Fred K. Lecomte for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*

SNAGGING FIRST PLACE…Raider junior Melissa Helock is pleased after overtaking Immaculate Heart's Chloe Conjares off the last turn in the 200-individual medley (IM). Helock touched in 2:15.8.

Immaculate Heart Stops SPF Swim Girls, 115-55

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

The fourth-ranked Immaculate Heart Academy (IHA) High School girls swimming team glided smoothly past 11th-ranked Scotch Plains-Fanwood, 115-55, at the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Y in Scotch Plains on January 11. The 9-0 IHA Blue Devils swept 10 of 11 events.

Minus top swimmer, junior captain Jillian Murphy, who fractured her hand in practice, only junior Melissa Helock whizzed through the water to snag first in the 200-individual medley (IM) event. Helock coming off the last turn with her freestyle, overtook Chloe Conjares and touched first in 2:15.8.

"It was difficult knowing that Jill was not going to be here to compete along with Kim Rizzo and Becca Fox, however I believe we did well considering not having those girls," said Helock. "Personally, I'm doing okay since I'm just getting back from a shoulder injury, however my performances could be better but I'm getting there. In the 200-individual medley (IM), I got first place, placed second in the 100-freestyle, the 200 and the 400-free medley relay. Missing a lot of people, our goal is simply for all of us to be healthy for states and do well."

"We're still swimming very well. Unfortunately we're still down a couple of kids health wise," said Raider Head Coach Jessica Hulnik. "Three teams we lost to were No. 1, No. 2 and No. 4 in the state. We had a good meet with Westfield, had quite a few events where we placed out but still swam well. We had a nice meet with Mt. St. Mary's where we swam fast. We just keep on getting hit with an injury and an illness bug here and there. On the positive end of things, Melissa (Helock) is doing well, Mary Henkels and Jillian, up until (injury). Anyway, we do have a great crew of freshman. Our breaststroker, we have Kelsey Rossi. Stephanie Baliko, Rebecca Dunn and really coming in to an all around swimmer is Kelly Gajdzisz in the distance and she can also sprint a little bit. Kaye Johnson is doing a great job. They are all doing very, very well."

50-free: Bryeanne Ravettine (IH) 25:19
100-free: Ravettine (IH) 54:36
200-free: Alexis Satigati (IH) 2:01;38
500-free: Satogati (IH) 5:29.62
100-breast: Suhro (IH) 1:10.94
100-fly: Kunnapas (IH) 1:00.61
100-back: Romain (IH) 1:02.08
200-IM: Melissa Helock (SPF) 2:15.8
200-free relay: IH (Fuhro, Kunharas, Williams, Ravettine) 1:43.55
400-free relay: IH (Romain, Nuzzo, Satigato, Ravettine) 3:47.26
200-medley relay: IH (Kunnapas, Suhro, Romain, Williams) 1:54.32

Blue Devil Cagers Rap Irvington Boys, 54-39

The Westfield High School boys basketball team scored 33 points in the second half to insure a 54-39 victory over host Irvington on January 13. Mike Venezia and Dan Pritsker each bucketed 13 points, Santo Nardi sank 10, Tom Bonard put in eight, Mike Lessner netted seven and Tony DiIorio added three.

Westfield	**11**	**10**	**13**	**20**	**54**
Irvington	**7**	**11**	**8**	**13**	**39**

See photos of Sports: on www.goleader.com
Westfield/Rahway Wrestling
Union County Boys Relays
SPF/Brearley Wrestling
SPF Boys/Girls Swimming
Westfield/Irvington Basketball

Devil's Den

Got a Hall of Famer For the Class of '08?

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

Devils of the Week
Jimmy Bender
John Attanasio
Ice hockey

The Westfield Athletic Hall of Fame has been in existence for 13 years and had seven induction dinners, the last coming this past Nov. 20. There have been 60 athletes, 10 coaches and nine teams introduced into the WAHF. And the talent level seemed to be just as strong in the seventh group as it was at the first.

While the ideal situation is for athletes, coaches and teams to be nominated by an outside source, the truth is that most of those who have been considered came from a list created by the WAHF committee. To nominate someone doesn't take very long, and a form can be filled out quite easily. Go to www.westfieldnj.com/whaf/nominate.htm and copy and fill out the form for your nominee.

Here is a list of the people and teams who are currently under consideration for the induction class of 2008:

Individual: Mike Abeles, Jenee Anzelone, Drew Cary, Lynne Cassidy, Neil Chamberlin, Greg Chlan, Gordon Clark, Dave Coleman, Chuck Cosenza, Jill Dame, Bob Davis, Joey Deer, Julie Elmuccio, Clint Factor, Kathy Federici, Bob Felter, Matt Frawley, Dan Gilday, Phil Gottlick, Ron Hall, Paul Healy, Marty Howarth, Chris Infantino, Chris Jordan, Paul Jordan, John Ketcham, Bob King,

Also, K.C. Knobloch, Jim Kovacs, Rebecca Krohn, Skeeter MacCloskey, Steve McCoy, Chris McFadden, Spud Monroe, Noreen Morris, Don Mutz, Vicki Nusse, Cory Posey, Dennis Powers, Buddy Robinson, Rick Sampson, Gregg Schmalz, Greg Schmidt, Steve Schramm, Bret Schundler, Jen Schwarzenbek, Kurt Stiefken, Dick Stotler, Aimee Stout, Natalie Urciuoli, Amy Williams, Joe Wilson, Janney Zonnevylle.

Old-timers (pre-1960): Sam Arbes, Floyd Beane, George Clarke, Bob Dougherty, Frank Feeley, Walt Hansgen, Jim Kane, Bob List, Red MacCloskey, Ed McGinley, Charlie Schrope, Karney Scioscia, Pump Vella, Ken Welch.

Coach/administrator: Tony Berardo, Bob Brewster Sr., Sam Bunting, Stu Carey, Shaun Cherewich, Perry Coultas, Bruce Johnson, Roger Love, Don MacDonald, Maggie McFadden, Al Pfeiffer, Carol Lee Weis, Dick Zimmer, Les Zorge.

Team: 1966 baseball, 1995 baseball, 1959 boys basketball, 1995 girls cross country, 1930-31 football, 1941 football, 1961 football, 1986 boys soccer, 1991 boys soccer, 1995 boys soccer, 1985 softball, 1969-70 boys swimming, 1992 boys swimming, 1987-88 girls swimming, 1978 boys tennis, 1986-87 boys tennis, 1973 boys track, 1967 wrestling, 1973 wrestling.

It's very possible the committee has overlooked somebody, or some team. If there is somebody or some team you feel should be added to those lists, please go to the website mentioned earlier and fill out a form. And do it today. The committee's next meeting, when it begins consideration for the 2008 inductees, is in May.

COUNTING THE DAYS

OK, it's still the middle of January, but I can't wait for the start of baseball season, which is strange, given that WHS graduated arguably the best offensive group (Mike Murray, Tom Ricciuti, Mike Diaz, Alex Zierler, Jay Anderson, Craig Ellis, Brandon Cuba, Dave Kaplow) in school history.

Maybe it's because there's just something exciting about the group of guys who will be out there this spring. Tom Bonard, Justin Olsen, Sean Ferro, Joe Vall-Llobera, Joe Schurig, Pete Antonelli, Kevin Hennessey, Evan Shapiro, Mike Lessner, and Dan Melillo, are a nice nucleus to build around. There's also the guys coming up from jayvees, and some who played American Legion ball last summer. And who knows, maybe Mike Venezia returns to the diamond for his senior year after taking last spring off to concentrate on basketball.

Unlike the last few years' teams, this group won't be playing Home Run Derby, although Olsen figures to get his share. But these guys should be a lot of fun to watch running around the bases and scrapping for runs. For me, the 1934 St. Louis Cardinals ("the Gashouse Gang") would always be way more fun to watch than the 1927 Yankees ("Murderers' Row").

IT'S 'SHOWTIME'

With so many of today's youth having grown up in the "showtime" era of Magic Johnson, Michael Jordan, Kobe Bryant and SportsCenter, here's a wish that they all read the upcoming book about the late Pete Maravich by former New York *Daily News* writer Mark Kriegel.

"Pistol Pete" was an amazing basketball prodigy, who led the nation in scoring three straight years at LSU, averaging nearly 45 points a game in the era *before* the 3-point shot, where many of his baskets came from. In a way, he was the opposite of everything I believed in basketball-wise: he was shoot first, pass only as an afterthought, and don't worry about defense. But the thing is, he was so good, so ahead of his time, and I loved his game.

The things that Johnson and Jordan did and Bryant still does to light up SportsCenter every night, that was all stuff Pistol did 15, 20 years earlier. Nobody ever could handle a ball like Pistol, or shoot it. He was a Caucasian Harlem Globetrotter, but even better.

Once at the Basketball Hall of Fame up in Springfield, Mass., I had a couple of friends check out the videos of Pete in action. They'd heard me bragging about him but, typically, thought it was just talk about the good ol' days. They watched and couldn't believe it. It was like watching old black and white films of Jimmy Brown running the football, or Sandy Koufax pitching.

There's a great line in the book, about Magic Johnson going up to Maravich's sons at the ceremony for *Sports Illustrated*'s Top 50 players of all-time. Magic told them, "People think I was 'showtime' or that I created 'showtime.' But your dad, he was the real 'showtime.' "

IN PASSING

Union County lost one of its giants last week when Frank Ciccarell passed away. Ciccarell was the longtime headman of the Union County Interscholastic Athletic Conference, a former football coach at Thomas Jefferson High School and later an administrator at Elizabeth High School. He was also one of the most respected high school basketball officials around, pairing with the late Sam Sidorakis of Westfield to do many important games in the 1960s and '70s.

In 1970, Ciccarell's Thomas Jefferson team, led by future NFLers Richie Wood and Gil Chapman, was ranked co-No. 1 in the state with Westfield. That was a couple years before Thomas Jefferson/Elizabeth joined the Watchung Conference, so there was no game that year against what some consider WHS's finest team ever.

Ciccarell's passing also means there is only one person I know of who still wears those iconic shoes of the '60s, desert boots – me.

Locally, Westfield lost one of its old guard when Ward Gentino passed away in Lititz, Pa. Gentino was a former WHS Booster and youth sports coach. His son Steve was an outstanding baseball player on the same WHS teams as current coach Bob Brewster.

DEVILS OF THE WEEK

Three goals in a hockey game against SPF? That's more than good enough to earn Jimmy Bender and John Attanasio free subs from Al the Owner at Westfield Subs (261 South Avenue West) as the co-Devils of the Week. (For those counting, and we know some of you are, that makes WHS 16-4-1 against SPF so far this school year.)

The Devil's Den appears Thursday in The Westfield Leader during the scholastic season. Please contact us with suggestions, complaints or ideas at bj1019@aol.com. GO DEVILS!

Blue Devil Bowlers Take 5th At Mid-Jersey Winter Classic

The Westfield High School varsity bowling team competed in the prestigious Central Jersey Winter Classic at Carolier Lanes in North Brunswick on January 13 and finished fifth in total pins at 3,169. Sparta took top honors at 3,412 followed by Brick at 3,214, Brick Memorial at 3,211 and Woodbridge at 3,178.

For the second time in the past week, the Blue Devils were matched up against a top-20 team, Toms River South (TRS). The final game score was 3,169-2,857 to run the varsity team record to 15-0. In Game 1, Westfield out-shot TRS, 1,047-1,017. The 1,047 score was also good for eighth position in the 58-team tournament. Harrison Mercado rolled a 232. Brett Ettinger had a strong 224 game and Eric Curialle chipped in with a 210 game.

In Game 2, all five Blue Devil starters had 200-plus games en route to a 1,062 total led by Alex Wronski with a 232 and Mercado with a 223. The team moved into fifth place overall with the strong showing.

The Blue Devils showed their consistency as they finished Game 3 with a 1,060 for a fourth runner-up trophy. Wronski and Mercado shot scores of 247 and 255, respectfully. Mercado finished with a 710 series, Wronski with a 678 and Curialle with a 626.

Blue Devil Head Coach Mike Tirone stated, "This was our fourth quality win over a top-20 opponent. The other teams were really close and it was nice to see that we were able to dominate such a quality opponent."

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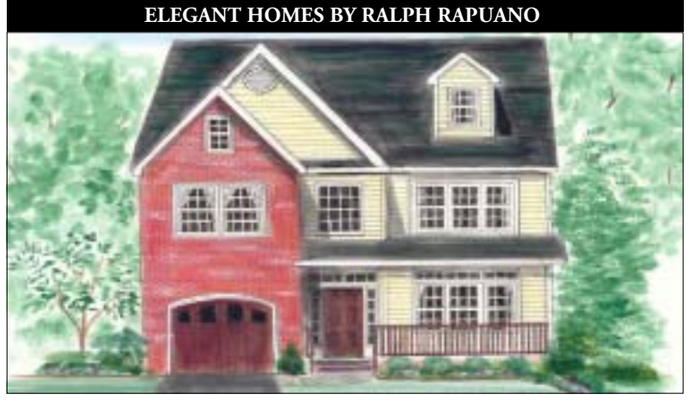

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BUY FOR $2,124/MO.

WESTFIELD **MANOR PARK** $490,000
Charming three bedroom, 1 ½ bath Split Level in the Manor Park section of Westfield, features built-ins in the living room and dining room with hardwood floors throughout. This home has a ground level family room plus a basement and central air. The property is nicely landscaped with mature gardens, in a quiet, pleasant neighborhood. (052001474)

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Beautiful large park-like property 70'x187' on quiet street in Tamaques school & park area. Four bedroom Split with 1st floor family room, the formal dining room opens to a Florida room which steps out to a large deck. Perfect flow for entertaining, move-in condition, potential for expansion. DIR: Rahway Ave. to Ardsleigh Dr. #609 (052001200)

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