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THE WEEK IN SPORTS

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TROTTER MAKES WINNING LAY-UP AT THE BUZZER

Cougar Boys Rope Mustangs In Four OT Marathon, 86-85

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

Quadruple overtime! Who would have "thunk" it? With his team trailing by one point, senior guard Tommy Trotter grabbed a rebound after a missed free throw, dribbled the full length of the court and rolled in a lay-up as time ran out to give the Cranford High School boys basketball team an emotionally charged 86-85 victory over the Marlboro Mustangs after four overtime periods in the opening round of the Cougar Classic in Cranford on December 27.

"I have never played a game that long," commented Trotter.

Trotter, who also had seven assists, scored half of his 22 points in the overtime periods, and senior forward John Oblachinski, who grabbed eight

of his team-leading 13 rebounds in overtime, finished with 17 points and five assists. Mike Guarriello netted 20 points and pulled seven rebounds. Cameron Kutzer had five points and five rebounds. Luke Christiano scored eight of his 14 points in overtime, Jack McCaffrey sank six points and Jack Schetelich added two points.

The Mustangs sank eight 3-pointers, all but one in regulation, and junior guard Kenny LaRocca sank four of them. Justin Markowitz bucketed three 3-pointers and led the team with 24 points. Big man Matt Ringel, who led his team in rebounds, put in 13 points.

"They were hitting a lot, especially that number 11, but we settled down and covered him," Trotter said.

The Cougars won the first quarter,

13-11, and all of their points were accompanied with assists. However, the Mustangs were making headway with multiple steals. The Mustangs continued their success with thefts and also nailed three 3-pointers to win the second quarter, 11-8, to take a slim, 22-21, lead at the half.

"They were getting the steals early. They were reaching a lot, but the refs weren't calling them," Trotter said.

The Mustangs stretched their lead to 39-31 with a few minutes remaining in the third quarter, but Guarriello and Oblachinski both hit 2-pointers and Trotter banged a 3-pointer to close the gap to 39-38.

The emotional seesaw teetered more in the fourth quarter and the Cougars grabbed a 44-42 lead with

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SEALING THE VICTORY...Blue Devil Nick Velez, right, seals the 152-lb crown with this takedown at the edge of the mat during the Roselle Park Tournament on December 28.

FULLER (113), BARBER (145), VELEZ (152) WIN TITLES

Blue Devils 3rd, Panthers 1st In Roselle Park Mat Tourney

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

Westfield Blue Devils John Fuller, Matt Barber and Nick Velez claimed individual titles at the Roselle Park Invitational Tournament in Roselle Park on December 28.

The hosting Panthers (RP) claimed the team title in the eight-team tournament with a total of 230, ahead of Hanover Park (HP) at 210, followed by Westfield at 144. Morristown (Mo)

placed fourth at 129, followed by Piscataway (P) at 87, West Milford (WM) at 86, Madison (Md) at 82 and Mastery Charter (MC) of Philadelphia at 13.

The Panthers entered 10 wrestlers into the finals and came up with four champions — Chris Gural (106), Steve Loevsky (170), Phil Woods (182) and Will Ferdinando (195). Hanover Park entered nine into the finals and claimed five champions —

Lou Ramio (120), Austin Nash (126), Anthony Cefalo (132), Christian Bassolino (138), Anthony Bassolino (160).

In the 113-lb title bout, Fuller scored a takedown on Jonathan Silva (HP) then pinned him in 2:25 using an arm bar and a half nelson.

"This is the first tournament that I've ever won. It might have been a small bracket today, but I got my

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MARATHON GAME...Cougar Mike Guarriello, No. 3, keeps close tabs on a Marlboro Mustang during the Cougar Classic in Cranford on December 27. The Cougars pulled out an 86-85 victory in quadruple overtime.

SINCERE APOLOGIES - Due to a computer hard drive crash, the SPF/Mother Seton, Cranford/Marboro and Cranford/Kent Place basketball games had to be rewritten. The interviews with SPF's coach Camille Mammolite and Katie Harper, Cougars Mairead McKeary, coach Jackie Dyer and Tommy Trotter were rewritten by memory (to the best of my memory).
David B. Corbin (Asst. Publisher/Sports Editor) - *Probitas Verus Honos*

HARPER SINKS 13 PTs, STEALS 9; DWUMFOUR 14 RBs

Lady Raiders Settle Setters In Benovegno Tourney, 45-30

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

Steals outnumbered rebounds from the second quarter onward as the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School girls basketball team set back the Mother Seton Setters, 45-30, in the first round of the Keith Benovegno Memorial Tournament in Scotch Plains on December 27. According to Director of Athletics Ryan Miller,

all proceeds from the tournament would go to the Keith Benovegno Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Senior guard/co-captain Katie Harper, after a slow first quarter, turned on the heat offensively and defensively, especially in the second half where she scored 11 of her team-leading 13 points. She converted several of her nine steals to scores, and added three assists and three re-

bounds. The first quarter ended in an 8-8 stalemate with sophomore guard Amani Williams leading the Raiders' charge with five points, while senior guard/co-captain Madison Maisel banged the game's only 3-pointer at the end of the quarter.

"It was kind of a slow first quarter for me, but when we started to posi-

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SCRAMBLE UNDER THE BOARD...Raider Amani Williams, right, scrambles for control of the ball in the game against Mother Seton at the Keith Benovegno Memorial Tournament in Scotch Plains. The Lady Raiders won, 45-30.

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