

Blue Devil Boys, Girls Grab NJSIAA Swim Crowns

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Ridgewood's Siobhan Goodman touched first in the 100-butterfly at 1:02.77.

On February 21, the Lady Blue Devils dunked Hunterdon Central, 111.5-58.5, in the Public A semifinals. Reinhardt touched first in the 200-free at 2:08.36 and touched first in the 500-free at 4:34.54. She teamed with Sarah Cronin, Ball and Baldwin to win the 200-free relay in 1:51.64. Sarah Cronin, Reinhardt, Schneider and Ball touched first in the 400-free at 4:07.97.

Jess Cronin, Bond, Daniel and Baldwin won the 200-medley relay in 2:05.53. Baldwin won the 50-free in 27.06 and the 100-free in 59.52. Sarah Cronin won the 100-butterfly in 1:06.41, and the 200-individual medley in 2:24.35. Jess Cronin won the 100-backstroke in 1:07.27. Hunterdon Central's Jess Ambrose touched first in the 100-breaststroke at 1:16.6.

The showdown with No. 3 Cherry Hill West (CHW) was decided in the final event when the No. 1 Blue Devils won the 400-free relay with Reinhardt, Sarah Cronin, Schneider and Baldwin touching in 3:33.37 for their 14th overall NJSIAA title. Bond, Baldwin, Ball and Daniel won the opening event, the 200-medley relay in 1:49.76.

Reinhardt, Sarah Cronin, Ball and Schneider touched first in the 200-free relay at 1:40.11. Baldwin touched first in the 50-free at 23.65 and the 100-back at 55.97 (WHS record). Sarah Cronin won the 100-free at 52.02 (WHS record). Courtney Patterson (CHW) touched first in the 200-free at 1:50.76 and the 500-free at 4:59.01. Katelyn Muscat touched first in the 200-individual medley at 2:12.55 and the 100-breast at 1:08.38, and Kira Singhaus touched first in the 100-fly at 59.6.

The Blue Devil boys glided to their sectional title with a 112-58 drenching of Randolph on February 16. Brennan Haley took top honors in the 100-butterfly at 55.82 and the 100-backstroke at 55.36. Max Shin, Tyler Lessner, Haley and Stephen Husch touched first in the 200-medley relay at 1:44.68.

Lessner touched first in the 200-individual medley with a time of 2:05.93 and also touched first in the 100-breaststroke at 1:02.64. Matt Daniel touched first in the 50-free at 23.04 and the 100-free in 50.67. John Lindros touched first in the 500-free at 5:07.17.

Randolph's Pete Haarklou, Chris Vukas, Matt Linz and Frank Bozzi won the 200-free relay in 1:33.8. The same foursome won the 400-free re-

lay in 3:24.46. Vukas touched first in the 200-free at 1:50.55.

On February 21, the Blue Devil boys laid waste to Cherry Hill East, 133-37. Daniel touched first in the 50-free at 22.39 and the 100-free at 49.6. Shin, Husch, Haley and Daniel touched first in the 200-medley relay at 1:38.4. Husch, Lessner, Alex Bond and Daniel touched first in the 200-free relay at 1:32.68.

Lindros touched first in the 200-free at 1:49.07 and the 500-free at 5:00.54. Lindros, Bond, Luke McGrory and Haley touched first in the 400-free relay at 3:25.64. Haley won the 100-fly at 53.31. Lessner won the 100-breaststroke at 1:01.2. Shin won the 100-backstroke in 55.65. Aram Barmakian touched first in the 200-individual medley in 2:03.79.

The boys meet against the No. 6 Bridgewater-Raritan Panthers was even more critical than the girls, because the No. 4 Blue Devils, trailing by four points, needed to place 1-3 in the 400-free relay, and did. Lindros, McGrory, Daniel and Haley touched first with a time of 3:18.43 and the B squad touched third at 3:24.13.

Depth, as it had all season, placed the major role as the Blue Devils won only two other events. Daniel touched first in the 200-free at 1:46.53, and Haley touched first in the 500-free at 4:52.23.

Panthers Dylan Sali, Vic Luo, Jess Novak and Bora Sebuktekin touched first in the 200-medley relay at 1:36.69. Sali won the 200-individual medley in 1:58.29 and the 100-back in 54.02. Novak won the 50-free in 21.7 and the 100-free in 48.81. Luo won the 100-fly in 51.55 and the 100-breast in 57.87. Luo, Sali, Novak and Nick Agnello won the 200-free relay in 1:29.94.

Raiders Sink Moorestown in Public B Boys Swim Semi

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School boys swim team defeated Moorestown, 104-66, in the Public B semifinal round on February 21. The Raiders touched first in nine of the 11 events.

Greg Baliko and Joe Dunn each won two individual events and swam on two winning relay teams, while Ryan Gajdzisz won two individual events and swam on one winning relay team.

Baliko touched first in the 200-individual medley with a time of 2:12.95 and touched first in the 100-breaststroke at 1:06.88. Dunn won



Devil's Den NJ's Swimming Capital? Hint: Its Zip Code is 07090

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

Not that there should have been much doubt about it before Sunday, but the Devil's Den now reveals that the state capital of New Jersey swimming still has an "07090" zip code.

In the opener of a wildly exciting doubleheader at the College of New Jersey, the WHS girls wrapped up an 18-0 season (their second straight unbeaten) as the No. 1-ranked team with an 89-81 victory over No. 3 Cherry Hill West. It was the 14th state title for the girls, which is the most of any public school and second only to Non-Public power Immaculate Heart's 16.

The girls had to survive a 1-2-3 finish in the breaststroke by the Lady Lions. One WHS fan was reportedly given CPR after swallowing his gum after that race. But the girls recovered to easily win the last relay. The meet ironically turned minutes before the opening 200-medley relay, when sophomore star Caroline Baldwin told coach Jeff Knight she wasn't sure she could handle swimming three of the last four races (two relays and the backstroke) in such a tight time frame. Knight switched her to the opening medley relay and WHS pulled off a shocking 1:49.76, the second fastest time in school history. Kathleen Bond, Erika Daniel and Lauren Ball completed that foursome.

Baldwin also won the 50 free (23.65) and 100 backstroke (school record 55.97) while classmate Sarah Cronin smashed a pair of records, winning the 100 free (52.02) and finishing second in the 200 free (1:51.21). Baldwin and Cronin were joined by Ellie Reinhardt and Lauren Schneider on the meet-winning final relay.

Cronin said she was feeling a bit fatigued from the grueling, fast-as-heck swims, but when she got on the blocks to lead off the 400 relay, she said, "when you look in the stands and everyone is cheering, all of the fatigue kind of goes away. I just kept reminding myself that it's only a minute and I'll remember this for the rest of my life."

The boys meet was yet another in the ridiculously bitter/friendly rivalry with Bridgewater-Raritan. The perennial sectional rivals met in the final this year when the state changed the sectional pairings to give the two best teams (WHS and Bridgewater for most of the 21st century) a shot at meeting in the state final, not the sectional final. And at \$9 a head, the state reaped some major rewards with this meet, as the CNJ pool rocked like never before.

When WHS finished off its state-best 23rd championship, one more than Metuchen St. Joseph, with a 1-3 on the final relay and an 86-84 win, it was a great moment for the program, and also for a senior class that had mostly watched on the sidelines as freshmen when WHS won its last state title in 2009.

"To be part of this program, with all its tradition, the 23 state titles, and to be contributing to it, I'm just so proud," senior captain Matt Trinkle said.

"As a freshman I just kinda sat there and watched," senior captain Brennan Haley said. "It's nice to be back at state and actually contribute."

"I can't believe my times," senior Kevin Oster said, after going 22.71 in the 50 for a key fifth place, and 50.7 leading off the critical B 400 relay. "I'm just so proud and happy right now."

A fourth senior, Alex Bond, went a career-best 22.47 for second in the 50 free, plus contributed to three key relays. In an 86-84 meet, every place is a meet-changer, a meet-decider. First place is important, but so is fifth. And that was never clearer than in the 500 freestyle. Moments after two-time defending champion Bridgewater had seemingly stuck a 1-2-3 dagger into WHS in the 100 freestyle, Haley and freshman John Lindros went 1-2 in the 500 free. But that's when the meet really turned.

Knight had figured (hoped?) Sam Hayes could take fourth in the event. But Hayes was a distant fifth/sixth as the laps went by. With 100 yards to go he got a little advantage on the swimmer in the next lane, but B-R's other swimmer was six lanes away, on the other side of the pool, and comfortably in fourth place. Hayes went into the last turn still more

Princeton Tops SPF In Public B Swim

No. 5 Princeton topped No. 3 Scotch Plains-Fanwood for the Public B boys swim title at The College of New Jersey on February 26. The 17-0 Tigers touched first in eight of the 11 events.

Raider Greg Baliko touched first in the 200-individual medley with a time of 1:54.25. He also touched first in the 100-breaststroke with a time of 59.64. Ryan Gajdzisz touched first in the 200-freestyle at 1:44.33.

Devils of the Month Boys & Girls Swim Teams

pion for WHS way back in 1991, took eight wrestlers to regions last weekend and two (Opoku, Colin Barber) advanced to states in Atlantic City with third-place finishes. The last regional winner for WHS was Onur Tezucar, who won in 1998 (145) and '99 (152).

U.C. BASEBALL ASSOCIATION
With the high school spring sports season almost here, what better time to congratulate 2011 WHS graduates A.J. Murray and Dan Kerr for their recent (Feb. 12) awards at the Union County Baseball Association's 76th Hot Stove League Dinner.

Murray, now at No. 9 Georgia Tech, and Kerr, now at Brown, shared the Edward Cooper Memorial Award, given to the outstanding high school player in Union County. Murray was a four-year starter at WHS under UCBA Hall of Famer Bob Brewster; Kerr started three years.

COLLEGE UPDATE
Nick Boyle (WHS '11), a freshman swimmer at Susquehanna University, earned first-team all-Landmark Conference. Boyle finished fifth in the 50-yard freestyle in 21.96 (21.73 in prelims) and 100 butterfly in 53.57 (53.50), and ninth in the 100 free in 48.89 (48.99). On relays, he split a 21.37 on the Crusaders' second-place 200 yard free, a 53.43 butterfly leg on the third-place 400 medley, a 23.28 fly on the winning 200 medley and a 47.99 leg on the third-place 400 free.

Nick Fusaro (WHS '08), a senior at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, was named to the all-conference basketball team by the Hudson Valley Men's Athletic Conference.

DINNER UPDATE
Three people to share a dinner table with. Any three people from any time in history. If you had a choice, who would you pick?

This is an invitation to all WHS coaches, athletes, teachers, students and graduates, along with SPFHS and Holy Trinity. Actually, it's open to anybody who reads this and wants to see their name in print next to three famous people.

The lists will be included in a Devil's Den later this month, probably March 15, so get your table reservations in soon. Send your three names to bj1019@aol.com and make the subject line "three to dinner." You can include reasons for the invitation, or a favorite restaurant, or you can keep it simple, for instance:

Bruce Johnson ('63); Chris Campbell, Paul Robeson, Jim Turpin.

DEVIL OF THE MONTH
This week's winners of free subs from Ryan (The) Mann are the boys and girls swim teams, who captured the 23rd and 14th state championships.

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!

"You Gotta Have Faith"



Westfield... "A man's home is his castle" and so it truly is with this wonderful 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath Colonial. With its well thought out floor plan, including spacious rooms and an easy traffic pattern, this home is solidly built. As you step into the Family Room addition you will be warmed by the sunlight with the sliding glass doors, bay window and 2 skylights. All of the hard wood floors have just been refinished. All of the rooms have been recently painted. Call for the extensive list of updates & extras. **Exceptional quality for \$449,900.**



Scotch Plains... Unique floor plan in Riga Estates featuring 3 Bedrooms with a first floor Master Bedroom Suite. The complex was built in 2002 and is ideal for commuters as it is just a short distance to the NYC Bus Stop. Boasting a finished basement, plenty of closets and a pull down attic, the storage is amazing! **The Price is Right at \$290,000.**



Clark... Thoughtfully designed, this 3 Bedroom home boasts an open and airy floor plan. Graced with a grade level entry, this unique layout features a distinctive entry foyer and grade level family room. Sunlight streams into the Living and Dining Rooms adding warmth and light to the more formal areas of the home. An updated eat-in kitchen and main bath that is directly accessible from both the Master Bedroom and hall, make everyday living easy and carefree. Add to all this, a fabulous location on a quiet street. **Reduced to \$359,000!**



Clark... A Smart Move! Built in 1960, with an open floor plan, this Bi-Level is thoughtfully designed with large rooms throughout. Boasting a 2 story addition with four well proportioned bedrooms, this home's master bedroom suite includes its own full bath and a walk-in closet. Below the Master Suite, the owners added a third garage area that can also serve as basement storage, depending upon your needs. The living room features hardwood floors and 2 skylights. The updated eat-in kitchen also offers plenty of natural daylight with another skylight. Potential in-law suite. **Just Reduced to \$398,000!**



Scotch Plains... You'll appreciate the love and care that went into this beautiful 3 bedroom, 2 bath Cape Cod. Thoughtful touches like the skylights in each of the upstairs bedrooms enhance this sun-filled home. The eat-in Kitchen boasts oak cabinetry and stainless steel appliances. The finished Rec Room offers another spot to hang out and to entertain. This Turn Key home has been meticulously maintained and updated by the current homeowners. There is nothing to do but relax on your deck overlooking the fenced yard. Ideal for commuters, just 1 Block to NYC Bus. **Offered at \$409,000.**



Westfield... Move right into this 4 Bedroom, 2 Full Bath Cape Cod. Lovingly maintained and boasting numerous updates, this wonderful home has it all. The first floor Master Suite boasts its own full bath and a view of the yard. Cooking will be a breeze in the renovated Eat-in Kitchen which is graced with extensive cabinetry, granite countertops, and stainless steel appliances. Featuring hard wood floors, a chair rail and crown molding, the Dining Room provides an elegant space for entertaining. And for those more casual moments, the bright and sunny Den/Office is your retreat. **Don't waste a minute...this affordable home won't last long at \$499,000.**



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