

January 5, 1932 - Chuck Noll  
Pittsburgh Steeler Coach - 4 Rings

# THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section  
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**BONACUM PULLS 11 RBs, 15 PTS.; GONZALES 14 PTS.**

## Pope John Boys Chill Raiders At Raider Tournament, 59-45

By DAVID B. CORBIN  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
Ice cold shooting throughout and inability to pull offensive rebounds in the first half placed the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School boys basketball team in a deep, damp hole it could not crawl out of in a 59-45 loss to Pope John in the first round of the Four-County Classic in Scotch

Plains on December 28. The 2-3 Raiders failed to get an offensive rebound until midway through the second quarter and finished the first half with only four rebounds. In the meantime, whether it would be a short jumper or a lay-up attempt, the Raiders would either miss the shot or have it tipped by a Pope John defender.

Jaquan Bryant led 2-2 Pope John with 20 points, including two from three-point range, and grabbed 11 boards. Glenn Gavan put up 12 points, including three 3-pointers, and Ryan Izzo added nine points. Due to the wind chill factor blowing directly onto the Raiders' hands, Pope John rolled to a 16-8 lead in the

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WORKING TO GET UNDERNEATH...Raider Tom Bonacum, left, works to get good position underneath the board against Pope John. Bonacum finished with 15 points and 11 rebounds.

**KALIMTZIS, OPOKU, DeLOUISA, KNEPPER, KANIA WIN**

## Blue Devils Claim 5 Champs, Place 2nd at Panther Invt'l

By DAVID B. CORBIN  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
Spinning wheels with injuries, skin rashes and failure to make weight may have been a disappointment, but the Westfield High School wrestling team still found enough traction to claim five individual champions and to place second at the Panther Invitational in Roselle Park on December 27. The Blue Devils totaled 144 points behind the Hanover Park (HP) Hornets, who took top honors with 180.5 points. The hosting Panthers (RP) placed third at 138, followed by Morristown (Mo) at 109.5, Madison (M) at 102.5, North Plainfield (NP) at 80, Piscataway (P) at 79.5, West Milford (WM) at 77 and Red Bank (RB) at 62. Top-seeded Blue Devil Mike Kalimtzis received a first-round bye then pinned Andrew Santamaria (RP) in 3:28 to advance to the 120-lb finals. Facing Joe Zecca (HP), Kalimtzis began with a back-trip takedown in the first period. He recorded a reversal and a penalty point

in the second period and added a double-leg takedown in the third to grab a 7-2 victory and the crown. "I haven't seen him much before this year, but I saw him wrestling earlier in the day. He looked like he was pretty tough. I had a game plan going in, and I stuck to it," said Kalimtzis, who added, "I wanted to set the tone early. Keep pushing him! Get a quick takedown and ride him out. Try to get him a little tired, keep him on the mat and then open up later in the match. I was able to do that." Blue Devil Ellis Opoku, the top seed at 145-lbs, pinned Sergio Escobar (RP) in his first bout in 3:06, then defeated Anthony Bassolino of Hanover Park in the semis. Opoku handled Mark Comayagua (NP), 5-1, to gain the title but had to contend with his opponent's wicked under hooks. "He was definitely a strong opponent, but I tried to stick to the basics. Every once in a while I tried to put the hammer on him. It paid off in the end. You got to have a good gas tank and

keep going after your opponent," Opoku said. After a scoreless first period, Comayagua escaped in the second period but Opoku quickly answered with a counter takedown. "We drilled that a lot in practice. If I couldn't do that in a match, it would be a real disappointment," Opoku said. In the third period Opoku added an escape and a double-leg takedown but attempted to turn Comayagua with several tilts, which included a Turk ride and a wrist-and-half nelson. "The biggest thing is to listen to your coaches, because some times you get into doing one thing in a match. They say, 'try a different thing', and that really helps me," Opoku said. Seeded fourth at 170-lbs, Blue Devil Mike DeLouisa tallied a takedown, a three-point tilt and a standing Gramby reversal before pinning Matt Fastiggi (M) with a wrist-and-half maneuver in 3:30 in his open

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ATTEMPTING TO TURN A HORNET...Blue Devil Mike Kalimtzis, top, works an arm bar & wrist maneuver on Joe Zecca (Hanover Park) in the 120-lb title bout. Kalimtzis won, 7-2.



DRIBBLING PAST A HORNET...Blue Devil Keegan Hess, right, avoids getting stung as he dribbles past a Hornet defender during the Butch Kowal Tournament in Rahway on December 28.

## Blue Devils Jar Hornets, 56-47 In Butch Kowal Tourney Semi

By DAVID B. CORBIN  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
Free throw shooting percentage surely played a major role when the Westfield High School boys basketball team hit 22 of 28 from the line en route to a 56-47 victory over the Holmdel Hornets in the semifinal round of the Butch Kowal Tournament in Rahway on December 28. The amount of trips to the charity line and shooting percentage of 72 percent dwarfed the Hornets' 6-for-11 average at the line.

"We have been working on free throws, because in the first couple of scrimmages, we didn't shoot well from the free throw line. Coach made it a point to work on it, especially at the end of practice when our legs are dead. I think that really helped us today," Blue Devil senior Nate Mitchell said. Although Mitchell took only one trip to the line, hitting 1-for-2, he finished with 15 points, which included banging four 3-pointers, and also added a pair of assists. Sophomore forward Mike Androconis, however, was a killer not only at the line, hitting nine of 10 shots to finish with a game-high 17 points, but also under the boards with 10 rebounds (3 of-

ensive rebounds that were converted to scores). He also added two assists and took a charge. "Mike worked hard in the summer. He got stronger. He got bigger. He got the boards. He played freshman last year, so for him to step up and play big tonight in a varsity game is huge for a sophomore," Mitchell said. Mitchell also was effective under the boards with seven rebounds. "My defenders weren't crashing the boards, so I just tried to get a good read off the rim, and a lot of times I was getting good reads," he said. Each team played with a degree of caution in the first quarter, which

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**MILLER DRIVES FOR 20 PTS; McCOY 8 PTS, 5 STEALS**

## Cougars Top Mountaineers For Girls Hoops Title, 38-32

By DAVID B. CORBIN  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
Outside shooting was ice cold in the first half, so senior forward Morgan Miller came up with another idea. She began driving toward the basket and found the success that the Cranford High School girls basket-

20 points, including two 3-pointers and hitting four of six from the stripe. She also added a rebound, an assist and a steal. "I think penetrating was definitely key, because it makes the defense uncomfortable. Even if you don't get a shot, you draw the defense towards

team-high 12 points and Allison Mejia put in four of her seven points in the quarter. Cougar forward Carly Maucione (3 rebounds) banged a 3-pointer, while Mairead McKeary (5 points, steal, rebound) had three points and guard Jess McCoy (4 rebounds), who led the team with five



DRIVING TO THE BASKET...Cougar Jess McCoy, No. 20, drives to the basket for a lay-up during the championship game with West Orange. McCoy finished with eight points and five steals. See more on www.goleader Ballyhoo Sports.

ball team needed to defeat the West Orange Mountaineers, 38-32, in the championship game of the Coaches vs. Cancer Tournament in Cranford on December 29. Miller, who had no points in the first quarter, began her drives to the basket in the second quarter and finished the game with a game-leading

you, and you have open shooters or you get fouls. It put pressure on them instead of passing the ball around the 3-point line," Miller explained. The 3-2 Mountaineers took advantage of the 4-0 Cougars' frigid shooting and tentative defense to seize a 14-8 lead after the first quarter. Chisom Amaefuna sank four of her

steals, put in the first two of her eight points. In the second quarter, Miller's driving strategy drew some fouls. She hit three of four free throws and added a lay-up, and McCoy added a lay-up, while the Cougar defense limited the Mountaineers to just two points to

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