

Devil's Den

Yes, the Tall Girl Plays Basketball, and Tuba!

By BRUCE JOHNSON
Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times



When the Devitt family – mom, dad and three little ones – moved from Colonia to Westfield in 2004, it was mostly for the new school district's outstanding academic reputation.

"The athletics department turned out to be a bonus," said Shannon Devitt, the family's middle sibling and someone who has both benefited from and been a benefit to the WHS athletics department.

Older sister Nicole, a junior at Delaware, played field hockey at WHS. Brother Tyler is a freshman member of the bowling team and will play boys volleyball this spring. Her parents played varsity tennis (dad) and softball (mom) at Rahway.

"I would have to say that I'm the sports junkie of the family," she quipped.

A three-year starting midfielder on the field hockey team, she helped this year's team go 12-8-1 and win the school's first conference championship in a long time. The team's turnaround last fall was dramatic. After allowing goal-differentials of -49, -42 and -42 the previous three seasons,

until 10:30, and then I'd start doing homework. Weekends were always conflicts with softball games and basketball tournaments."

Something had to give, and that something was softball. She gave it up to concentrate on her hoops game, which she will continue doing this spring to be best prepared for college.

Basketball hasn't always been easy. Like most tall, thin teenaged girls, Devitt was a work in progress.

As a freshman she played in 13 varsity games, contributing as a rebounder/shot blocker on a team that went 23-4, the best record in school history, under Joe Marino. But the Board of Education inexplicably didn't rehire Marino. Assistant coach Liz McKeon, a 1,000-point scorer at WHS, was promoted.

"The transition from coach Marino to coach McKeon was interesting because they have very different styles of coaching," Devitt said. "Marino was big on creating chaos for the other team and was a lot more outspoken. McKeon wants complete composure on the court and is not as loud."

improve my game with new moves and ideas," Devitt said. "And coach Ciemniecki has been a very important addition to the program. He sees so many things on the court that I don't even realize."

That team finished 9-16, but that could be partly attributed to the unexpected loss of two stars. Co-captain Olivia Luzzi, a three-year starter, missed the entire season due to a back injury while two-year starter Hannah Liddy opted to not play. Devitt led the team with 240 points, 175 rebounds and 47 blocks.

This year's squad, which fell last Friday to the Patrick School in the county final, took an 18-5 record into last night's state sectional game against Edison. Talented players like Ryan, Grace Elliott, Sam Stravach, and fellow co-captains Danielle Rinaldi and Jenn Iorio have allowed Devitt to fully bloom. She has scored 198 points (second to Ryan's 285), leads the team with 170 rebounds and 69 blocked shots, and even has come up with 37 steals.

She has quietly become the No. 14 scorer in school history with 561 points and the No. 3 rebounder with 474. And with 154 career blocks and 112 career steals, she would be near the top of those lists, too, if those stats existed.

Two weeks ago she came within two blocks of a triple double. Hoops-wise, about the only thing on her basket list is making a 3-pointer.

"I want to get a 3-pointer before I graduate," Devitt said. "But winning the game is more important, so I won't force any shots for one. I've been very close a couple times, foot on the arc. And I did actually make one in a preseason scrimmage."

If you're thinking Devitt's plate is pretty full, that's because it is. She recently squeezed in a Sunday afternoon of representing WHS when some New Jersey student-athletes were honored during an NJSIAA-sponsored awards luncheon for National Girls and Women in Sports Day at Seton Hall.

And she and her family are part of The Seeing Eye puppy raising program. They foster puppies from the time they are 7 weeks old until they're about 1½ years, when they are returned to Morristown for formal training as a service dog.

"The dogs have become a special mascot for the basketball team and usually come to all of the games," she said.

Oh, if you were wondering who that really tall girl was playing the tuba in the WHS Marching Band's Wind Ensemble, yup, that was Shannon Devitt.

"I really have a passion for music," she said. "I really enjoyed the band program here, too. Who would have thought, right?"

A FIRST FOR COMPOSTO
C.J. Composto became the first freshman in school history to win a region wrestling championship, taking the 106-pound title at Region 4. (Note: Freshmen didn't wrestle varsity at WHS until the 1981-82 season.) He is the school's 41st region champ, and the third – after Brian Bulger in 2013 and Nick Velez in 2014 – under coach Glen Kurz, the Region 3 130-pound champ in 1991.

JUST PASSING BY
Senior Matt LaCorte recently committed to Susquehanna and also surpassed four familiar faces on WHS's career scoring list. After Monday's state playoff loss, LaCorte had 747 points, No. 17 all-time, passing No. 18 Parker Hess (744), No. 19 Jan Cocozziello (719), No. 21 Jay Cook (682) and No. 23 Jimmy McKeon (658).

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF CONTRACT AWARDED BY THE TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS
The TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS has awarded a Fair and Open Contract for the following Contract. This Contract, and the Resolution authorizing it, are available for public inspection in the Municipal Building.

AWARDED TO: Timothy Hoffman; Timothy Hoffman Inc, 1 Elm Street, Suite 1, Westfield, New Jersey 07091
SERVICES: 2017 Real Estate Appraisal Services (Resolution No. 2017-54)
TIME PERIOD: Calendar Year 2017
DATE: February 22, 2017
AMOUNT: NTE \$30,000

BOZENA LACINA
Municipal Clerk
1 T - 3/2/17, The Times Fee: \$17.34

PUBLIC NOTICE

BOROUGH OF GARWOOD
NOTICE OF ADOPTION
ORDINANCE NO. 17-04
ORDINANCE SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 34, OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF GARWOOD ENTITLED, "POLICE DEPARTMENT," ESTABLISHING PROMOTION PROCEDURES FOR THE RANK OF CHIEF OF POLICE.

STATEMENT
TAKE NOTICE THAT ORDINANCE NO. 17-04, WAS PASSED ON THE FINAL READING AFTER PUBLIC HEARING AT MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF GARWOOD ON, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2017.
ATTEST:
Christina Ariemma
Municipal Clerk
1 T - 3/2/17, The Leader Fee: \$21.42

Blue Devils Foul Up Pioneers in UCT, 39-33

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

quite successful, sinking 9-for-12 during that time. Elliott would finish with 14 points and 10 were from the charity line. As a team, the 17-4 Blue

Lady Blue Devils Rap Columbia Girls, 62-32

The third-seeded 18-5 Westfield High School girls basketball team sailed smoothly past the 14th-seeded 10-14 Columbia Cougars, 62-32, in the first round of the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 4 Tournament in Westfield on February 27. Molly Ryan led the Blue Devils offensively with 22 points, including trip 3-pointers, while adding six rebounds, five assists and six steals.

Danielle Rinaldi scored nine points and added four assists, two steals and two rebounds. Shannon Devitt scored six points and added six rebounds, five blocks and three steals. Sam Stravach had 10 points, three rebounds, two assists and two steals. Jenna Iorio scored six points, Grace Elliott had two points, four rebounds, two assists and two steals, and Ali Lisanti sank a 3-pointer. Caroline Dwyer and Faith Dobosiewicz each scored two points.

Columbia	2	6	9	15	32
Westfield	15	18	13	16	62

Devils would hit 20 of 28 free throws. "Usually my game is just to drive to the basket because personally I don't think I am a very strong shooter," Elliott said humbly. "I like to drive to the basket because I am quick."

Devitt quickly offered her opinion, "She's a strong shooter."

Woodbridge Boys Nip Blue Devils, 51-50

With the score tied, 35-35, the fifth-seeded Woodbridge High School boys basketball team sank one point more than the Blue Devils to secure a 51-50 victory in the first round of the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 4 Tournament in Woodbridge on February 27. The Barrons had four players hit in double figures with Keshawn Henry sinking 13 points, followed by Hura Blaine with 12, Harry Rutkowski with 11 and Quassin Glover with 10 points.

Matt LaCorte, who sank three 3-pointers, and Chris Wagner led the Blue Devils with 15 points each. Jeff Gagum scored eight points and Adam McDaniel had five points, while Dylan Jackson and Marshall Roberson each scored three points and Mark Natiello added one point.

Westfield	12	14	9	15	50
Woodbridge	13	15	7	16	51

The Pioneers did get an early jump with three lay-ups to take a 6-0 lead. After Elliott rolled in a lay-up, drew a foul and sank her free throw, Pioneer standout Katie Kinum curled in a left-handed lay-up to make the score, 8-3. But the power of "three" came into play. Danielle Rinaldi (7 points, 4 rebounds, 2 steals) banged a 3-pointer and Ryan followed with a 2-pointer to knot the score, 8-8, and cause another timeout with 1:35. Next, Rinaldi sank a pair of free throws and Ryan put up another two, giving Westfield a 12-8 lead entering the second quarter.

After the Pioneers' exploits in the second quarter, Elliott began to make serious drives to the basket and did draw fouls early in the third quarter. When she hit 4-for-4 from the line causing concern within the Pioneers' ranks, a timeout was called at 4:03 on the clock with the Blue Devils trailing

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

Raiders Rock Lions In Playoffs, 74-69
See complete story by Alex Lowe in March 9 Edition



Photo courtesy of Varsity Vantage

WHS senior Shannon Devitt is among the school's all-time leading scorers and rebounders. Next year she'll be playing at The College of New Jersey.

this year's team was a plus six!

"The entire team really was a family ... it's not often you find yourself on a team so close," Devitt said. "I had a great time playing field hockey. It was an amazing experience. Coach (Caitlin) MacDonald has been very influential during my high school career. She taught me many overarching lessons – how to be mentally tough, play with passion and have a desire to win and to work harder than I ever had. I owe her a great deal of gratitude."

She also was a starting pitcher and third baseman on the varsity softball team as a 10th grader. Devitt hit .362 and struck out 60 in a team-best 69 1/3 innings.

But basketball was the sport she loved. And being 6-foot-1, she's heard all the "How's the weather up there?" comments.

"I'm asked all the time if I play basketball, so it's a good thing I do," she said. "Sometimes I'm asked if I'm a volleyball player and I tell them in the fall I play field hockey. Usually they say, 'Doesn't that hurt your back?' and I say, 'Yes, but my love for the sport makes up for it.'"

Devitt really enjoyed field hockey and was obviously very good at softball. But she wanted to play basketball in college – and she will, at The College of New Jersey – so she did what she felt would help her achieve that goal.

"Spring of sophomore year, trying to play AAU basketball as well as softball, it was very difficult to manage both," said Devitt, who will celebrate her 18th birthday tomorrow. "On Wednesdays and Thursdays I usually didn't get home from softball-then-basketball practice

Devitt's sophomore season the team was 17-9 and reached the county tournament final, losing by two points to Patrick School. Devitt scored just under 100 points, but led the team in rebounds and blocks.

Last winter Devitt really started to blossom after a full year of year-round AAU training on the New Jersey Panthers. Her teammates there included former WHS stars Lil Scott and Jackie Knapp, along with current WHS junior Molly Ryan.

The addition of Brian Ciemniecki to the coaching staff before her junior year meant Devitt had two of WHS's best basketball players of the last quarter-century as her coaches. She is very appreciative of their efforts.

"Coach McKeon has really helped

Pats Stop Blue Devils In UCT Final, 51-41

The top-seeded Patrick School girls basketball team slowly built a lead and held on to claim a 51-41 victory over the third-seeded Westfield Blue Devils in the Union County Tournament championship game at Kean University on February 24. Shannon Devitt led the Blue Devils with 15 points and eight rebounds and Molly Ryan added 11 points and six rebounds.

Danielle Rinaldi had eight points, including a pair of 3-pointers, six rebounds and four assists. Grace Elliott had three points, five rebounds and three steals. Sam Stravach had four points and five rebounds.

Westfield	13	11	4	13	41
Patrick School	16	14	9	12	51

Roselle Rams Nip Raider Boys in Hoops, 45-42

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

defense for easy lay-ups the entire game. Meanwhile, the Raiders were ice cold from beyond the 3-point stripe where they usually thrive.

"We were trying to attack the basket against Scotch Plains," said Roselle Head Coach Mike Smith. "It is something we do well. We did a good job of boxing them out for rebounds too. The other thing we knew we had to do was to get up in the faces of their three-point shooters because they have a lot of them. I thought we did a good job of that most of the game."

Scotch Plains-Fanwood connected on only three 3-pointers for the entire game. Two of them came from senior Nigel Nelson (9 points) in the final three minutes of the second quarter as he helped draw the Raiders back into a tie at 24-24 heading into halftime.

"Nigel gave us a little spark in the first half today," said Raider Head Coach Steve Siracusa. "He is capable of doing that for us. What we need from him, like we need from a lot of our players right now, is consistency. We didn't finish on a lot of lay-ups today. We just didn't shoot the ball well."

The two teams remained locked in a close battle throughout the third quarter with Roselle playing from the lead but never extending to more than a four-point advantage. Trailing 35-32, the Raiders drew even again with Lamont Cruse hitting one of two free throws and John Petris scoring inside with :05 remaining to send the teams into the fourth quarter tied at 35-35.

The Raiders briefly grabbed the lead when Ryan Muench scored on a drive through the lane to make it 37-35 with 7:15 left. Roselle regained the lead 10 seconds later on a 3-point play by Celestin in which he drove through the defense for a lay-up and was fouled. The Raiders answered with a lay-up by Brady, giving them their final lead of the game at 39-38 with 4:44 to play. Roselle went on a 6-1 run over the next two and a half minutes establishing a 44-40 lead with two minutes showing. The key basket came on a 3-pointer by Joshua Jones.

Tommy Drubulis pulled the Raiders to within two, at 44-42, when he sank two free throws with :49 left in regulation. Jones answered by making one of two free throws on his end to give the Rams a 45-42 advantage with :31 left.

There would be plenty of opportunities for Scotch Plains-Fanwood to tie the game in the final 30 seconds but Roselle came up with key defensive stands. First, Celestin blocked a 3-point try by Muench with 9.9 remaining. Roselle gained possession and the Raiders fouled immediately, sending Duquan Ware to the foul line. Ware needed to sink just one free throw to tie the game but he missed them both and the Raiders got the rebound.

The Raiders quickly moved the ball into scoring position, getting the ball to Brady in the right corner for a 3-point try. Brady's shot clanked off of the rim as time expired giving Roselle a victory in the final home game for their senior players and a sweep of the season series with Scotch Plains-Fanwood. Meanwhile, the Raiders left

the gym having lost four of their last seven games with their state playoff contest against North Hunterdon next up on the docket.

"It is not the way we wanted to end the regular season," said Raider senior Peter Warren. "We missed on a lot of chances today. Roselle is a good team and they played well. We've played a lot of good teams recently. We can recover from this. North Hunterdon plays against very tough competition. We can't take them lightly."

The Raiders better not do that. Though they will enter the playoffs as the number three seed, Scotch Plains-Fanwood has stumbled a bit after racing out to a blazing 13-0 start. It is a development that Coach Siracusa is well aware of as his team prepares for what they hope

will be a nice playoff run.

"We didn't come ready to play today," said Siracusa. "I think we took the game for granted really. We have to make sure that we are not simply content with what we've done so far. North Hunterdon has a lot of good shooters and they like to run and trap. If we do not come out there ready to play then we see what can happen."

Drubulis finished with nine points. Jones had 16 for Roselle, which will enter the Central Jersey Group II Tournament as the 10th seed against 7th seed Point Pleasant Boro. The Raiders were set to host North Hunterdon on Monday night in the first round of the North 2 Group IV playoffs.

Scot Plains-Fanwood	12	12	11	7	42
Roselle	11	13	11	10	45

FSPY Men's 30+ Basketball League Results & Standings:

Rising phenoms and seasoned pros placed their talents on display, as the Fanwood-Scotch Plains "Y" Men's 30+ Basketball League celebrated NBA All-Star weekend during Week 10 action (also in *cluded week 11*).

Slamma Jamma 78, Drive N Dish 66: Two of the league's elite guards – Rich Cobbinah of Slam Jam and Brian Ciemniecki of DND – battled mano-a-mano, and both went Russell Westbrook-like. Cobbinah finished with 28 pts, 8 rebs, and 11 assists, while Ciemniecki stuffed the stat sheet with 24-9-6, but it was Slamma, backed by rookie Greg Josephsen (24 pts) and Dave "Baseline" Berger (18) who prevailed in the high-scoring affair. Vet forward Keith Karyczak had 16 points, and frontcourt mates Chris Beaudry (13 and 9) and Steve Lee (11 and 9) both nearly double-doubled in a losing cause.

Get Buckets 63, Flash-N-Bang 39: Deadlocked, 23-23, at the intermission, Get Buckets clamped down in the second half, outscoring F-N-B, 40-16, to cruise to its fifth-straight victory. The star-of-stars, Jamal Berry, had his customary stellar 28 and 11 performance for G.B., and was supported by "KG" Kevin Gannon (14 and 7) and Justin Fiory (11 pts). The Big "O" Omar Glover (18 and 8) was solid in defeat.

Falcons 56, Hickory Hoosiers 37: The Falcons flew out to a 10-point halftime lead and were never headed. Capt. Jason Shann (13 pts) and guard Eljay Aguillo (12) paced a balanced Falc offensive attack, while first-year standout Clay Torres pulled down his league-leading season average in boards (9). The Hoosiers, playing without some of their star Hicks, were led by Geoff Gonzales (16 and 7) and Dave Ferreiro (9 and 7), as they fell for the fourth straight week.

Size Matters 47, No Conscience 41: Diaper Dandy Chris Burke netted 21 points, center James Patrick cleaned the glass (10 rebs), and Blake Sonnek-Schmelz contributed 9 and 5, as Size Matt maintained its tie for second place in the standings. No Con, which dropped its second consecutive, received all of its firepower from the quartet of Jason Holley (11), Tim Gray (11), Stephen Murray (10)

and Chris Mattina (9).

Get Buckets 46, No Conscience 33: Make no mistake about it, on Academy Award Sunday, the Best Player in a Leading Role statuette goes to Jamal Berry, who poured in 32 of his team's 46 points, carrying Get Buckets to its sixth straight victory. G.B. will be the 1 seed when the March Madness tourney begins in two weeks. No Con, losers of three in a row, received 14 pts from Gregg Carder, and 11 tallies from Capt. Chris Mattina.

Size Matters 41, Slamma Jamma 29: In a match-up of two squads battling for second place, the XXLers prevailed behind the 14 pts of Jason Pompeo, and the 11 and 10 double-double from Capt. James "Big Smooth" Patrick. Slam Jam, which scored 78 points in Week 10, sputtered on offense, connecting on less than 25 percent of their FG attempts. Dave Berger dropped in 10 pts, and Gavin Ford grabbed 10 boards in defeat.

Flash-N-Bang 79, Falcons 39: Flash-N-Bang lit up the scoreboard with a league season's high in points, as the Falcs took the floor without three of their top birds. Warren Lowe fired up 21 tries from beyond the arc, nailing 8 of them, and finished with 39 pts. FNB's contributing crew included Omar Glover (9 and 8), Anand Desai (8) and Eric Lai (8 and 6). Best Newcomer Award candidate Clay Torres had another terrific outing (24 and 9) in a losing effort, while teammate Terry Stephens added 8 pts and 5 caroms.

Hickory Hoosiers 56, Drive N Dish 48: Jolting Joe DeGennaro fashioned a stellar 22-pt, 14-reb performance, and Dave Ferreiro earned the day's Best Supporting Player honor (17 pts), as the Hoosiers snapped a four-game skid. Geoff Gonzalez chipped in 10 and 6 for the winners. DND, the Best Close-But-No-Cigar ensemble, was paced by Best Director recipient Brian Ciemniecki (19 pts), and Chris Beaudry (11).

FSPY 30+ STANDINGS:

TEAM	W	L
Get Buckets	10	1
Size Matters	8	3
Slamma Jamma	7	4
No Conscience	5	6
Falcons	4	7
Hickory Hoosiers	4	7
Flash-N-Bang	4	7
Drive N Dish	2	9

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES BY THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD
CONTRACTOR: NV5, 7 Campus Drive, Suite 300, Parsippany, New Jersey 07054

NATURE OF SERVICES: Engaged to provide a licensed on-call traffic safety and engineering services consultant.
DURATION: February 21, 2017 through December 31, 2017
AMOUNT: Not to exceed \$15,000.
THE RESOLUTION AND CONTRACT FOR SAME ARE ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK.

1 T - 3/2/17, The Leader Fee: \$16.83

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

TAKE NOTICE that on the 6th day of February, 2017, the Zoning Board of the Township of Cranford, in the County of Union took the following actions:

1. Application #ZBA-15-031: Adopted a Resolution of Memorialization denying Louis and Rita LaBrutto, applicant, was requesting a notice of appeal from the Zoning Officer's decision as to the type of variances applicable to the Trinity Church parking lot application on Block 315, Lot(s): 1 & 6 in the ORC Zone as designated on the Township Tax Map, also known as 215 North Avenue East.

Jeffrey Pistol
Board Secretary
1 T - 3/2/17, The Leader Fee: \$18.36

PUBLIC NOTICE

BOROUGH OF GARWOOD

NOTICE OF ADOPTION

ORDINANCE NO. 17-03

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND §52-3 (LICENSE AND FEES) IN ARTICLE 1 (SALE AND TRANSPORTATION) IN CHAPTER 52 (ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES) OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF GARWOOD.

STATEMENT
TAKE NOTICE THAT ORDINANCE NO. 17-03, WAS PASSED ON THE FINAL READING AFTER PUBLIC HEARING AT MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF GARWOOD ON, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2017.
ATTEST:
Christina Ariemma
Municipal Clerk
1 T - 3/2/17, The Leader Fee: \$21.42

FSPY Swimmers Shine At the YMCA Silver Meet

The Fanwood Scotch Plains "Y" swim team sent 67 swimmers who qualified for the YMCA Silver meet to Gloucester Institute of Technology at Sewell from February 17 to February 19 and finished ninth overall with 20 swimmers attaining YMCA State times.

Top FSPY scorers: Manav Shah (66 points) — 1,650-free (1st), 500-free (3rd), 1,000-free (4th), 200-back (9th), 200-free (11th) and, Abigail Ryan (57 points) — 200-breast (1st), 100-breast (3rd), 200-back (5th), 100-back (10th).

YMCA State times:
9-10: Dylan Condell (100-back), Kyle Karyczak (100IM), Brooke Labarge (50-free), Paulina Nowak (100-breast, 50-free), Isabella Rovito (200-free, 100-fly, 50-breast), Shae Trenery (200IM)

11-12: Bradley Frank (50-free, 100-free), Katherine Li (200IM, 100IM, 50-fly), Ellie Moose (200IM, 100IM), Elle Priesing (200IM, 100IM, 100-free)

13-14: Fiona Strout (500 & 1,000-free), Brandon Jawor (100-breast), Michelle Kong (100 & 200-back, 200IM), Sean Merkle (100-back, 200IM), Jason Mongiovi (200-fly), Amanda Pina (100 & 200-fly), Abigail Ryan

(100 & 200-back, 100 & 200-breast), Joshua Schwartz (100-fly)

15-18: Julian Park (100-free), Manav Shah (1,000 & 1,650-free) Relay Teams in Top 16:

9-10 Girls: 5th place, 200-free (Nowak, Rovito, Trenery, Labarge); 10th place, 200-medley (Trenery, Rovito, Nowak, Labarge)

11-12 Girls: 6th place, 200-medley (Priesing, Li, Warren, Waibel)
13-14 Girls: 12th place, 200-free (Ryan, Pina, Kenny, Kong); 9th place, 200-medley (Kong, Ryan, Pina, Kenny)

13-14 Boys: 13th place, 200-free (Kaminskas, Schwartz, Jawor, Linsenber); 11th place, 200-medley (Merkle, Jawor, Schwartz, Linsenber)

15-18 Girls: 6th place, 400-free (M. Dunchus, A. Dunchus, S. Pyle, H. Davis); 4th place 400-medley (S. Pyle, Valli, Hans