

Sports



Time for trout

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Correspondent

No alarms will ring, no sirens will go off, but at exactly 8 a.m. on Saturday, April 13, hundreds and hundreds of area residents standing shoulder-to-shoulder along the shores of the lakes and streams will cast their lines in the water. It makes one wonder whether or not they have synchronized their watches, the timing is so exact.

Husbands and wives, fathers and sons, and, in many instances, entire families will be out the first day of trout season hoping to catch their limit of trout, Pennsylvania's most popular fresh water fish.

Bob Perry, assistant supervisor at the Fish Commission Office in Sweet Valley, said that the sale of licenses to-date indicates that the number of fishermen will be about the same as last year.

Fishing has grown in popularity during the past several years and is now referred to by the Fish Commission officials and other sportsmen as a "family sport." Families pack lunches, take the children, no matter how young they may be, and look forward to enjoying the day in the out-of-doors, especially if the weather is warm and the sun shining.

No matter what their worries or problems might be, sitting on the shore, rod in the water or walking along the shore casting in favorite areas, the fisherman or woman finds time to dream, reflect or block out the realities of the world for a few hours. Children too young to fish have fun playing along the shore or, when it is warm enough, wading in shallow water.

The Fish Commission will have stocked lakes and streams with more than two million fish by April 13, with most of them probably larger than any released in previous years.

The mild, late Fall gave the trout an opportunity to grow to an average 9.5 inches, weighing about half pound.

An additional 51 miles of stocked trout waters were stocked this year but at the same time local areas lost some stocked waters. Mountain Springs and Bowman's Creek in Luzerne County will not be stocked this year because of acid rain.

Harveys Lake, which according to Perry, is one of the most popular waters for the first day of trout season, this year, for the first time in a number of years, was stocked with rainbow trout. More than 9,000 rainbow and more than 9,000 brown trout were released in the lake and also some palominos.

Palominos are a hybrid fish and do not reproduce. Neither are they a fighting fish and most of them are caught the first day. Most waters were stocked with some palominos in addition to the brown trout, brook trout and rainbows released in the trout streams and lakes approved by the state.

In addition to the Fish Commission's stocking fish, sportsmen's groups will stock hundreds of thousands of trout in public waters. The federal hatcheries will also provide trout for stocking federally-owned waters.

Harveys Lake is the most popular fishing spot the opening day of the season, but also popular are Harveys Creek, Lehman River, Huntingdon Creek, Bowman's Creek, Pine Creek and Fishing Creek, the last one in Columbia County.

Perry said if it is a nice day, a record crowd will probably be out but if it is cloudy and cold, the streams high or low, fewer fishermen will be out all day. Trout, however, are a cold water fish and cold weather will not stop them from biting.

Worms are the most universal bait but many of the anglers use minnows, salmon eggs, lures or flies. Many of the fishermen tie their own flies and a wide variety of colors, sizes and shapes will be found the first day.



Dallas Post/Judie Mathers

Hot sellers

Patrick Elias, of Exeter, holds up a Panther Martin and a C.P. Swing, two fishing lures that have been hot sellers on the market as area fishermen gear up for the opening of trout season Saturday. Elias was stocking up at Bob's Bait and Tackle at Harveys Lake.

Oh, oh! This fishing widow knows what's happening

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Correspondent

Saturday, April 13, marks the opening of trout season but it marks more than that in our house. My husband is a fisherman (that's what he calls it.)

Chest-high waders and hip boots take up space on our basement floor. A battered hat and vest covered with tied flies hang nearby. Two large tackle boxes lay open on his work bench — with orders from him: "Don't touch, you'll mix up my lures and spinners."

Mix them up! How can I? Every compartment is heaped with this or that. If I can't make sense out of it, how can a poor fish tell 'what's what' in the murky, cold waters of a lake or stream. Oh, let's not forget his new \$100 fly rod.

Two new, large coolers have appeared from nowhere. They are for fish and the food for the weekend, I'm told. The one will hold dry ice to keep the fresh fish until the anglers return home; the other, steaks, sandwich meat, cheese, and, of course, beer, plus an extra case or two.

What fishing weekend would be a success without beer, ham and cheese, and a deck of cards?

The worm bed in our one-time landscape backyard has been carefully cultivated during the past month and those large, wriggly, creatures are now bedded under rich, black loam (?) in a box in our basement, waiting for Friday night — takeoff time for the cabin in the distant county where he (my husband) and his fishing buddies will spend the weekend.

Believe me, this is only the beginning! This is our regular routine from now through September. Gone are our weekends of dining out in our favorite restaurants; gone are our Sunday afternoons or evenings of entertaining and playing Trivia. No weekends to Atlantic City or to visit friends in other states.

Our only communication for the next 10 to 12 weekends will be "See you, Sunday" or "Come see these, Charlot!" "These" are dead fish staring at me! I don't even like fish, the taste nor the scent — it turns me off!

"You don't know what you're missing" he and his friends tell me. They don't know that I do know — I'm missing getting wet to my waist or wading in icy streams. I am missing bugs buzzing around my head or the sudden shower that comes from nowhere. I'm missing soggy sandwiches that have been in a pocket from early morning and I am missing cold beer which I never drink. I am missing wading through mud, or stumbling upon dead animals killed by freezing weather or starvation.

I do miss dinner for two at my favorite restaurant. I miss my husband's company on a Sunday afternoon when we would have a few friends in and enjoy a game or two of cards or Trivia. I miss him preparing dinner on a Saturday or Sunday and I do miss the trips we could take together if he preferred that to fishing. I know what I'm missing, but does he?

I also realize that, like it or not, I am a fishing widow. Unlike many wives, however, I refuse to go fishing to enjoy my husband's company. I don't eat fish; I don't like baiting hooks; I don't enjoy wading streams; I don't like fishing.

So give him his ham and cheese, his beer and fly rod. I'll take my Tab, steak dinner and going out with other fishing widows!

**TROUT SEASON OPENS
SATURDAY, APRIL 13,
8 A.M.**

Dallas diamondmen get first victory over PA, 9-5

By JOHN RODGERS
Staff Correspondent

The Dallas Mountaineers, playing their home opener on Pittston Area's field due to bad weather and field conditions at Dallas, turned back the Patriots, 9-5.

The Mountaineers won the game in the bottom of the fourth inning when they unloaded for four runs off losing pitcher Johndrow.

With Dallas leading, 2-1, Jubis and Bittner collected R.B.I. hits along with Bologna and Medura showing discipline at the plate, drawing bases loaded walks, to take a 6-1 lead.

The Patriots however, came right back in the fifth, when Konopki of Dallas, who was pitching well, fell to

some wildness as he issued walks to Bologna and Fritz to load the bases. Jerry Mondlak, seemingly lying back for a fast ball, teed off for a two-run double and Wojcik capped a four-run rally with a two-run base hit before Pittston was retired.

Leading 6-5 in the sixth, Dallas' Mike Janoski turned in the defensive play of the game. With the bags full of Patriots, Janoski made a diving catch of a ball hit by Fritz, then threw to Moye who relayed home to double up the runner, at the plate.

Dallas was led by Matt Medura and Darren Ford who each went 3-3 at the plate. Medura also had three R.B.I.'s and Ford two R.B.I.'s.

Konopki was the winning pitcher going all the way, striking out two and walking five.

Lehman's Finn hurls no-hitter

Gabel hits Lady Mounts to victory over Pittston Area

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Correspondent

In their first game in the Wyoming Valley Girls Softball League last Thursday, the Dallas Mountaineers scored four runs in the fifth inning to overtake the Pittston Patriots and go on to win the game, 9-6.

Lisa Gabel led at the plate with three hits and drove in three runs to set the winning pace for the Mountaineers. She drove out a two-run double in the top of the second inning to give Dallas a 3-0 lead.

In the bottom half of the second, Pittston Area scored five runs on four hits to move into the lead. The Mountaineers added a run in the top of the fourth to come within one run of tying it up.

In the fifth inning, singles by Gabel, Kim Rinehimer and Heidi

Scholze coupled with a sacrifice and a Patriot error gave the Mountaineers the runs they needed for the win.

Sophomore hurler Lisa Sharkness picked up her first win on the mound, giving up 10 hits while fanning four and walking four. Joyce Tinner drove out a triple for the Mountaineers.

Tracy Pahl led the Patriots with three-for-four at the plate and Chris McNulty and pitcher Sue Charney had two each. Charney gave up eight hits, struck out two and walked three Mountaineers.

Dallas Coach Jay Pope said he was well pleased with the girls in their first time out this season.

"We were behind going into the fifth inning but the girls didn't give up and sophomore Lisa Sharkness pitched a nice game for her first senior high varsity game." Pope said. "She has pitched in summer softball but this was her first experience in the high school league. The girls hit decently although they can and, I believe, they will do better as the season continues."

He said the Patriots are a good team and it was a good win for his girls. Pope also was pleased with Gabel, Tinner and Scholze's performance at the plate.

The Mountaineers were scheduled to meet West Side Tech at home, Monday, and Nanticoke on Thursday.

ANOTHER NO-HITTER

Lake-Lehman's sophomore hurler Beth Finn pitched a no-hitter last Thursday against Bishop Hoban at Kirby Park to lead the Knights to a 10-6 win. She fanned 17 and none of the Argents hit a ball out of the infield. She had problems with control, however, as she walked 10 and threw five wild pitches. The Lady Knights also had several errors which accounted for the six runs by the Argents.

Powerful hitting at the plate supported Finn as Cindy Slocum drove out a homerun and a double, and Sue Slocum, Sandy Dicton, Noelle Kuznicki and Kelly Wandel knocked out two hits each.

The Knights are a young team and Coach Finn said, before the season opened, she expected they would make mistakes. She predicted the girls would improve as the season continued.

Beth's trouble came in the seventh when six walks and a wild pitch gave them three runs. In the fourth inning Finn hurled four of her 17 strikeouts. The Knights big inning came in the fifth when they scored five runs. The local girls turned in 13 hits in the game.

Two freshmen did the mound work for the Argents with Judy Senk, who pitched five innings credited with the loss. Chris Eustice hurled two innings. Senk fanned one and walked one, Eustice walked one.

Gymnastics set

The Wilkes-Barre YMCA will sponsor the Northeastern Pennsylvania Gymnastic Championships on April 14.

Many girls from the Back Mountain area are in this event and they need support. We hope to see a great turnout so mark April 14 on your calendar.

Gridiron Club meets

The Dallas Gridiron Club will hold a meeting on Tuesday, April 23, at 8 p.m. at the Dallas American Legion.

All interested people are urged to attend this meeting. The jayvee game from last year's Coughlin vs. Dallas game will be shown.

Certificates available

Members of the Back Mountain Soccer Clinic, who did not receive their certificates, Wednesday, April 3, at the Dallas Township Elementary School, may pick them up at either the baked goods or novelty tables, Saturday, April 20, at the Back Mountain Soccer Parents Bazaar and Flea Market, in the Dallas Senior High School gymnasium.

Soccer registration

The Back Mountain Youth Soccer Association will hold registrations for the 1985 season on Saturday, April 20 and Saturday, April 27, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Site of this year's registration will be the College Misericordia cafeteria at Merrick Hall.

Registration is open to boys and girls ages 6 to 15 as of December 31, 1985. This year's fee is \$15.00 each for the first and second child, and \$10.00 each for the third and fourth child of the same family.

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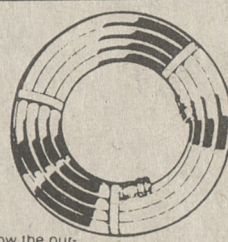
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