

Lady Cougars Top W. Orange

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cut the lead to 16-15 at the half. "The first half was a little slow. We are not a slow team. We like to pick up the ball and go. West Orange was doing a really good job of slowing us down. When we are slow on defense, our offense doesn't really click. We picked up on defense, and that's when our offense started to come. Cougar Head Coach Jackie Dyer said.

"I think it was probably one of the worst starts we've had this season. We were a little flustered with their defense pressure, but I think we adjusted to it well. We were composed. We started doing a lot. Instead of just moving the ball on the outside, we either got shots in the paint, got fouled or kicked it back out opening shots from the outside," Miller said.

The Cougars won the third quarter, 11-9, to take a slight 26-25 lead. Point guard Jenna Goeller, who finished with four assists, managed to pass the ball into McCoy, who sank a lay-up, and out to Miller, who banged a 3-pointer. Center Kaitlin McGovern (4 rebounds, 2 points, tipped pass, block) had a key theft that set up a lay-up.

Miller really caught fire in the final quarter and bucketed 10 of the team's 12 points to seal the deal.

"In years past, we have always been known as the outside shooting team, but we have been working and concentrating on taking the ball to the

basket, giving Kaitlin the ball when she is posting up, having more of an inside game. Today was a good example of what happens when we use our inside game. Same thing happened with New Providence. We were down and we started bringing the ball to the basket. It's when we picked it up and started winning," Coach Dyer said.

The only disappointing part of the final quarter was that the Cougars' free throw shooting slipped to 33 percent (3-for-9) during that span.

"We are going to be working on that. We take about 100 free throws a practice. We might go to about 150," Coach Dyer promised.

West Orange	14	2	9	7	32
Cranford	8	7	11	12	38

Farmer Cagers Defeat Lady Blue Devils, 52-41

The 3-1 Union High School girls basketball team jumped out to a 26-11, halftime lead and cruised to a 52-41 victory over the Westfield Blue Devils in the first round of the Len Sepanak Tournament in Basking Ridge on December 27. Megan Mondon bucketed eight points and added four steals to lead the Blue Devils. Alexis Kardias and Jackie Knapp each had five points, while Ellie Callinan added four points.



Phil Anastasia's recent article in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* about West Deptford High School's Tommy Jakubowski is a must-read, especially for those of us who pine for the days of yore.

A football-basketball-baseball star for the Eagles, the 6-foot-3, 180-pounder will take his talents to Long Island University next fall to play baseball for the Blackbirds. With a scholarship and without having to give up one or two sports for another! "I actually quit football for a little while when I was a sophomore," Jakubowski told Anastasia. "But a week into camp I decided to go back. I knew you don't get these memories back. I wanted to take advantage of every opportunity."

Anastasia points out how rare it is for a Division I-caliber athlete to play two other sports. That's because kids don't get an off-season anymore.

Kids are brainwashed: If you're good in baseball, you have to play fall ball and summer ball and spend all winter in the batting cage; if you're good in basketball, there's spring, summer and fall leagues and let's not

Let's Raise a Tall Glass To 'Three-Sport' Athletes

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

forget your traveling AAU team; and football? Hit the weights, play in 7-on-7 leagues, and get ready for the spring and summer showcases.

Jakubowski said he was pulled in every direction by his determination to play all three sports.

"I heard it in every sport," Jakubowski told Anastasia. "I heard in basketball that I needed to shoot more in the off-season. I heard in baseball that I needed to hit more. I heard in football that I needed to spend more time in the weight room."

"I would say, I'm trying my best." In the last 15 years, WHS has certainly had more than its share of "traditional" - football, basketball, baseball - three-sport guys: Brian Ciemniecki, Lamont Turner, Jay Cook, Jimmy McKeon, Jan Coccoziello, Bryan Power and Tom Bonard come to mind. And there was Chris Giaccone, who mixed indoor track with his football and baseball, plus guys like Billy Hearon, Mike Venezia and A.J. Murray who all easily could have done well in their spare season.

DEN TRIVIA QUESTION
Since statistics starting being kept in the late 1950s, who is the only WHS running back to carry the ball more than 200 times in more than one season? (Answer at bottom.)

BASKETBALL UPDATE
The hoopsters notched the first "big" win of rookie coach Daryl Palmieri's career with a 56-47 thumping of previously unbeaten Holmdel in the Butch Kowal Tournament at Rahway. And they did it with top gun Keegan Hess limited to seven points. Mike Androconis had 17 points and eight boards, while Nate Mitchell's 15 points including four 3-pointers. Ozan Yucetepe also knocked in 13. In the final, unbeaten Rahway knocked off the Devils, 56-50, despite 16 points by Hess. WHS had won the last two Kowal tournaments, and also in 2006 and '07.

HOCKEY UPDATE
First-year coach Sean Cromartie also got a nice win over the holidays when his skaters earned a 2-1 victory over a Robbinsville team that came in 5-2-2. Ryan Morse had the winning goal in the third period.

COLLEGE UPDATE
Through 13 games, senior Mike Venezia ('07) is third on the Colgate men's basketball team with a 10.1 average. In the really good news department, the oft-injured co-captain is averaging a by far team-best 34 minutes per game. He had a season-best 22 points in the season opener for the Raiders (5-8).

Meanwhile, sophomore Diana Venezia ('10) has played in six games for UNC Wilmington (6-5) and scored six points, on a pair of 3-pointers.

Juniors Matt Morgan ('09) and Evan Paulan ('09) have played a key role in the College of New Jersey earning a No. 7 ranking among Division 3 college swim teams. Paulan was first (2:08.11) and Morgan third (2:11.04) in the 200-yard breaststroke at the TCNJ Invitational last month.

Matt Meserole ('10), a sophomore at Maryland, finished third in the 200 IM (1:52.53) at the Terp Cup.

Max Blum ('09), a junior at Franklin and Marshall, finished fourth in the 1,650 freestyle to help Franklin and Marshall grab second place at its invitational. The winning team was Washington and Lee, which is where current WHS co-captains Brennan Haley and Alex Bond, along with SP-F's Dan Pesin, will be going in the fall.

Pat Sabatino ('10) had 181 points and 110 rebounds playing in all 29 games as a freshman at Stevens Institute of Technology. The 6-foot-6 forward had a 17-point, 11-rebound game against Alfred.

GIL-WIL TRIVIA RESULTS
We posted a trivia question sent us by Faithful Readers Jeff (Gilbert) of Pittstown and Jimmy (Wilday) of Long Beach Island, both members of WHS, '61: How many Union County-born or -schooled NFL football players can you name?

The winner with the most was Steve (Steamboat) Merrill ('71), who found 42. The winner for the earliest entry, and also the runner-up and fastest entry, was WHS footballers Holden Ehrhart and Chris Sweeney (both '14), who had 35 names and posted less than 72 hours after the question appeared.

Here is a breakdown of Merrill's answers, broken down by high school (with birth town in parenthesis): Clark (3): Todd Burger, Rob Petetti, Erik Rosenmeier.

Cranford (1): Karl Kainer, Elizabeth (9): Bob Anderson, Todd Bowles, Rodney Carter, Alcides Catanho, Gil Chapman, Adolph Eckstein, Tom Glassic, Vic Reuter, Richard Wood.

Hillside (1): Kendell Ogle, Kenilworth (2): Mike Chalenski, Tony Siragusa.

Linden (3): Mike Pringley, Troy Stradford, Craig Taylor.

Plainfield (4): Milt Campbell, Ed Chevis, Pete Liske, Vic Washington. Rahway (4): Chris Brantley, Chris Davis, Antonio Garay, Rob Scarpitto, Roselle (2): Keith Loneker, Roosevelt Grier.

Devil of the Month Caroline Baldwin Girls Swimming

(Union), and there could be others. Still, a nice job by all who participated.

DEN TRIVIA ANSWER
Bob McNally, an all-state line-backer in 1976, carried the ball 206 times in 1975 and 205 times in 1976. He also had seven carries as a sophomore, so he had 418 career carries, No. 3 all-time behind Glen Kehler (511) and Frank Kelly (461). Ricardo Johnson is No. 4 all-time with 395, followed by Leroy Gallman Jr. (317), Jim Kovacs (281), A.J. Murray (313), James O'Rourke (303), Paul Leifer (267) and Erwyn Lyght (258).

DEVIL OF THE MONTH
The December winner of a free sub from Ryan (The) Mann at Hershey's Subs on South Avenue is swimmer Caroline Baldwin. The sophomore smashed the school record in the 100-yard backstroke by more than 1.5 seconds with a 58.35 against SP-F. She is also within .06 and .19 of a second of the school records in the 50 and 100 freestyles, respectively.

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

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SOARING HIGH...Blue Devil Mike DePaolo, left, receives the trophy from Len Pietrewicz for placing first in the high jump with a height of 6'0" at the Pietrewicz Invitational track meet at Drew University on December 30.

DePaolo Gets 1st in HJ at Pietrewicz Invit'l

Westfield High School senior Mike DePaolo placed first in the high jump with a clearance of 6'0" at the Pietrewicz Invitational track meet at Drew University in Madison on December 30.

(24.7) finished third in the 4x200 with a time of 1:38.76. Ciardullo also finished second in the 55 meters at 6:96 and Star was timed at 7.0. Vergara (54.8), Kevin Smith (54.4 - personal record [PR]), Jason Isbit (54.9) and Kevin Ingram (53.8 - PR) finished fourth in the 4x400 with a time of 3:38.19. Smith (1:27.58), Ingram (1:28.05) and Isbit (1:29.71) finished 2-5-6 in the 600 meters.

Racine Inv't'l Local Indoor Track Results:

Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School senior Erin Pierce finished second in the 800 meters with a time of 2:25.72 then crossed third in the 1,600 with a time of 5:23.13 at the Racine Invitational Indoor Track Meet at Drew University in Madison on December 28. Samantha Renfree placed third in the shot put with a toss of 33-5.25. Christine Miklas placed sixth in the 55-hurdles with a time of 9.2, and Daria DeVore crossed sixth in the 55 meters at 7.95. Raider John Kirby finished third in the 1,600 at 4:43.37, and Chris Burke placed fifth in the shot put with a shove of 44-6.

while Amanda Marcotullio at 2:36.4 and Gabrielle Stravach at 2:40.28 finished 12-18, respectively. Sophia Devita, Marcotullio, Johnson and Eileen Cook placed sixth in the 4x400 relay with a time of 4:36.3. The "B" relay foursome of Rita Murphy, Stravach, Meghan O'Dwyer and Julia Levine crossed 13th at 5:01.8, and the "C" squad of Allegra Larche, Danielle Grimes, Leigh Heinbokol and Gemma Antoniewicz crossed 14th at 5:12.8. Kelley Biglin, Veronica Murphy, Rita Murphy and Katherine Fox crossed 11th in the sprint medley relay at 5:10.8. Heinbokol at 6:06.24, Larche at 6:07.34 and Grimes at 6:19.31 finished 12-13-19 in the 1,600.

Raiders Fall to Bernards, Tie Cranford Icemen, 2-2

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School ice hockey team took one on the chin with a 9-2 loss to Bernards on December 30 at the Rock in Dunellen, but rebounded to tie Cranford, 2-2, on January 2 at Warinanco Rink in Roselle.

breakaway and was awarded a penalty shot. Skoog faked the goalie but could not thread the needle through the five-hole and was stuffed by the Cranford goalie.

Bernards caught the Raiders on their heels for a 4-0 lead after the first period and kept the Raiders off-balance for the next two periods. Raider senior forward/captain Andrew Skoog broke the shutout in the second period and sophomore Zach Rothenberg notched his first varsity goal in the third with assists from sophomore line-mates Michael Rothman and Stephen Deduck.

Coach Matt Gualtieri pulled Breit with a minute to go, then Bruckman, once again, came through with the tying goal with 29.7 seconds to go. Tomasulo and sophomore forward Tyler Hardgrove got the assists.

Led by captains Skoog, Jonathan Tomasulo and Kevin Lewis, the senior leadership came out with fire and energy against Cranford. Together with a great goaltending effort of 33 saves by junior Jason Breit, the Raiders forged a comeback to tie Cranford.

Raider Cagers Nip Woodbridge, 42-40

Senior co-captain Ian Johnston scored 15 points and rolled in the game-winning lay-up to give the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School boys basketball team a 42-40 over the Woodbridge Barrens in the consolation game of the Four-County Classic in Scotch Plains on December 30.

The Cougars built a 2-0 lead after two periods. Freshman John Bruckman connected for the first Raider goal with 3:55 left in the game. Later, Skoog was pulled down on a

Woodbridge	7	7	8	18	40
Sc. Pl.-Fanwood	8	15	10	9	42