



DAVID B. CORBIN (January 2012 files) for The Westfield Leader and The Times
A MEMBER OF THE 100+ VICTORY CLUB...Cougar JP Christiano, left, finished this season with a 29-5 record to bring his career wins total to 111.

CHRISTIANO FINISHED 29-5 WITH 111 CAREER WINS

Cougar Matmen Finish, 15-8, To Return Experienced Team

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

Changing from one head coach to another came smoothly for this year's Cranford High School wrestling team. And the result was a 15-8 record with a very competitive schedule that included Westfield (20-6), Scotch Plains-Fanwood (21-3), Linden (District 11 champions), Governor Livingston (22-3) and perennial powers David Brearley (Union County Champions) and Roselle Park.

"We wrestled well! Up and down the lineup, we were real strong at some points, and at some points, we filled in the best we could. We lost four matches by three or less," Cougar Head Coach Pat Gorman said.

The Cougars had no competitor at 113-lbs and had to fill in some weak spots with new wrestlers, but they did have several veterans and several athletes, who made strong contributions.

One who made huge contributions for four years was senior JP Christiano, who finished this season

with a 29-5 record at 170-lbs to bring his career wins total to 111. Four of his five losses came against Joey Balboni of Brearley - in the UCT finals, District 11 finals, Region 3 finals and in a dual meet. He qualified for the NJSIAA Tournament in Atlantic City, but due to illness, he was not able to compete.

"He came down with mono. Looking back, he probably had it a week or two before the districts," Coach Gorman explained.

Last year, Christiano was the UCT, District 11 and Region 3 champion at 160-lbs. He advanced to the NJSIAA quarterfinals.

Senior Ian Henry, also a four-year varsity wrestler, earned his team plenty of bonus points with his wild, go-for-the-pin maneuvers. This season, he accomplished a goal that he had been eyeing his entire career when he became the District 11 champ at 126-lbs. Henry finished with a 24-9 record.

"He ended his career on a great

note. The good thing for him was winning the districts, because he's been plugging away at that for so long," Coach Gorman said.

Junior Corey Markovitch, compet-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



DAVID B. CORBIN (1997 files) for The Westfield Leader and The Times
STACKING THINGS UP...Jon Stack, No. 25, stacks things up to cause a fumble in a rain-soaked muddy game against Rahway in 1997

STACK WAS OUTSIDE LINEBACKER/FULLBACK AT SPF

Jon Stack Considers Himself Lucky to Be SPF Grid Coach

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

Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School (SPFHS) football Head Coach Jon Stack has considered himself to be lucky with reference to his return to his hometown to teach and coach at SPFHS.

Stack, who graduated from SPF in 1998, remembered how he got involved in organized sports.

"Before it was the PAL program, I played for the junior Raiders, a little football, wrestling. As I got older, I got more into football, wrestling and track. When I got to high school, those were the three sports that I felt strongest. In football, I was first a corner, tailback and eventually fullback and outside linebacker," he said.

The Raider gridgers got off to great start his senior season.

"There were only 12 seniors. We started out 6-0. We lost our last four games. The guys I played with my four years of high school and four years of PAL were the same guys. The quarterback, I played with Eddie Williams for eight years. Eddie was always my quarterback. We ran option out of Wing-T. It was fun," he said.

Stack (uniform No. 25) also recalled teammates such as: tailback Delmar Patterson, wingback Maurice Dockery, Lau'renn and La'Marr McDaniel, and wide receiver Donald Patterson.

Stack's biggest moment of glory came when he sprinted for an 83-yard touchdown against Kearny, but another memorable moment came several months later.

"I got to play in the Snapple Bowl, and I always figured that was the end of my organized athletics," Stack said.

He was partially right when he entered Hofstra University. "A 170-lb fullback didn't translate very well, so I played rugby," he said.

While in his junior year at Hofstra, Stack's first streak of luck about returning to SPFHS arose.



DAVID B. CORBIN (February files) for The Westfield Leader and The Times
Raider Football Head Coach Jonathan Stack

"I was very lucky. The former Vice Principal, Chuck Cansella, was also working in the social studies department. My junior year, he asked me if I ever thought of coming back to Scotch Plains. I got to student teach here, and I was observed constantly by Chuck. Because of that, I was offered a job," he said.

More good fortune soon came.

"It was my first year, and Erik Rosenmeier was the Athletic Director at the time. He said, 'are you interested in coaching?' He said they have a job available for the freshmen team. I said I would love to do it. A lot of my life, I just happened to be in the right place at the right time," Stack said.

His first three years was dedicated to the freshmen team. In the third year, he also started coaching the track throwing events and varsity wrestling.

"It was after the wrestling, which is an incredibly demanding sport, that I realized how much I enjoyed football and how much I could give to the football program. After the wrestling season was over, I approached Steve

Ciccotelli and asked him, 'I want to come up to coach varsity.' So in my fourth year teaching, I was coaching varsity football here," he said.

The last five years, he was the running backs coach, the secondary coach, and in charge of the special teams and offensive responsibilities. Earlier he also was a defensive line coach.

"Steve Ciccotelli is a tremendous football coach. Working with him for the last 10 years and playing for him, he teaches you the game. Because of him, I feel I have a very strong understanding of the game, and different ideas of how to coach this game, how to be a tactician. He gave me the opportunity to be a well-rounded coach," Stack said.

With a new head coach, some changes could be expected, but there will still be familiar faces.

"Right now we are in the selection period. There is going to be some changes. Defensively, I am a 4-4 guy. Rich McGriff is definitely going to be defensive coordinator. He will be far more active in all of this. I will be the offensive coordinator. Ken Hernandez is going to running backs and linebackers."

Looking ahead to next football season, Stack said, "I have always been a strong believer that you allow your personnel to dictate what kind of offense that you run. Next year, we are going to have an offensive line that could have four 300-pounders. We are very successful with our zone schemes and our gap schemes. I want to keep that. I do like running the multiple-I. I like a little bit more read option. I love triple option. I like the idea of spreading the teams out as well, because we have a good deal of skill position players, who I think can be utilized in certain packages."

Aware of the challenge ahead, Stack added, "We definitely have big shoes to fill with Steve Ciccotelli leaving. It was great to play for him, great to coach for him. We are going to build on the program that he created here for 20 years."

Probitas Verus Honos

Weichert®

2011
Award Winners

With great pride, we recognize our highest achievers.

Weichert® President's Club



NIKI FRY
NJAR® Circle of Excellence Sales Award® Bronze - 2011
Weichert President's Club, Sales Club, Marketed Club

Weichert® Ambassador's Club



ANA DE FIGUEIREDO
NJAR® Circle of Excellence Sales Award® Bronze - 2011
Weichert Ambassador's Club, Sales Club, Marketed Club



KATHLEEN GWALDIS
NJAR® Circle of Excellence Sales Award® Bronze - 2011
Weichert Ambassador's Club, Marketed Club

Weichert® Club Awards



NADINE S ALLEN
NJAR® Circle of Excellence Sales Award® Bronze - 2011
Weichert Executive's Club, Sales Club



PHYLLIS R BROWN
NJAR® Circle of Excellence Sales Award® Bronze - 2011
Weichert Executive's Club, Sales Club



VIVIAN CORTESE-STRANO
NJAR® Circle of Excellence Sales Award® Bronze - 2011
Weichert Executive's Club, Sales Club, Marketed Club



JAMES EUWER
NJAR® Circle of Excellence Sales Award® Bronze - 2011
Weichert Executive's Club, Sales Club, Marketed Club



JAMIE GARBER
NJAR® Circle of Excellence Sales Award® Bronze - 2011
Weichert Executive's Club, Sales Club, Marketed Club



ALAN RUBIN
NJAR® Circle of Excellence Sales Award® Bronze - 2011
Weichert Executive's Club, Sales Club, Marketed Club



JACQUELINE WALDMAN
NJAR® Circle of Excellence Sales Award® Bronze - 2011
Weichert Director's Club, Sales Club

Westfield Office • 908-654-7777

To contact any of these award winners, call your local office or visit weichert.com

