

Raider Boys Beat Millburn, 92-78, In Swim Semis - Story Next Week

THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section
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ORAL RECORDS BIG UPSET; OPOKU, C. BARBER WIN

Warriors Rally Past Westfield In Sectional Wrestling, 31-24

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

If at first you don't succeed, try, try again! That philosophy played out in favor of the Westfield High School wrestling team in one particular bout, but the 15th-ranked Watchung Hills Warriors kept plugging away, winning seven of the last nine bouts to earn a 31-24 victory in the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 4 semifinals in Warren on February 8.

That "never quit" attitude came in the third bout of the evening, 195-lbs, between Blue Devil Ozan Oral and Warrior Alex Fornelos. Oral was on the short side of an 8-0 score in the third period; however, all along he kept trying to set up a Peterson roll, but to no avail. Finally it worked! Oral hit the move and caught Fornelos on his back for a fall in 5:26 to give

Westfield a 15-0 lead after three bouts. Blue Devil Brian Bulger put on a clinic of six takedowns and added an escape, a reversal and a near-fall to record a 19-4, technical fall in 4:39 over Ben Gomes at 170-lbs. At 182-lbs, Blue Devil Kieran Cline recorded two takedowns, a switch reversal and a near-fall to grab a 9-1, majority decision over Ernesto Ancazco.

At 220-lbs, Blue Devil Nick Knepper had a 6-5 lead over Anthony Carbajal but yielded a penalty point for stalling as time ran out to send the bout into overtime. Carbajal was awarded a takedown in overtime to pull out an 8-6 victory. Blue Devil heavyweight Kyle Kania, however, returned the favor when he scored a reversal in the fourth overtime to defeat Anthony Rizzolo, 4-2.

The Warriors' comeback began in

the next bout when Alex Pollera clamped John Fuller with a cradle in 5:02 at 106-lbs to make the team score, 18-9. At 113-lbs, Mike Solis recorded a 5-3 victory over Blue Devil Anthony Aldana.

The 120-lb bout caught people's attention. Blue Devil Mike Kalimtzis took a 2-0 lead over Mike Magaldo, ranked third in the state, when he snaked his legs around him to gain control. Magaldo added a takedown in the second period and Kalimtzis escaped early in the third. Magaldo answered with a takedown to take a 4-3 lead. Kalimtzis attempted a sit-out, but Magaldo exercised a quick pullback maneuver to collect three back points and a 7-3 decision.

"We had some very good efforts. Obviously, Ozan's never quit attitude

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HEMMEED IN BY RAMS...Blue Devil Colleen Gallagher, center, gets hemmed in by two Rams as she drives toward the basket during a Union County Tournament first round game. The Blue Devils won, 52-30

KNAPP KNOCKS IN 16 POINTS, SCOTT SCORES 11 PTS

Lady Blue Devils Rap Rams In UCT Basketball, 52-30

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

Concentrating on refining their skills, the 13th-seeded Westfield High School Lady Blue Devils successfully tested several combinations to find the basket and easily defeated the 20th-seeded Roselle girls basketball team, 52-30, in the first round of the Union County Tournament in Rahway on February 10.

The 9-13 Lady Blue Devils, featuring three freshmen, a sophomore and a senior in the starting lineup, spread the wealth with assists from the onset, which allowed eight girls to get into the scoring column by games' end.

"That's what we did. Once we got

Probitas Verus Honos

the lead, we started changing combinations, getting some good looks that, hopefully, could help us in the counties to move on," Blue Devil Head Coach Joe Marino said.

Despite such a young group of starters, the Blue Devils have won five of their last eight games, which did include a last-minute, 42-40, loss to the Union Lady Farmers on February 9.

"Yesterday, we lost a tough one. Forty-two to forty, down to the wire! They are starting to gel. There's a lot of good things we are starting to see and the combinations are pretty much working well for us. It is just a matter of putting the ball in the basket," Coach Marino said.

Freshman guard Jackie Knapp led the Blue Devils offensively against the Roselle Rams with 16 points,

including a 3-pointer. Knapp also led the team with seven steals, while adding three assists.

Freshman guard Lily Scott scored six of her 11 points, including a 3-pointer, in the first quarter that the Blue Devils won, 13-4. Scott also had four assists and a steal.

Knapp scored five points, and freshman Jamie Miller, who finished with six points and a steal, went 4-for-4 from the line to give the Blue Devils a 12-2 advantage in the second quarter and a 25-6 lead at the half. Kelly Cullinan (4 rebounds, assist) also bucketed two of her four points in the quarter.

Senior Carolyn Maguire, who led the team with six rebounds, scored four points in the third quarter, along with Scott and Knapp. Sophomore

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GETTING SOME BACK POINTS...Blue Devil Kieran Cline, top, gets three back points in his 182-lb bout with Warrior Ernesto Ancazco. Cline won, 9-1.

GONZALES SINKS 19 POINTS, HITS FOUR 3-POINTERS

Raiders Halt Pioneers, 57-50, In UCT First Round Hoops

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

Senior point guard Dom Gonzales was on fire, bucketing four 3-pointers and scoring 17 of his game-leading 19 points to lead the ninth-seeded Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School boys basketball team to a 57-50 victory over the 16th-seeded New Providence Pioneers in the first round of the Union County Tournament in Rahway on February 12.

The 12-10 Raiders nailed six of their seven 3-pointers in the first half, while maintaining a pressure defense to take a 31-20, halftime lead. The Raiders also dished out nine of their 14 assists in the half. Ian Johnston, Tom Bonacum and Xavier Noel-

Brooks finished with four assists each.

"Dom was on tonight. What I was really happy with are the plays to look for him. Ian had a nice drive, and he was looking for Dom. It was good to see Dom, he struggled a little bit during the year with 3-point shots, but when he starts making shots, that gives us one more person the other team has to look for. Each night nobody knows who our high scorer is," Raider Head Coach Dan Doherty said.

"After the first one, I was like, 'I feel it'. The first shot kind of put me in the mold where I can score this game. I had a couple of games early in the year where I had 11 in the first quarter and I feel it, but then I would go cold. But when I'm hot, I was

burning," Gonzalez said.

Noel-Brooks, who finished with eight points and five rebounds, also hit a 3-pointer in the first half, as did Tyree Singeltary. Mike Herrigel (11 points) hit all nine of the Pioneers' points in the second quarter.

The Pioneers pulled out their defense in the second half in an effort to halt the Raiders' success on the perimeter. In the meantime, Dave Barletta caught fire and bucketed 12 of his 14 points as the Pioneers won the third quarter, 16-11, to narrow the Raiders' lead to 42-36. Raider Anthony Byers (2 assists) scored four of his eight points, and Bonacum, who finished with nine points, banged a 3-

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TRYING TO NEUTRALIZE A COMET...Blue Devils Dan Mitchell, center, and Scott Toreasco, No. 41, attempt to prevent a Hillside Comet from getting to the basket in their Union County Tournament game.

TORESCO ROLLS IN 23 POINTS, HESS HITS 10 POINTS

Comets Strike Late in 4th, Ice Basketball Blue Devils, 49-46

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

Bad news struck midway through the fourth quarter when Sammad Holmes and Ruddy Delva hit back-to-back 3-pointers to extinguish a six-point Westfield lead then Holmes followed with seven more points to lead the 15th-seeded Hillside Comets to a 49-46 victory over the 10th-seeded Blue Devils in the first round of the Union County Tournament in Rahway on February 12.

Throughout this season, the 5-16 Blue Devils have found themselves on the short end of many down-to-the-wire games.

"Sometimes the bounces go their way. Unfortunately, a lot of those

bounces haven't gone our way this year. The way the game ended was almost the story of what we have gone through this year. I can't get upset with my kids. They competed. They did what I asked them to do," Blue Devil Head Coach Daryl Palmieri said.

The game against the 7-14 Comets never was a one-way street as both teams kept grabbing small leads only to lose them. The Blue Devils had difficulty with their inside passing game and lost the first quarter, 14-13. Blue Devil Mike Androconis began the scoring with a lay-up and a free throw and junior Keegan Hess, who finished the game with 10 points, hit a pair of 3-pointers in the quarter.

Despite being victimized by multiple steals, the Blue Devils had some success getting the ball to their big man inside, Scott Toreasco, who rolled in eight of his game-leading 23 points, to win the second quarter, 10-7, to eke out a 23-21 lead at the half. Freshman Dan Mitchell (2 points, 2 steals, 2 rebounds) dished out all three of his assists in the half.

The third quarter was another see-saw battle, but the Comets won the quarter, 15-11, to carry a 36-34 lead into the final quarter. Comet Jordan Young scored all six of his points in the quarter.

But the momentum shifted in favor of the Blue Devils early in the fourth

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SURROUNDED BY PIONEERS...Raider Tom Bonacum, center, is closely guarded by two Pioneers. The Raiders defeated New Providence, 57-50, in the first round of the Union County Tournament in Rahway on February 12.

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