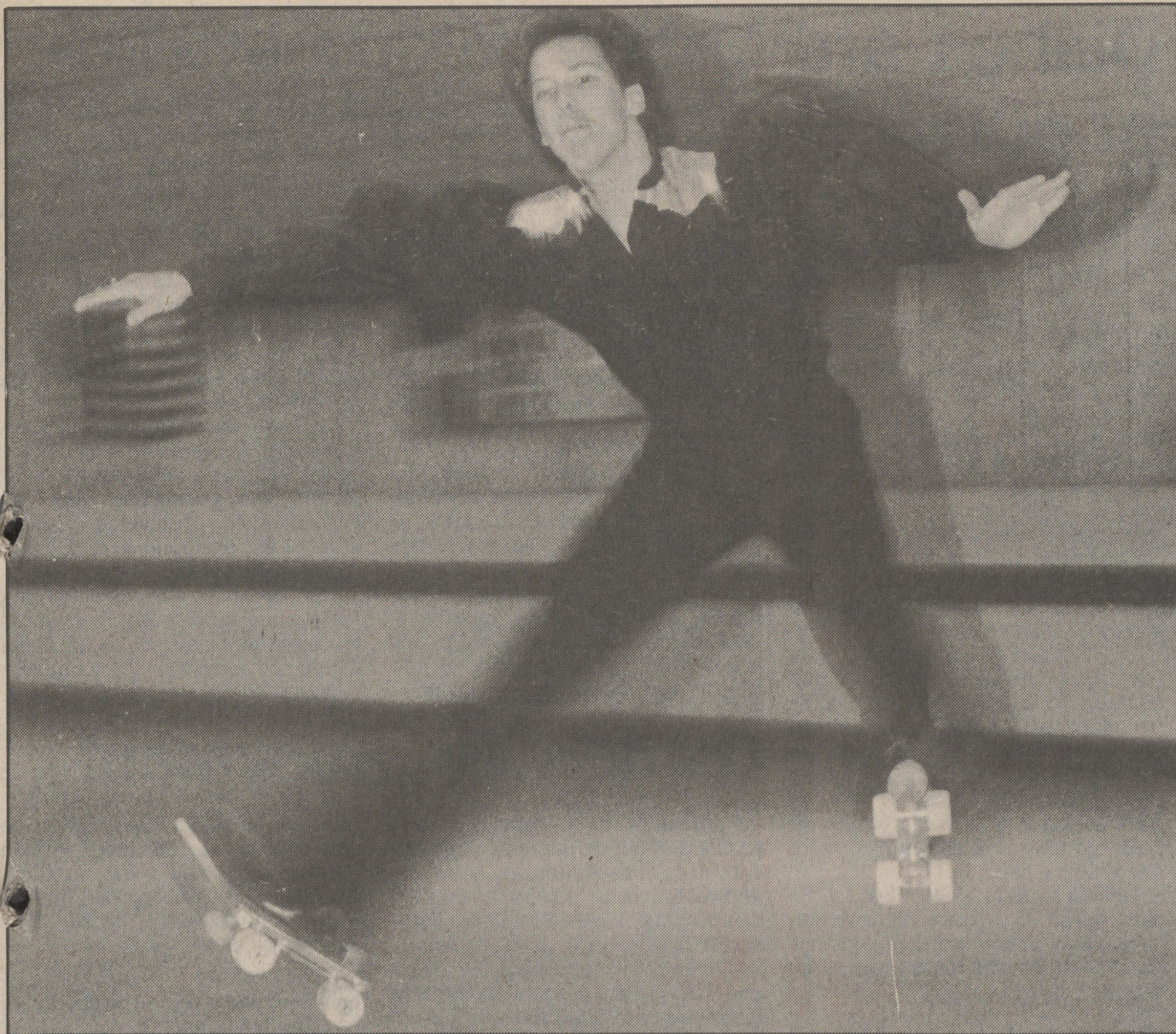


# Post sports arena



**WORLD CLASS CHAMPION** — Rollaway Skating Rink manager and pro, Tony Berger, demonstrates a Russian split which was one of the items he used in the routine for Nationals where he won a gold medal and became World Class champion. (C.M. Denmon Photo)

## Berger is world-class skating pro

In 1978, during sessions at a Wilkes-Barre skating rink a 10-year-old boy was called from the floor by the skating Pro, who saw the boy skating backward.

The Pro had been watching the skater and recognized that the boy had natural talent. He arranged with the boy to take lessons and soon the young skater was doing dance with a partner from Taylor.

They entered competition the first year and the couple took second place in regional competition at Elsemere, Delaware. They qualified for the Nationals in 1978.

This year, after 10 years of competitive skating, winning in figures, freestyle and dance, that boy now a young man and in the Fall of 1987, became manager and a professional instructor at Rollaway Skating Rink, Dallas.

Tony Berger, two times national champion and world champion, was the youngest world class man in the country at the age of 16. In 1979, Berger qualified for both figures and dance and in 1980, he qualified in regionals for both figures, dance and freestyle and took the silver medal in Nationals. He was the first person from this area to win figures in Nationals.

Berger repeated his record in 1981 and 1982, taking all three but then retired from freestyle and took gold medals in figures and dance. In 1983 he qualified for the Junior men's competition in figures and dance by taking first in the regionals. In Nationals, Berger won the bronze medal after his skates fell apart.

In 1984, he transferred to Delaware where he took figures and dance and won the championship title in 1984 to become the youngest world class man. He placed fourth in the United States in the Junior American dance competition and then his partner retired.

In 1986 with a new partner, Berger took the gold medal in Junior World Class Dance and in 1987 he won the World Class Regionals and advanced to skate Senior Free Dance with a partner from Michigan. They won at the regional level and advanced to the Nationals where they skated and won Senior Free Dance.

His pro then moved to Florida and if he continued training, Berger would have to move to Florida. At that time he was offered a coaching and management position at Rollaway by the

present owner, Nick Tsoles. post skatep add 1

Because the talented young skater wanted to bring home what he had learned from his coaches, he accepted the opportunity. It is his ambition to give to all young skaters boys and girls, what he learned while in Delaware.

When Berger took over management of the local rink, the Rollaway Club had only seven members. The new club was just organized and Tony Berger began reorganizing and invited new members to join.

With students taking lessons for a year or less, the success they had in various competitions attracted the interest of other potential skaters who have begun taking private lessons. In the past six months, four of his students have entered competition and won.

In addition to Tony as a pro and operating and managing the rink, his former pro, Al Taglang, also gives lessons at Rollaway. In his two years at the rink, seven of Taglang's students have won in competition.

A third pro recently joined the Rollaway staff, Margaret Ann Devine of Wilkes-Barre.



**THREE FRIENDS** —Dallas sophomore Laura Poynton, Lake-Lehman senior Pam Coolbaugh and Dallas senior Joyce Tinner, have been close friends since they played on Back Mountain Baseball Inc. All-Star teams several years ago.

## Friendly rivals are softball greats

BY CHARLOT M. DENMON  
Staff Writer

A deep friendship developed between three girls, who played softball in Back Mountain Baseball over the past few years. Although it is not unusual for several girls to become friends, this instance is unusual since two of the girls are seniors, one at Lake-Lehman and one at Dallas, while the third girl is only a sophomore at Dallas.

The tie that binds them appears for their love of and dedication to softball. They love the game, play to be competitive, want to win, but their's is a friendly rivalry and they hold no malice to anyone.

The three girls Laura Poynton, Dallas sophomore; Joyce Tinner, Dallas senior and Pam Coolbaugh, Lake-Lehman senior.

Their friendship for one another is obvious when they're together. They talk seriously, tease one

another and join in teasing other friends and acquaintances. They discuss school, colleges they hope to attend and despite difference in age, the two older girls respect their younger friend who thinks and acts like they do.

Joyce and Pam met when they played Division I softball and Laura met the two of them when she was in seventh grade playing Division II softball. Joyce and Pam played on different teams during the season but they played together on the All-Stars team.

Laura and Joyce played on the same team (Phillies) during the season and all three were together on the All-Stars team. The three of them played only one year together but continued as friends throughout senior high.

When Laura was still in Back Mountain Baseball, her two friends came to the games to watch her play. Both Laura and Pam now pitch for their school's varsity

teams and Joyce plays shortstop. In 1986-87, the three girls were together again when Pam played third and was relief pitcher for the Lady Knights, Joyce played shortstop for the Lady Mounts and Laura played outfield, infield or relief pitcher when needed.

Despite Back Mountain rivalry, these three girls have learned that friendship comes first. They also played basketball together during the past year. Pam and Joyce played field hockey but Laura after junior high played Back Mountain soccer for some of the season.

The girls also spent time together in the Poynton's pool following their softball games in the past. When time permits, the three go out together after games.

Age, grade, school makes no difference to these three-Joyce, Pam and Laura are true friends. They wish the best for each other now and in the future.

## Scholarship to be presented

The Dallas High School Soccer Club will initiate a book scholarship to be presented to a senior soccer team member this year. According to Rich Ursiak, club president, this annual award, based on academic achievement and club participation, will be for the purpose of helping the student athlete pursue an advanced degree.

Applications have been mailed to all Dallas soccer players who are members of the Senior Class and must be completed and filed with the Scholarship Committee by May 1. Selection will be made by May 15, and a check will be presented to the recipient at the beginning of his first year of post-secondary schooling. Further information may be obtained by contacting Carole Burak, Mary Cramton or Ursiak.

## Knights win in volleyball

Lake-Lehman Knights won their Seventh Annual Invitational Tournament last weekend by defeating No. 14 ranked Cocalico 15-9, 15-3 in Division AA volleyball at Lake-Lehman's Junior High.

The Knights advanced to the finals by defeating Emmaus 15-12, 17-15 in the semi-finals. The Knights were losing 7-0 before they rallied to come from behind and defeat Emmaus, who was the Number One team on Court Two by defeating the Knights twice in the round robin tournament.

In the quarter-finals the Knights defeated Coughlin 15-7, 15-7. Abington, who was No. Three on Court One lost to Dallastown 15-9, 15-9 in

the round robin. Cocalico advanced to the finals by losing to Dallastown 6-15 in the first game but winning the next two 15-8 and 15-13.

Named MVP in Division AA was Tom Gingrich of Emmaus, heading the All-Tournament team of Eric Knept, Dallastown, Joe Guido, Wyoming Area, Allen Andes, Alex Frederick, Lake-Lehman, Matt Wisniewski, Coughlin, Eric Koch, Emmaus, and Glen Sokolowski, Coughlin.

In Division A championship, Susquehanna defeated Mountain View 15-9, 6-15, 15-12, to take the championship. The two teams advanced to the finals when Susquehanna

defeated Elk Lake 15-8, 15-8 and Mountain View defeated Blue Ridge 15-9, 15-10.

Named to the all-tournament teams were John Baranowski, Lake-Lehman; Jamie Orlandini, Ed Melan, Elk Lake; Mike Slacktich, Tom Echo, Tunkhannock; Glen Whitney, Blue Ridge; David Miller, Mountain View and John Box, Susquehanna.

Lake-Lehman is ranked No. Two in the Eastern Division Top 10, and third in the State Top 20.



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