

TWIBC SPORTS

THIS WEEK IN BERGEN CATHOLIC SPORTS

#3 Ranked Hockey Earns First Win of the New Year!

January 27 - Hackensack, NJ - There's no place like home. That was especially true for our Crusaders who defeated a very solid St. Augustine team 3-0 at the Ice House.

The scoreless first period was reminiscent of the season opener against Gloucester Catholic as the Crusaders dominated possession, but the Rams got some excellent scoring opportunities in transition. Once again, BC did everything but score in the first period, firing 17 shots to the Hermits' four.



Those four, seemed especially dangerous as none were settled situation, but BC defense and goalie, Ryan Henry, came up big all four times.



Matt Hughes celebrates with Tim

The second period was a different story. With 7:27 remaining in the second period, the Crusaders broke through and took their first lead of the young

season. Junior, Matt Hughes scored his first goal of the season, assisted by Leonard Carlucci and Steve Saxton. BC was on the board 1-0.



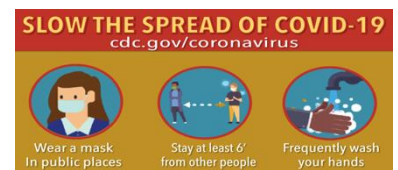
Just two minutes later, Aram Minnetian carried the puck, sweeping behind the Hermit goal. He found a wide-open Aram Minnetian on the crease who placed the one-timer in the back of the net before the St. Augie goalie could react and BC led 2-0 with 5:20 remaining. Mick Thompson was also credited for an assist on the play.

With a 2-0 second period lead, BC was looking for an insurance goal to finish off their opponents. Harvard-bound Mick Thompson was just the guy to do it. Thompson scored his first goal of the season just 1:06 into the third period, giving BC a 3-0 lead which they defended. Minnetian and Arcaroli were credited with assists on the play.

As the final period played out it was clear the Hermits were losing their legs. Brenden Kelly, Tim Kelly, Bryceon Lago, Jacob Carver, Steve Saxton, John Mustard and Matt Maglio provided solid defense and pressure on the puck to wear their opponent down.

BC is now 1-1 on the season and 1-1 in the Gordon Conference.

Fifth-Ranked Basketball



Teams Starts Right Where They Left Off

January 27 - Oradell, NJ - The Crusader Basketball Team has some familiar faces and some new blood, but the chemistry seems to be an A+. BC started their season with a solid victory over #6 ranked Immaculate Conception High School from Montclair 72-58.



Terry Copeland

There's a new BIG MAN in town. Losing thousand-point scorers Zach Freemantle (Xavier) and Matt Zona (Notre Dame) to graduation over the past two years, there was some question entering 2021. Of course, senior D'Ari Duncan returns, but more on him later. Earning a spot in the starting line-up is freshman, Terry Copeland, who made his presence felt immediately. Copeland blocked three shots in the first two minutes of the game, letting the Lions know the paint was not a welcome place.

Despite Copeland's early heroics, BC trailed early 6-2. That's when classmate, Elliot Cadeau, scored his first career basket, a 3-pointer, to cut lead to 8-5. Cadeau would go on to finish with 11 points in his high school debut. After Will Richardson made a steal, he set up a pull-up jumper for Cadeau who cut the lead to just a point.



Elliot Cadeau

Insert D'Ari Duncan who made a big defensive rebound and quick outlet pass to Will Richardson who finished a beautiful left-handed reverse lay-up and giving BC its first lead of the night, 9-8.

The Crusaders used its terrific depth throughout the game and that led to Julian Brown taking over scoring responsibilities. In his typical fashion, Julian drove to the basket and softly



Will Richardson

dropped the ball over the front rim for 2 and an 11-8 BC lead.

Copeland re-entered the game and his presence inside, alters the inside shot by the Lions, setting up a lay-up by another new face on the court for BC. Kyle Robinson, a junior transfer scored his first two points for BC and following rebounds by Nick Caggiano and Elias Espinosa, Robinson knocked down his first trey for the scarlet and gold, closing out the 1st quarter and giving BC a 16-8 lead.



Elijah Flournoy made the most of his time, finding his way to a layup to open the scoring in 2nd quarter 18-8. Not to be out-done by Robinson, Flournoy followed his deuce with a three-pointer.

Shift the spotlight to Duncan. D'Ari started demonstrating his skills on both sides of the court, scoring a basket, sprinting back and blocking a shot, and then finishing another basket on the offensive end to give BC a 10-point lead (28-18) and force the Lions to take a timeout with 1:55 remaining in the half.

The Lions closed the lead to 28-23 at the buzzer as questionable call allowed basket to count. An

Immaculate Conception guard dribbled down court and it appeared as if the buzzer and timer sounded before the ball left the shooter's hand. As there is no instant replay in high school basketball, the call stood and BC held a 5-point lead at the half.

Despite being the highest scoring period of the game, the third quarter was not the best for BC. The Lions outscored the Crusaders 20-18, closing the lead to just two points after three quarters.

As BC needed to re-establish its control of the game, Will Richardson's 3-pointer to open the quarter and Julian Brown's patented running-one hander lifted BC to a 50-46 lead. Richardson finished with a game-high 25 points and Brown added ten.

D'Ari made a huge defensive rebound and set up Terry Copeland in transition as BC started building their lead, now six points.

Will Richardson, showed he's much more than just an offensive star, forced a turnover and BC went into its half-court offense. Richardson found a lane and drove, picking up a foul. He dropped in both free throws and the lead was now 8 with 5 minutes remaining.

Robinson (7 points) stole the ball on the defensive end, setting up another BC possession



which took 40 seconds off the clock and resulted in a Will Richardson layup. After D'Ari Duncan influenced a shot and caused a turnover, he sent the ball down court to an awaiting Richardson whose two handed-dunk ignited the Crusader Bench. BC led 58-46 and IC called time out with 3:58 remaining.



D'Ari Duncan

BC extended its lead to 60-47 as Duncan drew a foul and stepped to the line. He hit one of two shots and increased the lead to 14.

Richardson made a defensive rebound and pushed the ball up court.

The relentlessness of the Crusader attack and the depth coming off the bench including – Caggiano, Joe Scrivanich and Espinosa, caused major problems for a very talented, but not as deep Lion squad.

Put it in the books. BC starts the 2021 season with a 72-58 victory, extending its current winning streak (from 2020) to four.

JV Hockey Ices Green Knights 5-1 to Remain Unbeaten

January 27 – Wayne, NJ – While the scoreboard remained 0-0 after the first period, it seemed clear where this game would end up IF the Crusaders could get the puck in the back of the net. BC out-shot the Green Knights 11-1 in the opening period. Would great D and accurate shooting ultimately prevail?

That is exactly what happened in the second period: four times, to be exact, as BC took down

St. Joseph Regional at the Ice Vault on Wednesday evening.

Sophomore Chris Donnelly scored two goals and an assist and Connor Kelly added a goal and an assist as the Crusaders began to open their lead on their rivals. Mike Spinelli and Jake Driscoll recorded goals, while Quinn Scribner, William Micholas and Kyle Brooks each played the role of set-up man.

The Crusaders outshot the Green Knights 30-10 throughout the game and received excellent goal tending from Freshman Cody Arnold, 4 saves, 0 goals against in 22:30 and sophomore Frankie Smith, 6 saves, 1 goal against in 22:30.

The JV is now 2-0 and looking to continue to roll in 2021.

Crusaders Skiers Happy to Get Back on the Slopes

January 28 – Vernon, NJ – The Crusaders made it back onto the slopes on Thursday, opening their competitive skiing against some of the state's

best. Vernon, Morristown Beard, Pingry, Newton, Bernards and Ramapo provided the 35 skiers in the afternoon Giant Slalom.

Senior Chris Wheaton led BC with a very solid 6th place finish, putting together times of 41.99, 42.45 totaling 1:24.44.



Nicholas Napolitano put together a top 20 overall finish due to a 19th place first run of 45.07 leading to a combined total of 1:33.49.

Christopher Kang's first run of 45.53, good for 20th and helping him to a 25th place finish overall. Aidan Hickey gave a good effort, finishing 30th overall with a combined time of 1:51.06.

Bowlers Sweep 7 Points from SJR

January 28 – Hackensack, NJ – The Crusaders opened the 2021 season, grateful to have the opportunity to compete in the sport they love, bowling. With a new set of rules, 6 bowlers shoot and top 4 scores count, BC earned all 7 points. Three games times two points per win and 1 point for most total pins is how it is done.

Junior John DelJuidice rolled the high series of 622 and also had a high game of 244. Other notable games were Ethan Gayam 174, and James Salazar with a 176. Congratulations to the team on their opener!

Frosh Hoops Open with 50-40 Victory Over Green Knights

January 29 – Montvale, NJ – Evan Brown led the



Evan Brown

Crusaders as game-high scorer with 19 points as BC opened their freshmen experience with a big win at SJR on Friday afternoon.

Xavier Valerio contributed 10 points, Cosimo Tristani (7), Tyler Ferris (6), Tristan Oliver (4) and Billy Nichols and Gio Muscatello each added a basket for Bergen in the

victory.

JV Hoops Wins Big in Montvale

January 29 – Montvale, NJ – Junior Gianluca Phelan put 9 points up on the board in a 23-point first quarter as the Crusaders soared to a 77-28 over SJR. Phelan finished with a game-high 18 points, but



Gianluca

the 20-point first quarter lead he helped to build would set the tone for the remainder of the game.

Junior, Abe Pogue (9 points), Sophomore Jack DeLeon (5), Junior Anthony Brown (8) and Sophomore Dylan Mazzola (4) were major parts of the second first half scoring, helping to open a half-time lead up to 40-14.

Freshman, Evan O'Reilly was BC's second-highest scorer. He pitched in 16 points of his own, adding 10 in the third quarter alone, as he knocked down a pair of threes and two field goals.

Sophomores Amos Li (2 points) and Tyler Sanders (4 points) played strong offense for BC and sophomore Tommy Sullivan put on a three-point clinic, knocking down three treys on his way to a 9-point evening.



Dylan Mazzola



Evan O'Reilly laying it up to the pleasure of Coach McLaughlin.

SLOW THE SPREAD OF COVID-19
cdc.gov/coronavirus



Wear a mask
In public places



Stay at least 6'
from other people



Frequently wash
your hands

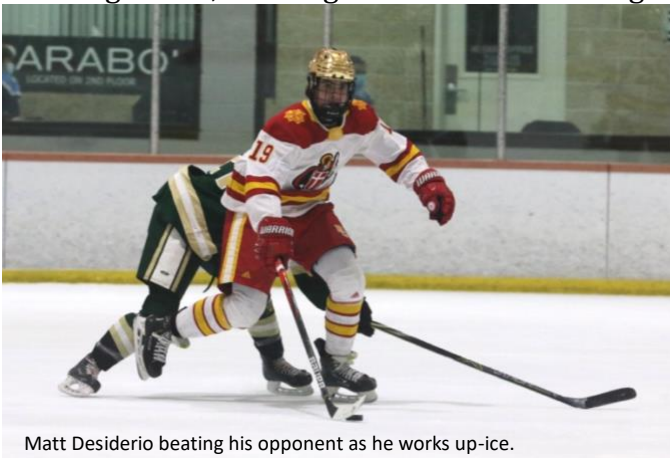
Varsity Hockey Improves to 2-1 with Win Over SJR

January 29 – Hackensack, NJ – The Crusader offense opened up on Friday night with a 5-1 victory over St. Joseph Regional in the Green Knight first game in the Gordon Conference.



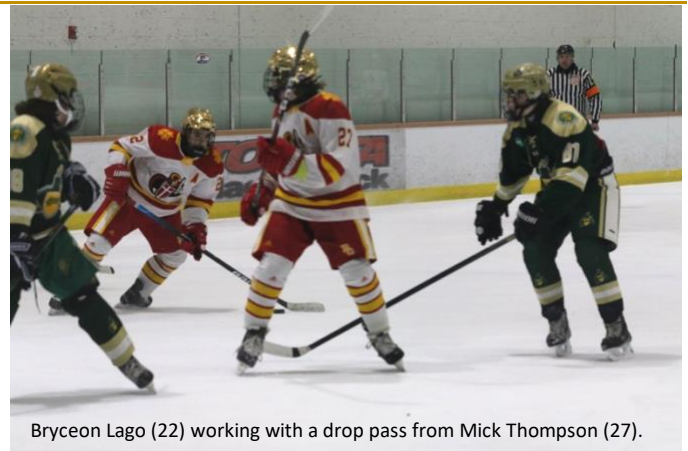
Steve Saxton (12) leading the celebration of his first goal as Matt Hughes (10) and Ethan Leja (7) join.

Steve Saxton scored his first goal of the season off assists from John Mustard and Matt Hughes to get Bergen on the board in the first two minutes of the game. Mick Thompson then showed off his shooting skills, beating a solid Green Knight



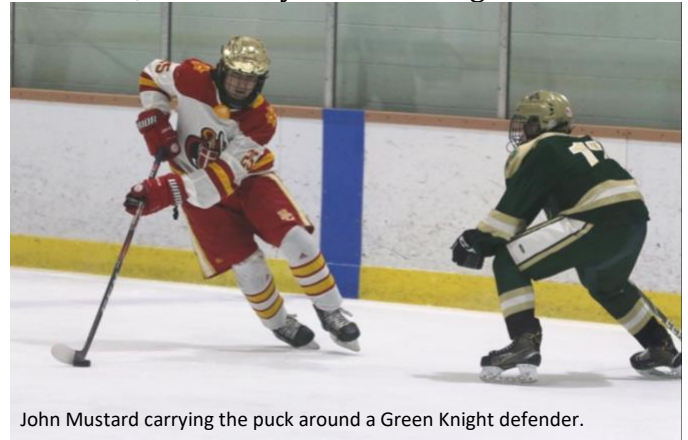
Matt Desiderio beating his opponent as he works up-ice.

keeper with just 22 seconds remaining in the first. William Walsh and Leonard Carlucci assisted on the goal to give BC a 2-0 lead.



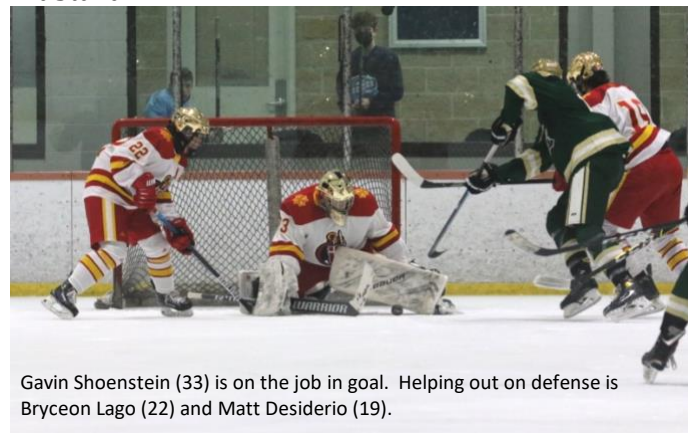
Bryceon Lago (22) working with a drop pass from Mick Thompson (27).

Matt Desiderio converted on a feed from Antonio Arcaroli and Thompson as BC's lead grew to 3-0 at the 6:28 mark of the second period. Twenty-five seconds later, Hughes found the back of the net, assisted by Matthew Maglio and Saxton.



John Mustard carrying the puck around a Green Knight defender.

The Green Knights earned a late goal in the second, to close the gap to 4-1, but Freshman John Mustard's first career goal, a power-play goal early in the third, ensured the game was out of reach. Bryceon Lago and Thompson assisted Mustard.



Gavin Shoenstein (33) is on the job in goal. Helping out on defense is Bryceon Lago (22) and Matt Desiderio (19).

Gavin Shoenstein was solid between the pipes for BC, earning his first career win, making 13 saves. BC outshot the Green Knights 44-14.

UPCOMING SCHEDULE...

Please refer to www.bergencatholic.org for all schedules of winter sports. The sports that are currently competing are:

BASKETBALL BOWLING

ICE HOCKEY

SKIING

INDOOR TRACK AND SWIMMING START PRACTICE

2/1/2021

BOTW: BALD EAGLE – The National Bird of the USA Since 1782!

January 31 – Hackensack River, Bergen County, NJ – The Bergen County Audubon Society counted 95 Bald Eagles on January 23rd, during its Second Annual Hackensack River Eagle Count. This remarkable number shows what an impact care of our society can have as this eagle, our national bird, has become able to thrive in Bergen County today, when scarcely one could be found in the area just 20 years ago.

Pictured is a mature bald eagle I encountered at “The New” Overpeck County Park on January 16th. There were five eagles within eye-shot near the Kayak Rental Center at the time, but this one in particular, chose to fly directly overhead and give me an



BEST LAID PLANS DON'T ALWAYS GO YOUR WAY

In birding, like life, like sports, sometimes things don't go as planned. As a matter of fact, we were planning to take a drive down to Cape May on Saturday to get a look at a variety of ducks. As it turned out, we took a wrong turn.

We really had no idea that the trip would take us to Hunterdon County (not exactly Cape May), then Somerset, Middlesex, Mercer, Monmouth, Essex and Bergen), but that was the day. And, it was a great one! Pileated Woodpecker, Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker, at least 12 Bald Eagles, dozens of Black and Turkey Vultures, Red-Tailed Hawks, Red-Shouldered Hawks and more.

Sunday, we finished the month with 98 different species including a Ruby-Crowned and Golden-Crowned Kinglets, American Wigeon, Common Loons, Mute Swans, Hooded and Red-breasted Mergansers and the piece de resistance, Snowy Owl.

Point is, next time you take a wrong turn or life steers you wrong, just keep going. Good things tend to find a way to happen to good people and you?