

'Reading Olympics' add fun to an important skill

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

"Let the Reading Olympics begin!" proclaimed Aaron Kubasik after jogging around the gym carrying the torch to light the Olympic flame signaling the opening of Ross Township Elementary School's first R.I.F. Reading Olympics.

Each grade, led by two students carrying a special flag, filed into the school's multi-purpose room for the beginning of the afternoon-long event.

Kindergartners followed an American flag which they had colored, while the first graders were led by a replica of the Olympic flag. Second graders followed the R.I.F. flag; third graders were led by Ross Twp. Elementary School's special flag and the fourth grade followed a customized banner they had designed, depicting Olympic activities.

Reading teacher Mrs. Nancy Walters welcomed the 124 students, teachers, PTA parents and administrators, encouraging them to "Be the best student that you can—that is the Lake-Lehman Olympic challenge."

All activities centered around the theme of sports: the books which the students received as part of R.I.F.'s second book distribution, special sports stories read to each class by visiting Lake-Lehman High School athletes and a video of highlights of the 1988 Winter Olympics at Calgary, Canada.

Every student in the school competed in the Reading Olympics by reading a book provided by the R.I.F. program and completing a short assignment.

Three Lake-Lehman reading specialists judged the assignments, awarding gold, bronze and silver stars for the best work. The class which accumulated the most gold stars won an ice cream party, courtesy of the PTO.

Third graders in Mrs. Welter's class listened raptly as athletes Lynn Turner and Rich Davis read a story of a race, while Ms. Lutsy's first graders stared openmouthed at high school students Chuck Finn and Jennifer Cross, who read a story about an athlete who wasn't prepared for competition.

Shouts of "Me!" "Over here!" and "I'm next!" echoed through Mrs. Thomas' room as Greg Dobash and Jonelle Pall asked the second graders what kinds of athletic activity they were best at.

Visiting Lake-Lehman High School junior and senior athletes who had been chosen for academic excellence, athletic achievement and citizenship, read to the classes and answered questions about their sports.

Athletes included Lynn Turner, Jill Smiegelski, Rich Davis, Brian Kelly, Jennifer Cross, Jonelle Pall, Jennifer Smith, Jeff Sands, Chuck Finn and Greg Dobash.

Flag bearers in the opening ceremonies included kindergartners Nicole Walsh and Robert



READING ROLE MODELS - Lake-Lehman High School athletes Brian Kelly and Jennifer Smith share a sports story with Mrs.

Phillips' second grade class during Ross Township School's Reading Olympics. (Post photo/Grace R. Dove)

Groblewski, first graders Amanda Shaver and Philip Weaver, second graders Amanda Boytin and Cody Raspen, third graders Mary Ann Powell and Timothy Kernah and fourth graders Jillian Bloom and Matthew Gonzales.

The Reading Olympics was or-

ganized by Mrs. Walters as the theme for the R.I.F. (Reading is FUNDamental) program's second book distribution. R.I.F. is a national program designed to encourage children to read for pleasure. Locally it is partially funded by UGI, which provides books, stick-

ers and bookmarks for the first graders.

The Ross Township Elementary PTO provides books for kindergarten, second, third and fourth grades and incentive gifts and prizes for all students in the school.

Ross Township School was filled with grins, laughter and enthusiasm as the kids continued their adventures in reading. It was difficult to tell who was enjoying the R.I.F. Reading Olympics more—the students, visiting athletes, PTA parents or the teachers.



JUDY FITCH
Miss Wilkes-Barre/Scranton 1992

Judy Fitch will compete for Miss Pennsylvania

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

For the second time in four years, Judy Fitch of Dallas Township has been crowned Miss Wilkes-Barre/Scranton. She will next compete in June for title of Miss Pennsylvania.

"It was much scarier the second time," Judy laughed. "The 1988 pageant was my first, so I really didn't know the ropes."

For the March 1 pageant at the Kirby Center in Wilkes-Barre, the 24-year-old Dallas Township resident competed against 14 other young women in swimsuit, evening gown and talent divisions and went through a personal interview with the judges. For the talent competition, Judy sang the popular country song "Stand By Your Man."

A January, 1992 graduate of Wilkes University majoring in communications, Judy is the

daughter of Ralph and Elizabeth Fitch; she has two sisters, Nancie and Stacey.

In addition to making personal appearances, Judy will spend the next three months intensively preparing for the Miss Pennsylvania pageant June 11-13 in Altoona.

But she has set her goals much higher—to combine the Miss Wilkes-Barre/Scranton's \$1,000 scholarship prize with the \$35,000 scholarship prize that goes with the Miss America crown, so that she can study for her master's degree in communications.

"My family and friends have been very supportive through the entire process," Judy said. "They encouraged me to try for the Miss Pennsylvania crown again. And people whom I've never met before go out of their way to wish me well. Knowing that the entire community is behind me makes me feel very lucky to live in the Back Mountain."

Women's Club donates to library, plans fundraisers

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

The Back Mountain Memorial Library recently benefitted from the generosity of the Dallas Area Federated Women's Club, which donated \$500 to the library.

According to club president Nancy Ferko, the club always includes a donation to the library in its annual budget. But when state funding cuts to local libraries were announced, the club voted to increase its contribution.

Mrs. Ferko said that the Women's Club also plans two other fundraising activities for the li-

brary, a bakeless bake sale and a booth at the annual library auction.

A bakeless bake sale, or "donation in lieu of hours of baking," involves making a cash donation rather than giving baked goods to be sold. Only Women's Club members have been asked to participate in this activity.

The Dallas Area Federated Women's Club booth at the Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction will feature homemade fudge, made fresh daily by club members from a top-secret recipe.

"The fudge was very popular several years ago when the Junior Women's Club made it," Mrs. Ferko



LIBRARY DONATIONS - Dallas Area Federated Women's Club treasurer Shirley Smith, left, and president Nancy Ferko, right, present a \$500 donation to Back Mountain Memorial Library director Susan Frey, in center. (Post photo/Grace R. Dove)

said. "There hasn't been a fudge booth since the Junior Women's Club discontinued it. We're using their recipe and hope that people enjoy it as much as they did in the past."

The Dallas organization has approximately 50 active members from varied backgrounds. Women interested in further information on the Dallas Federated Women's Club and its activities may contact Mary Griffin at 675-4033.

Cancer Society now taking orders for Daffodil Days

The American Cancer Society will be taking orders through Saturday, March 14 for the 19th annual Daffodil Days, its major fund-raising program, at Back Mountain businesses displaying a Daffodil Days poster.

Each bunch of 10 flowers costs \$4 and will be wrapped by students, Scouts and other volunteers for pickup March 24. Orders of five or more bunches will be delivered to any single location.

Last year more than 2,273 bunches of flowers were sold, according to Louise Kondraki of the American Cancer Society.

The society calls the daffodil the first flower of spring and the flower of hope. The American Cancer Society's goal is to place daffodils in every window.

Businesses or individuals wishing to participate may contact Louise Kondraki at 283-3221 or Kim Koehl at 696-3384.

Vets Club to hold blood drive March 4

The Vets Club of Penn State Wilkes-Barre will hold a blood drive in conjunction with the American Red Cross on Wednesday, March 4 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the multi-purpose room of the Athletics and Recreation Building on the campus in Lehman. The public is invited.

Lehman UMC Women will hold rummage sale

The Lehman United Methodist Women plan a Spring Rummage Sale for April 3, 9 to 5 and April 4, until noon. Rummage is needed.

Old-fashioned bunch of fresh cut flowers



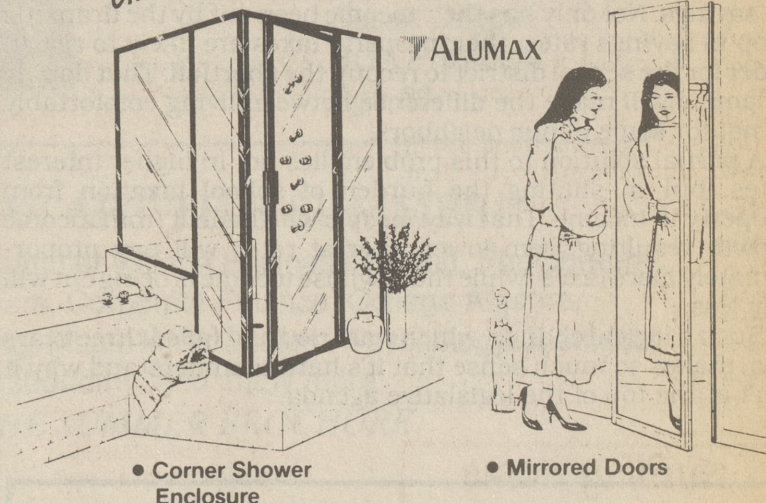
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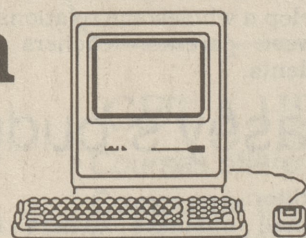
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