

Team effort took Dallas to state field hockey final

By FLORENCE FINN
Sports Correspondent

When a team reaches the final game for a state championship, it is ludicrous to speak of anything but success. Success is what characterized the Dallas field hockey team this entire season and you won't hear any regrets expressed from the players or their coach. "We can't feel upset since we've had a great season," declared Kelly Cleary regarding the Mounts second place finish in the Class AAA state title match.

After memorable 1-0 wins in the prior two games, the Mountaineers fell by the same score to Emmaus November 16 in Collegeville. Emmaus won the way it got to the final, by allowing no scoring against its swarming defense.

What makes a great season? It is more than a team's record although Dallas boasts an impressive 15-2-2 finale. If a team is measured by its character along with its accomplishments, then the Mountaineers also qualify, for they seem to epitomize all that high school sports should be. The modest senior six spoke of friendship, fun, support, team, and the thrill of being a part of a superior program. All-star MVP Megan Moran commented, "It was personally rewarding to me to be a part of a team that went this far."

Togetherness seems to be the thread that maintains the character of the team. It is the pervasive force which began developing four years ago among these friends who consistently give credit to their teammates, younger players, J.V. players, and coach. "The younger players really pushed us to do our best," applauded an unselfish Sue

Richardson. Tammy Dzanko, a dedicated senior substitute, was especially supportive and instrumental to the success of the state runners-up according to her fellow seniors.

In the beginning of their season, the team had a simple goal. According to Amy Shelley, "Our goal was to do our best whether we won or lost." Oddly enough all of the seniors expressed surprise at how far they had gone. "Making it that far was better than we expected," Kelly Cleary reflected and Amy Shelley reiterated the same sentiments. Perhaps this was due to the fact that this team has established a new Dallas high in hockey accomplishments. No other team has ever reached the state playoffs and Coach Robyn Jones rewarded that team effort at their annual banquet by giving the Kubis Award to the entire team rather than one player.

Jones offered this philosophy for her team. "A team is no better than the individual's ability to contribute to a greater unity," Jones said.

"The sacrifice of individual ambition for the attainment of team goals is a most human quality essential to sports as well as business and personal life."

If you haven't noticed by now, team is the recurring word. Trying to evoke individual responses from the group is literally impossible. Goalie Ann Smaka, who had been instrumental in the Boyertown win in the semi-finals, which ended in a shootout, praised her teammates. "It was always total team effort," she explained. "We had fun on and off the field."

Perhaps this unique camaraderie developed as a result of close



DALLAS FIELD HOCKEY TEAM - Members of the Dallas Field Hockey team take time out to pose for their photo. Sitting in front, Tammy Dzanko, Becky Yurko; kneeling, Kim Donlin, Mindy Haberstich, Bridget Temperine, Tami Palka, Theresas Mathers, Nina Mathers, Jill Kowalski, Beth Delescavage, Cathy Grosman, Kelly

Cleary, Scott Bent; standing, Coach Robyn Jones, Ann Smaka, Kelly Janosky, Katie Sallit, Karen Wisnieski, Cindy Maier, Megan Moran, Susan Richardson, Amy Shelley, Abby Russin, Kelly Freeman, Coach Paulette Dent and Heather Kowalski. (Post Photo/C.M. Denmon)

friendships off the field. The senior six are all bosom buddies and have been throughout their educational experiences. This friendship was evident in the words of Cleary who emotionally expressed, "We had so much fun playing that it is sad for me when I think we won't play together again." Megan Moran echoed those feelings as she spoke of togetherness on and off the field.

The Mountaineers hockey week-end was begun by a special pep rally at the high school. "It was like

no other pep rally we've ever had," Sue Richardson exclaimed. But, this was only the capping gesture of the support from school peers, parents, fans, and teammates according to the seniors. Decorated caravans traveled to watch their team and the team gave them something to watch: overtimes, shootouts, exemplary hockey. It didn't end at Collegeville.

The celebration continued. Throughout the Dallas area horns blared, welcoming back the hockey heroines, and showing their pride.

Four of them had one more chance to play together in the annual All-Star game the next day. Then, the team celebrated together in the timely hockey banquet on Sunday evening where its coach praised her team for its loyalty, dedication and ability.

The season has finally come to a close, but the special memories will remain forever - memories that include joy, fear, tears and friendship. They will flash in a mental highlight film as the individuals visualize in slow motion an out-

standing play, a friendly high five, a supportive tap on the shoulder, a hug from a parent. The final loss will fade, but the experience of having been there will remain vivid throughout their lives. The Dallas Field Hockey Team has achieved what every high school player dreams of - the excitement of state competition.

Most of the seniors will continue playing in some college setting, but the memory of their final high school hour is etched in the mirrors of their minds.

Scholarships or aid there for high school athletes

By FLORENCE FINN
Sports Correspondent

Not many people have had the nostalgic experience of being in a locker room when seniors have completed their final high school competition. Whether it be a male or female team, there are always tearful farewells, and sometimes a respected silence. Shirts with favorite numbers are handed down to junior buddies in an unspoken ritual or a decorated cake with school colors is offered as a tribute to friends of four to six years of camaraderie that can't be equalled in any other situation.

Then we often ask the same athlete to give up the bonding, the competitive spirit, the intense rivalry that causes the natural adrenalin flowing as no drug can. "Get on with your life! Forget about playing and hit the books. After all, very few earn a living from sports." Asking that is like asking a musician to throw away his instrument, or a writer to throw away his pen, for, "It is in games that many discover their paradise."

I submit that no athlete needs to give up a sport to become a student; no athlete needs to give up a sport to receive a quality education. Athlete may have both and the sport may even enhance their college experience.

Certainly there are very few athletic scholarships, but there is a school where any calibre athlete can enjoy playing. The question is how does one find this institution. There is a process that the athlete, the high school coach and guidance counselor may initiate to aid the player in his/her quest for a school in which he/she can spend the next four years.

In conjunction with the player's coaches, they need an honest evaluation regarding their abilities. This can also be done by another coach or camp clinician. Once the ability is determined, the level of play needs to be established.

There are three levels of NCAA play: level one is the most competitive and gives athletic scholarships and paid visits among other advantages. However, there are many Division I schools that choose not to give athletic scholarships such as the Ivy Leagues and other highly academically competitive schools. Many times scholar athletes qualify for academic scholarships in

the schools.

There are also National Association of Intercollegiate Athletes (NAIA) schools that can give small amounts of athletic aid. Division II schools may give partial scholarships while Division III may not give any, but financial aid packages may be advantageously affected. There may also be additional perks for the athlete such as comfortable work study programs. More importantly, the support of a coach may hold some weight in admission offices when the athlete is just under SAT expectations for example.

In the guidance office of most schools there are handbooks which list schools and their divisions and majors. With the help of the counselor, students should make a list of possibilities. Then they and the high school coach can make an athletic, academic and social profile to send coaches. This should be done after one's junior season and it should include a game schedule for scouting purposes.

Most college coaches will send a questionnaire or contact the athlete, coach, or counselor. Then they will request a video tape which should include skills and game situations. What most people don't know is that various NCAA rules govern when and where a college coach may contact a player. The numerous NCAA rules are also in the guidance office and should be strictly followed.

A call from the high school coach to the college coach is a valuable part of the process. The college coach will aid the player in setting up visits, getting unofficial administration evaluations, checking on financial aid, campus tours, and team introductions. Most coaches appreciate knowing about prospective athletes providing contacts are honest and realistic in their recommendations.

Once contacts are made, athletes need to visit, compuses, mingle with teams and ask many questions regarding programs, special services, conditioning and training facilities, extent of schedules, coaching expectations, and any other concerns the athlete may have.

Counselors and coaches can help their student athletes, but the athletes need to help themselves if they wish to continue sports participation after high school.

Adult basketball league begins new season

The Dallas Adult Basketball League began play on Sunday, Nov. 17 with 3 games at the Dallas Senior High School. In the opener, Payne Printery defeated Humphries 85-68. Joe Flaherty scorched the nets for 30 while teammate Steve Harnisferger chipped in 24. Overall Payne banged in 15 three point goals. Frank Debona led Humphries with 33 points.

In the middle game The Fieldhouse Sporting Goods nipped Darling Farms 51-48. Rich Coslett led the winners with 15 points while Frank Bogdan and Mark Farrell broke into double figures with 10 each. Mark Bolinski led Darling's with 18 points, all coming on three point baskets.

In the nitecap the Grand Slam Sports Bar beat Jim-Jon

Tomatoes 45-38. Steve Thomas paced the winners with 19 while teammate Steve Dente added 12. Tom Shalata led the losers with 12 points.

Overall the opening day featured some great fast-paced action. Thirty three-pointers were made, and game one featured a thunderous slam-dunk by Payne's Joe Flaherty. Play continues on Sunday, Nov. 24 with three games.

For further information regarding the league call Jack Wolensky at 675-5201 or Chuck Wilson at 675-1100.

STANDINGS

Payne Printery	1-0
Fieldhouse	1-0
Grand Slam Sports Bar	1-0
Jim Jon Tomatoes	0-1
Humphries	0-1
Darling Farms	0-1

Trap shoot November 24

Irem Temple Gun Club will hold a Trap Shoot November 24, starting at 12 noon, open to the public. New shooters welcome. Ammo and refreshments available.

Dallas, Lake-Lehman players in All-Star game

On Sunday, November 17, at Meyers Stadium, High School field hockey came to a close for nine seniors from both Dallas and Lake-Lehman when the East tied West, 1-1, in the annual Wyoming Valley Conference Field Hockey All-Star Game.

Seniors from Dallas participating on the West team in their last field hockey game were, Kelly Cleary, Amy Shelley, Megan Moran and Sue Richardson.

Lake-Lehman had five seniors on the East squad: Jennifer Cross, Karen Halowich, Jonelle Pall, Heather Ruger and Heidi Wenrich.

Megan Moran and Heather Ruger were named defensive MVP's. All players from each school include field hockey in their future plans and were recruited at the All-Star game.

Swim meet planned at CYC

The Wyoming Valley Catholic Youth Center will celebrate its 28th Open Swim Meet on Saturday, Dec. 7. Kevin Bogdon, pool manager, stated that the meet is open to the public to observe the number of swimmers from all over the area who will be competing for individual awards.

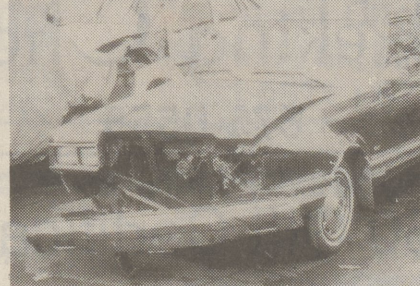
The meet will begin at 9 a.m. with warm up, and the actual competition at 10 a.m. Saturday's

event include all 14 and under age group swimmers.

There will be a total of 70 events throughout the day with awards given for the first six finishers.

Rev. John S. Terry is Director of the CYC which is a member agency of the Wyoming Valley United Way.

For more information, don't hesitate to call the CYC, at 823-6121 or stop in and see us at 36 So. Washington Street, Wilkes-Barre.



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