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THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section
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MILLER NETS 12 PTS.; VENEZIA, CRONEN SIX EACH

Blue Devil Hoopsters Topple Lady Blue Knights, 32-29

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

Ball-hawking, teamwork along with the clutch shooting of Erin Miller, made the difference as the Westfield High School girls' basketball team tipped the Irvington Blue Knights,

32-29, in Westfield on January 13. Miller, a junior forward, fired in six of her 11 points in the fourth quarter. She totaled two rebounds and was the big thief with six. Diana Venezia pulled down six rebounds and poured in six points, while Katie Cronen

bagged six points, pulled down eight rebounds and added three assists. Gab O'Leary swiped four basketballs, added three assists and scored one point. Kerri Pringle earned four points, three assists, three rebounds and two steals. Tara Handza netted two points, one assist, one rebound and three steals. Danielle Infantino finished with two points and three assists and Gabby Jakub contributed five rebounds. Nicole Pendarvis led the 6-6 Blue Knights with 11 points.

"We were flat, that's for sure. We had a lot of open shots and we missed them," said Westfield Head Coach Joe Marino. "We knew Irvington was coming in with two good athletes and we had to play very solid defense and deny those girls the ball. Our goal was to push them to the outside and beat them to the spot and that's what we did. We did, however, go to our bench a couple of times to keep everyone fresh."

The 7-3 Blue Devils never did get untracked in the first half. Miller hit the target from 3-point range, Venezia nailed a jumper and Cronen hit two free throws in the first quarter. Three

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Fred K. Lecomte for The Westfield Leader and The Times
NO STOPPING THIS GAL...Coming around determined and then scoring is Diana Venezia. The Blue Devil freshman pulled down six rebounds and poured in six points. Westfield beat Irvington, 32-29.

BARNES BEATS 2-TIME DISTRICT CHAMP HERRERA

Blue Devil Wrestlers Defeat Nwk Central, Fall to Rahway

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

Presenting a handful of competitors, the Westfield High School wrestling team defeated Newark Central, 48-18, then lost to host Rahway, 52-21, on January 13. Blue Devil John Barnes (119-lbs) upped his stock dramatically when he soundly defeated Rahway's Juan Herrera, a two-time District 11 champ, and Mark Boyd continued his roll of vicious wrestling with a pair of pins.

Only four bouts were contested in the Newark Central match but Boyd tallied three takedowns on team captain Chad Hopkins before pinning him in 3:54 with a half nelson at 160-lbs. At 135-lbs, Matt Shaffer was in a battle with a very physical Quadeer Porter but he used a yank-and-crank half nelson to end the bout in 5:35. At 140-lbs, Sam Reichbach recorded a fall in 1:20 over Tyree Wise.

Of the eight contested bouts against the Rahway Indians, the Blue Devils

won five. In the first two bouts, at 145-lbs and 152-lbs, Indian Kevin Barbijal used a cradle to pin John Falzon in 1:35 and Aaron Hurtand stacked Rob Granstrand in 1:09, respectively. Blue Devil Andy Castoraro recorded three takedowns and an escape to defeat Elias Acuna, 7-1, at 160-lbs.

Wrestling at 171-lbs, Boyd scored a quick takedown, then used a pull back to a head smother to quiet Ricky Walsh in 1:42.

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David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
SETTING UP THE FINISHING TOUCH...Blue Devil Mark Boyd, top, pinned Chad Hopkins of Newark Central in 3:54 in his 160-lb bout.



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
RUNNING NECK-AND-NECK IN THE TWO MILE...Blue Devil Gus Gibbons, left, and Raider Pat Doliber, center, run neck-and-neck in the first leg of the two-mile relay at the Union County relays.

BLUE DEVILS FINISH SECOND IN DISTANCE MEDLEY

Raiders Set Shot Put Record At Union County Boys Relays

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

Mike Alleman, John Badala and Jon Birbaum combined to set a meet record in the shot put to help the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School boys indoor track team finish fourth at the Union County Boys Relays at Dunn Center in Elizabeth on January 10. The Raiders totaled 30 points, while Rahway won the title with 45 points followed by Elizabeth at 35 and Union at 33. Westfield finished in a three-way tie with Roselle and Summit for fifth with 20 points.

Alleman had the best toss of the evening when his orb plunged into the mat 54-9.75 feet away from the circle. Birbaum had a personal-best toss of 43-8.75 and Badala, who had fouled on his first two throws, had a heave of 47-5.75 on his fourth throw to give the threesome a distance of 146-0.25 to break the previous record

of 142-3.5 set by Union in 1999. Badala, who has a spinning release form, made it interesting when his earlier throws soared off to the right.

"We are always watching each other, trying to help each other out," said Alleman who added, "I told him (Badala) after his second foul, 'You need a mark'. He threw around 45 then he even went up to 47. That was really good! Birbaum threw really good today."

As it had in the Union County tournament last spring, Alleman's stiffest individual competition has come from AL Johnson's Ollie Haney who finished with a throw of 52-9. The two

friends seem to complement each other. "I love it! It just gets me a lot more excited. It pushes both of us," commented Alleman.

Blue Devils Erik Anderson at 46 feet, Sean Palme at 34-3.5 and Jim Thayer at 40-3.5 took sixth in the shot put with a distance of 120-7.

The Raiders were expected to win the shot put but, prior to the meet, there were questions as to what would be needed to help their chances of winning the title.

"Right now, the teams are balanced, Elizabeth and Union are very balanced. I don't think we can outscore

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