



TOURNAMENT CHAMPS... The Westfield High School Girls JV basketball team won the Cliffside Park Holiday Tournament over the break, defeating Rutherford, 56-41, in the prelim game and coming from behind to defeat Cliffside Park, 54-38, in the finals. Sophomore Chrissy Ferraro was named the Tournament MVP. Pictured, left to right, are: front row; Lizzie Ponce, Chrissy Ferraro, Anne DeSantis and Rebecca Kraus; back row, Julia Penczak, Emily Greenberg, Julisa Metellus, Morgan Maloney, Emily Schuman, Carly Mayer and Coach Dave Hartzler.



Devil's Den When the Chlorine Settled, WHS Was Back on Top

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

The Union County Boys Swimming Championships was supposed to be a match between the studs of Scotch Plains-Fanwood and Summit and the depth of WHS. And that's exactly what it was on Sunday at Rutgers University.

With eight of the 11 meet records falling, the defending champion Raiders of SP-F, as expected, dominated the firsts, winning seven events, four in record-breaking fashion. Summit didn't disappoint either, winning three races, and probably breaking every school record in the process. But in the end, it was WHS's superior depth

that proved the difference, finishing with 435 points, to 424 for SP-F and 400 for Summit.

Ironically, the only first place WHS got was the only first place it had to get - the final event, the 400 free relay. It was basically a winner-take-all between WHS and SP-F, although a Summit first would've also given WHS the title, by a single point. And making the win doubly ironic was the fact that SP-F had gone 1-2 in the event during a dual meet win over WHS back in early December.

Not this time!

After 200 yards, Ryan Gajdzisz and Alex Skoog had given the Raiders a seemingly comfortable lead, although Luke McGrory and John Lindros kept WHS within range. On the third leg, SP-F's Ryan Henkels seemed to maintain the lead for the first 50 before Brennan Haley shifted into another gear. Haley, who had literally just swum lifetime bests in the 500 free (4:47.55) and 100 back (53.39), was running on adrenaline as he split a lifetime best 48.91 to get almost even for anchor Matt Daniel. The junior brought it home in 47.45, another lifetime best, and WHS had earned its 57th county title in 61 years.

(The 3:16.96 was the 10th fastest in school history and knocked the 1976 state champion 4x100 relay of Tom LaCosta, Neil Banta, Paul Healy and Tom Hartye off the Top 15 List. More irony, the second-place 200 medley and 200 free relays Sunday were both the FIFTH fastest in WHS history!)

This was the 57th county title for the WHS boys in the 61 years the meet has been held. Coach Jeff Knight, a man of very few words who called the victory "epic," got outstanding performances from all 15 entrants. Some - like Haley, Daniel, Max Shin, Tyler Lessner, Steven Husch - were expected. But some were shockers:

Like freshman John Lindros' 1:48.28 in the 200 free (No. 13 all-time and knocking Hall of Famer Steve Schmitt off the Top 15 List); like McGrory and Alex Bond both breaking 1:50 for the first time to finish 5-6 in the 200 free; like Aram Barmakian and Connor Moore dropping three and two seconds in the 200 IM to finish 7-8; like Kevin Oster's lifetime best 23.47 to get eighth in the 50 free; like Matt Trinkle's career-best 54.88 for third in the 100 fly; like Bond's lifetime best 5:01 and Tommy Pyle's 10th-place in the 500; like Nick Constantine's best-ever 57.90 in the 100 back.

But the coup de grace had to be the 100 breaststroke. Barmakian, an unheralded sophomore, swam a 1:01.37 (1:03.76 seed time) to finish fourth and classmate Dan Myers dropped 3.01 seconds for a 1:02.85 for seventh.

It was that kind of day. The win completely overshadowed the fact that seven WHS meet records were erased. SP-F getting four of those records in the medley relay, 50 free (Joe Dunn

Devils of the Month
Aram Barmakian,
Mike Kalimtzis,
Girls relay swimmers

topping Aaron Weber's 1988 21.69), 200 sprint relay and 100 breast (Greg Baliko nipping Dave Schwartz's 58.78 of 1993); Summit got two by Loring Bowen in the 100 fly (Chris DeLaFuente's 52.43 in 2009) and 100 back (Matt Meserole's 52.72 in 2009).

And the WHS girls put on a show of their own earlier, while winning their 20th consecutive county title.

Sophomore Caroline Baldwin was involved in four school records, setting individual marks in the 50 free (23.20, over Suzanne Lemberg's 23.59 in 2008) and 100 back (56.36 100 back, breaking her own month-old record). She then teamed with Sarah Cronin, Ellie Reinhardt and Loren Ball to smash school marks in the 200 1:37.93 (old mark 1:38.25 in 2011) and 400 3:32.36 (old mark 3:33.90 in 2011) freestyle relays. Cronin knocked off the record board in the 100 freestyle with a 52.41 (old mark 52.49).

A surprise Top 15 List effort came in the 100 breaststroke, where sophomore Kathleen Bond went 1:12.19 for No. 14.

The girls, ranked No. 1 in the state, had a meet with No. 2 Immaculate Heart Academy on Tuesday, and then it's on to the state tournament, starting next week, with both the boys and girls hoping to be swimming in the state Public A finals on Sunday, Feb. 26, at the College of New Jersey.

WRESTLING UPDATE

The Blue Devils finished second at counties, behind eight-time champion Kenilworth. It was WHS's highest finish since 1993, when it was also runnerup. (The last titles were in 1990 and 1992). And they did that with just two finalists, Mike Kalimtzis, who finished first, and Nick Rotondo.

Earlier, WHS had posted a 31-25 dual meet victory over Kenilworth. The Bears are the defending state Group 2 team champions. Big wins by Kieran Cline (pin) and Johnny Fuller set the stage for Kalimtzis' tiebreaking and meet-clinching pin in the final match. For the unbeaten Blue Devils it was victory No. 13.

BASKETBALL UPDATE

The boys earned a nice 47-45 win over Roselle recently. The box score also included the name Scott Toresco, who had transferred to Roselle Catholic this year but has since returned to WHS. The junior did not score in that game, but he had 117 points last year and is a nice addition to a young team. Senior Ozan Yucetepe has picked up the scoring pace recently with games of 19 and 17 points.

The girls rallied for a 49-45 win against Scotch Plains on Saturday. Lillian Scott again was the top guy with 19 points, while Carolyn Maguire connected on 12 foul shots for all of her points. WHS made 24 foul shots to just 5 for the Raiders.

DEN JEOPARDY QUESTIONS

Who were David Brearley, Jonathan Dayton, Governor (William) Livingston, Arthur L. Johnson and Abraham Clark?

To anybody who grew up in the '60s and '70s, those schools are known as Kenilworth, Springfield, Berkeley Heights, Clark and Roselle. And if you grew up earlier than that, Springfield would be known as "Regional."

DEVIL(S) OF THE MONTH

The January winners of a free sub from Ryan (The) Mann at Hershey's Subs are: sophomore swimmer Aram Barmakian, senior wrestler Mike Kalimtzis and the girls 200 and 400 freestyle relays of Sarah Cronin, Ellie Reinhardt, Loren Ball and Caroline Baldwin.

Barmakian clocked a 1:01.37 to finish fourth in the 100 breaststroke at counties. That makes the sophomore No. 5 on the Top 15 List... and No. 6 at 1:01.40 is Dave Perkowski ('65), who swam at the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City!

Kalimtzis earned his 100th career victory on Saturday, joining Cory Posey ('96), who was 118-10, and Christian Barber ('11), 110-24, in the WHS Century Club.

Sophomores Cronin and Baldwin, junior Reinhardt and senior Ball set county meet/school records in the 200 (1:37.93) and 400 (3:32.36) relays.

The Devil's Den appears every Thursday in *The Westfield Leader* during the school year. Contact us with comments, complaints and suggestions at bj1019@aol.com. And remember, win or not, Whs4evr!

PUBLIC NOTICE

DISTRICT COURT
MECKLENBURG COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA

TO: BETSABE M. MUNOZ, the above named Respondent:

Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you was filed on MAY 19, 2011, in an action entitled *MUNOZ V. MUNOZ* (11 CVD 9752) in the District Court of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. The nature of the relief sought is as follows: Plaintiff is seeking to terminate child support.

You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than MARCH 7, 2012 or forty days from the first publication of this notice, whichever is later; and upon your failure to do so the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought.

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