

LAW, ZAZALI NET 6 POINTS EACH, JAICHON GETS 4

MX Bulldog Hoopsters Bully SP-F Lady Raiders, 47-22

By FRED LECOMTE
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

The Malcolm X Shabazz High School girls' basketball team picked up where it left off last year by defeating host Scotch Plains-Fanwood, 47-22, on December 15. Last year, the Bulldogs beat the Raiders in the sectional final.

Bulldog Iasia Hemingway rattled the net with a game-high 18 points, including 11 in the first half, and Desiree Simmons hit two three-pointers. Raider sophomore forward Jackie Law and senior guard Allie Zazzali put in six points and sophomore center Kaylan Jaichon dropped in four points. Senior guard Lauren Mains and Molly Meehan each hit from downtown.

"It's always tough opening against them. They came out, pressured us and jumped on us. We made a lot of early mistakes and lost our poise," said Raider Head Coach Bruce Davis. "Defensively, they rattled us. We didn't box out and we did not recognize the fact that they were more athletic in general. It took us a quarter and a half to settle into our game. It was a learning experience. We have a

number of kids that this was their first experience playing against a team like that and they're learning. We'll get better every day and better and better every game. We'll be fine by the end of the season and that's all that we have to worry about."

The Raiders started slowly and committed turnovers, while the Bulldogs scored in transition to build a 12-6 lead. Law went two-for-two from the stripe and rolled in a lay-up off a feed by Mains and Jaichon muscled in two points.

The Raiders, still unsettled early in the second quarter, were victimized by the Bulldogs' fast breaks. Hemingway zinged in eight points as Shabazz took a 31-12 halftime lead.

The Raiders got a much better tempo in the third quarter, ran sharper plays and limited the Bulldogs to just six points. Mains and Molly Meehan sank 3-pointers and Zazzali made a bucket.

"When Shabazz's offense lost their three star players from last year, they definitely made up for it in defense," said Law. "I think we played well, lost it in the first and second quarter but we came back and held them pretty well in the second half. The

thing is, we stress that the third quarter is usually when they make their runs and we cut that down. I can't say I'm happy losing this way but it's a great way to start because they're always such a well-coached team and it's an honor to play them."

"We knew they would be an amazing team like they always are. Coming out of the locker room we wanted to come out play with passion, poise and pride and I think we did," added Mains. "We were a little rattled. It was our first game but I think we played a great game. It's only going to improve from here on but I'm proud of all of us."

Noting Law's solid playing style, Davis said, "She always makes her presence known. She rebounds, she runs the floor, she handled the ball for us today when our guards seem to be a bit shaken and she was able to settle things down a little bit. The big thing with Jackie is she cares so much. She is very passionate about the game, takes it personal, plays hard every minute and on top of that she is athletic."

Shabazz	12	19	6	10	47
Sc. Pl.-Fanwood	6	6	8	2	22



ATTEMPTING TO GET PAST A TOUGH BULLDOG...Raider senior Allie Zazzali, No. 33, tries to dribble past a Shabazz defender. Zazzali scored six points but the very tough Bulldogs won, 47-22, in Scotch Plains.



GREAT SAVE IN TIGHT GAME...Westfield ice hockey goalie Adam Becker, No. 29, makes one of many great saves in a shootout against Old Bridge at the Cron Tournament at Warinanco Arena in Roselle on December 12. Tied, 0-0, after double overtime, Old Bridge pulled off the victory.

5K Hangover Run Set For New Years Day

The 25th Annual 5K Hangover Run sponsored by the Central Jersey Road Runners Club will be held on New Year's Day, January 1, at 12 noon at Tamaques Park in Westfield.

People can register online at www.practicehard.com or www.active.com. The race day registration is from 10:30-11:45 a.m. The course is certified, fast and flat through the park and residential streets. Amenities: Custom designed Silver Anniversary sweatshirt to the first 200 entrants only, t-shirt to all pre-registered runners. There will be hot cocoa and bagels.

Pre-registration fee is \$20 by December 23, \$18 for USATF members and \$25 for all after December 23. For more information, please call (866) 841-9139, extension no. 3807, e-mail runcjrrc@onebox.com or www.cjrrc.org.

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FSPY Swimmers Shine At Annual First Frost Meet

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Y (FSPY) boys and girls swim teams had some outstanding performances at the annual First Frost swim meet recently held at FSPY.

50-yard freestyle: (Age 9 girls) Amanda Banasiak (second with personal best [PB] 32.74), Caitlin Glynn, Zoe Verrico and Lauren Sjonell had PBs. (boys) Alex Skoog (second with PB 33.82) J.B Walling, Jason Steinberg, Kevin Kerby, Marcel Green and Henry Chang had PBs.

(Girls age 8) Bella Bernardo, Kate Musso and Rachel Braun all grabbed top-20 finishes. Melody, Mariel and Mariah Weigel all had PBs. (boys) Matthew Auda, Eric Chang and Colin Sullivan finished in the top 10.

25-yard free: (Age 7 girls) Maya Dunchus and Natalie Jablonski posted PBs. (Boys) Sullivan and Chris Hoerner took third and eighth, respectively. Josh Davidson and Chris Buren had PBs. (Age 6 girls) Anna Dunchus (third), Gina Mae Fahrenholz and Mackenzie Inacker posted top-10 finishes.

(25-yard breaststroke): (Age 9 girls) Banasiak (third), Amelia

Markey, Maddie Ryan and Kelly Bracuto had PBs. (boys) PBs and top 15 finishes were secured by all swimmers: Steinberg (fourth), Walling (sixth), Thomas Lestikow and H. Chang. (8Us) Bernardo and Maddie Bebout, Kevin Fleck and Eric Chang swam well.

(25-yard backstroke): (Age 9 girls) Glynn and Tiffany Inacker (top-15). (boys) Kerby, Lestikow and Patrick Henkels had PBs. (8Us) Musso and Casey Daudlin and (7) Sullivan and Hoerner (7) swam well.

(25-yard butterfly): (Age 9 Girls) Verrico and Asia Cadet had PBs. (boys) Skoog (first) and Marcel Green (10th). (8s) Rachel Braun, Camryn Sullivan and Maddie Bebout had PBs. Auda (first for boys), (Age 7 girls) Maya Dunchus (top 15), (boys) Hoerner (eighth), A Dunchus (age 6), finished seventh.

(100 IM): All FSPY swim had PBs. (8U) Auda (first), (9U) Skoog (fourth) and (8U) Bernardo (15th). Kate Musso, Mariah and Mariel Weigel, T. Inacker, Ryan, Walling, Steinberg and H. Chang also competed.



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