

## Oliver gets shot at national team this week

By LEN KRYESKI  
Sports Writer

Earlier this week Lake-Lehman junior John Oliver began a trip which could be the first step in fulfilling his dream of becoming a professional baseball player. John boarded a plane for Colorado Springs, Colorado, site of the United States Olympic Festival going on through July 27th. He's in pretty select company - only 64 high school players in the nation were invited to participate.

The road to making his dream a reality began with filling out a survey near the tail end of his sophomore season at Lehman. This was no ordinary survey, just 5,000 people in the country - all of them high school baseball players - were asked to fill out the questionnaire.

The information was handed over to major league scouts, who in turn closely followed the progress of the players in their region.

The key for Oliver was to consistently improve his skill, talent and desire for the game of baseball while playing for Lake-Lehman the Back Mountain American Legion and at various baseball camps and clinics.

Scouts keep tabs on all players in their region and send an updated list of the top players to their scouting directors every month or so. Those lists are also reviewed by the Olympic committee.

"The pro scouts have a lot to do with narrowing (the list of players) down," Oliver said.

To date, John has been invited to 12 baseball camps and been

able to attend four of them. Thus far he's been able to draw the attention of professionals whose sole job is to evaluate baseball talent and recommend players. Oliver is considered a top-notch prospect by a number of scouts.

His happiest moment came in June while attending a camp at North Carolina State University. Jim Toman, head baseball coach at N.C. State, told John that his hard work had paid off. He was going to the Olympic Festival in Colorado.

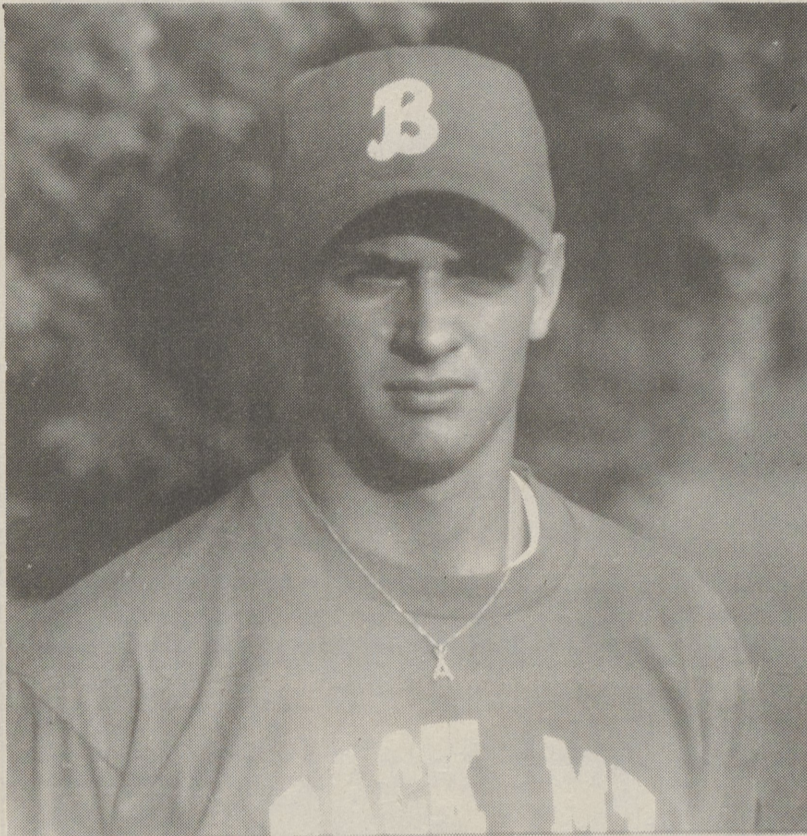
"I knew I had a good shot," Oliver said, "but I didn't think I would make the festival."

Being among the 64 players selected is impressive. John will be just one of 16 players representing the East squad from his center field position.

He and his teammates will play a series of games against teams from the North, South and West during the 11 day festival. The top team receives a gold medal, but the scouts will be looking for the best 20 players from the four regions. Those players will comprise the Junior National Team. If selected, John will leave Colorado directly for Joplin, Missouri.

"I really want to make the national team," Oliver said. "It's a big goal of mine."

The national team will be in action against teams from other nations through late August. John would then return home on August 24th, just a few days before the start of his senior year at Lehman, and in time for the start of the quarterback for Rich Gorgone's gridiron squad.



JOHN OLIVER

Local baseball fans are well aware that John is not only a tremendous hitter, but quite versatile on the field. The decision to play center field was well planned as John sought advice from his dad, John Oliver Jr., his coaches and pro scouts as well.

"With the skills I have running and with my speed and my arm it was decided that my best college position would be outfield," Oliver said. "And that's my first goal; go to a Division 1 college."

"I really don't have soft hands

for the infield. My philosophy is try to stop the ball, then throw them out. I have to block the ball before I do anything like that."

Oliver will be joined in Colorado by his parents, John and Carol and 11-year-old sister, Joanna. When not involved with baseball the family plans to check out the sights and spend some time with relatives who live in a suburb of Denver. Denver is roughly an hour drive north from Colorado Springs. If the Rockies are home, John plans on taking in

*"I knew I had a good shot, but I didn't think I would make the festival."*

John Oliver  
Trying out for junior national team

"I have a little problem with keeping my weight back," Oliver said. "My dad and coach Sorber helped me with that and here's another thing that's true: When you're in a hitting slump it's because you're not seeing the ball. I never knew that before."

The camps he's attended have been a big plus too, especially for developing his skills in the outfield. At the present time John's main concern is judging the depth of the ball in the outfield and circling the ball.

Despite becoming one of the top young baseball players in the country, John does not have a favorite player or major league team. He's been paying more attention to major league baseball as of late to pick up tips and to evaluate certain situations, but grew up a fan of college baseball.

"I thought it was more interesting," he said. "The players put more effort into their game. They're not getting money; they're out there trying to win the national championship."

A Lake-Lehman honor student and three-sport star in baseball, football and basketball, John hopes to be able to play for a college baseball national championship someday. Right now he's taking on the task at hand in Colorado Springs, doing all he can to help the East team and be chosen for Junior National team.

It's all part of making his big dream a reality, to play baseball professionally.

"That's my ultimate goal," said Oliver.

## Simonitis twirls a gem for Back Mountain

Team bounces back from loss to Nanticoke

By LEN KRYESKI  
Sports Writer

EXETER - Stephanie Simonitis came within one out of tossing a no-hitter as the Back Mountain Girls blasted Exeter, 13-1 Saturday in District 16 Little League action. The game, played at Mike Chiampì Stadium, was shortened to four innings because of the 10-run rule.

Simonitis lost her no-hit bid when Exeter's Jessica Sabol lined a two-out single through the left side of the infield in the bottom of the fourth. The game ended when Sabol was thrown out at second trying to stretch a double out of the play.

The first seven Exeter batters went down in order before Simonitis walked four consecutive batters in the third inning. Exeter scored its only run of the night when pinch hitter Laura Cumbo drew a bases-loaded walk.

Simonitis was aided by some fine defensive play. Shortstop Christy Hiller snagged a line shot off the bat of Nicole Conway in the third while third baseman Janelle Opello made a nice play in the fourth.

Exeter's Valerie Giler lined a shot directly at the drawn-in third baseman. Opello bobbled the ball, picked it up and threw a perfect strike to first baseman April Naugle to preserve the no-hitter.

The Back Mountain girls jumped out on top with four runs in the first inning. With one out, Simonitis laid down a bunt that was picked up by losing pitcher Mia Territo. Territo fired the ball to an uncovered first base. The ball sailed down the right field line and Simonitis ended up on third.

Stacy Amann drew a walk and Amanda Stolarick's single up the middle drove home the first run of the contest. An error by the cen-

ter fielder allowed Amann to score and put Stolarick on third.

Jesse Tarity bounced one to third, but Jenny Greenblatt held the ball, keeping Stolarick at third. Naugle drove her home with a single to left and Tarity came around to score on a throw by the left fielder.

The second inning started as a repeat of the first as Back Mountain scored four more runs. With one out, Simonitis once again reached base on an error by the pitcher and Amann followed with a walk.

Simonitis scored on a wild pitch and Stolarick reached on a walk. Tarity followed with the only hit of the inning, a single that scored Amann. Stolarick came around on a wild pitch and Naugle's sacrifice bunt scored Tarity.

In the third inning Kate Benedetti raced home on a wild pitch, Hiller scored on a ground out and Simonitis on an error. Opello's single over the center fielder allowed Stolarick to score for the third time and put Back Mountain ahead 12-0.

Back Mountain's final run caused quite a stir among those not thoroughly familiar with the rule book. With one out in the fourth and Meaghan Peeler on third, Hiller lofted a fly ball to left which bounced out of the glove of Cumbo. The ball, still in flight as Peeler trotted home, was caught by center fielder Elizabeth Stella.

Exeter vehemently argued that Peeler failed to tag up. The appeal went to no avail; the rule book clearly states a runner may advance on a fly ball as soon as the ball is touched by a fielder.

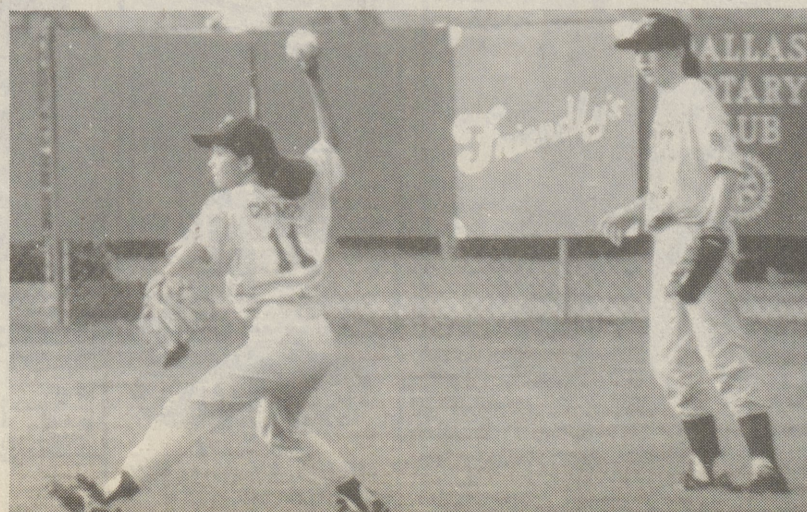
Back Mountain banged out seven hits during the victory. Stolarick and Simonitis scored three runs apiece while Amann and Tarity scored twice. Naugle was credited with two rbi.



Head coach Gary Naugle stopped the action for a chat with pitcher, April Naugle and catcher Amanda Stolarick.



Stacy Amann celebrated scoring a run in Back Mountain's 6th inning during last week's seven-inning loss to Nanticoke.



Left fielder Julie Chiampì fired a throw into the infield, as Katie Guntli backed up the play.

## Woychick nipping at Hosey's heels

Hosey's kept their unbeaten record intact with an easy 83-61 win over Cook's Pharmacy in the Dallas Borough Rec Center Summer Basketball League. Johnson had 17 and Debona 15 for Hosey's while Marut's 20 took scoring honors for Cook's.

The Knights got back on the winning track with a 55-48 win over The Lion Inc. Fosko's 20 led the victors while Toney had 17 for the brew crew.

Woychick Accounting kept on rolling by ripping Athletic Image 88-48 behind Chapman's 27 points. McCue had 17 for the losers. Earlier in the week Paul Darling's 26 paced Athletic Image in a 59-50 win over Lions Inc.

Woychick Accounting tripped the Knights 50-41 with Tim Sutliff and Lou Woychick leading the way with 13 and Cook's dumped

the Untouchable 58-30 behind George Marut's 30 points.

Play continues each Monday and Wednesday at the Kenneth Young Memorial Park on Burndale Road in Dallas. Games start at 5:15 and there are three nightly.

### LEAGUE STANDINGS

Hosey's	6-0
Woychick Acc.	5-1
Knights	4-2
Cooks	2-4
Athletic Image	2-4
Untouchables	1-5
Lion Inc.	1-5

### Schedule for July 19

5:15 - Untouchables vs. Knights  
6:15 - Hosey's vs. Athletic Image  
7:15 - Woychick vs. Cook's Pharmacy  
Lion Inc. has the bye

### Box Scores for July 12

Hosey's	FG	F	Total	Cook's	FG	F	Total
Pincofski	4	2	10	Burns+	2	0	6
Jaster	4	0	8	C. Van Orden	3	1	7
Hage	7	2	16	Marut***	8	1	20
Debona***	6	0	15	Williams**	4	2	12
Wilson	5	0	10	O'Donnell*	2	0	5
Johnson*	6	5	17	Durkin	0	0	0
Hoover	2	2	6	Moore*	5	0	11
	32	11	83		22	4	61

Knights	FG	F	Total	Lion Inc.	FG	F	Total
Panuzska	1	0	2	J. Thomas	3	0	6
Vigorito	0	1	1	Cuff	3	0	6
Tenenbaum	3	0	6	Lawson+	4	0	9
R. Davis	6	3	15	Luksic+	2	1	7
R. Wilson	3	2	8	Toney***	7	0	17
Fosko+****	7	0	20	Welgosh	2	0	4
B. Jones	0	0	0		21	1	47
Ziomek	1	1	3				
	21	7	55				

Woychick Acc.	FG	F	Total	Athletic Image	FG	F	Total
Millington	7	0	14	Cutter**	2	0	6
Wilson**	7	0	17	Darling	5	2	12
Sutliff*	6	0	13	McCue*+	7	0	17
Woychick	2	0	4	Kellar	1	1	3
Chapman***+	10	0	27	Weist	4	0	8
Simonovich*	6	0	11	Fennel	1	0	2
	38	0	88		20	3	48

\* Denotes 3 point goal + Denotes 4 point goal

### Red Barons trip July 24

The Dallas Rec Center is sponsoring a trip to see the Red Barons vs. Syracuse on Monday July 24. Cost is only \$6 and includes transportation. Call the Center at 675-4736 for details.

### Dallas Jr. Football to hold carnival Aug. 19

Dallas Jr. Football will hold a carnival 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. August 19 at Dallas High School. There will be rides, games and food. Parade at 10 a.m. Join the fun and support the mini football players and cheerleaders.