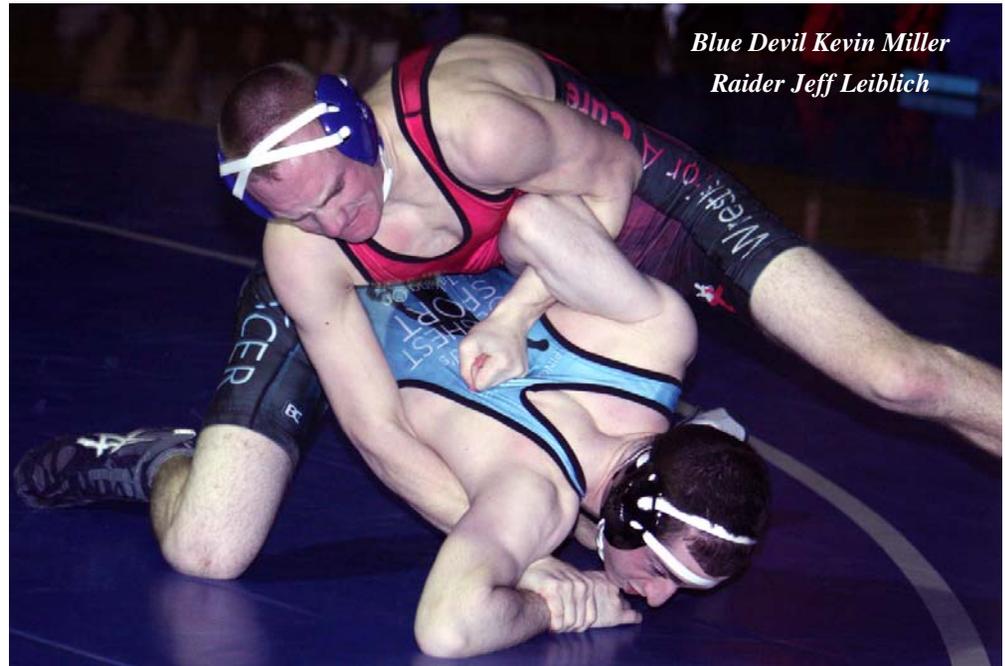




Blue Devil Kevin Frega  
Raider Matt Ridge



Blue Devil Kevin Miller  
Raider Jeff Leiblich

**RAIDER RIDGE DELIVERS WINNER AT 195-LBS; BLUE DEVILS BARBER (145), VELEZ (152) WIN**

## Raiders Nip Westfield, 34-33 in 'Pin Cancer' Final Bout

By DAVID B. CORBIN

*Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times*

All the chips were on the line when Raider senior Matt Ridge stepped on the mat to face Blue Devil sophomore Kevin Frega in the final bout at 195-lbs in the "Pin Cancer" Alumni Night between the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School wrestling team and Westfield at Scotch Plains on January 31. All proceeds from the ticket sales and the concession stands were to be donated to the "Pin Cancer" program.

Both coaches were juggling around their lineups throughout like a "chess" match to get the most advantageous match-ups for their team and with the Raiders trailing, 33-30, the final move was made when Ridge bumped up from his regular class at 182-lbs to face Frega and the winner

would deliver the victory for his team.

Frega took the initiative with a takedown attempt, but Ridge countered to get the takedown and a two-point nearfall. Ridge recorded a side roll reversal in the second period and added a defensive takedown to claim an 8-0 majority decision.

"Beginning of the match, I wrestled a little complacent, didn't know what to do on my feet, he was too strong but then again, muscle won't beat talent and hard work. Once I got to the second period, I knew I was reversing him with the wrist roll. You can't hold down a good wrestler no matter how strong you are. You may say I won the match but, without my team, I don't do anything out there. I can't wrestle by myself," said Ridge.

The game of strategy began at 220-lbs when Raider Dan Van brunt bumped up from 195-lbs to center off with Tom Anderson. Van brunt recorded a single-leg takedown then pinned Anderson in 1:10 with a half nelson. The Raiders' lead increased to 12-0 when heavyweight Mike Henderson received a forfeit.

"I went out there and gave it all that I had, banging his head, lifting his arm, trying to dump him and then he was getting all sloppy, stepping forward, stepping back, he was just hanging out on top, I swept the ankle and he fell down," Van brunt said.

"We wanted Danny Van brunt at 220 and we wanted to end the

match with Ridge against Frega. We felt very good with Ridge; he's been wrestling very strong; he's got a couple of losses against some of the best competition in the state so he's battle tested," Raider Head Coach TJ Gavor said.

At 106-lbs, Blue Devil Chris Hoerle quickly took Matt Olin to the mat and pinned him in 41 seconds using a yank-and-crank half nelson. After a scoreless first period at 113-lbs, Blue Devil John Fuller controlled Jasmar Philippe from the top position in the second period then escaped in the third to grab a 1-0 decision.

The Blue Devils took a 14-12 team lead when Nick Kalimtzis recorded 12 takedowns and a penalty point to claim a 25-10, tech fall in 6:00 at 120-lbs. Raider JT Beirne received a forfeit at 126-lbs then Raider Tom

Cunningham, at 132-lbs, took Jack Miller to the mat and nearly put him to sleep with a cross-face cradle in the first period, but all he could salvage was a 5-1 decision to put his team ahead, 21-14.

"He took a shot, dragged his arm by, swung around and got the two. I was working to get the turn. I got it, but he was a tough wrestler. Periods, two and three, he kept coming for it, he was relentless and he beat me up good and I couldn't get any takedowns," said Cunningham.

At 138-lbs, Blue Devil Kevin Miller recorded a head-and-arm takedown in the first period then added an arm drag takedown in the second before showing Jeff Lieblich the lights in 3:47 with a wrist/arm bar combination.

**CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**

*Probitas Verus Honos*