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441 Park Ave. (Leader/Times)

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727 Central Ave. (Leader)

Many New Faces Look to Keep Raider Hoops Revival Going

By ALEX LOWE
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Just a few short years ago, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School boys basketball team had fallen into a pattern of producing undersized, run and gun teams that could score a lot of points but could not stop the opponent from scoring. Who can forget the days of Leo Ramos hitting for 57 points in a 107-105 victory over Roselle? While entertaining on some level, typically, the Raiders would lose most of these shootouts.

All of that has changed since Steven Siracusa took over the program. Siracusa's defense first approach has helped changed the culture in Scotch Plains and the Raiders have reeled off three straight winning seasons. Last year, Scotch Plains-Fanwood may

son. Everything is earned and we will find out a lot more about our team within the next two weeks. We do expect our seniors Anthony Porter, Jonathan Ramos, Danny Wright, Nick Merkel and Miles Owen to lead by example on and off the court. Each of our seniors are great people who are selfless teammates, so we look for that to trickle down to the rest of the team/program."

Starting with the seniors, Porter, Ramos, Wright Merkel and Owens are all under consideration for spots in the rotation. Ramos and Porter saw occasional duty on last year's team. Porter, the QB on the football team, averaged 2.7 points per game in spot action. Ramos averaged 1.5 points per game.

Junior Justin Guy is probably the

points per contest.

Sophomores Raul Lugo, Hayden Widder, Mateusz Sierant, Christian Piesch, Matt Drubulis and Liam Mahr will also push for playing time.

Siracusa is essentially starting over with a new group of Raider players dotting the roster. If Scotch Plains-Fanwood is to compete in the brutal Union County basketball scene, it will be critical that this new mix of players come together quickly.

"It is definitely a challenge playing in Union County with so many talented players, teams and coaches. However, as a competitor, it is not only a great challenge but a great opportunity. The challenge is the fun part that keeps us striving for excellence every day in everything we do. While it may be very difficult to break



David B. Corbin (February 2018 files) for The Westfield Leader and The Times
JUMPING UP A WEIGHT CLASS...Blue Devil senior Tim Miller, left, who competed at 170-lbs last year, has added muscle and will compete at 182-lbs this season. The Blue Devils are anticipating a very good season.

MILLER, SIMPSON, LODER, COMPOSTO, HOERLE LEAD WAY

Blue Devil Wrestlers Envision Season of High Achievement

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

Picking up where they left off and even improving upon their achievements is what is expected from this year's Westfield High School wrestling Blue Devils. Last year the Blue Devils placed second in the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 5 Tournament and finished with a 15-9 record and with a Murderer's Row, maybe two returning, the sky could be the limit this season.

"This is a really good team! We are excited about what we have in the room. We felt really good about the way our year ended last year then these kids just put in an awesome off-season. Expectations are high. They have to be high! The coaching staff has high expectations but I think more importantly the kids have high expectations of themselves. They want to win and I think they are doing everything the right way to put themselves in a position to do so. If we stay healthy and stay focused, this is going to be a great year," Blue Devil Head Coach Glen Kurz expressed.

A mass of very strong juniors return in the lower weight classes to form a Murderer's Row with the sprinkling in of a freshman. Freshman Luke Jacobs will compete at 106-lbs, followed Luke Hoerle at 113-lbs and Quinn Gimblette at 120-lbs. Last year Gimblette finished 20-13 at 120-lbs. Last year Hoerle won the Union County Tournament (UCT), district and region titles at 113-lbs to finish 36-5 and 67-13 overall for his two years.

Junior CJ Composto, who placed fifth in the state at Atlantic City (AC), first in the UCT, first in the district (Outstanding Wrestler - OW), and first in the region at 106-lbs finishing with a 39-3 record, has powered up and will compete at 126-lbs. His freshman year, Composto claimed the District 15 title, including the OW Award, and the Region IV title to qualify for the NJSIAA Tournament in AC where he won two bouts to finish with a 35-6 record. Composto's overall record is 74-9. Junior Jeremy Silber, who placed third in the UCT at 126-lbs and finished 20-13, will compete at 132-lbs.

"It looks really good with those

guys down there. Really from [10]6 straight on up, I think Jacobs is going to have a nice freshman year. After that, those next guys have all been proven, Gimblette, Hoerle, Composto, Silber. Those guys have been there before. They wrestled at high levels," Coach Kurz said.

In the 138, 145 and 152-lb classes, there are several wrestlers with some varsity experience in the mix, which includes senior Theo Dardia, junior James Greco, sophomores Mike Price and Anthony Ciotta, and freshman Jim McDermott.

But watch out again! The gauntlet will be thrown down beginning at 160-lbs to be occupied by junior Luke Scanlon, who has been growing in height, weight and, especially ability, since the final few weeks of last year when he placed fourth in the UCT at 145-lbs, dropped to 138-lbs and pulled out the decisive victory to give the Blue Devils the 29-27 win over Rahway.

"I watched him just get better over the summer. He was real disappointed with his district tournament last year. By the end of the summer, he was wrestling lights out," Coach Kurz said.

Next in line is senior Jordan Simpson, a co-captain of the football team, who will compete at 170-lbs. Senior Tim Miller has added muscle and will compete at 182-lbs. Last year Miller placed second in the Roselle

Park Tournament (RPT) and third in the district then won two bouts at the regions to finish 19-10 at 170-lbs. Senior Brendan Loder, who took second in the RPT at 195-lbs, fifth in the UCT and third in the district, will remain at 195-lbs.

"I would say we've got another Murderer's Row up top. That group is nasty down low but you look at a Scanlon, Simpson, Miller, Loder back-to-back. That's tough right there. It's going to be tough to steal a win from us in those spots," Coach Kurz warned.

Competing at 220-lbs will be sophomores John Heard and Will Ricca, and at 285-lbs will be junior Abdul Kharhoulit.

"Look outside those Murderer's Rows, we've got good kids. We don't have holes. It's going to be about staying focused and doing things the right way," Coach Kurz said.

The Blue Devils will open their season at the Delaware Valley Tournament on Saturday, December 15. The Blue Devils' first home match will be the Annual Pin Cancer event against Scotch Plains-Fanwood on Friday, December 21, at 7 p.m.

"This is going to be a lot of fun because these are good kids to be around and they like to work, they like to get better. They want to see how good they can be," Coach Kurz expressed.



David B. Corbin (February 2018 files) for The Westfield Leader and The Times
FIFTH IN NJSIAA AT AC...Blue Devil CJ Composto, right, placed fifth at 106-lbs in the NJSIAA Tournament at Atlantic City as a sophomore last year.



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times

PLENTY OF NEW FACES THIS YEAR...The SPF Raider boys graduated a very talented senior-heavy squad last year, so this year there will be plenty of new faces on the basketball court.

have turned in its best season under Siracusa. The Raiders advanced to the quarterfinal round of the Union County Tournament before losing to Roselle Catholic. In the state tournament, the Raiders defeated Perth Amboy in the first round before falling to Phillipsburg.

Siracusa faces his toughest challenge this season as the Raiders graduated nine seniors from last season's team. Among them were Lamont Cruse, Tommy Drubulis, Dwight Laylor, Jack Brady and Ryan Muench, all had been key contributors during the Raiders' turnaround.

"We have not had any scrimmages yet, so we do not have enough information to give a projected starting lineup. We lost all five starters from last year's team, so we will have an entirely new starting lineup this sea-

most experienced returning player. As a sophomore, Guy played in 24 games and averaged 4.5 points per game. The Raiders need for Guy to make a big move this season. Fellow juniors Justin Fletcher, Jayson Williams, Charlie Levine, Dean Johnston, Ryan Widman, Eric Berkins and Justin Clark figure into the equation as well. Of that group, Williams has the potential to be the team's point guard this year after playing key minutes in several games last season. Williams played in 16 games and averaged 3.9

through Union County as a public school, I definitely think it is possible. If you get the right group of kids that are very talented, work extremely hard, play as a team, and 'buy in' to the coaches/program, there is no doubt that team can be successful against other great teams in any conference, county, or state."

Siracusa knows that the Raiders have ascended quickly among the ranks of varsity programs in Union County. But he believes there is plenty of room for that ascension to continue.

"I would like to think that our basketball program has improved each year since I took over. We were fortunate to have a great group of players who worked very hard, played as a team, and 'bought in' to our coaching staff. While we won many games the past two years, we are nowhere near satisfied or content. We have still yet to win a conference championship (in school history), reach the semifinals in the county tournament (in school history), or get past the second round of the state tournament since I took over. Moving forward, I would obviously love to see our program competing and winning conference and state championships. In my opinion, there is no reason not to believe in ourselves and limit our potential for years to come."

The Raiders gets the season started with a visit from Colonia on December 14.

WF PAL A Football Name Addition:

In the Westfield PAL A football Super Bowl victory story on page 12 of The Westfield Leader, a few names were misspelled plus one name, Aidan Harper, was inadvertently omitted. See the corrected story in our online December 6 Ballyhoo Sports section at goleader.com

SPF Grid Correction On Sr. Alex Oslislo

In last week's season wrap-up of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School football team, it was listed that senior running back/linebacker Alex Oslislo's rushing total was 948 yards when, in fact, it was actually 1,072 yards.

SHERIFF'S SALE
SHERIFF'S FILE NO.: CH-18003696
SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY
CHANCERY DIVISION
UNION COUNTY
DOCKET NO. F-033075-16
Plaintiff: LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC VS.
Defendant: NICHOL A. SANCHEZ; DISCOVER BANK; SLOMINS INC
Sale Date: 12/12/2018
Writ of Execution: 07/26/2018
By virtue of the above-stated writ of execution to me directed I shall expose for sale by public vendue, at the Union County Administration Building, 1st Floor, 10 Elizabethtown Plaza, Elizabeth, New Jersey on Wednesday, at two o'clock in the afternoon of said day. All successful bidders must have 20% of their bid available in cash or certified check at the conclusion of the sales.
The judgment amount is: ***Two Hundred Twenty-Three Thousand One Hundred Sixty-Five and 22/100*** \$223,165.22
MUNICIPALITY: Township of Scotch Plains, COUNTY AND STATE: County of Union, State of New Jersey.
STREET AND STREET NUMBER: 372 Farley Avenue.
TAX LOT AND BLOCK NUMBERS: Lot: 14; Block: 102.
DIMENSIONS: Approximately: 50 x 100.
NEAREST CROSS STREET: Front Street.
BEGINNING AT A POINT IN THE SOUTHWESTERLY SIDELINE OF FARLEY AVENUE, SAID POINT BEING DISTANT NORTHWESTERLY 101.75 FEET MEASURED ALONG SAID SIDELINE FROM THE POINT WHERE THE SAME IS INTERSECTED BY THE NORTHWESTERLY SIDELINE OF FRONT STREET AS SAID STREETS ARE LAID OUT AND DELINEATED ON A CERTAIN MAP ENTITLED "REVISED MAP OF SHEPHERD PARK," DATED JULY, 1922, SAID MAP BEING FILED IN THE UNION COUNTY REGISTER'S OFFICE ON SEPTEMBER 25, 1923 AS MAP NO. 138-C.
Pursuant to a tax search of 08/08/2018; 2018: QTR 3 due date 8/1/2018 \$2,066.43 open; subject to posting; QTR 4 due date 11/1/2018 \$2,066.43 open; 2019: QTR 1 due date 2/1/2019 \$2,021.54; QTR 2 due date 5/1/2019 \$2,021.53 open. Sewer Account: 7/1/2018 - 12/31/2018 \$271.12 open.
For sale information, please visit Auction.com at www.Auction.com or call (800) 280.2832.
Total Usps: ***Two Hundred Twenty-Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty-Eight and 83/100*** \$229,788.83 together with lawful interest and costs.
Surplus Money: If after the sale and satisfaction of the mortgage debt, including costs and expenses, there remains any surplus money, the money will be deposited into the Superior Court Trust Fund and any person claiming the surplus, or any part thereof, may file a motion pursuant to Court Rules 4:64-3 and 4:57-2 stating the nature and extent of that person's claim and asking for an order directing payment of the surplus money. The Sheriff or other person conducting the sale will have information regarding the surplus, if any.
There is a full legal description on file in the Union County Sheriff's Office.
The Sheriff reserves the right to adjourn this sale for any length of time without further advertisement.
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