

The Dallas Post

SportsWeek

District Champs!

Senior League girls breeze into playoffs

By DAVE KONOPKI
Sports Writer

Larry Kriner could probably go on for hours talking about his Back Mountain Senior League softball team.

He could talk about their pitching. Their defense. Their offense. Their unselfishness and, perhaps most importantly, their unquenchable desire to win.

Instead, he prefers to simplify matters, describing his team in one simple word: **Awesome!**

The girls with Kriner, as the manager, captured the 1994 District 16 Senior League championship last Saturday night with an 11-3 win over defending champion Mountaintop. The Back Mountain squad, comprised of girls ages 13-15, breezed through the double-elimination tournament without a loss.

The Senior League girls now enter inter-district competition and, after drawing a first-round bye, will host the winner of the District 15/District 17 game on Wednesday, July 27, 5:30 p.m., at the W.W. Kubis Memorial Field in Dallas. In fact, Back Mountain is guaranteed to play their first two inter-district contests at home, a first for the local organization and a treat for area fans.

"I told the girls the one word that describes this team is awesome," said Kriner, who is assisted by Ted Fisher. "Winning the district championship is great,

it's fantastic. This is a very well-balanced team with excellent pitching, defense and catching. Even though we've scored some runs, we're waiting for our offense to explode."

Besides talent, Kriner feels the team has the intangibles it takes to win.

"The whole team has a lot of desire, they want to win," said Kriner, who coached baseball in the Back Mountain Baseball organization for 17 years before moving to softball three years ago. "I thought we probably had the most talent of any team in the district but we told the girls that it would come down to who wanted it the most. We've also gotten some leadership from some of our most experienced players."

Back Mountain rode the combination of solid pitching from the duo of Sandy McCloud and Sue Benedetti and a stingy defense to the district title. Catcher Michelle Molesky has been outstanding behind the plate, picking off runners from both first and third base during the tournament. Kriner has also gotten a solid defensive effort from third baseman Melanie Getz, among others.

Although Kriner feels his best offense is yet to be played, the Back Mountain squad has put up some big numbers, including 12 runs against Parsons in the semifinal and the 11 runs against Mountaintop in the title game. Offensively, Back Mountain has

been led by leadoff hitter Mary Ann Selenski (second base), first baseman Suzanne Fisher, centerfielder Susan Benedetti and shortstop Becky Beisel.

Despite their young ages, Fisher and Getz were starting players on the Dallas High School softball team which captured the Wyoming Valley Conference West Division championship this past season.

The Back Mountain team not only has a strong starting lineup, but something very valuable at this level of competition - a solid bench.

"The girls who don't start on this team could probably start on any other team around here," said Kriner, whose team will need three wins in the inter-district tournament to capture the eastern Pennsylvania championship. "They have great attitudes and they never complain. It really is a great team to coach."

As a reward for winning the district title, Kriner gave the team a few days off and hopes they return with the same attitude.

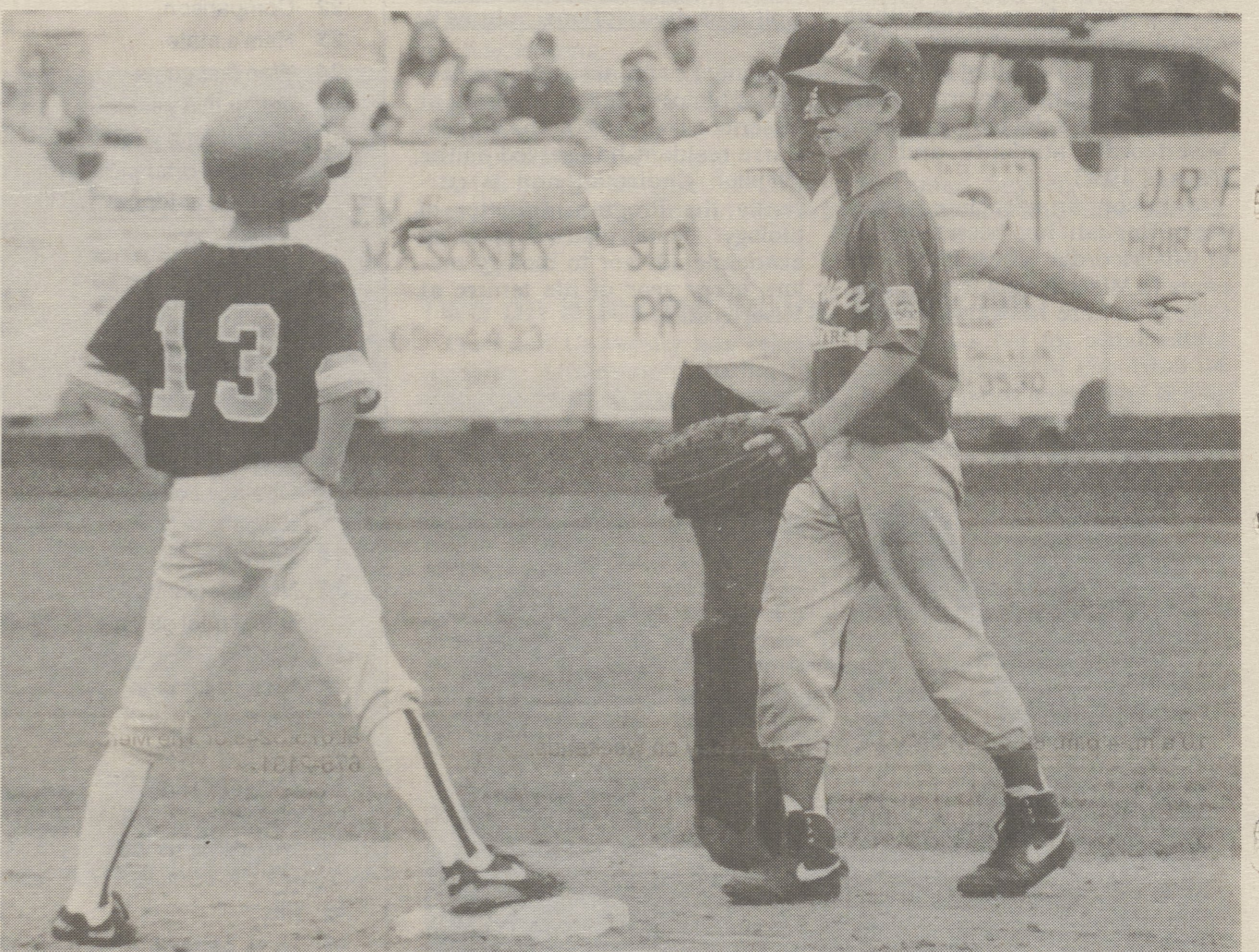
"We gave them three days off, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday," explained Kriner. "Hopefully when they come back to practice on Wednesday, they'll be eager to play ball again. At this point, you have to know when to give them time off and relax. We want to get them emotionally ready to play and we want to be peaking at the right time."



POST PHOTOS/RON BARTIZEK

Joel Whipple was brushed back by this pitch.

Jon Jabrack was safe at second after ripping a line drive to center during Back Mountain National's game against Duryea last Thursday.



Area athletes in Keystone State Games

These Back Mountain athletes will compete in the Keystone State Games August 3-7 in Harrisburg. More than 7,000 amateur athletes from across the state will vie for medals in 30 sports in the Olympic-style competition.

Dallas: Thomas Brown, golf-male; Joshua Butler, weightlifting; Christy Callahan, soccer; Sean Callahan, track & field; Adrienne Camp, soccer; Krista Greger, soccer; Gregory Hodne, track & field; Robin Holeman, soccer; Tara Killeen, soccer; Jeff Kunkle, baseball; Aileah Kwashay, track & field; Alfred Lawrence,

bowling; Matthew Lloyd, ice hockey; Daniel Lukasavage, soccer; James Manzoni, track & field; Marie Manzoni, track & field; Matt Metz, wrestling-folkstyle; Mike Metz, wrestling-folkstyle; Adrienne Miroslaw, soccer; Faith O'Dell, soccer; John Oliver, baseball; Jason Pieczynski, track & field; Hilary Pilosi, soccer; Vito Pilosi, III, weightlifting; Edward Radzinski, track & field; Bridget Temperine, field hockey; David Townsend, track & field; Scott Townsend, track & field; Lori Warneka, field hockey.

Harveys Lake: Bradley Baira,

karate; Kevin Barrett, karate; Timothy Brislin, soccer; Louis Cortes, ice hockey; Jennifer Reno, track & field; Nicole Sennett, golf-female; Cristy Shamus, field hockey; Jill Smigielski, beach volleyball; Mark Steele, soccer.

Hunlock Creek: Tracy Blaine, karate; Justin Brojakowski, karate; Ryan Gold, wrestling-folkstyle; Sara Kasper, soccer; Joseph Moss, karate.

Lehman: James Welby, beach volleyball; Heidi Wenrich, field hockey.

Shavertown: Carolyn Anzalone, field hockey; Charlene Aquilina, tennis; Kenneth Chapple, soccer; Angelo DeCesaris, weightlifting; Suzanne Fisher, softball; Andrew France, karate; Mindy Haberstick, field hockey; Richard Jakob, ice hockey; Jennifer Janerich, tennis; Rebecca Janerich, tennis; Shannon Kelly, soccer; Lynn Thomas Kilduff, golf-male; Tamara Palka, field hockey; Neil Shah, tennis; Kevin Shah, tennis; Matthew Sowcik, soccer; Kelly Spencer, soccer; Matthew Trosan, golf-male; Michael Viglone, baseball.

Sweet Valley: Jessica Elston, soccer; Anthony Scavone, beach volleyball.

Trucksville: Robert Lora, track & field; Erin Stair, soccer; Bret Yarczower, road race 8K.

Appointed head cross-country coach

Stacey L. Schoonover of Centerville has been appointed head coach of men's and women's cross-country at College Misericordia, Dr. Michael Mould, athletic director, has announced.

Schoonover is a graduate of Tunkhannock Area High School and graduated Magna Cum Laude with a bachelor of science degree in exercise science and minor in sports study from Ithaca, where she was a member of the track and field and cross-country teams.

Golf schools begin

Men's, ladies and junior golf schools for beginner and intermediate golfers at the Four Seasons Golf Club in Exeter will begin as follows: men's and ladies', July 27, and juniors July 29.

Each school will consist of four consecutive sessions from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Instructor will be Four Seasons' PGA golf professional Rick Rydzewski, who is also offering private lessons at Four Seasons, indoors or outdoors.

To register, call the pro shop at 655-8869.

Field hockey, soccer camps slated at Wilkes University

Registrations are now being taken for the Wilkes University field hockey camp to be held from July 25 to July 29, at the Ralston Field complex in Edwardsville.

The camp, which will be run from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon each day, will be under the direction of Wilkes field hockey coach Addy Malatesta. Campers can register up to and including the first day of camp.

Joining Malatesta on the camp staff will be Wilkes assistant coach Mary Jo Hromchak, College Misericordia head coach Kim Barbacci and former Wilkes standout Justine Nemshick.

Cost of the clinic is \$50 per person, with registration continuing up until the morning of the camp on July 25. To obtain a camp brochure or to get more information call Addy Malatesta at 831-4038 or the Wilkes athletic office at 831-4020.

Soccer camp Aug. 1-5

The 11th annual Wilkes University Colonels soccer camp will be held this year from Monday, Aug. 1 through Friday, Aug. 5 at Wilkes University's Ralston Field in Edwardsville.

The camp, under the direction of Wilkes coach Phil Wingert, will run each day from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and is open to boys and girls ages six through high school.

Among those joining Wingert on the camp staff will be Chuck Edkins, Head Coach at College Misericordia; Tom Rokita, Head Coach at Wyoming Seminary; Paul Jellen, Wilkes Assistant Coach, and Tim Barerra, former Virginia Tech star.

For more information or to get a camp brochure call the Wilkes athletic office at (717) 831-4024.

Send us your Little League tournament game results

Any manager or coach in the Back Mountain, Harveys Lake or Bob Horlacher Little League organizations wishing to have the results of a non-District 16 tournament game (including, but not limited to, the Kubis 11-year old tournament, any Lower Valley tournament game or any 9-10 year old tournament game) appear in the Dallas Post should bring the game results to the Dallas Post office next to Offset Paperback.

All game results should be as brief as possible and include the following:

- The final score.
- The winning pitcher and number of strikeouts he/she had.
- Any player, on either team, who had two or more hits.
- Any player who had an extra base hit (double, triple, home run).

• The first and last names of all players mentioned.

Deadline for the game results is Monday evening at 6 p.m. and only games played in the seven days prior to the deadline will be published. No exceptions! Anyone with any questions should contact Dave Konopki at 283-5532.

Local Little League roundup

By DAVE KONOPKI
Sports Writer

Although it's hard to say for sure, the 1994 District 16 baseball and softball all-star tournaments may have been the most successful in history for teams in the greater Back Mountain area.

But one thing is certain - it's been a "banner" year. And it's not over yet.

One district championship has already been won and three teams are within one game of making it a quartet. If all three of those teams come away with the District 16 championship flags, the W.W. Kubis Memorial Field may resemble the United Nations more than a Little League field.

The Back Mountain Senior League softball team won the first of what could be a number of championships in the D-16 tourney for the Back Mountain Baseball Inc. organization. The Back Mountain Little League softball team is one win away from capturing their championship while the same is true for the Back Mountain Junior and Senior League baseball teams.

A complete story on the Little League softball and the Junior and Senior League baseball team's "Quest for the Flag" will appear in the next week's Dallas Post.

But it's not just the Back Mountain Baseball, Inc. teams which have found success in the post-season. The Harveys Lake Little League baseball team advanced further in the tournament than any in its history and the Bob Horlacher and Harveys Lake Senior and Junior League teams were still alive as of Tuesday morning.

Here is a brief synopsis of the local teams still alive and the teams recently eliminated from the District 16 playoffs.

BASEBALL
Little League: All of the local teams have been eliminated but not before making some noise, earning some respect and turning some heads. Of the final 10 teams in the 32-team tournament, three were from our area, Harveys Lake, under manager Bill Woronko and coach Dave Kapson, advanced to the sixth round before being elimi-

nated by Plains last Monday night, 8-3. Harveys Lake beat Bear-Buck, Exeter, Edwardsville-Larksville, and Kingston before being eliminated. Unofficial reports say the advancement to the sixth round is the best showing in Harveys Lake history.

Both Back Mountain teams, American and National, advanced to the fifth round before bowing out. National, under manager Dave Konopki and coach Jim Regan, dropped a tough 7-5 loss to Plains in round five. National's other loss came at the hands of Duryea who won the winner's bracket and remains the tourney's lone unbeaten. Both teams who defeated National, Duryea and Plains, make up two of the final five teams left in the tourney. National, who hit a whopping 10 home runs in five games defeated Ashley-Newtown, Mountaintop and Edwardsville-Larksville before being eliminated. American, under manager Tom Evans and assistant coach Joe Lohin, lost a heartbreaker to Hanover, 7-6, in the fifth round. American's other loss was to Swoyersville. But before being eliminated the American team shut out a tough Plains team, 6-0, and also beat Miners Mills and Kingston. Mike Faneck tossed two shutouts for American in the tourney. Bob Horlacher also had a more-than-respectable tournament, advancing to the final 10 teams before being eliminated by Plains. Horlacher shut out Heights, 6-0, and beat Ashley-Newtown, 15-2. They lost to Plains, 10-3, and dropped a heart-breaking decision to West Pittston, 3-2.

Junior League: It appears as though Back Mountain has the D-16 championship all but sewn up, rolling over their opponents like Sherman rolled through Georgia. The team under manager Russ Hoover, has outscored their opponents 38-2 in just two games. Back Mountain opened the double-elimination tournament by defeating Avoca/Dupont, 18-1 and then pounded Harveys Lake, 20-1.

Back Mountain will play the winner of the Harveys Lake-Bob Horlacher game for the district

title on Thursday, July 21, at the Dallas Sr. High School field at 5:30 p.m.

Senior League: Like their Junior League brothers, it appears nothing can stand in the way of Back Mountain's hopes for a District 16 title. The team, under manager Steve Withers, has had little trouble with their opponents, remaining unbeaten in the double elimination tournament. Back Mountain defeated Bob Horlacher, 14-1 to open the tourney and beat Pittston, 16-5, last Monday night. Harveys Lake will play the winner of the Bob Horlacher-Avoca/Dupont contest on Wednesday.

Back Mountain will face the winner of the Harveys Lake game on Friday, July 21, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Dallas Sr. High School field for the district championship.

SOFTBALL
Senior League: The Back Mountain team, under manager Larry Kriner, defeated defending champion Mountaintop, 11-3, last Saturday night to win the D-16 title. They will now advance to the eastern regional playoffs beginning next week. See related story this page.

Little League: Back Mountain eliminated a high-scoring Nanticoke team, 6-5 in a wild extra-inning affair at the W.W. Kubis Memorial field last Saturday night to remain the lone unbeaten in the double-elimination tournament. At press-time, the girls were set to play Mountaintop, a team they previously defeated in the winner's bracket final, for the district title Tuesday night. If Mountaintop won the game on Tuesday night, however, the two teams would then square off for a third time, this time at Mountaintop's field on Thursday, July 21, at 6 p.m.

Back Mountain had Nanticoke's number, beating them 6-0 and then edging them in the latest contest, which went nine innings. Pitcher Maria Wright kept an explosive Nanticoke offense in check for most of the two games after Nanticoke had scored more than 60 runs in their three other tournament contests.