

Steppingstone to the Ironman

Greater W-B Triathlon to be run here August 15

By DAVE KONOPKI
Sports Writer

Nearly 700 of the world's best athletes will converge in the Back Mountain this weekend to take part in the 12th Annual Greater Wilkes-Barre Triathlon on Sunday, August 15. The event will begin at 8 a.m. at the Harveys Lake Beach Club and the first overall finishers are expected to cross the finish line at the Penn State/Lehman campus about 10:30.

The major sponsors of the triathlon, which has become one of the most respected triathlons in the world, are Wyoming Valley Health Care Systems, Inc., Mrs. T's Pierogies, Bud Light, Mellon Bank and Sallie Mae.

The event consists of a 1,500-meter swim in Harveys Lake, a 40-km (24.8 mile) bike race and a 10-km (6.2 mile) run. The race is a qualifying race for the prestigious Ironman World Championship in Hawaii on October 30. The Ironman consists of a 2.4 mile swim, a 112-mile bike race and a 26.2 mile marathon.

Participants will be competing

for nearly \$20,000 in prize money, including more than \$3,000 to the male and female overall winners. The prize money is among the largest triathlon purses in the country, exceeded by only the *Chicago Sun-Times* Triathlon and the Ironman Triathlon.

According to James Harris III, a former co-director of the event, it is the dedication of the hundreds of volunteers which make this event special in the eyes of the world.

"This triathlon is well-known for its volunteers," said Harris, who is the president of the Pocono Northwest Triathlon Association. "We have more than 800 volunteers, including lifeguards, course monitors, firemen, police officers and ambulance personnel. The people keep coming back year after year to help out the athletes."

There are four divisions of competition within the event, including male and female, age groups, professional and team divisions. Awards will be given to the top finishers in each division. In the male and female divisions, the prize money is distributed

among the top seven finishers.

Athletes from Japan, Brazil, Canada, Australia, France, Germany and the United States are expected to compete in this year's event, including some world class triathletes.

West Chester's Ken Glaw, who won the Australian Ironman Triathlon and Canada's Carol Montgomery, who won the Wilkes-Barre Triathlon two years ago, are among the 25 professional triathletes who are registered to compete.

Harris, who will be competing in this year's event, is hosting a trio of triathletes from Australia. Bruce Thomas, Jason Shortis and Mike Ferris are hoping to use the local triathlon as a stepping stone to the Ironman.

"They are here because of our reputation," said Harris, a prominent Wilkes-Barre attorney who resides in Dallas. "They are on a five-month tour. They participated in the Ironman Europe on July 10 and will be going to Colorado Springs in early September to train in the high altitude. The only way to break into the top 10 is to sacrifice."



THE GOAL - Competitors in last year's Wilkes-Barre Triathlon stride across the finish line. This year's event, the 12th annual, will be held Sunday, August 15. It starts at 8 a.m. at the Harveys Lake Beach Club and ends by 12:30 at the Penn State campus in Lehman. Leading finishers should begin arriving by 10:30.

District 16's second Big League championship

By DAVE KONOPKI
Sports Writer

Think repeating as champions is easy? Ask the Chicago Bulls, the Pittsburgh Penguins or the District 16 Big League girl's softball team.

Like the Bulls and Penguins, the District 16 team, defending state champions comprised of players from the Back Mountain, Harveys Lake, Northwest and Avoca-Dupont leagues, were pushed to the limit before coming back in dramatic fashion to win the 1993 Big League State Championship last Saturday in Williamsport.

The team, under the direction of manager Bob Gray and assistant coach Joyce Tinner, will compete in regional play beginning on Wednesday, August 11, in Solomons, Maryland. The winner of the double-elimination tournament in Maryland will

advance to the Big League World Series in Mesa, Arizona.

District 16 was on the verge of elimination early Saturday, trailing District 12, 3-1, entering the final inning. District 12 had already dealt District 16 a loss earlier in the week, 7-5, in the double-elimination tourney. But the locals came back to score two runs in the seventh to force extra-innings and plated four runs in the 10th inning to win the contest.

But with both teams having one loss, the state title came down to the second contest of the day between the two squads. Again trailing 3-1 entering the seventh and final inning, District 16 erupted for eight runs in the seventh for a 9-3 lead and the state crown.

"We knew that if the kids played up to their ability we could win," said Tinner, a former Dallas High School and Penn State University

softball standout. "We just have to take one game at a time. I think we have the three best pitchers in the state in Cherub Honeywell, Rene Lukashewski and Christie Kittle.

"We still haven't peaked yet," added Tinner, who will graduate this weekend from PSU with a degree in sports medicine. "We need to be consistent. Everyone has been trying to get the big hit and win the game with one hit. We have a lot of consistent hitters. They just need to relax and play the game the way they know how. If they do that, they'll be just fine."

Members of the team include: Honeywell, Lukashewski, Jen Smith, Mindy Main, Julie Babcock, Michelle Zagata, Michelle Renfro, Sally Friar, Kelly Janosky, Bridget Hozempa, Kelly West, and Christie Kittle. Heather Ruger is the team's scorekeeper.

Dugan's leads Boro rec basketball league

Play continued last week in the Dallas Borough Recreation Basketball League with six games. On Wednesday, Bill Cuff's turnaround jumper from a 3-point land lifted Stegmaier to a 67-66 win over Jim-Jon in a game with playoff implications for both squads. Dugans Pub continued to roll and beat the Mounts 72-55 behind Nafty Hage's 23 points. Brian Brady, Tim Puz and Corey Cherup each had 14 for the Mounts. Team Straigis nipped Payne Printery 73-72 in the nitecap. Charlie Lamoreaux had 21 for the winners while Jeff Tinner had 27 for the printers.

week of August 9 with several big games with playoff implications.

LEAGUE STANDINGS

Dugans	10	0
Fieldhouse	7	3

Stegmaier 1857	6	4
Payne Printery	4	6
Team Straigis	3	7
Jim Jon	3	8
Mounts	3	8

SportsShorts

News from Irem Golf Club

Irem Golf News - Frederick tournament was won by Bok Chol. Weekly prizes went to "A" Jane Lloyd, "B" Jane Malpass, "C" Joyce Shaw, and "D" Ruth Post. Putting "A" Jane Lloyd, "B" Corrine Sgarlat. Next week will be the start of the club championship. Playing Tuesday, Thursday and the following Tuesday.

Oliver competes in Keystone State Games

John Oliver of Dallas was among more than 7,000 Pennsylvania amateur athletes to compete in the 10th annual Keystone State Games Summer Games final August 4-8, in the Greater Harrisburg Area. Oliver entered the baseball competition, Junior Division in the Pocono Region. Oliver is a sophomore student at Lake-Lehman High School. He is the son of John and Carol Oliver.

Radzinski competes in Keystone Games

Edward S. Radzinski III, of Lehman was among more than 7,000 Pennsylvania amateur athletes to compete in the 10th annual Keystone State Games Summer Games finals in the Greater Harrisburg Area. Radzinski entered the Decathlon (track & field) competition Open Male, 19-29 age Division in the Pocono Region.

Radzinski is a senior student at College Misericordia, working on computer technology and Graphic Design in teaching. He is the son of Edward and Sherry Radzinski.

Lloyd and Gager win Silver Medals

Matthew Lloyd of Dallas participated in the 1993 Keystone State Summer Games held recently in Harrisburg. Lloyd competed in the Midget Division of Ice Hockey for the Capitol/Pocono Region. Capitol/Pocono won a Silver medal for placing second.

Matthew Lloyd and Philip Gager, both of Dallas, led the Capitol/Pocono Region to a silver medal. The competition was held at the Hershey Arena, attracting the best hockey players from throughout the Commonwealth. Capitol/Pocono lost only to the Allegheny Region which eventually won the gold medal.

Lloyd scored the critical goal to win a 2-1 sudden death overtime decision over the Philadelphia/Delaware Valley Region to clinch the silver medal honors.

Lloyd and Gager, who anchored the defense, each contributed assists in a 4-1 victory over the Great Lake/Nittany Region. Both Lloyd and Gager have another year of eligibility to compete in next year's Keystone State Games.

Dallas Gridiron Club meets Aug. 18

The Dallas Gridiron Club will sponsor a "Meet the Team" night at Dallas High School football field Wednesday, August 18, beginning at 6 p.m. Both the senior and junior high school teams will be present. The public is encouraged to attend.



Learning softball strategy

College Misericordia's recent softball camp for girls attracted 12 players from the Lake-Lehman School District.

More than 50 young players from Luzerne, Lackawanna and Wyoming counties attended the camp which featured Bloomsburg University All-American Kim Maguire on the coaching staff. Misericordia softball coach Charlotte Slocum served as camp director and several Lady Cougar players were among the coaching staff as well.

Area girls are, from left, first row, Nicole Newell, Noxen; Missy Gray, Sweet Valley; Marisa Michaels, Shavertown; Jen Frank, Harveys Lake; Jaclyn Walkowiak, Loyalville; Jen Basta, Sweet Valley. Second row, from left, Terri Maciejczak, Mooretown; Mandy Scovish, Sweet Valley; Kelly Spencer, Noxen; former Lake-Lehman and Bloomsburg University softball standout Cindy Slocum, camp coordinator; Kim Spencer, Noxen; Jessica Kobal, Sweet Valley; Chris Parry, Lehman.

Results of the 8-9 Year Old Exeter All Star Tournament: BACK MT. 16 - PLAINS 5

Blake Saba had a double and single, Chip Harrison, 2 singles and Bob Gebhardt 2 singles. Gebhardt pitched six innings giving up 4 hits while striking out 10.

BACK MT. 8 - BOB HORLACHER 0

Dave Walters had 2 singles, Blake Saba had a double and single. Jim Bellas pitched six innings giving up five hits and had 13 strikeouts.

Back Mountain will be playing Northwest on Thursday at 8 p.m. for the championship.