

THE WEEK IN SPORTS



BASKETBALL WIZARDS...The Harlem Wizards, an internationally renowned basketball team of former National Basketball Association players, college players and playground legends, will take on the Park Blizzards at the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School at 7:30 p.m., tomorrow, Friday March 22. The two-hour event will include dunking displays, trickery and teamwork and "high spirited, humor and antics," a spokeswoman for the school said. There will be a free post-game autograph session, Wizard souvenirs for sale and refreshments. The event is being held in conjunction with the Middle School Week. Tickets can be purchased at the door. General admission cost \$6 while senior citizens and students will be admitted for \$3. For further information, please contact Park Middle School at 322-4445.

Departure of Keegan, Watkins Will Leave Void On Scotch Plains-Fanwood Girls Hoops Squad

By DENNIS WILSON
*Sports in the Garden State
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times*

Two outstanding careers have come to an end on the girls basketball court at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School and varsity team members Ann Keegan and Lori Watkins will receive their diplomas in June. Both girls have been selected to the first Annual *Westfield Leader/Times* Girls Basketball All-Star First Team by a state-wide panel consisting of New Jersey coaches and media.

Keegan topped the Lady Raiders in scoring, pumping 387 points through the

iron for an average of 15.4 points per game while bombing 25 three-pointers through the twine. At 5 feet, 8 inches she challenged taller players under the boards and came away with 168 rebounds while dishing 92 assists.

"Ann will be greatly missed," lamented head coach Brian Homm. "She is an outstanding, versatile student-athlete who has signed an National Collegiate Athletic Association National Letter of Intent to play women's soccer at St. Bonaventure University in Olean, New York."

Watkins hit the boards for a team-high

265 rebounds and registered 24 blocked shots as she teamed with Keegan to make the Lady Raiders a dominant force in the paint. Watkins fired 358 points into the basket, finishing with an average of 14.9 points per game.

"Lori was consistent at her high level of play," added Homm. "She was a hard-worker who could always be counted on to give her best and she never failed me."

Lourdes Taveras, a two-year letter winner at forward who saw limited action off the bench was the only other member of the Class of 1996 on this year's squad.

Five juniors will return along with three sophomores and a freshman as Scotch Plains-Fanwood strives to match this year's 16-8 record.

Junior Kim Bethea will be the incumbent point-guard after averaging 7.5 points and 6.7 assists per game this season. She will be backed up again by sophomore Samantha Kenarek who earned a varsity monogram this season coming off the pines.

Liz Frame, another junior, also returns to the starting lineup after averaging six points and six assists per outing. Homm will look for Frame to upgrade her scoring average and lead the defensive pressure after averaging 4.8 steals per game this year.

Sophomore Kate VanderHeyden is already a two-year starter up front and will be looked to increase her scoring with the departure of Keegan and Watkins.

"Kate has a great future," added Homm. "She is a strong rebounder and plays

good defense."

Junior Kerry Hagan was the backup center this season and will see more playing time during the 1996-1997 campaign. She displayed good defensive skills coming off the bench in a reserve role this season and must work on upgrading her scoring potential in the off-season.

Alyssa Jansen is the fourth of the junior quintet of letter winners who saw limited action at a forward position this season. Her classmate Melissa Hicks was sidelined after the fifth game with knee surgery but has a bright future at the second-guard slot when she comes off rehabilitating her knee.

Karen Haight, a sophomore, also lettered after moving into the reserve role at the second-guard position when Hicks went to the sidelines.

One freshman, Krista Hicks, Melissa's younger sister, earned a seat on the varsity bench. Switching between the guard and forward positions, she saw enough playing time to earn a varsity letter.

"Krista has a good future in our program," added Homm. "How fast she progresses will depend on her work ethic in the off-season. We have to find offensive fire-power for next season so the off-season will be important for all of our returning players."

Scotch Plains-Fanwood has good defensive skills and techniques already in place with the returning veterans. The key to next year's success level lies in replacing the 30.3 points per game loss with the departure of Keegan and Watkins from the lineup.

Matt Gutman to Be Honored By National Football Group

By DENNIS WILSON
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Westfield's Matt Gutman will be honored by the Essex County Chapter of the National Football Foundation and Hall of Fame at the annual Scholar-Athlete Awards Banquet to be held at Mayfair Farms in West Orange.

A senior at Newark Academy in Livingston, Gutman is the Minutemen's honoree for the Chapter's prestigious scholar-athlete awards which are presented to 28 outstanding players who excel not only on the gridiron but also in the academic classroom.

A 5-foot, 9-inch, 175-pounder, Gutman was chosen to the Colonial Hills Conference All-Star First Team on defense as a linebacker. Serving as the team's captain, he went both ways, playing tailback on the attack.

Gutman also serves as captain of the Newark Academy Varsity Lacrosse Team where he is a three-time letter winner.

In the academic classroom, Gutman ranks in the top 15 per cent of his class and received magna cum laude honors on the National Latin exam.

He serves as President of the Student Council, started the Holocaust Remembrance Program on the Livingston campus, and is a member of the Aids Awareness Club and Minuteman Society.

Gutman is also active in the community, serving homeless families through Temple Emanu-El and working as a summer intern at Wassaic Psychiatric Hospital in New York.

"Matt has exhibited extraordinary maturity," said Edward Manigan, Newark Academy's Head Football Coach. "His leadership is a reflection of his sense of commitment and diligence in undertaking responsibility."

Gutman will continue his academic-athletic career at Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts where he was accepted as an early admission candidate.

Bernstein Captures Two Silver Medals

Irwin Bernstein of Westfield captured a pair of silver medals at the Eastern Regional Masters Track and Field Championships at Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts, on March 17.

Representing the Shore Athletic Club in the 60-to-64 age group, Bernstein placed second in the 400-meter run in a time of 1:07.14 behind Richard Clark, who finished in 1:06.60. Third place went to Robert Clotier in 1:11.83.

Later, Bernstein registered a time of 2:35.46 to place second in the 800-meter run.



CLASSY CAUSE...Ron Posytan of Smith Cadillac, left, meets with Golf Committee members, left to right, Sue Mazza, Gary Pfitzenmayer, Kevin Bamrick, Kay Gragnano and Ruth Tate. The first annual Westfield Golf Classic will take place Monday, July 1, at Echo Lake Country Club.

First Westfield Golf Classic To Benefit the Bobby Fund

The first annual Westfield Golf Classic to benefit The Bobby Fund of the Westfield Board of Realtors will take place Monday, July 1, at Echo Lake Country Club in Westfield.

Any player sinking a hole-in-one will win a 1996 Cadillac, provided by Smith Cadillac. A \$245 ticket includes a day of golf, cocktail party, awards dinner and a chance for prizes.

For reservations and information, please call the Westfield Board of Realtors at 232-9000, or Golf Committee members Gary Pfitzenmayer at 1-800-449-2932; Kay Gragnano, Kevin Bamrick or Ruth Tate at 233-5555, or Susan Massa at 654-6666.

To reserve a place, entry fees must be on a first-come basis. Space is limited.

Lady Vikings Will Look To Improve on 18-5 Mark

By DENNIS WILSON
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When a team posts an 18-5 record and claims a conference crown, usually the student body, faculty, administration and fans are ecstatic.

Union Catholic Regional High School included Head Coach Kathy Matthews' 400th career victory in its 18 victories during the 1995-1996 girls basketball season. The Lady Vikings also claimed the National Division title in the Watchung Conference with an 11-1 record.

But, the best is yet to come.

"This was a refueling season for the future," said Matthews. "We were a very young team, starting three sophomores and only one senior most of the year."

Meghan Cusimano, one of three seniors on the squad, got the call as the starting three-guard most of the season and was surrounded on the court by junior Lauren Majchrzak along with sophomore Devin McDonald, Kathryn Rooney and Katie Santo.

Melanie Brewster earned three varsity monograms during her career at Union Catholic, turning in strong defensive efforts off the pins while Maisha Richard provided quality off-the-bench minutes during her tenure at the Scotch Plains parochial school.

Brewster, Cusimano and Richard will graduate in June and their presence on the hardwood will be missed by Matthews and her coaching staff.

Majchrzak, one of three members of the Class of 1997, on the squad, topped the Lady Vikings in scoring, averaging 17.2 points per game while shooting 84 per cent at the charity stripe. She finished with 4.7 rebounds per game and is a First Team selection on the *Westfield Leader/Times* Girls Basketball All-Stars.

Sharon Kaus saw action at the two-guard slot on a regular basis while Michelle Green garnered valuable varsity playing time coming off the bench.

"We are already looking forward to next season," continued Matthews. "We

will look to our three juniors to provide on-the-court leadership qualities but overall, we have made the transition to a varsity unit this season and now the players must produce."

Six sophomores are the key to not only next year's success but also the following campaign. McDonald and Rooney both stand 6 feet, 1 inch and are hard workers who possess versatile athletic skills as well as speed.

"They can become dominant forces as 'twin-towers' in the front court," added Matthews. "They have the physical characteristics to become outstanding players if they work hard in the off-season on all phases of their games."

Classmates Katie Santo entered this season with the task of replacing the graduated Chantei Leonard, who was named the Rookie of the Year in the Northeast-10 Conference, at the point-guard slot. The 5-foot, 6-inch backcourt operator dished off 3.5 assists per game and improved with every outing.

"Katie ran the offense and never broke down under pressure," stated Matthews.

Alena Anegles was first off the bench this season, going in to play the two-guard slot. She will be a force to be reckoned with next season after displaying a good-shooting touch and possessing a sound floor game.

Jen Britton and Heather Paleczny were promoted from the junior varsity program during the season.

"None of the other coaches really know about Jen and Heather," added Matthews. "They must work hard in the off-season to learn the system, and then they will have positive impacts on our success next season."

With the experience gained during the season and a full schedule of off-season experiences awaiting the Lady Vikings, look for Matthews to install a 10-player rotation next year that will press the opposition into the ground and elevate the Union Catholic program to the elite class in the state.

Leader/Times Announces Girls Hoops' All-Stars

The following is the 1995-1996 *Westfield Leader/Times* Girls Basketball All-Stars as selected by a statewide panel of coaches and media representatives.

- FIRST TEAM**
Tanya Habeeb, Mount St. Mary, Westfield.
Anne Keegan, Scotch Plains-Fanwood.
Lauren Majchrzak, Union Catholic.
Lori Watkins, Scotch Plains-Fanwood.
Amy Williams, Westfield.
- SECOND TEAM**
Kim Bethea, Scotch Plains-Fanwood.
Meghan Cusimano, Union Catholic.
Jen Kempf, Westfield.
Anne Lutkenhouse, Westfield.
Kathryn Rooney, Union Catholic.
- HONORABLE MENTION**
Elena Angeles, Union Catholic.
Katie Brahm, Westfield.
Liz Frame, Scotch Plains-Fanwood.
Jennifer Gates, Mount St. Mary, Scotch Plains.
Alena Lygate, Westfield.
Devin McDonald, Union Catholic.

Sullivan Wins Grappler Tourney

Kyle Sullivan of Westfield's Little Devils Wrestling Team won the league tournament at the Central Jersey Wrestling League Tournament which highlights the end of the league season.

Sullivan competed in the junior division at the state tournament on March 16.

Wrestling in the 90-pound division, he pinned his first two opponents in the second minute. In his first match, he walked an arm bar and the other off a stack move. In the final against an opponent from Voorhees, Sullivan broke open a tight first period with a half nelson and then barred his way to a dominating 11-4 win.

Sullivan provided Westfield with its first league champion in several years. Teammates Matt Andzel, 118 pounds; Mike Charmatz, 110 pounds, and Sam Kramer, 50 pounds, all took medals.

Andzel is a strong and rugged heavy-weight who has come on strong this year. Charmatz is a tall but agile wrestler with a variety of dangerous moves that always makes him a threat. Third grader, Kramer has also qualified for the state tournament.

Many would be willing to have afflictions provided that they be not inconvenient by them.

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