

Sports



Rodgers on sports

Sports complex built for families

By JOHN RODGERS
Sports Columnist

A recent visit to Yankee Stadium resulted in some excellent conversation as well as supplying a fine idea to kick around and think over.

The conversation took place in the parking lot after the Sunday afternoon ballgame when an elderly out-of-state gentleman approached me and asked if I had a bottle opener he could use. It just so happened I did and both parties had the same philosophy in mind, have a sandwich and a "cold one" as we waited for the traffic to diminish before departing.



RODGERS

The conversation started when the gentleman found out where I was from, you see his wife was originally from the Back Mountain area and he frequently returns from Michigan for visits. Although they wish to remain anonymous his knowledge of the area proved he was no joker.

The mainstay of the conversation was a family-oriented sports facility such as the one in his hometown. The idea sounded very interesting so I obligated myself to passing it on.

The facility is one centered more on family recreation with a good baseball field built to attract quality competition being secondary. It was built by community-oriented groups on a non-profit basis with the monetary gains directed towards community businesses.

The way they went about it was to first secure a piece of land at the lowest possible price, hopefully in a somewhat centrally located area. (To their fortunes, the land was donated). After securing the land, plans were laid out for picnic and tent camping areas while still leaving room for a baseball field in the future. They also constructed an area for ice skating and sleigh-riding for the winter. The cost for using the facility was based on donations by whether it be money or working hours. The clearing of the land and the layout of the facilities were done by the Army Corps of Engineers.

The following year a paved parking lot was put in with an area doubling as a basketball and tennis court, also it was rented out to bazaars and flea markets, but the park stayed open to the public. A few years later, the ice skating pond was converted into a swimming area as well and the stream feeding the pond was supplied with fish. Finally, the baseball field was added on and doubles as a softball field and it has supplied enough capital by itself to now add a football field. Total cost of the complex right now to the community group that started the project is zero.

Yes, zippo dollars! An immeasurable amount of sweat and hard work, but zero dollars. Sounds hard to believe but believe me, it's true, and what's even more brow-raising is, the group that initiated the action wasn't the Chamber of Commerce or the Knights of Columbus or anything like that, it was the hometown Little League who got the ball rolling.

When I asked the gentleman what the secret ingredient was he replied, "Always keep the family in mind and treat it accordingly, never let greed get the upper hand." Well, it's food for thought, but quite an idea especially for a growing community such as ours.

Oh yeah! I did a little investigating around the valley and it just so happens that the Ashley Little League is really growing, going from one field to four, supplying activities now for boys and girls using the same type of philosophy. Check it out.

There are few communities deserving such a place as the Back Mountain, already blessed by God with natural beauty and already established as a family loving community it has the nucleus to develop such a place and set the stage for future surroundings in our valley. Already supplying Northeast Pa. with nature loving activities, maybe it's time to supply ourselves with that little something extra.

Soccer Day Camp planned

The second annual Colonel soccer day camp, directed by Wilkes College coach Phil Wingert, will be held August 12-16 at the Ralston field Complex behind Kirby Park. The camp will be held at 8:30 a.m. to noon for youths aged 8-16. Participants will receive a T-shirt, certificate and an individual evaluation sheet at the end of the camp.

Further information and registration forms can be obtained by contacting Wingert at Wilkes College, Wilkes-Barre, 18766 or by calling 824-4651.

Area

(Continued from page 11)

Theodore Radzinski, W. Center Hill, Dallas, was named to the All-Scholastic team during her senior year in high school. She was successful in leading the team into the playoffs, a team that was comprised of sophomores and juniors with Jill the only senior.

Jill plans to attend Penn State University's Main Campus this Fall and major in sports medicine.

Susie Slocum, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Slocum, RD 2, Dallas, will be a Junior at Lake Lehman this Fall. Despite this, Susie has four years experience behind her, two in junior high and two in senior high, all under coach Jean Lipski. Susie plans to go out for hockey during the coming season.

She has played link position throughout her high school career and expects to play that position in the Keystone games.

An outstanding athlete, Susie also plays softball and will enter her seventh year in the 1985-86 season. She played shortstop and centerfield and played on the team coached by her mother.

Susie also has played basketball since fifth grade and her position has been point guard. Asked what her favorite sport might be, Susie hesitated then said, "probably hockey, because it's fast, but it's a toss-up between that and softball."

Susie said the team she was on for the trials played two games and all of the girls were good. There were four teams from four sections of the state, she said, and all of the team members were great.

Linda King, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde King of Dallas, will be a senior at Dallas High School this Fall. She will start her fifth year of hockey in the 1985-86 season.

Linda usually plays link, but is sometimes moved to forward. What position she will play on the Keystone Games team is not definite yet. Linda said she will not be certain until the first practice which will be July 24 at Wilkes College field at Kirby Park. The second



Watch out Jimmy!

Jimmy Connors, that is. Here comes Chad Rosencrans! All tennis buffs know it's never too early to practice your grip. A class of four-to-six year olds recently spent a week at Penn State Wilkes-Barre in a class taught by the college's athletic director, Jack Monick. Left to right, Monick, Chad Rosencrans, Erin McHenry, Sheehan Gallagher and Robby Campbell. More tennis classes for kids, ages seven through 14, will be offered in July. For more information, contact the Continuing Education office at Penn State Wilkes-Barre, 675-2171.

Biathlon scheduled

Wilkes-Barre YMCA in conjunction with Pepsi Cola Co. and Olin's Jewelry, Inc. are sponsoring the 2nd Annual Biathlon at Harveys Lake on July 27, 1985.

The Biathlon will consist of a 1 mile swim starting at Hanson's Marina an Campground and ending at Sandy Bottom beach while the 7.25 mile run will begin at Sandy Bottom beach and finish at Hanson's Marina. The starting time will be 9 a.m. at Hanson's Marina. There will be a \$15.00 entry fee due by July 20.

Registration forms may be picked up at the YMCA. There will be no day of event registration. For further information about the event please contact the "Y" at 823-2191.

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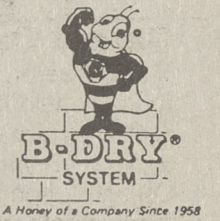
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She is excited about being selected, having been thrilled when she made the sub-region team.

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practice will be July 31 in Allentown and the third in Lancaster.

Like the other girls, Linda was chosen from 60 girls, all excellent players. The team she was on played a team from the Allentown area, and a team from the Lancaster area. In Linda's opinion, the Philadelphia area fields the strongest team.

In junior high, Linda played under Coach Candyce Fike. Linda is also a cheerleader and a member of the Senior High track team where she takes part in the distance events.

Hockey is her favorite sport, she said, but cheerleading takes twice as much of her time. In the fall, she

goes from one practice to the other.

Maureen Wisneski considers herself fortunate to be chosen since she is just a junior.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Wisneski of Shavertown, Maureen has played hockey for five years, three in junior high and two in senior high. Her coaches in junior high were Mrs. Candyce Fike and Mrs. Peggy Schuler.

Maureen has played various positions, but link position more so than others. She does not know what position she will play on the Keystone Games team but will give it her all whatever the position.

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