

COUGAR GUARRIELLO NETS 15, RAIDER RAMOS 12 PTS

Cougar Cagers 'Push' Past Raider Boys for 59-46 Win

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

Team speed on the part of the Cranford High School boys basketball team led to a 59-46 victory over the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Raiders at Scotch Plains on January 10. From the second quarter onward, the 5-3 Cougars kept one step ahead of the 5-3 Raiders to keep expanding their lead.

Senior Mike Guarriello was one of four Cougars, who hit double figures, leading his team with 15 points to go

with three assists, two steals and a blocked shot. Point guard Tommy Trotter (3 steals, 2 assists) and Cameron Kutzer (3 assists, 3 steals, 5 rebounds) each scored 11 points, and Jack McCaffrey (6 rebounds, 2 steals) sank 12 points. Luke Christiano added six points.

"We like to push the ball more than them. They like to slow down. That's pretty much how we came out on top," Guarriello said.

"They are athletic. They are good. They were beating us off the dribble.

We were a step slow. They played last night, and we played last night an overtime game, but they beat us to the spots. That was big," Raider Head Coach Dennis Doherty said.

Leo Ramos was the go-to man for the Raiders and finished with 12 points, six rebounds and a pair of assists. But the Cougars limited him to only two points in the final quarter.

"They wore him down pretty well. He was a little tired at the end," Coach Doherty said.

The Raiders were moving players



DRIVING TOWARDS THE RAIDERS' BASKET...Cougar Jack McCaffrey, No. 12, drives past Raider Devin Glover, No. 5, in their game at Scotch Plains on January 10. The Cougars defeated the Raider boys, 59-46.

Cougar Cagers Defeat Lady Raiders, 65-43

Mairead McKeary and Cerys MacLelland each scored 15 points to lead the 3-5 Cranford High School girls basketball team past Scotch Plains-Fanwood on January 11. Micaiah Battle led the 2-6 Raiders with 10 points, while Katie Harper and Madison Maisel each netted seven points.

Cougar Lindsey Pace put up 10 points, Erin Miexner sank eight, Kerry Wischusen netted seven, while Megan Pringle and Bela Speer each added four. Raiders Amani Williams and Tabitha Dwumfour scored eight and six points, respectively.

Sc. Pl.-Fanwood	15	11	9	8	43
Cranford	19	15	17	14	65

on-and-off the floor throughout the game, so, in addition to Ramos, seven players got into the scoring column. Dan Lopez (3 rebounds, 2 steals, 2 assists) scored seven points, and Aaron Lee bucketed six points. Jack Poillon (5 rebounds) and Emendo Thomas each had five points, Quaryee Bull had four points, Josh Acosta (3 rebounds) sank three and Chris Gibbons, who had six rebounds, added

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KEEPING A CLOSE WATCH ON A ROYAL PLAYER...Blue Devil Olivia Luzzi, No. 22, hangs tight to Royal forward Catherine Bonner, No. 30, during the game against Oak Knoll in Westfield on January 9.

KNAPP NOTCHES 17 PTS, SCOTT SCORES 15, LUZZI 6

Blue Devils Overrun Royals In 3rd for 44-34 Hoops Win

By DAVID B. CORBIN
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Shock therapy awakened the Westfield High School girls basketball team by halftime and persistence allowed the Blue Devils to overrun the Oak Knoll Royals midway through the third quarter en route to a 44-34 victory in Westfield on January 9.

Entering the game with a 7-0 record, the Lady Blue Devils were stunned by the Royals' ability to knock them out of their rhythm. The 1-4 Royals were getting rebound-after-rebound under their offensive boards and converting them to scores. Forward Catherine Bonner was inflicting most of the damage and converted several rebounds to scores, finishing with 17 of her game-high 19 points in the first half.

"Oak Knoll was physical. They pushed the girls around a little bit. Once we started boxing out a little better, things started happening," Blue Devil Head Coach Joe Marino said.

Despite a rocky team start during the first half, Blue Devil juniors Jackie

Knapp and Lil Scott were somewhat consistent throughout the entire game. Knapp, who finished with four steals, a pair of assists and six rebounds, hit eight of her 17 points in the first half, while Scott (5 steals, assist) sank six in the first half and nine in the second to finish with 15 points. Olivia Luzzi netted six points and two assists. Hannah Liddy scored four points and finished with four assists, three steals and four rebounds. Carly Friedman had three steals and a pair of key tips that led to steals. Morgan Maloney (assist) and Amelia Montes (1 point) had three rebounds each, and Rachel Mattesich added one point.

The Royals took a 12-10 lead by the end of the first quarter then even stretched their lead to eight points before Knapp and Scott rolled in 2-pointers to make the score, 22-18, by halftime.

The tide began to flow a little in the Blue Devils' favor early in the third quarter when Scott hit one of her two free throws and Knapp created a steal and fed Luzzi for a lay-up to narrow

the Royals' lead to one. But the most notable shift was how the Blue Devils' defense shut down Bonner, permitting her just two more points for the remainder of the game.

"We attacked the paint. She was hitting in close, so we wanted to keep her out of the paint. We got a body on her and boxed her out. Part of our main focus is boxing out, because we aren't a big team. We want to limit them to one shot only. We can't let them get second, third, fourth chances. That's where it's going to hurt us. Eventually it worked. She got off her rhythm and that shut her down," Knapp said.

"We tried to mark her in the beginning and she still found a way to get open. The bottom line we decided, 'OK! No problem!' We will just lay back and go into the zone. We shut her down in the second half. That was our goal. We shut her down, everything will work in our favor," Coach Marino said.

The real turning point came mid-

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TUDOR



CRANFORD. Enter the Storybook arched doorway into a Tudor gem where Old World Charm meets every modern convenience. Spacious LR has custom arched windows and WBF. FDR appointed with chair rail will accommodate large holiday dinners. Updated EIK has granite counters and ample cherry cabinetry. Large FR with sunny panoramic windows offers views of professionally landscaped gardens. 3+ BR, 2 Baths, huge basement and amazing flexible space to suit your needs. A MUST SEE. \$617,200.

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Team Villane

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Holly Cohen

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185 Elm St • 908-654-7777

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