



Blue Devil Kevin Miller
Bear Jesse Goncalves



Blue Devil Matt Barber
Bear Aly Mohamed

FULLER NIPS WETZEL; MILLER BROS ADD PINS; BARBER, GOZDIESKI, ANDERSON, HOERLE WIN

Blue Devil Wrestlers Burn Bears in Final Bout, 36-31

By DAVID B. CORBIN

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Johnny Fuller faced the pressure and succeeded with a 1-0 victory over Ray Wetzel in the final bout of the evening to salvage a 36-31 victory for the Westfield High School wrestling team over the Brearley Bears in Westfield on January 14.

The 6-4 Blue Devils were clinging to a 33-31 lead entering the 113-lb bout between Fuller and Wetzel. If Wetzel pulled out a decision, the Bears would win, 34-33. After a scoreless first period, Fuller escaped in the second period and needed to control Wetzel for the entire third period to salvage the victory. He did!

"I knew coming down to the end that it was going to be really close. I had to do something.

They bumped a really good 106-pounder up to me, and I knew it was going to be a tough, physical match. In the second, he couldn't hold me down. In the third, it was just everything I got. I had to do it for my team and for myself, as well. Earlier we [team] were in a little bit of a hole. My coach told me going into the third that it had to be my best wrestling. I went out there and left it all on the mat," Fuller said.

The Blue Devils stumbled into dire straits when Kevin Frega, in a close 220-lb bout with Bear Saverio Salfcas, became the victim of a lateral drop fall in 4:32 to put Brearley in front, 31-27, with three bouts remaining. Blue Devil heavyweight Tom Anderson recorded a takedown and an escape to beat Orion Stubbs, 3-0. Then at 106-lbs, Chris Hoerle

tacked on a takedown to a three-point half nelson nearfall then added a two-point nearfall, all in the third period, to defeat Emanuel Montero, 8-2, to put Westfield in front, 33-31, entering Fuller's bout.

"Great win by John Fuller! He gutted that one out. He looked tough on top. Chris Hoerle put him in a position to win by coming back, trailing the whole match, showed some guts, came through," Blue Devil Head Coach Glen Kurz said.

The two Miller brothers, Jack at 132-lbs and Kevin at 138-lbs, came up with key pins. Jack recorded a back door takedown, a defensive spin around takedown and a three-point nearfall in the first period before showing Charlie Buckley the lights in 2:18. Kevin recorded a reversal on

Jesse Goncalves, which led to a 3:03 fall using an arm bar half nelson combination.

Matt Barber followed at 145-lbs with a pullback and smother pin of Aly Mohamed in 52 seconds. Nick Velez received a forfeit at 160-lbs then Jerek Gozdieski earned a 5-3 decision over Eoghan Savona at 170-lbs.

Bear Nick DeMarco received a forfeit in the first bout of the evening at 120-lbs. and Tim Murphy recorded an 8-4 decision over Nick Kalimtzis at 126-lbs. Bear Mike Tancs recorded a takedown on Devin Anderson with two seconds left to grab an 8-0, majority decision at 160-lbs. Joe Balboni received a forfeit at 182-lbs and Jeff Velez recorded a 2:40 fall over Phil Ricca at 195-lbs.

"There were some places where

we wrestled really well. The two Millers came through. As a team, we wrestled pretty well. I feel better than I have in the last couple of matches. We are going in the right direction. Are we as good as we need to be? Nope! But we are getting closer," Coach Kurz said.

BOUT SEQUENCE:

120: — DeMarco (B) won forfeit
126: — Murphy (B) d Kalimtzis, 8-4
132: — J. Miller (W) p Buckley, 2:18
138: — K. Miller (W) p Goncalves, 3:03
145: — Barber (W) p Mohamed, :52
152: — Velez (W) won forfeit
160: — Gozdieski (W) d Savona, 5-3
170: — Tancs (B) md Anderson, 8-0
182: — Balboni (B) won forfeit
195: — Velez (B) p Ricca, 2:40
220: — Salfcas (B) p Frega, 4:32
Hwt: — Anderson (W) d Stubbs, 3-0
106: — Hoerle (W) d Montero, 8-2
113: — Fuller (W) d Wetzel, 1-0

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