

Coaches

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option to keep them occupied. While he can't really explain why, hockey is one of those subjects that once you're introduced to it, always has the ability to retain your interest. The Hershey Bears minor league team created immediate love of the game and that devotion still holds true years later in that section of the commonwealth.

"The effect would be phenomenal," Button said. "The amount of kids involved would skyrocket!"

Seminary plays mostly prep schools, some as far away as Canada and also calls the Ice-A-Rama their home ice. The Blue Knights played 24 games during the just concluded campaign, but hope to schedule 35 to 40 next season.

Forty-five kids from fifth through twelfth grade are involved in the sport including 17 on last year's varsity. Of those 17, a dozen hail from northeastern Pennsylvania. The Back Mountain is well represented by Matt Lloyd and Phillip Gager.

Lloyd, John's son, and Gager are members of the junior class and have already been selected as captains for next winter. Both have played in the Keystone State games and Lloyd was selected for a prestigious tryout in Boston.

Gager also got his start via the Wilkes-Barre Wings. His father, John, was involved quite heavily with the team and remembers very well those weekend drives to the Lehigh and Delaware Valleys.

"It'll get us another rink in the area besides Coal Street," said John Gager of the arena project. "The next closest is at the mall in Allentown."

If the May 16th referendum is passed, Button will immediately begin work to see if his Blue Knights will be able to play some of their games on the new ice. Area hockey players and serious ice skaters will also enjoy the benefits of being able to practice on ice all year long.

A minor league franchise should also bring the possibility of hockey clinics for the younger set. The Hershey Bears do several demonstrations per year. In the past, Seminary has been able to get members of the Philadelphia Flyers to show off their skills. The prep school also hosted a Flyers alumni game. Button believes the clinics are something local hockey instructors should take advantage of.

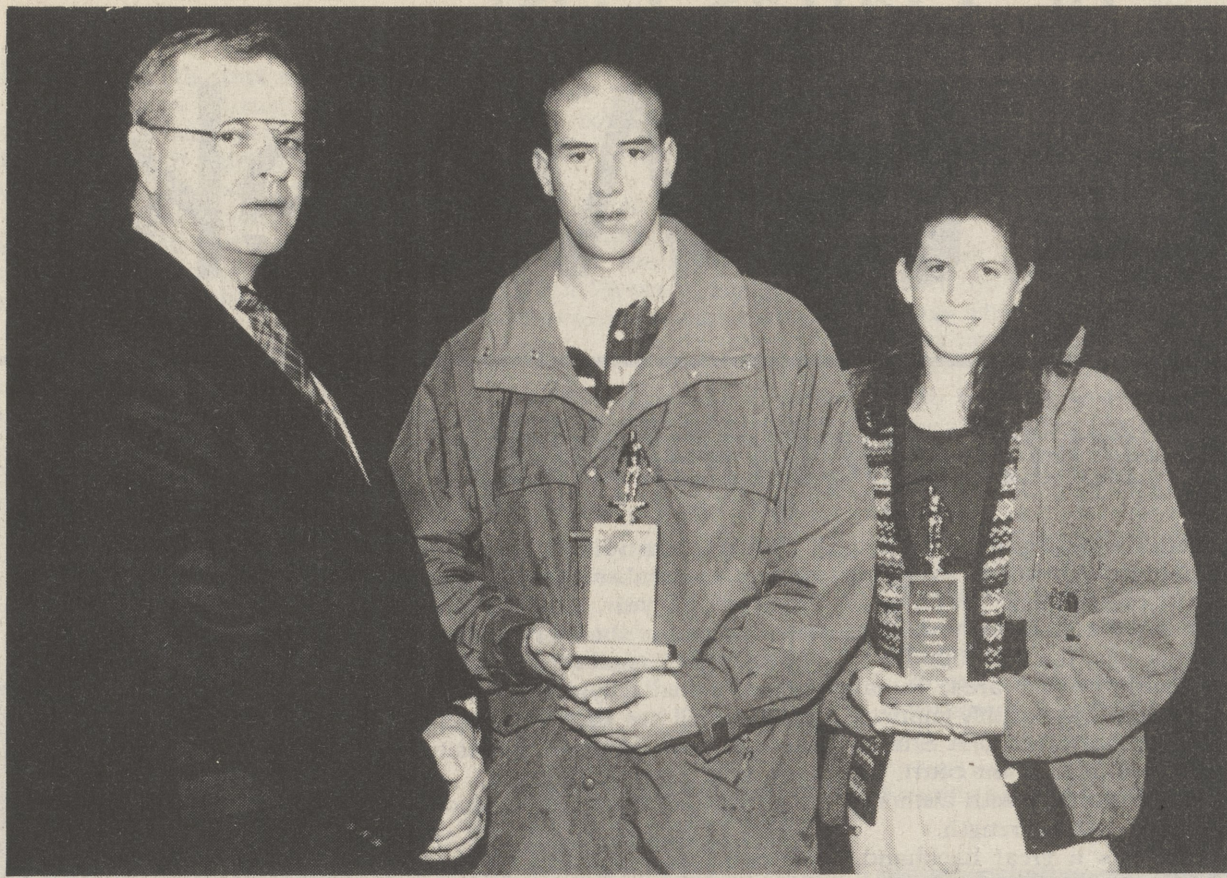
Lloyd would love to see his Wings involved with the clinics. Gager isn't sure if the minor leaguers will have enough quality time to devote to area youth during the season, but realizes any interest in the game is sure to grow.

"(The clinics) would be good for kids to get some idea of how the game should be played," added Gager.

Button is also an educator at Seminary and is able to discuss the project with students from outside the area. Quite a few of that group believe they could never live in this area after graduating from college. The consensus opinion is the greater Wilkes-Barre area is not at all prepared for the future and Button sadly has to agree.

"You have to create opportunity," Button said. "If you don't re-implant your community, you kill your tax base."

There are those who take sports, especially winning and losing too seriously. The May 16th vote to build an arena to showcase sport and recreation, however, should be given serious consideration.



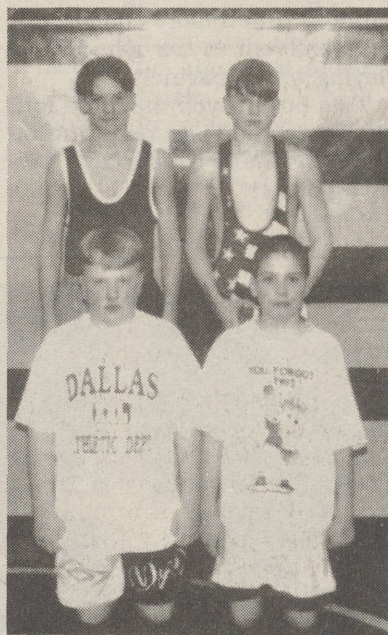
Mahler, Kozlek named most valuable

Wyoming Seminary recently recognized the Most Valuable Players from winter sports teams with the presentation of trophies at a school assembly. Athletic director Gary Vanderburg, presented trophies to senior Nick Mahler of Dallas, boys swimming; junior Kristy Kozlek of Shavertown, girls swimming.



Hot Shots at Lehman

Lake-Lehman Middle School's Hot Shot Contest winners are from left, Mark Chopyak, second place; Joe Hardisky, first place; Tricia Kernag, first place and Janel Perlis, second place.



BMT Wrestling alums place in tourney

Alumni from the Back Mountain Wrestling Club recently participated in the Middle Atlantic Wrestling Association Regional Tournament at the Dallas Area High School. Former wrestlers from the club who finished at the top of their class are: first row: Jake Walter, Intermediate 120, 1st place; Jonathan Bird, Intermediate 75, 3rd place; second row: Dennis Brown, Intermediate 85, 1st place; David Spurlin, Intermediate 90, 1st place. Absent from photo: Brett Larson, Intermediate 136, 2nd place; Charles Hann, Intermediate 105, 4th place.

Tennis

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squad. She's on student council and is secretary for S.A.D.D. (Students Against Drunk Driving). She'll remember the fun times with all her friends and the tennis and cheerleading squads the most. Runa will also be missed.

"It's been a pleasure coaching her," said Edwards who would also welcome more students to come up through the program like Runa and her brother. Lehman has had a number of players wait until their senior year to take up the sport.

Next year, Runa will join her sister at Temple University and will more than likely study electrical engineering. For the immediate future she'd enjoy nothing better than for a good performance from her and Anu at districts. She's also excited about the chances of doubles teammates Sudhakaran and Avesh Jain keeping their doubles mark unblemished throughout the campaign.

"I also want to wish the team good luck next year," Runa said. "I'm sure they'll do well."

Kelly Janosky on LCCC softball team

Kelly Janosky of Dallas, a graduate of Dallas High School, is a first-year member of the Luzerne County Community College women's softball team. She is an education major at the college.

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Kids cheerleading clinic at Dallas

The 16th annual "Cheerleading Clinic for Kids" will be held June 19-22 from 9 a.m. until 12 noon each day in the Dallas Senior High School gymnasium.

Participants will learn new cheers, chants and pom pom routines. Programs to develop gymnastic and stunting skills, will also be offered.

The classes will be taught by the award winning Dallas varsity cheerleaders and coaches, Sheila Bonawitz and Ann Marie Danna.

Registration for the clinic will be held May 13, 6 - 8 p.m. and May 14, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. at the entrance to the Senior High School Building. The \$27 fee includes a commemorative T-shirt.

Proceeds earned from the clinic help to send the Dallas High School cheerleaders to the UCA Cheerleading Summer Camp at Penn State University in July.

Knights

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are also becoming a very focused ball club on the court.

"I hope we keep peaking toward the end of the season," Baranowski said. "It would be a nice time to peak."

Jeremy Fleeger, Mike Yablonski, R.J. Brooks, Jeremy Baranowski, Mark Steele and Dave Rogers started both games for the Black Knights. Jeff Castellano, Ryan Bombick, J.J. Kopko and Mike Trebendis also saw plenty of action.

Trebendis often brought the Lehman fans to their feet by leading the team with nine kills.

"He had a royal night tonight," Baranowski said. "He's gained some confidence in himself, hopefully he'll maintain that confidence and continue to put the ball away at the pace he is."

Yablonski added six kills and Castellano five. Yablonski, a senior, also led the team in blocks with three.

Baranowski led the team with 28 assists and served on eight of

the Knights' points in the first game.

Steele and Fleeger each had two digs.

Lehman never trailed the Spartans at any time and also won the JV contest 2-0 by scores of 15-7 and 15-4.

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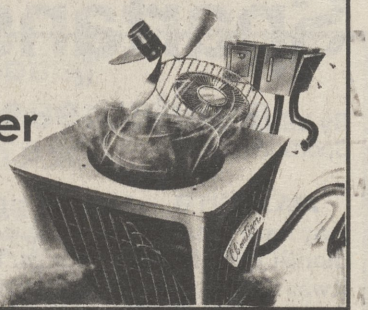
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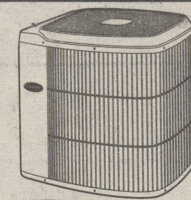
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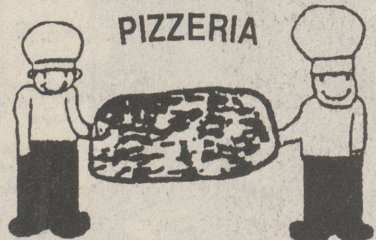
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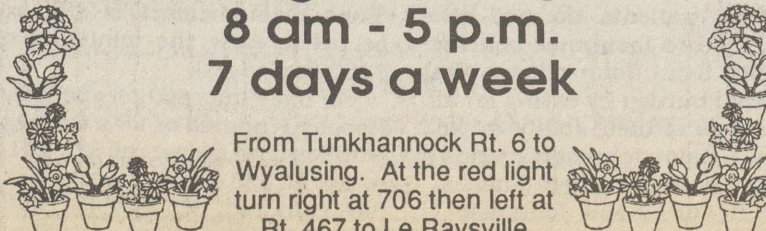
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