 15-0 hole early on when Tiger Owen Vernon caught Anthony Evans in a cradle in 3:31 at 152-lbs. JJ Mitchell pulled off a barrel roll to a pin via half nelson in

an escape to claim a 17-7, majority decision over a conservative Pat Bourland. Heavyweight Eric DeBeau used two throw-by takedowns in the



Pat Mineo (145) SPF Raiders



Anthony Priore (130) ALJ Crusaders

**High School Wrestling 'Cream of the Crop'**  
Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School senior Pat Mineo and A. L. Johnson senior Anthony Priore broke the 100-career varsity wins mark in wrestling on January 6. Competing at 145-lbs, Mineo won all three of his bouts at the Patriot Duals at North Warren High School to up his win record to 101. Priore recorded his 100th win with an 11-3 victory over Westfield's Colin MacKay in the 130-lb class at the Brearley Quad meet in Kenilworth. Priore added another victory that day against Governor Livingston.



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
TIGHTENING UP THE CORK...Blue Devil Mark Boyd, top, tightens his far arm corkscrew pinning combination on Brearley's Brian Zengewald in the 160-lb bout at the Brearley/Westfield/Governor Livingston/Johnson Quad meet.

# Blue Devil Matmen Push Past AL Johnson Crusaders, 41-28

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

Clinging to a 29-24 lead, the Westfield High School wrestling team won three of the final four bouts to claim a 41-28 victory over A.L. Johnson in Kenilworth on January 6.

Beginning at 140-lbs, the Blue Devils rattled off five-straight victories before the Crusaders got on the board with a fall at 189. Sam Reichbach recorded the 5-3 Blue Devils' first bout victory when he scored two takedowns and a back arm bar to command a 9-2 decision over Tony Sansone. "I was able to take him down, broke him down and tried to load him up with an arm bar. With the score, 2-1, I got on top again, stayed as tough as I could and went into a bar. I had enough gas in the tank to turn him a couple of times and get some backs off of that."

At 152, Andy Castrorao roared to an 8-0 advantage then turned Frank Coler to his back in 3:40. Mark Boyd used an arsenal of moves to grab a 12-0, majority decision over Chris Golias at 160-lbs. "On my feet, I used my singles a lot. He tried to go upper body, but I'm kind of tall, so I just jacked him up a little," said Boyd. "I saved some energy for the end, managed to get a cradle but was unable to put him away because he kept flipping his hips up. I need to put my bottom knee in right away."

After Westfield received a forfeit at 171, the Crusaders collected a fall at 189 then Willie Johnson put the Blue

Devils in front, 29-6, by grabbing a 9-0, majority decision over Matt Golias. Johnson worked a single leg takedown and a near-fall in the first period, escaped in the second and worked a grapevine in the third period. At 119 lbs, Blue Devil John Barnes clamped Mark Dimasio to the mat in 3:55. Barnes built a 7-0 lead before using a back arm and a head smother for the fall. Joe Panarese used an ankle pick takedown and an escape to claim a 5-1 decision over 125-lb Crusader John Capinagro. "Once we make it past the first two periods, we can dominate the third because we are better conditioned," said Panarese. "I looked to take him down, maybe ride him and tire him out going into the last period. I looked for some under-hooks, trying to do high-C' and singles to break him down."

In a battle of two fine 130-lb wrestlers, Crusader Anthony Priore, registered his 100th victory with an 11-3, majority decision over Colin MacKay. "Recently ranked seventh in the state, I tried not to let that bother me," said MacKay. "The big thing about him is he capitalizes on mistakes and I made many, not detrimental mistakes going to my back but mistakes that cost me the match. I went out there hard, aggressive and that's the best I can ask of myself."

Matt Shaffer finalized the scoring with a 10-4 decision over Mike Newman at 135-lbs. Shaffer scored two takedowns and brought his opponent to his back to build a 7-4 second-period lead. "He likes to go for funky stuff and I was able to watch out for that," said Shaffer. "When I turned him a couple of times, he tried to roll me through but I was able to control my body lean and hold him down with that. I knew my shots would work on him and halfway through I noticed he started to tire. I then started beating him mentally."

"This was the type of match that we were looking for. They executed perfectly. They showed toughness, heart and conditioning and came together as a team," said Blue Devil Head Coach Glen Kurz. "Coming in, we figured 135 and 140 were toss-ups. We physically beat them up in both of those matches. Matt Shaffer gave Newman a pretty good beating, Matt Reichbach really took it to Sansone and Joe Panarese came through with a gutsy effort. We brought Johnson up who went out there aggressive and smart and did exactly what we asked of him. We know we're a young team. We know we are going to improve and these kids are proving that with their great work ethic. Today they came to wrestle. If they wrestle every match out, we're going to be okay."

**WEIGHT SEQUENCE**  
140: - Reichbach (W) d Sansone, 9-2  
145: - John Falzon (W) won forfeit  
152: - Castrorao (W) p Coler, 3:40  
160: - Boyd (W) md C. Golias, 12-0  
171: - Bill Kim (W) won forfeit  
189: - Matt Kohen (J) p Andrew Wenta, 3:49  
215: - Johnson (W) md M. Golias, 9-0  
Hwt: - Erik Kramer (J) won forfeit  
103: - Chris Roberts (J) won forfeit  
112: - Joe Kilberg (J) won forfeit  
119: - Barnes (W) p Dimasio, 3:55  
125: - Panarese (W) d Capinagro, 5-1  
130: - Priore (J) md Mackay, 11-3  
135: - Shaffer (W) d Newman, 10-4

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