



Sports



Keystone Games — a wonderful experience

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Correspondent

It was a wonderful experience," said softball coach Flossie Finn, referring to last weekend's Keystone State Games. "It's a shame that more of our athletes do not take advantage of participating because it is wonderful exposure.

"The opening of the games was patterned after the Olympics," Finn continued. "It was inspiring to sit in the stands and watch 1500 young men and women, all in the same color jackets, take part in the program. It brought tears to my eyes. They didn't have anything like it when I was young, but I consider myself fortunate that I could be there as an assistant coach for the Region 2 team. The kids also had a taste of what it's like playing in college as well as campus living and plenty of opportunity to be seen by coaches."

Region 2's softball team was even more fortunate for its was among the select athletes who brought home gold medals. On that team were four athletes from the Back Mountain, including Sandy Diction, Cindy Slocum, Kelly Wandel, all of Lake-Lehman; and Joyce Tinner from Dallas.

Diction and Slocum set the pace for Region 2's 8-4 win over Region 1's Philadelphia team on Sunday, the game that assured the team the gold. "We played as a team and we played so well we just had to win," said Sandy Diction.

Region 2 team defeated the Region 3 team, 12-1, on Friday and on Saturday, they defeated Region 1, 9-2. Their game with the Region 4 team from the Pittsburgh Area scheduled for Saturday was called due to darkness. Region 2 was assured of playing in the finals whether or not they played that game and the Region 4 team was in the consolation bracket no matter whether they won or lost, so officials cancelled the game.

"Cindy peaked at the Games," said Coach Finn.

"All summer, she has been doing a wonderful job but last weekend she sparkled. If there had been an MVP, I'm certain she would have been selected. Sandy Diction was superb. It was her last game and, without a doubt, her best game. Joyce Tinner stole second when we needed it and came through with a hit."

Slocum was six for 11 in the Games, Diction was three for six, had seven walks and scored eight runs. Joyce Tinner was two for six, had two RBI's and scored two runs. Tinner is only a sophomore at Dallas.

A surprise to Back Mountain residents was the gold medal winning men's field hockey team. Jonathan Dombek and John Sheehan III, both of Dallas, made the Region 2 team despite the fact there is no men's field hockey team in the local high schools.

Their participation was the end result of a joke that started last May.

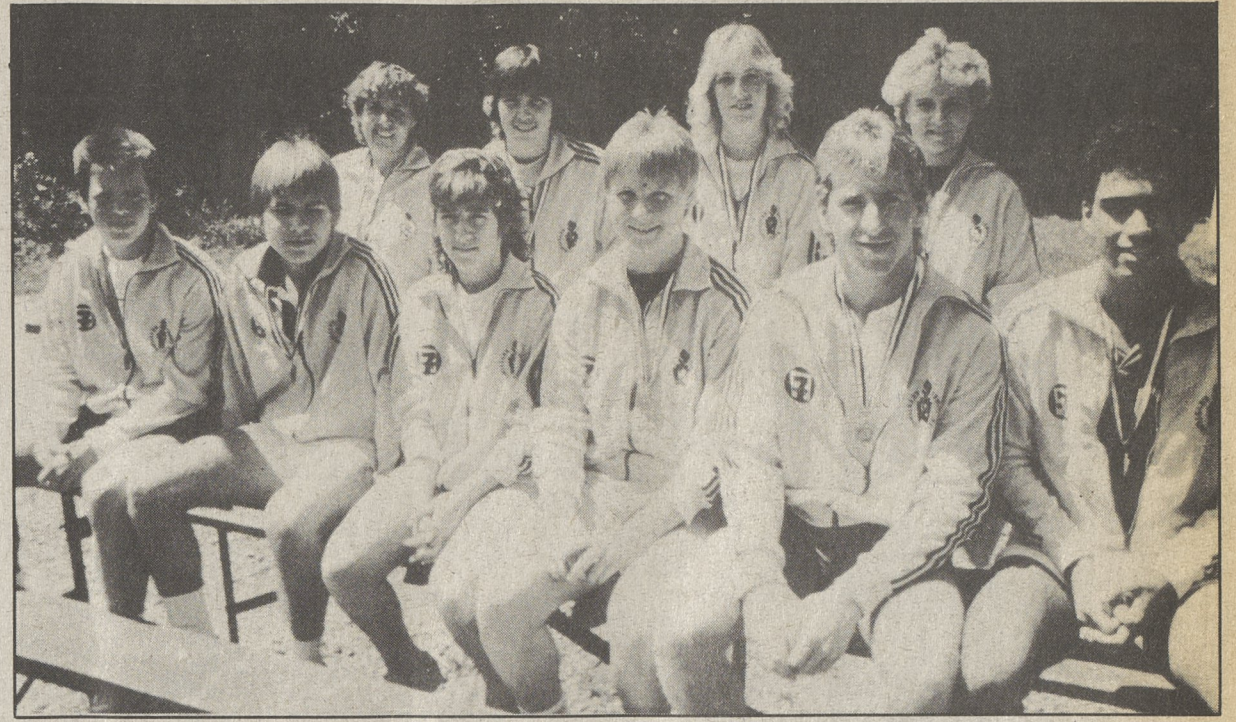
"At that time we told some of the members of the girls' field hockey team that we could get a team together and beat them," said young Sheehan. Sheehan and Dombek lived up to their boasting and got together a team of boys, who played and defeated the girls.

Sheehan said that after a while to break the monotony, they mixed the teams with boys and girls on each side and continued to play until after school was over for the year. When they heard about the Games, Dombek and Sheehan decided to try out. They met a man named Frank Walsh who taught them a lot about playing and who helped them get on the team.

"The team had a lot of players from Lehigh Valley on it," said Sheehan. "They have several traveling teams and a house team in that area. We weren't top players, but we were able to keep up with the others. Jonathan and I have been invited to a tournament at Lafayette."

The men's Region 2 team was 1-1-1 in round robin competition and defeated the Region 1 team, 1-0, in the gold medal game. The competition included the junior champions team and a team that competed in the

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Dallas Post/Ed Campbell

Keystone winners

Shown here are area athletes who received gold medals at the Keystone Games held this past week. From left, first row, John Sheehan, Dallas; Jonathan Dombek, Dallas; Susie Slocum, Lake-Lehman; Kim Menkavitch, Wyoming Valley West; Rob Dombek, Dallas; Marc Ramirez, Dallas. Second row, Flossie Finn, coach, Lake-Lehman; Cindy Slocum, Lake-Lehman; Sandy Diction, Lake-Lehman; Kelly Wandel, Lake-Lehman.

READ THE CLASSIFIEDS

Rebels place second in state

Coach Flossie Finn's Rebels fast-pitch softball team placed second in the state competition at Marcus Hook last weekend to qualify for the nationals scheduled for the Labor Day weekend at the ASA complex in Driffton.

After winning their opening game in the state playoffs, the Rebels advanced to play Ted's Tavern of Harrisburg in the double-elimination tourney. The local nine defeated the Harrisburg team, 1-0, behind the three-hit hurling of Kim Eckley. Eckley struck out three and walked four in picking up the win.

She also scored the winning run by beating out Debbie Cox' single to the infield.

The win kept the Rebels in the winners bracket while Ted's Tavern

dropped to the losers' bracket with their loss. Ted's went on to defeat their next opponent which brought them back to face the Rebels in the double-elimination.

"The girls were at a disadvantage," said Coach Finn. "Since two of their power hitters, Cindy Slocum and Kim Menavitch, were at the Keystone State Games. They also had three injuries which reduced their playing roster to only 10 players. The Rebels had discussed the two girls taking part in the games and were very supportive that they do so. They knew it was a great experience for them."

In the second elimination game, the Rebels were defeated, 5-3, by Ted's Tavern, despite Eckley giving

up only five hits and fanning three. She showed great control walking none, but the local nine was unable to bring runners home.

They collected eight hits from Ted's hurler, one of them a long triple by Beth Hess.

The Lady Rebels took the local league with a 14-1 record. Four of the players on the team are from Lehigh including Sally Galka, Cheryl Travis, Cindy Slocum and Beth Finn. Five are from Valley West, Diane Kinney, Kim Menkavitch, Maureen Ryneski, Lauri Crawford and Judy Connelly.

"We should be in good shape for the Nationals since our complete roster should be there," said Coach Finn.

— CHARLOT M. DENMON

The Dallas Post's Football '85

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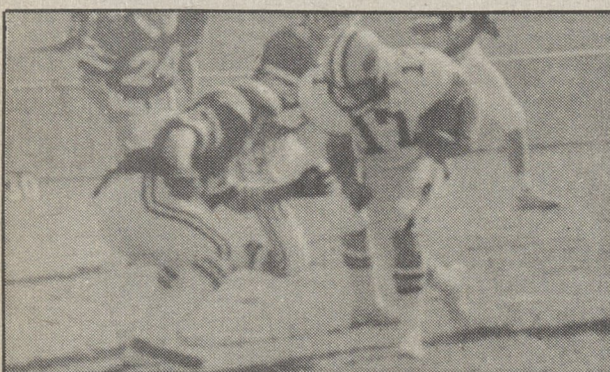
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The Dallas Post is endeavoring on its second special section, to be published August 28, entitled "Football '85".

The publication will be devoted mainly to the high school teams from the area, but will also be full of informative reading the local football fan won't want to miss as the 1985 season gets under way.

Items on local athletes playing for colleges around the country, predictions on conference races, and lots of photos of players, coaches, cheerleaders, and twirlers are all expected to be a part of "Football '85".

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