

# Sports



## Race committee

Shown above are representatives of the Seventh Annual Irish Heritage Games Committee. From left, seated, Tom O'Hara, chairman; Ned McGinley, Co-chairman and I.H.G. Wrestling Coordinator; and committee member Pat Liberaski. Standing, John Gibbons, Arrangements Coordinator; and Joe Clark, Time and Postition Coordinator.

## Irish Heritage Games scheduled for June 22

The Irish Heritage Games Committee and sponsors met last Thursday to wrap up final preparations for the Harveys Lake Run scheduled for Saturday, June 22 starting at 9:30 a.m. at Hanson's Park. Joe Manganaro, regional representative for Genesee Brewing Company formally accepted sponsorship of the Games on behalf of his company for the third consecutive year. He explained that Genesee maintains a policy of social responsibility and community involvement and that sponsorship of the Irish Heritage Games affords a unique opportunity to support worthwhile regional causes.

Tom O'Hara, 1985 Chairman predicts a record turnout this year. The runs have grown steadily in popularity since their inception in 1979 and have attracted over 600 competitors from Pennsylvania and surrounding states in recent years. A one mile "fun run" was added in 1983 followed by a 5 K intermediate run in 1984. The feature event is the 8.25 mile "Genesee Run" around the perimeter of the lake. Last year's winners of the Genesee Run were Tom Doran who posted a winning time of 41:47 and Sue Carden of Pittston who finished in 48:24. Top male and female finishers in the 5 K were Bill Ziegler with 16:52 and Theresa Meade who posted 18:21.

As in years past, diamond rings donated by Bartikowsky Jewelers and United Penn Bank will be awarded to the first place male and female winners in the Genesee Run. They will also receive the traditional Anthracite trophies which are also awarded to the 5 K run. Class winners will receive medals.

Run director Joe Moran attributes the popularity of the races to the pleasant shaded runs around the lake, the exceptional awards and prizes, and amenities, commemorative T-shirts, for entered runners and the efficiency of the experienced volunteers. Moran pointed out

that the Genesee Run is one of the most popular in the Northeast.

As in previous years, proceeds from the race will be donated to St. Joseph's Center for Retarded Children.

Advance registration for the Genesee Run and 5 K Intermediate is \$5.00. The "Walk-in" fee is \$6.00. Registration for the "fun run" is \$2.00. Forms and information can be obtained by writing Irish Heritage Games, P.O. Box 1516, Wilkes-Barre 18703.

## Kirk

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fulltime position," said Zaleskas. Zaleskas said the administration would probably fill the coaching position from within the staff.

"We have several very well-qualified people and we are posting the position from within the district first for applicants," said the principal. "Over the past number of years we have had several football coaches, all of whom stayed only two or three years, then moved on. We would like to find someone dedicated to staying at Lake-Lehman."

Reports have it that several Lake-Lehman teachers are interested in the head coaching position with former Knight Coach Rich Gorgone the leading candidate. Gorgone, on numerous occasions, has mentioned he would like to get back into high school coaching. Bob Roberts is also a possible candidate for the job. He and Gorgone are both assistant coaches at Wilkes College. Bob Langan is also an assistant football, baseball and basketball coach at Lake-Lehman and could be a candidate for the position.

In any event, the directors have the final word and will have to act on a replacement soon in order to be ready for the new season with practice beginning in late summer.

## Rogers on sports

# In Kirk case, there is no right and no wrong

By JOHN RODGERS  
Sports Columnist

There still seems to be a little fog in the air concerning the resignation of Lake-Lehman head football coach Mark Kirk.

Coach Kirk, who was rehired by Lake-Lehman two months ago, was asked to resign his position by the school board, seemingly for Kirks' application for other coaching positions with other schools. Coach Kirk applied for an assistant coaching job at Shippensburg University and with another school in the Delaware area with a much larger enrollment than Lehman's.

Both applications were as early as February, but he didn't receive word of acceptance from Shippensburg until April.

The stand of Lake-Lehman's board is a solid one by principles. According to Lehman board president

Joseph "Red" Jones, "We were worried about the kids being hung out to dry with no direction. If he gets a teaching position at Shippensburg it's bye-bye we felt, and were does that leave Lehman?"

Speculation was also present in some minds on the incident this past season when Kirk was brought in front of the PIAA board for his actions at a game with the referee's, however, Jones denied that this had anything to do with the board's decision.

Coach Kirk also had some solid

reasons for his applying for other positions.

"If a coach is at a school with less than 400 kids in grades 10 through 12 and at my age (30) you're always trying to improve yourself, but I would never have left Lehman late in July or August. I wouldn't do that to the kids."

In this case, it appears there is no bitterness between the board and Coach Kirk; it's rather one of disappointment on both sides. It appears that both are standing on the right side towards justification when it comes to the main concern, that being the students and both have the back grounds to prove it. Coach Kirk put in many long hard hours

with the Lehman football program, well beyond the amount one would expect. The Lehman board, on the other hand, has always handled their selection of coaches with extreme care and consideration and backed them to the utmost.

It appears, however, the problem lies in where and how much responsibility a coach has in letting the board know when he or she is seeking further improvement and how much time does the board want to be notified.

In this particular case, Lake-Lehman is losing a hard-working dedicated man in coach Kirk and it's a case of two apparent rights making a wrong.



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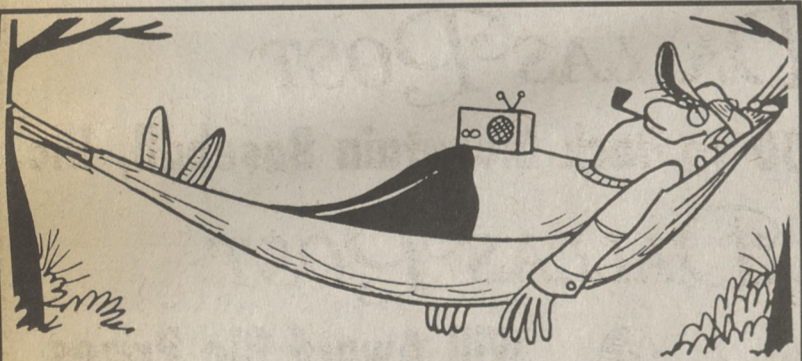
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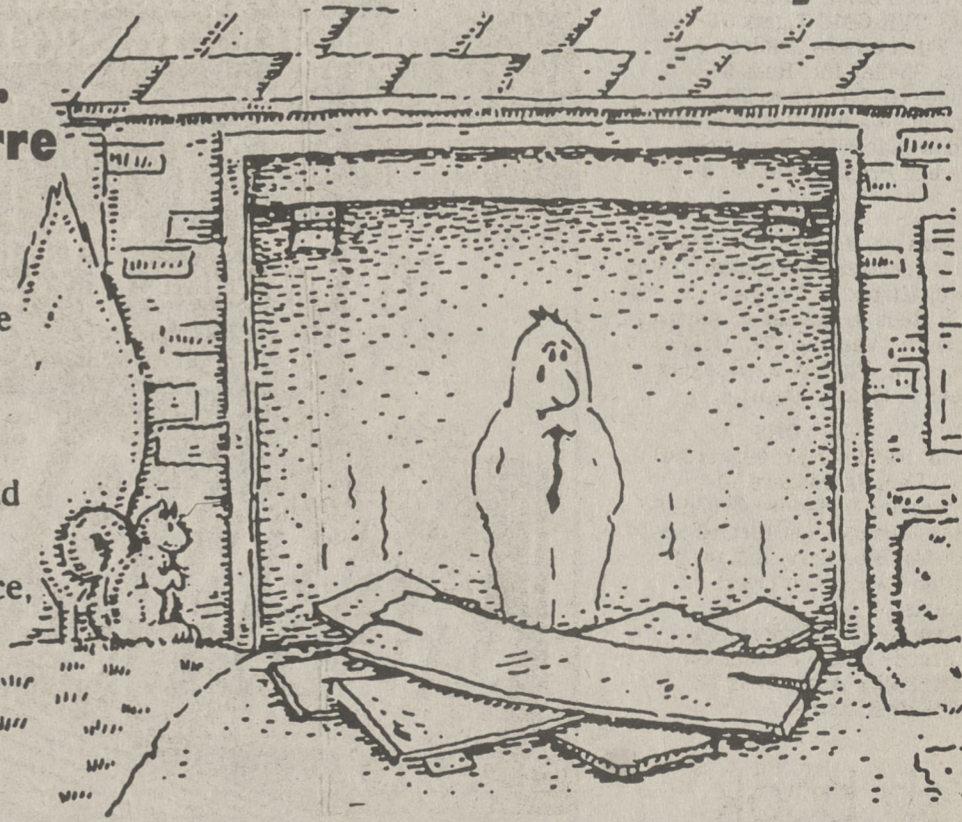
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