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# THE WEEK IN SPORTS

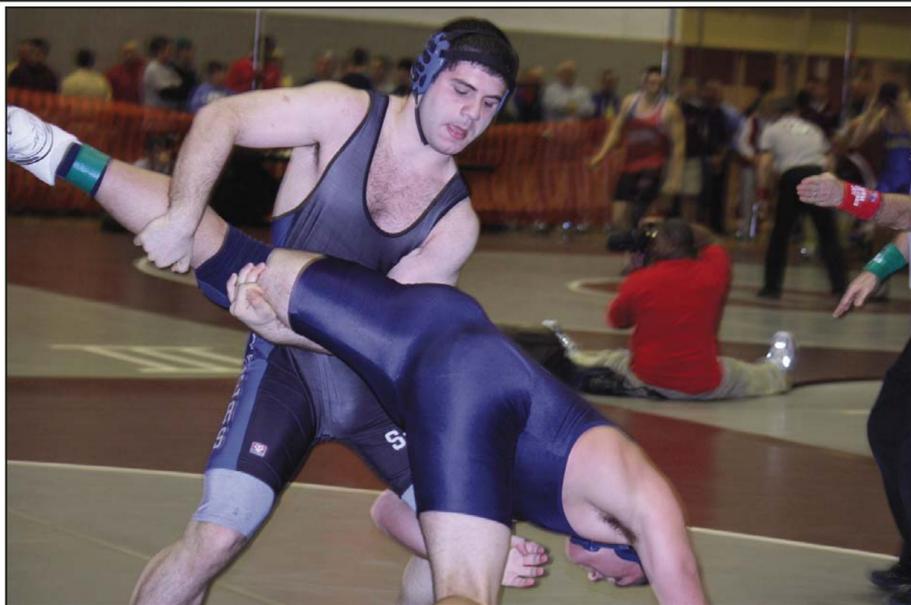
Sports Section  
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## Blue Devil Girls, Boys Claim Section, NJSIAA Swim Titles

After winning the North Jersey, Section 2, Public A titles, the Westfield High School girls and boys swim teams claimed the NJSIAA Public A titles by defeating Cherry Hill West, 89-81, and Bridgewater-Raritan, 86-84, respectively, at The College of New Jersey in Ewing on February 26. The victory made the Blue Devils team the winningest boys swim team in state history with 23 championships.

The Lady Blue Devils cruised to the sectional title with a 121-49 victory over Ridgewood on February 16. Caroline Baldwin took top honors in the 50-freestyle with a time of 25.35 and also touched first in the 100-backstroke with a time of 1:01.27.

Jess Cronin, Kathleen Bond, Erika Daniel and Baldwin won the 200-medley relay in 1:55.47. Sarah Cronin touched first in the 200-freestyle with a time of 1:59.67 and also touched first in the 100-freestyle at 55.23.



ON HIS WAY TO THE TITLE...Raider Andrew Jacobs, top, seeded first at 220-lbs, began his trip to the championship by pinning AL Johnson's Ed Olenick, bottom, in the quarterfinal round at the Region 3 Tournament.

### HARPER SINKS 21 POINTS WITH THREE 3-POINTERS

## BrH2O Panthers Slash Back; Jar Lady Raider Cagers, 52-46

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

Smooth sailing quickly funneled into a maelstrom in the third quarter for the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School girls basketball team, and the Lady Raiders were unable to escape in the fourth quarter, as the visiting Bridgewater-Raritan Panthers clawed out a 52-46 victory on February 23. Raider sophomore guard Katie

Harper (2 steals, 2 assists, 4 rebounds) put the 9-15 Raiders on the right course early in the second quarter, banging three straight 3-pointers, all from assists. Harper finished with a game-high 21 points, which also included hitting 4-for-4 from the free throw line.

Freshman Thabitha Dwunfour led the Raiders with nine rebounds and added an assist. Junior Taylor Sebolao led the Raiders with four assists, while scoring five points and adding four rebounds and a steal. Sophomore Alyssa Riporti scored six points and pulled six rebounds. Junior Tara Sweeney had three assists and four rebounds. Madison Maisel finished with five points, including a 3-pointer, and Ashley Martinez banged a 3-pointer and had three rebounds.

### CHRISTIANO PLACES 2ND; OPOKU, BARBER GET 3RD

## Raiders Jacobs, Tufaro Grab Region 3 Wrestling Crowns

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

Two grueling days of intense competition at the Region 3 Tournament in Union on February 24-25 after an elimination round on February 22 resulted in the crowning of 14 champions and 28 additional wrestlers who earned the right to compete at the NJSIAA championships in Atlantic City this weekend, March 2 through 4.

Among those were Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Raiders Andrew Jacobs (220-lbs) and Anthony Tufaro (285-lbs), who battled their way to the top of the podium.

Westfield Blue Devils Ellis Opoku (138-lbs) and Colin Barber (152-lbs) placed third, and Cranford Cougar JP Christiano (170-lbs) placed second to earn their trip south.

On February 22, Blue Devils Barber, Kieran Cline (182-lbs), Nick Knepper (195-lbs) and Kyle Kania (285-lbs) survived the elimination round. The Raiders advanced Brian Lapham (126-lbs), Mike Steinfeld (145-lbs) and Tufaro. The Cougars advanced Gavin Murray (120-lbs), Corey Markovitch (152-lbs),



STRUGGLING FOR POSSESSION...Raider Alyssa Riporti, right, struggles with a Bridgewater-Raritan Panther for possession of the ball in Scotch Plains on February 23. The Panthers battled back to win, 52-46.

### McCoy Pulls Down 15 Rebounds, Scores 8 Points

## GL Lady Highlanders Outlast Cougars for UCT Hoops Title

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

Stubborn defense may have been one of the reasons that the Union County Tournament championship game between the top-seeded Governor Livingston Highlanders and the second-seeded Cranford Cougars girls basketball team was such a low-scoring event at Kean University in Union on February 26.

One thing for sure, the Lady Cougars could never find their rhythm offensively, and the Lady Highlanders, who had some offensive difficulties of their own, held on to grab a 31-25 victory.

No Cougar managed to hit double figures, but junior forward Jess McCoy did lead her team with eight points. Kaitlin McGovern scored seven points, Morgan Miller sank six points and Jenna Goeller netted three points, while Mairead McKeary added one point. Additionally, the 22-4 Cougars, who have been very productive all season from beyond the perimeter, hit only three against the Highlanders, two from McCoy and one from Miller.



ENGAGED IN A DEFENSIVE STRUGGLE...Cougar Morgan Miller, right, defends against Highlander Rebecca Johnson, No. 21, in the Union County Tournament title game at Kean University on February 26.



GETTING THE REVERSAL...Blue Devil Colin Barber, top, gets a reversal on South Plainfield's Dylan Painton and adds a near-fall in his 152-lb bout. Barber won, 5-0.

drawn Jacobs (220-lbs) and Anthony Tufaro (285-lbs), who battled their way to the top of the podium.

Christiano (170-lbs) and Jeff Weiss (220-lbs).

in the second period.

"I think that once we started missing, we got down on ourselves, and that's what completely destroyed any rhythm that we could have gotten. I missed my lay-up in the second half. It kind of ruined everything else. Then Morgan was a little off, and Kaitlin was a little off. We all were just off.

We couldn't pick ourselves back up. It did come once or twice, but it wasn't enough to keep us going for the rest of the game," McCoy said.

"Defensively, we did a very good job. The problem was none of our shots were falling. Had our shots fell

and we would have made our first two lay-ups at the beginning of the game, it would have been a different story. Offensively, it was not our night," Cougar Head Coach Jackie Dyer said.

Alyssa Polimeni led the 24-1 Highlanders with 15 rebounds and 8 points.

Top-seeded at 220-lbs, Jacobs used a slick side roll to finish off A.L. Johnson's Ed Olenick in 2:26 to advance to the semifinals.

"It really wasn't a match to make any big moves. I wrestled a little more conservatively. I worked on more conventional takedowns. That single was big. It really set me in the lead," said Kania, who added, "Tomorrow is going to be a big match."

"I think the reason why I got good at that was because I wrestled heavier people, whether it be coach [Marc] Fabiano or Anthony Tufaro. The more I do it the more I get used to it," Jacobs explained.

Tomorrow came and the battle began. Tufaro had a 2-0 lead then in the third period, he used devastating top control and turned Kania to his back to record a fall in 5:51.

Jacobs battered Tory Russell (South Plainfield - SoP) with a 16-5 majority decision then destroyed Vincent Coiro (Boonton) in 1:31 to claim the title and his free ticket to AC.

"I rode him out. Put in a half [nelson] at the end. He was showing me the opportunity, so I took it. I also did an opposite Navy [ride]," Tufaro said.

"He went for a hip throw. When he turned, I bull-rushed him and put a little trip in there. Then he fell into the pin, and I held it," Jacobs explained.

Kania won by forfeit to face Linden's Sumir Burns for third place. Burns won in 31 seconds.

After placing third in the district tournament, Tufaro was determined to prove that he was indeed the top dog, and he began his evening on Friday with a 1:48 fall over Rod Senat (Columbia) to reach the semis.

After witnessing his teammate earn the trip to AC, Tufaro got even more determined and pulled off a five-point reversal to near-fall move to defeat Juwan Proctor (Middlesex), 5-3, and earn his own free ticket to AC.

"I hit him with a front head [lock]. He sprawled. I did my H2 - You get the front head. Sprawl down. When he tries to pop up, you reach the far

"He was a very tough opponent. I got him on the mat. I knew I had to get him from there, because neither of us was taking each other down. I got him with a half. He peeled my hand,

Probatus Verus Honos

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