

Sports

Volunteers

Little League counts on 'em

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Correspondent

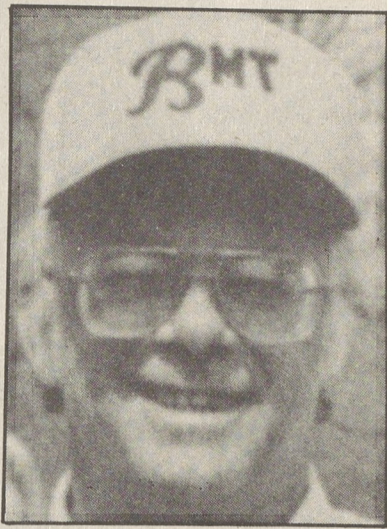
Since the beginning of baseball for the youth of the Back Mountain Area was organized more than 35 years ago, dedicated volunteers have contributed many hours of their time, financial support and ability to the program.

Over the years the number of boys and girls involved in the program has grown considerably and with that growth came the necessary increase in the number of volunteers.

The hundreds of boys and girls involved in T-Ball, farm teams, minor league teams, major league teams, Division I and Division II girls softball teams has necessitated such a large group of adult volunteers that over the past number of years it became evident that a president, secretary and treasurer were not sufficient to continue a smooth, efficient operation, so then came the idea of a Board of Directors, consisting of volunteers delegated to be responsible for certain duties.

Several years ago that idea became reality and today-1986-the beginning of another season in Back Mountain Baseball, Inc., a group of dedicated volunteers, individuals familiar with the sport, who have played ball, coached it and have expertise in the positions they hold, are working tirelessly to make this a better year than ever.

GEORGE POYNTON
George Poynton of Dallas, whom our readers met on the pages of the Dallas Post several weeks ago, is president of the Board of Directors. Assisting him in making this a successful year for boys and girls as well as parents, coaches, managers and assistants are Bob Shotwell, vice president of grounds; Jack Tinner, vice president of equipment; Len Dorrance, vice president of sponsors; Tammie Sutton, vice president of softball; Bill Michaels, vice president of Teeners; Bob Graver, secretary and John Masley, treasurer.



BOB SHOTWELL

Bob Shotwell of Shavertown played on a Shavertown Little League team in 1950, when the field was located on the site where Burger King now stands. The team practiced up on the top of Center Street Sowden's property, at that time their sponsor.

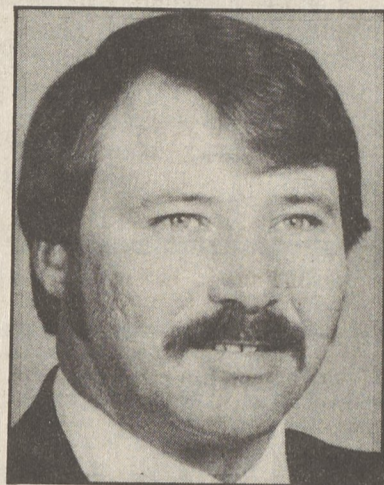
Shotwell played four years in Little League and two years in Teeners where Dale Zimmerman was his coach. Later he played baseball for one year at Westmoreland High School.

He has been involved in Back Mountain Little League for about 15 years, starting in senior girls softball when his sister managed a team. Shotwell started out helping her and continued. When his boys began playing about six years ago, he started coaching the Orioles Major League team.

Shotwell also coached the Senior Girls All Stars in 1979, the year they ended being third in the state.

He has served on the board since it was initiated about five years ago. Shotwell says in his opinion the board structure is much better than one or two adults trying to do everything but he said despite better structure, there is still a need for more adult volunteers. The biggest success brought about by the board is the smooth, efficient opera-

tion. Clinics for coaches, managers, assistants have helped, players get more playing time-these are all the result of ideas brought to the board, evaluated and put into action but Shotwell says the league needs more commitment on the part of the parents. During the past three years, he said an excellent group of dedicated volunteers lending their talents such as carpenters, electricians, other contractors, have helped make many improvements possible. It has made his responsibility of keeping the grounds in good condition much easier.



JACK TINNER

Jack Tinner, vice president of equipment, came to the Back Mountain from Wyoming Valley. He is well-versed in the sport having played two years in Little League, four years in junior Teeners, one year in senior Teeners, and four years on the varsity team at Hanover High School. Tinner played third base or shortstop.

He also coached the St. Theresa's Little League team in Wilkes-Barre for approximately five years.

When Tinner moved to the Back Mountain Area, he became involved in the local organization in 1973 as a coach or manager and has been involved ever since. He has coached farm teams, minor league teams,

(See VOLUNTEERS, page 15)

Rogers on sports

Hype — trying to create interest by artificial means: like a woman wearing a padded bra, or a man driving a rented Corvette to his high school reunion.

Last week, all I kept hearing was how the Kentucky Derby is the most exciting two minutes in all of sports. Everywhere I looked, it was Derby this; Churchill Downs that.

It was like being 13 again and listening to the barkers at the fair. They would strongly insinuate that their beautiful Helen of Troy is the latest and the greatest of them all, that to miss her is to forego a vital piece of manly memory.

Now I don't know much about horses, except that a gelding is guaranteed less trouble than a stud, but I bit when I was 13 and I bit for the Derby on Saturday.

After the Kentucky Derby was over — slightly more than two minutes I was promised — I turned off the boob tube.

Once again I'd been taken by that sweet talking siren known as hype. I had been duped by this media Jezebel into actually believing I'd see the most exciting two minutes in all of sports.

The fact is that I didn't see the most exciting two minutes in all of sports. The fact is I couldn't have seen it, neither could any one else. It didn't happen.

My point is this: hype masters can't will a sporting event to be great or even good, let alone the greatest. Either it is or it isn't; most of the time, it is not. Can anything truly great be legislated?

The problem is that, almost without an exception, championships can not live up to expectations.

When was the last time a Super Bowl was really super? Name the last World Series that was truly memorable and why.

All of sports are victims of the media hype mentality that says: last year's event was the super greatest, but this year's event is going to be superduper, unbelievably the greatest. Next year will be better, of course.

Could it be that in the race for the highest ratings that puff and fluff have taken the place of substance?

Media hype is essentially childish, self-defeating and condescending. It is a slightly modified, modernized version of the little boy who called wolf; now, the networks cry 'the greatest, the greatest'.

Soon, no one may come to the cries. I know I won't. So few barkers are believable and have the goods once you pay the admission. So very few Helens of Troy these days — the latest and the greatest of them all.

BITS AND PIECES
Seeing is believing: I don't know what he was doing there, but Chris Mullens, formerly of St. John's, now of the Golden State Warriors, was drinking beer at the Waterfront Sunday night.

The way his team played last season, you'd think that some of his teammates would have him on the court somewhere teaching them how to shoot the jumper and foul shots.

In the immediate area, Dallas has the best baseball team this year, but just watch Coach Dwight Barbacci's Lehman club the next couple of years.

It sounds strange to say, but Coach Barbacci has something of a youth movement on this team. Lehman starts three freshmen in pitcher, left fielder Todd Sallo, first baseman Keith Schultz and designated hitter Rich James, and these guys are doing the job. All three had key RBIs in Lehman's shocking 7-5 win over Dallas on Monday.

Last, but certainly not least, there is a sophomore left-hander by the name of Brett Evans, who is 5-1 on the season. His fifth win came at the expense of Dallas; his only loss was a 1-0 in eight innings against Crestwood.

Regardless of the loss to Lehman, I believe that Dallas is the team to beat this season in the AAA race. When it comes down to crunch time,

Dallas will go with right-handers Mark 'Whitey' Konopki and Scott Francis, probably the best one-two punch in the Wyoming Valley Conference. They will pull out the WVC title.

Something has to be done about the playoff system presently employed in the NBA and the NHL.

What sense does it make to play the entire season only to let everyone except my Aunt Marilyn from Levittown, into the post season?

The NBA playoffs lasts six grueling weeks, which is about a good two weeks too long. By the time you get to the finals, you have survivors, not teams ready to play for the championship of the world.

Things That Are Good To Know Dept.: Lake-Lehman and Dallas are extremely lucky to have two coaches in Dwight Barbacci and Jack Wolensky who care as much about the kids that play for them as they do. Nuff said.

(Rick Rogers, a Back Mountain resident, is a sports columnist for The Dallas Post. His column appears weekly.)



RICK ROGERS

Gold beats Bandits; takes lead

In Western Conference action in the Luzerne County Recreation Spring Soccer League, the Back Mountain Gold surprised the Back Mountain Bandits by jumping out to a 3-0 lead in the first quarter but ended up settling for a 4-4 tie.

The Gold got out in front early on goals from Rick Parry, unassisted, Chris Scharff off a Brian Hampel pass, and a Jody Hummel header on a corner kick from Parry. The Bandits came back in the second and third periods to knot the score on goals by Mike Richards, Eric Rosentel, both assisted by Mark Richardson, and Reese Finn assisted by Dave Morris.

In the fourth quarter, Chris Scharff scored his second goal to put the Gold in the lead, but the Bandits' Dale Morris matched it and the game ended tied. Aaron Dennis was exceptional on defense for the Gold.

The Back Mountain Braves now lead the West by virtue of a 3-1 win over the Wyoming Valley Maroons. The Braves got solo goals from Jim Evans, Steve Finn and Tom Shone with Paul Clemm picking up an assist. Fred Ebert scored from a John Shaner assist for the Maroons, who also got good defensive play from Larry Schuman and goalie Rich Menn. D.J. Hopkins and Mark Paczewski led the Braves' defense.

The Abington Royals stayed in the hunt with a 6-1 win over the Wyoming Valley Strikers by breaking open a game that was tied 1-1 at halftime. For the Royals, Brian Iitterly and Brock Johnson scored

two goals each and Chris White and Geoffrey Paul scored one goal each. Matt Capwell, Todd Chapin and Paul each had an assist. Matt Newton and Capwell led the defense. Warren Cotter scored the lone Striker goal and Marty Gabel recorded 21 saves at goalkeeper for the Strikers.

The Wyoming Valley Raiders downed the Abington Nomads 6-3 with 3 4th quarter goals to break a 3-3 stalemate. Tyler Wilson led the way for the Raiders with four goals and Carlo Sabitini and Christian Hampel added single tallies. Chris Huey and John Galante had assists. Tom Imperiale and Steve Sours keyed the defense. The Nomads Matt Gallagher had two goals and Jody Rosencrance had a goal and two assists. Gene Frick and Josh McCarthur combined in goal of 13 saves for the Nomads.

In the East, Darryl Ceccole had a field day scoring seven goals and the Plains Plainsmen routed the Mountaintop Orange Crush 11-1. Jeff Smith added a hat trick and Tom Salus a single goal for Plains. Ricky Lucci picked up five assists and Jay McGowan three assists. Jose Del Bosque avoised the shutout scoring the lone Crush goal.

The Wyoming Valley Wings shut-out the Mountaintop Catajammers 10-0. Paul Melone and Geoffrey Mahalak each notched hat tricks while John McKenna had two goals, Chris Nickish scored on a 25 yard blast and Joe Morrison on a flick-on header. Mike Olson and Nickish had two assists with Melone, Mahalak

and McKenna getting one assist each. Despite the score Cats' goalkeepers, Farhat Quili and Rob Eckart made 17 saves and David Meyers stopped several Wing thrusts with fine individual effort.

The Mountaintop Vigilantes improved to 3-1 by downing the Pittston Rowdies 5-1. Chris Dolfi scored 2 goals and 3 assists and Ryan Hill, Brian Hendrickson and Chuck Attardo scored one goal each and Jack Shafer added an assist for the Vigilantes. Ed Pietrowski scored the lone goal on a break away for the Raiders. John Viteritti, Gene Bradberry and Mark Caltigione played well for the Rowdies. Howie Naugle had a good game in goal for the Vigilantes.

STANDINGS Western Conference

Back Mountain Braves 4-0-0
Back Mountain Bandits 3-0-1
Abington Royals 3-1-0
Abington Nomads 2-2-0
Back Mountain Gold 1-2-1
Wyoming Valley Maroons 1-3-0
Wyoming Valley Raiders 1-3-0
Wyoming Valley Strikers 0-4-0
Eastern Conference

Wyoming Valley Wings 4-0-0
Mountaintop Vigilantes 3-1-0
Plains Plainsmen 3-1-0
Back Mountain Blitz 2-2-0
Mountaintop Orange Crush 1-2-1
Pittston Rowdies 1-3-0
Wyoming Valley Blast 1-3-0
Mountaintop Catajammers 0-3-1

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