

Sports



Dallas Post/Charlot M. Denmon

Western cowgirls

Courtney Beardsworth, Christy Callahan, Barbara Beardsworth, and their dog, Dusty, came dressed as Western cowgirls for the Dallas Rec Center's Western night last week. Coming up this week is a bowling trip to Bonomo's Lanes in Dallas.



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Western Nite held

Kristina Mussman and Angie Hosey enjoy riding the pony at the Dallas Recreation Center's Western Night last Tuesday. Children came dressed in Western attire and enjoyed an evening of bobbing for apples, pony rides and a hay ride.

Local girls play in Keystone Games

Four Dallas High School girl softball players and three from Lake-Lehman participated in action last weekend at Lehigh University in Bethlehem in hopes of advancing to final round play of the Womens Scholastic Fast-Pitch play in the Keystone Games competition.

Players chosen to advance, who were part of the sub-division region 2 team, will play at State College, Pa., in August against at least three other teams. Those participating from Dallas in last weekends play included Joyce Tinner, Heidi Scholz, Tracy Cave and Lori Cave. From Lake-

Lehman, the three taking part were Lori Pantle, Noel Kuznicki and Beth Finn.

Lake-Lehman head softball coach Flossie Finn and her assistant Cheryl Travis, along with Wyoming Valley West pilot Marge Kelly are the managers for the squad.

Rogers on sports

On Sunday, as I understand it, three-quarters of the world was covered by water and the other quarter, except for the wealthy neighborhood of North America, was breathlessly watching the World Cup soccer match between West Germany and Argentina. To every one else in the world, this is the game and championship that counts.

Being a natural American, the thought of the world conducting any series deciding the champions of the world without an American team is



RICK ROGERS

like considering a war without bullets — is it possible?

It's strange. America always crowns its champions, champion of the world, though all the teams are from America and you'd be hard pressed to find anyone outside this hemisphere who plays any of the sports - baseball, football, basketball - that really count.

I should back up for a minute. The reason we didn't send a team to the World Cup is that by international standards, American soccer stands up to international competition like the Argentine Navy did against the English Navy. We didn't want to be humbled by some mosquito capital.

I watched the World Cup. Well, some of it anyway, when the action on the other stations - a Phillies game, a golf tournament, a telethon and a John Wayne movie - got to be too much.

Some thoughts about the world's most popular game.

I tried to keep an open mind, to appreciate the finer points of this game, but I'm an American and naturally need blood and/or action to keep me attentive.

But as far as action goes, real action like running, jumping and, most importantly, scoring, this game ranks with the cockroach-racing and baton-twirling in terms of excitement. Some say that soccer isn't popular here because it isn't an American game. Maybe. But, more likely, soccer hasn't made it here because it is a slow and boring game. In two 45-minute halves you're lucky if you see three goals scored. No offense. Defense is a joke. You try to get through a million guys on a half-mile field to score. The Refrigerator couldn't do it, even if he could roll a half-mile.

Soccer is one of those games that is better played or watched in person than on the boob tube. Somehow the excitement just doesn't come through. To me, it's like watching a silent movie. I know what is going on; but, except for the train scenes and the fight scenes, I don't care.

Never is a long time, but soccer just isn't meant to be a major spectator sport here. It will never crowd out baseball, basketball or football, at least in my lifetime, as the meat and potatoes of America's sports diet.

Simply: Soccer doesn't have the two essentials to make it in America - action and a hint of violent intensity.

Oh, the Phillies won on a grand-slam by Juan Samuel in the ninth, 8-7. You won't see that in a soccer game, either.

BITS & PIECES

I'm sick to death about hearing about what tragedies the deaths of Len Bias and Don Rogers are. These were two young men who killed themselves with drugs. It is sad, maybe a loss, but surely no tragedy. Tragedy is athletes acting like hoods while kids look up to them.

It's to the point where athletes are going the way of politicians and actors as fallen heroes.

Some are calling for Lefty Driesell's relocation in wake of the drug-related death of Bias. They say he should have known what was going on and stopped it. They say he held a meeting with his team shortly after the death of the star player and told them not to say anything damaging about Bias. They say he let five of 12 Maryland players flunk the Spring semester without saying a word.

The scary thing is Driesell has been considered one of the finer handlers of young men in the country. Think about that and shudder.

This whole drug mess and the academic fraud is just a symptom of a greater plague that infects all sports: greed. Greed for the buck is the backbone of all this. Coaches want the reputations that winning gives, franchises and schools want the revenues that winning provides. The athlete is plankton of this food change.

If the Phillies finish at .500 this season, and that is a big if because they've been below .500 all season, they will finish a mere 20 games or so behind the Mets. The Mets should take a couple of weeks to let the slower souls catch up.

Had to be one of the saddest days in Philadelphia sports history when Steve Carlton was waived by the Phillies. Rest assured, some other team will pick up 'Lefty'. This is the year of the aging pitcher, and

Cleveland had the guts to acquire an aging and overweight knuckleballer named Phil Niekro, another team will seek a trim, four-time Cy Young sure Hall-of-Famer named Carlton.

Talking about aging pitchers given new life, Tom Seaver's trade to the Red Sox will do nothing except raise the team's league leading era. Seaver is older and has lost enough off his fastball to be splattered all over the Green Monster in left. Tom will lose his nickname 'Terrific' by August.

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

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Following is the All-Star schedule for teams involved with Back Mountain Baseball Inc.

Monday, July 7 - Division I Girls' Softball - Back Mountain National vs. Wyoming-West Wyoming, away; Back Mountain American vs. Avoca, home.

Tuesday, July 8 - Boys' Hardball - Back Mountain American vs. North End, away; Back Mountain National vs. Ashley, home.

Wednesday, July 9 - Division II Girls' Softball - Back Mountain vs. Avoca, home.

All games begin at 6 p.m.

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