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THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section
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LAW GRABS 16 BOARDS, ZAZZALI SCORES 16 POINTS

Lady Raiders' OT Surge Tops Blue Devils for UCT Crown

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

Seeded third, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School girls' basketball team executed when needed to overcome top-seeded Westfield, 44-36, in overtime to capture the Union County Tournament championship for the third time before a packed house at Roselle Catholic High School on February 23. The Raiders won the title in 2004 and 2005.

Senior guard Allie Zazzali sparked a game-high 16-point performance,

including a 3-pointer, and hit five free throws in overtime. Sophomore forward Jackie Law grabbed 16 rebounds, made two blocks and three steals and finished with six points. Senior guard Lauren Mains bucketed six points, including two crucial free throws in overtime. Sophomore forward Laura Degman hit three buckets and blocked a shot, Molly Meehan had four points and two blocks, while sophomore center Kaylin Jaichon and junior forward Emily Meehan added the rest.

"We made plays when we had to, played great defense, knew where everybody was and took their best scorer out of the game. We clogged the middle, pounded the boards, got after everything and we didn't panic. That was the key," said an emotional Raider Head Coach Bruce Davis. "Offensively, we looked to get the ball into the high post and got some dump downs and kick-outs for points. It was especially gratifying to have my two seniors, Allie and Lauren, be

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LOOKING FOR THE NEARFALL POINTS...Raider Pat Mineo looks at the ref to see if he got three points for a nearfall in his 145-lb title bout with Mike Jakubik of South Plainfield. Mineo won the crown with a 13-8 decision and celebrates after the bout.

David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times



THREE-PEAT UNION COUNTY CHAMPIONS...The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Raiders overcame the Westfield High School girls' basketball team, 44-36, in overtime to capture the crown for the third time. Pictured, left to right, are: bottom row; Nicole Mineo, Lauren Mains, Allie Zazzali and Kathryn DeCataldo; top row, Head Coach Bruce Davis, Jackie Law, Emily Meehan, Molly Meehan, Laura Degman, Saxony Nielsen, Kaylin Jaichon and Assistant Coach Rob Rafferty.

Fred K. Lecomte for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Lady Blue Devils Swim Past WW-PS for Public A Crown

By J. B. RAYMOND
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

A wild and often wearying three-and-one-half month journey had a wonderful ending for the Westfield High School girls swim team. Swimming in front of a big crowd at the College of New Jersey, coach Jaime Ruzsala's crew captured the state Public A championship with a 96-74 victory over previously unbeaten West Windsor-Plainsboro South.

It was the 10th state title for the WHS girls, tied with Cherry Hill East for the most by a public school (and just two behind leader Immaculate Heart Academy). And it was just the second since 1989, the other coming in 1999.

On the biggest stage of the year, Ruzsala's crew put on what could only be called a performance for the ages. Getting two school records (Suzanne Lemberg breaking the 100 free for the third time, and Kylie Fraser in the 100 back), double wins by Alexi Kuska (200, 500 free) and Lemberg (also won 50 free), and one

personal best after another from just about every girl who was entered, WHS put up an all-time best 4,646 power points.

There can be no argument that this is the best WHS girls team ever. And there aren't too many arguments that could be made against them being the best public school girls team in state history.

"Their depth is just unbelievable in every event," said WW-PS South coach Paul Hammett after the meet. "They just came at us in waves. They did not have a bad swimmer anywhere."

In reality, the January dual meet between WHS and Mount St. Mary (won by the Mount) might have been a match between the two best girls swim teams in New Jersey history. The old WHS and Cherry Hill East teams in the 1980s were solid, as were the IHA teams of the '90s and early 21st century. And Vineland's five-year run (2001-05) featured some amazing "up top" girls. But for all three events, superstars and depth, WHS and the Mount would seem to

stand above the competition. "It wasn't just our top kids," senior Co-Captain Brittany Reyes said. "It was all our girls. The girls in the outside lanes were amazing. Meredith (Smith) in the 200 free, Chrissy (Isabella) in the fly, Lauren (Sullivan) in the 50 ... so many great swimmers. It was just great!"

The win capped a hectic winter for fourth-year coach Ruzsala, who is leaving her Westfield teaching position next month to prepare for a June wedding and get ready for her new life in California. Early in the season she lost senior standout Lauren McCurdy to injury, and then Co-Captain Julia Cederroth missed a lot of time due to sickness.

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See photos of Sports:
on www.goleader.com
Region 3 Wrestling
West/SPF Girls Basketball
West/W. Hills Boys Basketball

OLSSON DEFEATS NEMESIS MRAZ, QUALIFIES FOR AC

Raiders Mineo, Gano Capture Region 3 Wrestling Crowns

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

Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School seniors Sal Gano and Pat Mineo earned a trip to the NJSIAA championships in Atlantic City (AC) on March 2-3-4 by winning their respective weight classes at the Region 3 Tournament in Union on February 24. Senior teammate Ricky Olsson also qualified for AC by placing third at 135-lbs. The top three place-winners in each weight class advance.

David Brearley (Br) of Kenilworth claimed the most champions—Kenny Knapp (103-lbs), Anthony Evans (152-lbs) and Jesse Boyden (215-lbs)—and qualified seven for AC. Delbarton (Del) was the only other school to claim multiple champions with Frank Perrelli (119-lbs) and Trevor Melde (135-lbs).

Seeded first at 125-lbs, Gano recorded a 1:29 fall using a chin pull-back in the quarterfinals then rattled Rob Piper (Br) with a Mallory (step over takedown) to a Jimmy-John (far arm corkscrew) for five points and added another takedown and a cradle to claim an 11-1, majority decision in the semifinals.

"He was on my leg so I hit the Mallory and I love that Jimmy-John," said Gano of his bout with Piper.

Gano wasted little time in the title bout with New Providence's (NPr) Matt Nobbs, performing a low duck under slip through to a fall in 1:42. "I was working a ball-and-chain. I bar armed him," said Gano. "It feels so good! This is what I wanted."

Being seeded second at 145-lbs seemed to suit Mineo well on his march to the title. He scored three takedowns and two escapes to defeat Millburn's (Mill) Eric Rice, 8-2. In the semis, he came up against a wily leg wrestler, Chris Jensen from Watchung Hills (WH), but tallied two

takedowns and an explosive escape to grab a 5-0 victory.

"Jessen is a very tough defensive wrestler. He's tough on top. I just had to work on not getting turned. I got a nice takedown with a drag at the beginning of the match and took him down with a high crotch to a double in the third period," explained Mineo. "I didn't get a chance to wrestle states last year because of my injury and (Mike) Jakubik (South Plainfield - So Pl) did, so he got the top seed and that's fine with me."

In the finals, Mineo fell behind Jakubik, 8-6, but got renewed confidence when his Petersen roll tied the score at the end of the rough-and-tumble second period that cost him part of his front tooth. He added another Petersen and rolled Jakubik to his back in the third period to claim the title with a 13-8 decision.

"It gave me some momentum," Mineo said of his first Petersen. "I was a little frustrated, knocking out my tooth. I chose down in the third

and I knew I could hit it again. Then I almost stuck him. Once I had that, I wasn't letting him go and I knew I had the match."

Using a double under-hook slip through takedown and a Granby reversal, Olsson got revenge on Hanover Park's (HP) Rich Szymczak with a 4-3 victory in the quarterfinals.

"It was a sweet duck-under from an under-hook," explained Olsson. "I really needed it! It made the difference in the match."

After falling to top-seeded Billy Ashnault (So Pl), Olsson defeated Irvington's Andrew Burke, 7-2, to advance to the third place consolation bout. He faced nemesis Joe Mraz (Br) who, over the past two seasons, had burned him with overtime victories and an 8-6 victory in the 2007 county finals. But Olsson saved the best to last, scoring a takedown in overtime to record a 5-3 triumph and a trip to AC.

"It was the toughest match of my

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Westfield Baseball League Spring tryouts 2007

Major & Pony Leagues Only

Majors: (5th & 6th grades)

Date	Time	Names	Event	Location
3/3	9-11	A-L	Fielding	Sid Fey field
3/3	12-2	M-Z	Fielding	Sid Fey field
3/4	9-11	A-L	Hitting	The Ballpark
3/4	12-2	M-Z	Hitting	The Ballpark
3/10	9-11	A-L	Fielding	Sid Fey field
3/10	12-2	M-Z	Fielding	Sid Fey field
3/11	9-11	A-L	Hitting	The Ballpark
3/11	12-2	M-Z	Hitting	The Ballpark

Players (5th & 6th graders) who were on a Majors team last year do not need to tryout again, you will automatically be placed on a team

Ponys: (7th thru 10th grades)

Date	Time	Names	Event	Location
3/3	9-10:30	A-L	Fielding	Houlihan field
3/3	10:30-12:00	M-Z	Fielding	Houlihan field
3/4	9-10:30	A-L	Hitting	The Ballpark
3/4	10:30-12:00	M-Z	Hitting	The Ballpark
3/10	9-10	A-L	Fielding	Houlihan field
3/10	10-11	M-Z	Fielding	Houlihan field
3/11	9-10	A-L	Hitting	The Ballpark
3/11	10-11	M-Z	Hitting	The Ballpark

Players who were on a Pony league team last year and all 10th graders do not need to tryout again, you will automatically be placed on a team

If you do not wish to try out for a Major or Pony team you will be automatically placed on either an International or Mustang team

The Ballpark is located at 1 Silver Ct, Springfield, NJ 973-376-9295

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