

Jr. title

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rb. There was no game-winning hit, just a victory and a championship banner for the Back Mountain boys who finished the tournament with a perfect 5-0 record.

Had West Pittston won, the two would have had to battle again on Wednesday in the double-elimination tourney. The district runners-up had fought their way back after losing the opening contest in extra innings to Duryea.

Back Mountain added some insurance, upping the score to 14-11 in the top of the seventh (although the game was played at the Dallas middle school field, West Pittston was the home team by virtue of a pre-game coin toss), but those runs were nullified when umpires called the game due to darkness in the bottom of the seventh.

With two outs and a 1-and-1 count on Chris Swales, winning pitcher Randy Knappman uncorked a wild fast ball over the home plate umpire's head. The umpire never saw the pitch and called the game meaning the final score had to revert back to the last completed inning. Individual statistics garnered during the seventh were credited to each player however.

After easily winning their first four tournament games by a combined score of 41-6, the Back Mountain squad showed they could handle a little adversity. They jumped out to an early 2-0 lead in the first when Knappman tripled home Josh Katyl and Steve Moyer, but had to rally twice to avoid an extra game.

"The whole team showed a lot of character," said an obviously elated Dave Katyl. "It's been an honor to coach them."

West Pittston scored a run in

the first and took the lead with five runs on just one hit in the second. With his pitches all over the place, ace hurler Josh Katyl was continuously behind in the count. He walked five in the second before giving way to Vetter. Katyl tossed a no-hitter over the club from Pittston in his last outing.

"I would have liked to stay with him," Dave Katyl said, "but Josh didn't have it. At this level you have to switch pitchers."

Vetter's first pitch was knocked into center field by Joseph Falcone, resulting in two runs for West Pittston. He settled down to retire eight of the next 10 hitters he faced, allowing just one run before a disastrous fifth inning.

With Back Mountain rallying to go on top 8-7 in the top half of the inning, West Pittston regained the lead by scoring four runs with two out. All four were unearned and as the inning dragged on Vetter grew tired, giving up three singles and two walks. All of this occurred after first baseman Moyer lifted his foot too soon while taking a hurried throw from second sacker Jared Karalunas.

"Brian pitched longer than he has all season," Katyl explained. "Then Randy came in when we were down and threw strikes."

Knappman retired six of the seven batters he faced - that figure includes the seventh - striking out four in the process. Most important, he didn't allow a single run. He also managed to set down losing pitcher Brian Walcott for the first time all night. Walcott pitched the entire game and helped himself with two hits, two walks and four runs scored.

Vetter tied the score at seven in the fifth with a single to right that

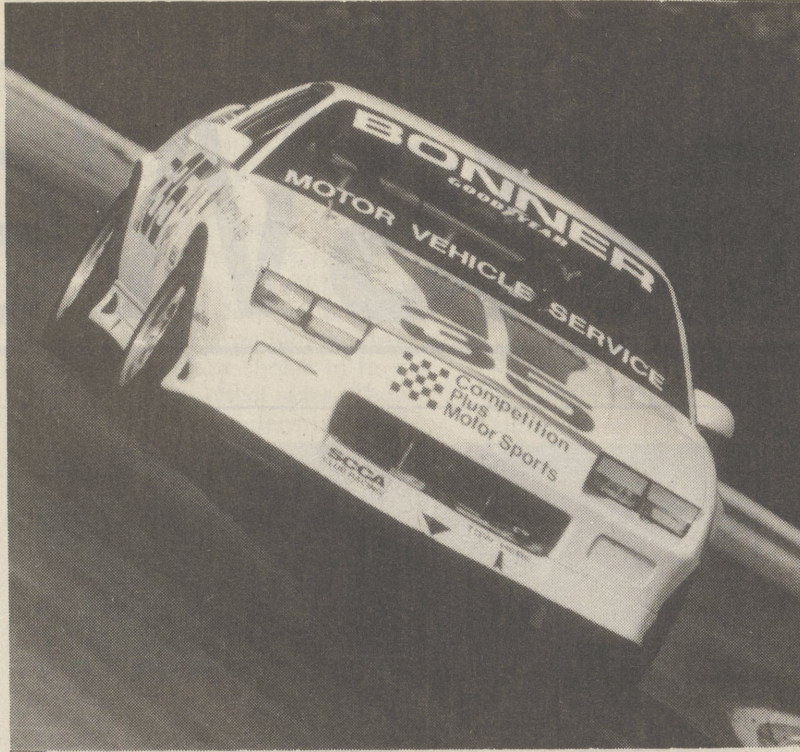


PHOTO COURTESY OF ROZ ROSINOSKI

Fast car

Dallas resident David Beccaris in his sleek Chevy Camaro came in third in the Improved Touring Endurance class at last weekend's Giant's Despair Hill Climb, with a best overall time of 55.8 seconds, outrunning three other cars in his class. His performance earned Big Brothers/Big Sisters \$50 per car or a total of \$150, donated by Bonner Chevrolet.

scored pinch runner Andy Lohin as well as Bucha. One pitch later the hit and run was on as Karalunas gave Back Mountain the momentary lead by blooping a single to center scoring Vetter from first.

John Nackley blasted a double to right center in the sixth that plated two and set the stage for the game-winning play.

Katyl and Moyer scored three times apiece and recorded two hits along with Vetter and Karalunas.

New coach

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quality and make-up of the typical local student/athlete.

"I think the Back Mountain has a lot of great athletes," said Lawson.

While certainly willing to build from the ground up, an immediate goal is to begin to once again draw that rich athletic talent back into the basketball program. The opportunity is there as well as the numbers. While attracting many during the fall and spring sports seasons, interest in boys' winter sports seems to have waned the past few seasons.

Plenty of boys as well as girls living within the confines of the school district play youth basketball. Lawson will need to keep that interest at the varsity level.

For an example he need look no further than the Lady Mounts program. In just her third season as head coach, Kim Barbacci led Dallas into the PIAA state playoffs. After losing three starters to graduation, the upcoming winter

may be a rebuilding year, but better days appear ahead as the ninth grade girls captured the league championship last year.

In just a short time under Barbacci, Dallas has become a stalwart on defense. Lawson wants his boys to eventually follow suit.

"Ideally I'd like to create from the defensive end and score some easy baskets, and get a lot of different people involved," Lawson said. "Most every coach would like to play a full court, fast break game, but that's if you have the horses. It all depends on what type of players you have available."

When Brown, who has since been hired to replace legendary

John Hopkins at GAR, his alma mater, resigned, his assistant coach and close friend Joe Ellis did likewise. Lawson has been doing a thorough job of finding a candidate to help him run the Mountaineer program. A few junior high coaches are among the candidates. With a number of options available to him, Eric anticipates naming an assistant within a week or two.

Any boy in grades 7 through 12 still interested in participating in the Dallas basketball program for the 1996-97 season who hasn't already done so is encouraged to get in touch with coach Lawson. During the day you may reach him by phoning 823-6121. Evenings, please call 735-4464.

KT Raiders will organize July 21

The Kingston Township Raiders Mini Football organization will be meeting Sunday, July 21 at 7 p.m. at the Back Mountain Harvest Assembly of God Church, 340 Carverton Road, Trucksville. First day of practice is July 22.



Smith named ECAC Player of Year

College Misericordia softball standout Jen Smith was recently presented with the ECAC Player of the Year award by athletic director Michael Mould and head softball coach Charlotte Slocum. A four-year starter at Misericordia, Smith was a three-time ECAC All-Star and is the first Misericordia player to earn ECAC Player of the Year status.

Smith led Misericordia in batting with a .480 average and runs scored and RBI's with 55 each. She was 18th in the country with 1.25 RBI's per game.



U-10 Flames finish 2nd in travel league

The U-10 Back Mountain Flames soccer team came in second in the spring travel league. They lost in a shoot-out to a good Berwick team 2-3 after concluding the regulation time and two overtime periods in a 1-1 deadlock.

Team members are from left, first row, Shannon Thomas, Callie Carsman, Caitlin Dukas, Carrie Stolarick, Kimberly Chollak, Brooke Blase, Jennifer Drury; second row, Katie Lykon, Meredith Lacey, Lizzy Martin, Katie Rhodes, Lauren Stefaniak, Jackie Hardwick, Devon Rother. Absent from photo: Sydney Guelich and coaches Sandy Rhodes and Wayne Lykon.

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MARIA-JOSEFINA S. RIVERA, M.D.

Gwen M. Galasso, M.D., Medical Director, is pleased to welcome Maria-Josefina S. Rivera, M.D. to Monroe-Noxen Health Center. Specializing in family medicine, Dr. Rivera most recently served as a family practice resident at Wyoming Valley Family Practice Residency Program, Kingston. Prior to completing this residency, Dr. Rivera served for five years as general medical officer at the United States Army Hospital, West Berlin, West Germany.

Dr. Rivera earned her medical degree from the University of Santo Tomas, Manila, Philippines and completed a

family practice residency at Philippine General Hospital of the University of the Philippines. Dr. Rivera also received additional training in internal medicine at Fitzgerald Mercy Catholic Medical Center, Lansdowne, Pennsylvania.

To schedule an appointment with Dr. Rivera, please call 298-2121 or 836-5533.

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