Sports

60 athletes from Back Mountain compete in the Keystone Games

By CHARLOT M. DENMON Staff Writer

The rains came but they didn't prevent the 4700 athletes from participating in the opening ceremonies of the Keystone Games last Friday night.

The athletes, dressed in white shorts, white Keystone Games shirts, white socks and shoes, made an impressive sight as they marched in the opening parade that kicked off the official opening of the four-day competition.

As they marched to their designated places on the field, the athletes formed a replica of the Keystone State logo, then stayed in place as the runners carrying the Olympic-style torch entered the field and advanced to the in-place torch to be lighted for the Games.

white-garbed athletes bordered by the volunteers and coaches in the colored shirts designating their respective regions stood and solemnly recited the pledge of the games.

Participants and spectators listened attentively to Owen Costello, director of the games, and to Wilkes-Barre Mayor Leo Namey as they addressed their audience. A roar of excitement filled the air as Franco Harris moved to the podium to speak, then there was complete silence as Harris urged the athletes to give their best, go out to win but win or lose, do it graciously.

The release of multitudes of balloons and a display of fireworks closed the ceremony and the crowd dispersed, the athletes to attend parties in their honor and the officials to add the finishing touches for the competition.

Sixty male and female athletes representing the Back Mountain area participated in the 1988 Summer Keystone State Games ,and with the other athletes from the East played key roles in leading all areas with the most medals. The East region won 379 medals in all. The East also capturing the highest number of gold medals in the games.

Gordy Williams and Michael Taylor, both of Shavertown, participated in the bowling events, Williams in the 15-18 male division and Taylor in the 9-11 male division.

Russell Newell of Dallas, Donald Jones Lake-Lehman and Paul Englis of Hunlock Creek entered the canoe-kayak races and Cynthia Jones of Lehman entered the female canoe-kayak event.

Cycling proved to be a popular event for Back Mountain entrants

town entered the 18-35 non-licensed division and James Eric Schall, Dallas entered the male division for the same age group. Edward Dorrance, Dallas, entered the 35 and over non-licensed male class. Eight female and male athletes

played on the female and hockey teams and were outstanding in their performances.

Carolyn James, Susan Wells, Susan Slocum and Lori Warneka played on the East teams and James Kersey, John Chapple and John Sheehan III played on the Open Male team.

Jennifer Spencer made an excellent showing in the female scholastic golf competition and Phil Navola, Shavertown competed in the male scholastic competition.

Matt McLaughlin, Dallas, and Michael Olson, Shavertown, played outstanding hockey in the male junior ice hockey division.

Sue Niezgoda of Dallas drew the interest of the fans in her karate performance.

Garry Taroli and David Kowalek, both of Shavertown, were among the most comfortable of the athletes, as they entered the water to compete in the 30-34 masters swimming competition.

David Gramps of Shavertown, was the lone local competitor in the racquet ball matches.

Rollerskating had eight entries from the Back Mountain Rollaway Club including Nancy Barber, Lisa Berger, Franmar Kopko, Trudy Wandel, Llewellyn Kopko, Nicole Hall, George Manzoni, Daniel Rogers and Wendy Busch, all of whom performed well and most of them winning medals.

Nichola Reisinger, Dallas, and Melissa Billington, Harveys Lake, entered the junior female rowing competition; Grace Ostrum, Dallas, and Gerald Reisinger also of Dallas, competed in the masters female and masters male rowing class.

Back Mountain soccer players Susan Richardson, Jennifer Moran, Jennifer Besecker, Kimberly Chapple, Jean Stahovec played on the East female soccer teams which had a successful record in the games.

Pam Coolbaugh, Amber Roese, Wendy Skibitski, Karen White, Denise Davis, Joyce Tinner, Becky James, and Cindy Slocum were leading performers in the softball games.

Jaime Ragukonis and Jennifer Ragukonis, both of Dallas, became familiar names with the fans in the swimming.

Edward Radzinski earned two medals in track and field and Brad Barket placed in the junior male track and field Scott Sorchik of Harveys Lake won in the open male track and field meet.

John Baranowski and

played on the volleyball team.

Thirteen-year-old Charles Jacoby, Lehman took four medals in the junior folkstyle and freestyle wrestling bouts at 105-lbs. and 115 lbs. Charles Roper, Harveys Lake, and Eric Williams, Shavertown, also competed. Edward Kelly, Harveys Lake, competed in the freestyle open for males.

East hockey team won the gold aided by the playing of Carolyn James, Sue Wells and Julie Hess, and the open female division hockey team won a silver medal sparked by the play of Susie Slocum and Lori Warneka.

East hockey players Chris Chapple, Dale and Dave Morris and Mike Richards played key roles in helping the West team win a silver medal. The four athletes volun teered for the silver medalist teaam when it was in need of players to fill the squad. John Sheehan III, Matt Lipo and John Kersey missed out on a bronze asthe East team went down to defeat by the Central team.

Adrienne Robinson was a member of the East women's vollevball team which took a silver medal. Pam Coolbaugh, Joyce Tinner, Denise Davis, and Cindy Slocum were members of the East bronze medal team coached by Cheryl Travis.

The under 23 Slow-pitch softball team placed fourth with Becky James, Stacie Newell and Wendy Skibitski playing on the team which was coached by Rose Ragnacci:

Jenniver Ragukonis placed fourth in the 200 vard breast stroke event and sixth in the 100 breast stroke competition.

Lynn Coury coached the under 18 slow-pitch softball team with players Amber Roese and Karen White showing the way for the team.

James Eric Shall took a bronze medal in cycling, Ed Dorrance and Joe Sabatini won silver medals and Mike Bodjnoski took fourth.

Mike Olson turned in an excellent performance for the ice hockey team.

Scott Sorchik won a gold medal in the javelin event.

Winning medals in rollerskating were Wendy Busch, Franmar Kopko, Llewellyn Kopko, George Manzoni, Trudi Wandel, Nancy Barber, Lisa Berger, and Danny Rogers

Other medal winners had not been reported at presstime.

Strazduses top local entrants in bass tournament at Harveys Lake

By CHARLOT M. DENMON Staff Writer

More than 100 fishermen took part in the Harveys Lake Bass Tournament, Sunday, with headquarters at Joe's Grotto Pizza shore area.

Sixty two teams of two fishermen each in the Second Annual Renegade Bass Raiders Tournament competed for the approximately \$3,000 in prizes of money, merchandise and trophies.

This year's number of teams surpassed last year's entries of 43 teams by nearly 50 percent, with 21 of the teams entering Sunday, the day of the tourna-

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The local team to finish highest were Joseph Strazdus, Sr. and his son, Joseph Strazdus, Jr., who caught eight pounds of fish and won \$350. Joseph Strazdus, Sr., also took home the \$300 lunker award for catching an 18-inch small mouth bass that weighed two pounds, 13 ounces.

The only winners reported from the Back Mountain area were Warren Gensel and Charles Honeywell of Harveys Lake, who came in sixth. The local pair caught six pounds, three ounces of bass.

Tournament officials reported only three fish died during the tournament and the rest of the fish caught were released unharmed by mandate.

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with nine athletes participating. Jane Lukas of Shavertown entered the licensed senior female division and Paul Lukas road in the male division of the same class, as did Scott Ciravold of Dallas and Drew Jubis of Harveys Lake.

Michael Budjnoski, Harveys Lake, rode in the licensed masters 35-44, and Joseph Sabatini, Dallas, entered the 45 and over licensed masters. Andrea Isaac of Shaver-

Teeners lose title

In the finals of the loser's bracket, Back Mountain Teeners knocked off Plymouth 7-0 to revenge an earlier loss to Plymouth. Sam Gorgone hurled a 4hitter while fanning 5 and walking just one. He also scored two runs and chipped in with a double. Ray Russin had 2 hits and also scored a pair, while turning in several nice plays at shortstop. Emery played solid defense at third base

In the championship game, Plains ended Back Mountain's hopes of a 2nd consecutive title by knocking off Back Mountain 4-1. Plains broke open a scoreless game by scoring twice in the 6th inning. Sam Gorgone pitched another solid game. Chris Bowman, Chuck Finn, Neil Kaiser and Ben Patton each had a hit for Back Mountain

Kukosky, both players on the Knights district champions, were commended by the East volleyball coach John Baranowski, Sr., for their performances in the games. Adrienne Robinson, Dallas,

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