

Sports Week

Section 2

Wednesday, June 12, 1996

A conversation with Back Mountain's big baseball guns

By LEN KRYESKI
Sports Writer

BACK MOUNTAIN - If you were trying to find the best baseball players in the Wyoming Valley Conference this spring, you probably could have saved some time by first selecting the best players from the Back Mountain.

If you said John Oliver of Lake-Lehman you be hard pressed to find anyone to argue the point. The senior outfielder was ranked among the best players in the country prior to the season, having been named to a number of prestigious amateur prospect lists. Over the course of 18 games, John proved his worth - usually in front of a half dozen or so major league

scouts - by banging out 37 hits and playing errorless ball in the field.

Last week Oliver was chosen by the Cincinnati Reds in the first round of Major League Baseball's amateur draft and is faced with choosing between turning pro or heading to Clemson University on a baseball scholarship.

A few other local seniors became household names over the course of their high school careers. Dallas co-captains Jeff Kunkle and Rich Klick will each continue their baseball careers playing Division 1 ball at the collegiate level. Kunkle is headed to Penn State. Klick to the University of Pittsburgh - both via an athletic scholarship. Mike

Adamshick, carried a hot bat throughout the season, hitting at a .490 clip and edging Oliver his co-captain at Lehman, for the class AA RBI crown with 32.

All four established themselves among the league's best during their high school tenure. With Lehman competing at the AA level and Dallas at AAA, the Back Mountain may be home to both conference M.V.P.'s for the '96 season.

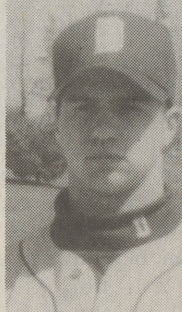
Now with their high school careers behind them, Adamshick, Klick and Kunkle were asked not only to take a look back, but what the future holds in store for them. Oliver is currently facing a serious decision and will be interviewed at a later date.

Rich Klick - Dallas

Last month you selected the University of Pittsburgh as the place to continue your academic and athletic careers. What led you to that decision, and what will you be studying?

Basically it came down to three, Pitt, West Virginia and Connecticut. After visiting all three, I knew Pitt was the place for me and I liked it the best. They also gave me a good scholarship package. I'll enroll undeclared.

This summer you'll be playing for the Back Mountain Legion team. Is there anything special you or Panther coach Mark Jackson wants you working on specifically and what are your long range baseball plans?



The Pitt coaches haven't stressed any one thing. I just want to keep up with my baseball skills and get ready for the fall. Long range I just want to see how far I can go with baseball.

College coaches have mentioned your best bet would be moving to the outfield. Is that move still likely and if so are you glad you were able to play shortstop at the high school level?

I would think so. Yeah it was good to play short; as far as being alert and in the game that was the

position, but I don't have a preference.

Imagine that trading of players was allowed in high school baseball and all of a sudden you're facing Jeff Kunkle in a key game - what would that encounter be like?

Oh, I'd take him deep. (laughing), no it would be tough to get a hit off of Jeff.

You had an excellent high school career, yet if you could change one thing, what would it be?

Not breaking my leg (on the football field) last fall. I missed out on a lot.

See BIG GUNS, pg 10

Sem honors local athletes

Wyoming Seminary's "W" Club recently recognized students with Gold Awards for exceptional athletic performance. Gold Award athletes must be four-year letter winners in their particular sport with three varsity letters.

Back Mountain athletes were Michael Hurwitz, Shavertown, cross country; Alia Aben, Harveys Lake, lacrosse; Claire Hedden, Dallas, field hockey; Carolyn Selenski, Harveys Lake, softball; Matthew Lloyd, Dallas, soccer, ice hockey; Alan Mosca, Dallas, wrestling; Carlo Santarelli, Dallas, basketball, baseball; Robert Ciaruffoli, Shavertown, golf, tennis; Carolyn Anzalone, Shavertown, field hockey; Phil Gager, Dallas, ice hockey, baseball; Sarah Richards, Dallas, field hockey; Sarah Sordoni, Dallas, soccer; Jeffrey Steelman, Dallas, soccer.

Irem golf results

At a Scotch Foursome at Irem Temple Country Club on Memorial Day, teams placed:

First place: Roy Smith, Corrine Sgarlat, Bucky Edwards, Mary Ann Stelma.

Second place: Harry Dougherty, Richard Laux, Jean Francis, Jean Edwards.

Third place: Tony Ruggere, Bob Libenson, Elaine Dougherty, Julie Conklin.

Fourth place: John Yapple, George Conklin, Jane Kopp, Arlene Hemence.

Closest to the pin on Hole 17: Corrine Sgarlat, Jim Kocolin.

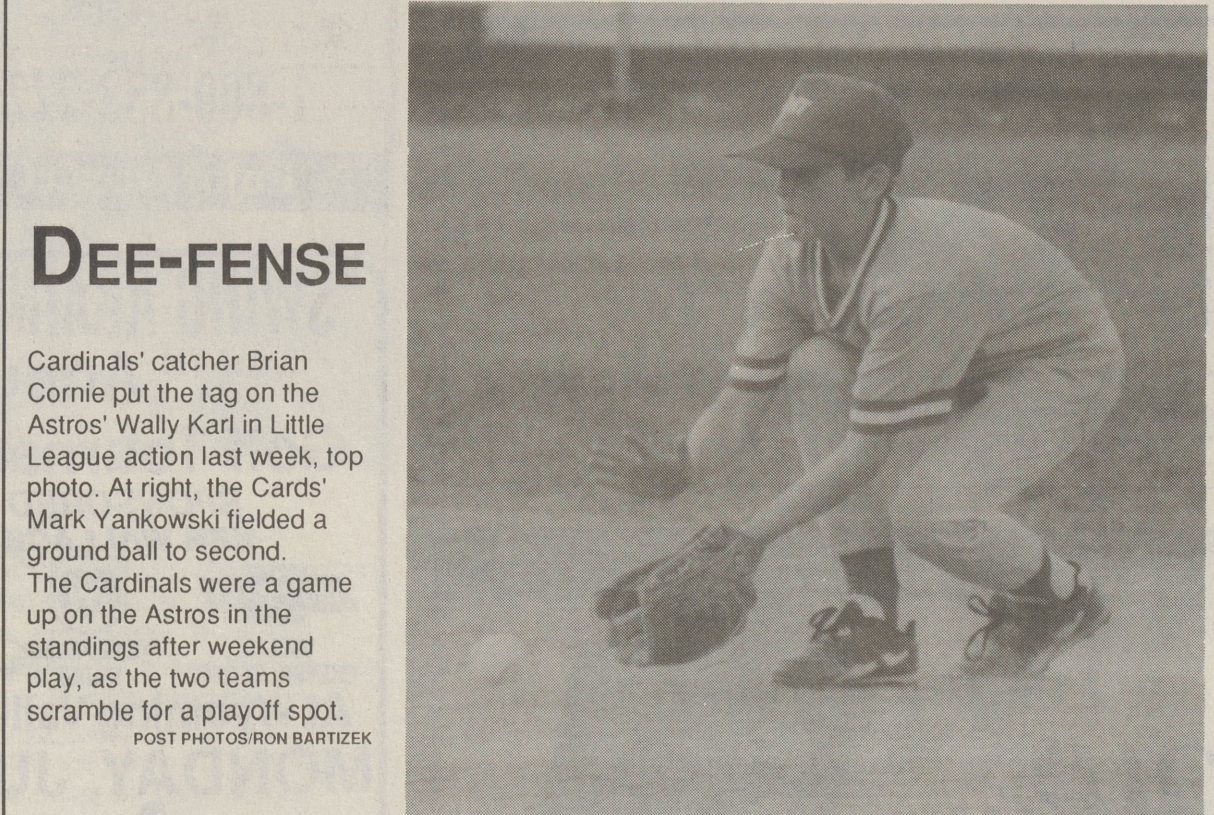
Winners of the Irem Women's Golf Association's criss-cross tournament are:

First flight: Sis Ertley.

Second flight: Louise Moore, putting, Esther Saba.

Third flight: Jean Edwards; putting, Theresa Balliet.

Fourth flight: Nona Libenson; putting, Marcia Jones.



DEE-FENSE

Cardinals' catcher Brian Cornie put the tag on the Astros' Wally Karl in Little League action last week, top photo. At right, the Cards' Mark Yankowski fielded a ground ball to second. The Cardinals were a game up on the Astros in the standings after weekend play, as the two teams scramble for a playoff spot.

POST PHOTOS/RON BARTIZEK

BACK MOUNTAIN BASEBALL

Boys Major League

The Yankees and Dodgers have clinched their respective divisions and eight teams are still playing for the additional six play off spots.

Yankees 4 - Giants 3

Jeff Emanuel and Jim Belles duelled on the mound and the Yankees behind Emanuel's 12 strike outs came out ahead. John Pambianco had three hits against the Giants along with Frank Buzin and Matt Goeringer hitting doubles.

Jim Belles generated the runs for the Giants with a home run.

Indians 14 - Red Sox 6

John Schultz pitched six innings with 10 strike outs collecting a win for his team. Jim Jordan led the Indians with three hits including a three run homer. Dan Ungvarsky, Mike Yenason and Mike Fehlinger all had two hits for the Indians.

Luke Miller balanced out Jordan's homer with a three run homer of his own but with two hits at the plate. Steve Salavantis and Jim Larson had doubles for

BOYS' MAJOR LEAGUE STANDINGS

Through 8 weeks

National	W	L	American	W	L
Dodgers	14	3	Yankees	13	4
Cardinals	11	6	Rangers	10	7
Astros	10	7	Red Sox	10	7
Pirates	9	7	Indians	8	8
Phillies	8	9	A's	8	9
Reds	5	12	Orioles	5	11
Giants	5	12	Tigers	1	15

the Red Sox.

Orioles 21 - Tigers 11

Ryan Gryskiewicz had nine strike outs for the win on the mound. Gryskiewicz also had two hits including a triple. Ed Krasniak tripled and Doug Jennings doubled for the Orioles.

Matt Katyl had a double and triple along with teammate Tom MacDougal hitting a double for the Tigers.

Astros 16 - Cards 4

Stephen Luksh and Joe Yankowski held the Cards to four hits as they combined to pitch the win for the Astros. Chip Harrison led a strong batting attack going

four for four, scoring four runs with four RBIs. Wally Karl, Jamie Rhodes, Yankowski and David Walters all had two hits for the Astros. Luksh was three for four at the plate, also.

Matt Metz went two for three for the Cards and Greg Mascioli had a double.

Yankees 19 - Tigers 11

The Yankees clinched first place in the American Division behind Bob Gebhardt's pitching. Gebhardt threw a two hitter while striking out eight. Three homers were hit in the game. Two Yankees Andy Check and Jeff Emanuel and Tiger, John Simonitis cleared the fences.

Check led the Yankees hitting attack with four hits. Matt Goeringer, Emanuel and Gebhardt had two hits apiece.

Matt Katyl along with Simonitis had three hits for the Tigers.

Cards 8 - Dodgers 0

Matt Metz pitched a great game with a two hitter and eight strike outs along with good defensive support to give the Cards a shot in the division race.

Greg Mascioli scored two times with three hits along with Brian

Downey and Mark Yankowski each getting two hits.

Josh Bryant and Eric Kowalek had doubles for the Dodgers.

A's 6 - Rangers 5

Jeff Dickson drove in four runs with three hits including his fourth homer as the A's won their 8th game. Dickson also pitched a complete game five hitter with seven strike outs and one walk. Adam Tkaczyk had a single and double for the A's.

Tim Faneck and Billy Evans each had extra base hits for the Rangers.

Astros 7 - Phillies 0

Joe Yankowski pitched three innings of no hits and Stephen Luksh followed with only giving up two hits with the Astros defense shutting out the Phillies. Luksh was three for four at the plate and was backed by Chip Harrison, two for four, Wally Karl, two for four, and Patrick Rother, going two for two with two RBIs.

Joel Lesinski collected both hits for the Phillies with a single and a double.

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Strauser shines in final year on PSU diamond

By LEN KRYESKI
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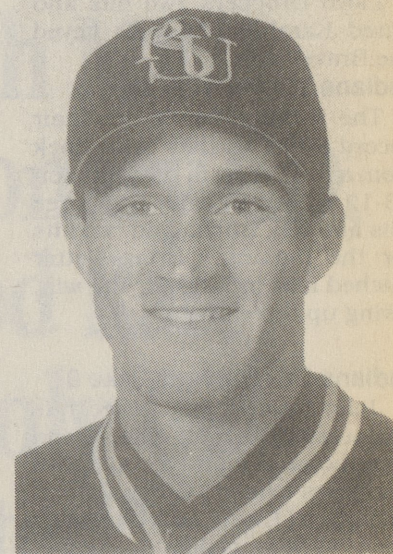
The two just seemed to coincide. In his fifth and final year of collegiate eligibility, former Lake-Lehman baseball standout Troy Strauser was awarded a starting outfield position.

And during their fifth season of Big 10 play, the Nittany Lions baseball team finally qualified for the playoffs and won the conference regular season title besides.

Strauser took over the left field job after teammate Kevin Billotte - a third team All-Big 10 selection as a rookie last year - pulled a hamstring in a March 24 contest with Indiana. Strauser made the most of opportunity.

Finally getting a chance to play full time, Troy batted .333, scored 36 runs, drove home 18 more from his leadoff position and was one of 10 Nittany Lions to earn All-Big 10 status while Joe Hindelang was voted coach of the year. Troy landed on the second team along with three other teammates.

Two Lions were named to the first team and four to the third team. John Dacostino among them. Dacostino, a right fielder, played his high school ball for Hazleton Area.



TROY STRAUSER

Traditionally Penn State (32-24-1) schedules a bunch of warm weather schools early in the season and once again they got off to a slow start including an 0-9 showing in the state of California. Strauser was ineligible for the start of the season.

The day after Billotte's injury Penn State lost both ends of a double-header, but with Strauser as the sparkplug the Lions went 28-6 the remainder of the regular

See STRAUSER pg 10

PSU golf tourney has spots open

The Alumni Society of the Penn State Wilkes-Barre Campus has openings for a few more four-somes in its first annual Masters Golf Tournament to benefit the Campus scholarship fund. The tournament will be held June 14 at the Irem Temple Country Club with a shotgun start at 12:30 p.m.

Cost per golfer is \$75.00 which includes greens fee, cart and buffet dinner. Bill Reinert is chairman of the event. A trip for two to Orlando, Florida for four days and three nights supplied by

Tenenbaum's Travel is the hole-in-one prize. The tournament will follow a Captain and Crew format, but individual golfers are also welcome.

Penn State "Masters" Blazers will be awarded to the members of the winning championship flight team. There will be additional prizes and surprises as well as a guest appearance by the Nittany Lion and Penn State cheerleaders.

For more information call Bobbie Steever at 675-9202.

SPORTS SHORTS

Softball camp at Lake-Lehman

Lake-Lehman will host a softball day camp for ages 8-18, June 17-20, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. (Monday-Thursday), pitchers/catchers 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Lake-Lehman High School. Cost for LL students is \$60 (register by June 1 and pay only \$55 to be reimbursed by club) and for non-district students is \$70 (register by June 1 and pay only \$65.)

Players will be grouped according to age and/or ability. Advanced groups will learn advanced techniques, tactics and drills. Younger players will learn fundamentals. Catchers should bring equipment. Refreshment stand will be available for low-cost lunches.

Clemm takes fourth in long jump

Susquehanna University sophomore Ryan Clemm of Dallas finished fourth in the long jump at the Middle Atlantic Conference Outdoor Track and Field Championships at Moravian College May 3-4. Clemm helped his team finish second in the nine-team event. Susquehanna had been the two-time defending MAC outdoor team champion.

Clemm was fourth in the long jump with a leap of 21-1 1/4. He also competed in the high jump but did not place.

A business administration major, Clemm is the son of Mary and Paul Clemm of Dallas.

Lake-Lehman Football Club will meet

The Lake-Lehman Football Club will meet June 13 at 7:30 p.m. at Grotto Pizza, Harveys Lake.

All parents of Lake-Lehman football players and cheerleaders are encouraged to attend. There will be a representative from a sports logo apparel company, who will show a line of clothing which will be available for sale in the upcoming season.