

Kunkle

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"That's great, he has that kind of attitude."

"The odds of baseball continuing forever aren't very good," Kunkle said.

Yale probably would have been his second choice. The staff there was equally persistent and not just anyone gets the opportunity to attend an Ivy League school, but there was always a special place in his heart for the Nittany Lions.

Jeff spent the first weekend of October on campus in State College. He saw the football team lose a squeaker to Ohio State and was guided around the campus by Corey Neary, formerly of Scranton Prep. Jeff came away extremely impressed with the entire experience.

"I'll be able to play in the Big 10 for a team that has been improving every year," said Kunkle. "I really like the pitching coach (Randy Ford) and I feel he can help me a lot."

Kunkle has won 16 games for Dallas the last two years. The right-hander struck out 164 batters during that time and posted

earned-run averages of 1.24 and 2.26.

"Jeff is a special kid and a clutch performer," Wolensky said. "Dallas baseball is the smallest AAA school. We don't have an easy game. We only compete against bigger schools and Jeff has won 80 percent of our games the last two years. Penn State took a long look at that."

Jeff usually gets the best of the opposing pitcher too; he tied for the league lead in hits last year with 23. Penn State's mentor Joe Hindelang indicated Jeff will get an opportunity to help the Nittany Lion offense, but he was recruited as a pitcher.

Interest starting brewing after Jeff was named AAA Most Valuable Player of the Wyoming Valley Conference following his sophomore season. Jeff has since performed in front of college and professional scouts at a number of camps and clinics and competes for the Back Mountain League team.

The early decision allows Jeff to concentrate on his final year of

studies and athletics at Dallas. This spring he hopes to become more consistent, add some velocity to his pitches and show overall improvement on the diamond.

"It's a tough decision to make," explained Kunkle. "You're limiting your options, but it's good because you don't have to worry about it."

"It's good for him, he can relax a little and not worry about recruiting," Wolensky said. "I can worry about getting Rich Klick squared away."

Klick is another Mountaineer senior who has drawn quite a bit of interest from major universities around the country. He's presently recovering from a broken leg suffered during the Mounts' first football game this fall.

Kunkle is the first baseball player at Dallas to accept a Division 1 scholarship since Todd Paczewski opted for William and Mary. Ray Russin, another former Mountaineer, graduated from Old Dominion this past spring.

Fury, Breakers finish 1-2 in first Abington/BMT match

The Back Mountain Fury captured the championship of the first annual Abington Youth Soccer League/Back Mountain youth soccer fall classic soccer tournament.

The Fury beat the Back Mountain Breakers, 3-0, in a hard-fought game. Chris Hobbs, Kim Chollak, and Rosalyn Wentko led the Fury, while Connie Kane, Jillian Seely and Sarah Killian played great defense for the Breakers.

In the semi-final round the Fury

beat the Back Mountain Rockets with Sydney Gruelich, Katie Rhodes and Hallie Williams leading the way.

The other semi-final game was won by the Back Mountain Breakers, 1-0, over the Abington Crunch. Meredith Lacey, Caroline Motyka and Patty Manzoni led the charge for Back Mountain while Elsa Mueller, Caitlyn and Courtney McAndrew played well for the Crunch.

Mathers selected athlete of month

Juniata College has named Trucksville resident junior Nina Mathers as Athlete of the Month for September.

Mathers was the top scorer last month for the Juniata field hockey team. A forward, Mathers totaled four goals and three assists in September. She was credited with the only goal in a pair of shutout victories for the Eagles — 1-0 over Alvernia and 1-0 over IUP.

Overall, she had a hand in seven of Juniata's 12 goals last month. A first team all-league and second team all-region pick last year, Mathers is the Juniata career leader with 23 assists.

Lightweight

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game. And we had no cornerbacks, no wingbacks, no line-backer and certainly no wide receiver. Frankly I think our game was more understandable."

Brace agrees: "I played end. Harry played tackle. We had uniforms (what was padding?) but no face masks. But did we look sharp...tan pants, black hi-tops and leather helmets. Most of our stuff was hand-me-downs from the varsity, but we didn't care. Heck, we were playing football. That's what counted."

"Lightweight League" was the answer to many an undergraduate dream of the ones who didn't pack enough blubber to be accepted on the varsity squad. Each player was limited to 158 pounds, 48 hours before the game. There are five schools - Army, Navy, Cornell, Penn and Princeton. (Villanova, Rutgers, Harvard and Yale also once belonged.)

Rothstein says, "It is small wonder Army has won so often. They show up with 100-man squad, all trained to perfection and in superb physical condition. But the main benefit to all this is that it allows the lightweights to play...not exactly 90-pound weaklings but not exactly Man Mountain Deans either."

Both of the Dallas honorary captains this year are in their 70's and keep themselves in shape. Brace, an ex-accountant, golfs when he can but right now is leaf

There were no platoons dashing in and out of the game.

Harry Rothstein
Former Lightweight League player

collector around his High Point Acres home. He and his wife Virginia, a former Goff, have four children, Ned, Jeff, Molly and Stephen. There is one grandchild, Ed Brace III.

Ed himself is Brace, Jr., and the Brace, Sr., taught math at Seminary and was a football and track coach for over 25 years. Ed says, "Growing up, I practically lived at Sem! And of course I knew, and was influenced by, a most amazing person, Austin Bishop, who started this lightweight football business, among other things, like local wrestling. That sport would not be what it is in this valley if it weren't for Mr. Bishop."

Captain Harry Rothstein still works in his commercial real estate business. He and his wife, the former Arlene Friedman, have two children: Robert, a computer specialist now in Brussels, Belgium, and Robin a professional photographer in Santa Rosa, California. (As for grandkinder, Rothstein proudly says, "We have our two 'Brussel Sprouts,' Shona, 13 and Liane, 10.")

Both Harry and Ed credit Sem's coach W. Austin Bishop, who died in July at age 90, with getting the 150#-class football even recognized as a minor sport. At his urging in 1990, a dinner was held at which members of the 1940 team were presented with plaques and honored by Penn's Director of Athletics and others. This of course was only 50 years after it started!

At one time *The New York Times* carried league news but no more. Even regional papers skim by weekend bowl activities, like a Boscov Welcome Luncheon or an Elementary School visitation, when Penn and Army players visit school students emphasizing "Saying No to alcohol and drugs." There is a coaches' dinner, pre-game team breakfasts, a church service and brunch, and finally an awards banquet. October's bowl game was dedicated to Bishop.

Players of both teams stay with local "host" families for the weekend and vets from two veterans hospitals are guests at the game. All bowl events are "alcohol-free."

Next fall you might consider attending a bowl game which won't cost any air fare whatsoever, and the ticket prices are unbelievably reasonable. Of course Army will win again but so what? You'll have a great time for a great cause.



Charity Bowl slated for Sunday

The annual Charity Bowl to benefit the Wyoming Valley Children's Association will be held on Sunday, November 19 at the Exeter field behind St. Cecelia's Church in Exeter. "Kids Helping Kids" was started to aid this organization by the Greater Pittston Junior Football League's 16 teams. These boys and girls play for the children who can't do it themselves. The first game will start at 12 noon and pit the South B team against the North A team. The second game will start at 2 p.m., with the South A playing the North B team. Refreshments will be available. A Chinese Auction will feature many prizes. All proceeds will go to the Wyoming Valley Children's Association. To donate anything for this charity, call 696-4394. Members of the South B team are comprised of graduates from the Kingston Township Raiders, Lake-Lehman Jr. Knights and Dallas Mini-Mounts.

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SKI TIP #4
by Sean O'Shea

Q. What can I do if my feet get cold?

A: Warm feet need good blood circulation. Pressure points or even wrinkled socks will reduce circulation. You may find that synthetic socks are warmer because they don't hold moisture like cotton or wool. For people with poor circulation, electric heaters can be added to most ski boots.

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