

Mountaineers

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Knappman, who hit about .350 with power, coming on strong late in the season.

All the players' attitude was even more impressive. "I'm just so proud of how they conducted themselves," Bittner said.

Bittner, who has coached Little League through college teams, was an official scout for the Baltimore Orioles for two years, and an associate scout for the Minnesota Twins and the Boston Red Sox for three years. He still is a contact for about half the Major League teams, he said.

Despite missing the playoffs, Bittner thinks this Dallas team was the best in the league. "With Habrack on the mound, we could beat anybody," he said. "We just ran out of arms" over the weekend.

The group of assistants backing up Bittner was equally impressive. Steve Federici was a volunteer assistant who managed to make nearly every practice. "He's

a pure baseball man," Bittner said of the Dallas graduate who went on to bat in the three hole for Penn State.

Bob Ashworth and Ryan Flynn also are Dallas graduates who came back to help out. Ashworth played for Bittner at Luzerne County Community College, and works for one of his companies.

"We were so lucky to have Ryan," Bittner said of the four-year Wilkes University starter and last year's captain. He tried out this week for a position in the Independent League, Bittner said, and has a good chance of getting a Major League contract.

Frank Buckler, the fourth assistant, also "loves the game of baseball," Bittner said, and did not show favoritism for his own son who was on the team.

So, how did the year look to Bittner? "I was proud of all the kids," he said. "No. 1, we had fun." And he hopes to come back for another turn next year.

Roundup

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Dallas the early advantage with a two-run home run in the top of the first but that was the last time the Mounts would hold the lead as Wyoming responded with four of their own in the bottom of the first and six more in the third to take a comfortable 10-2 lead. Dallas trimmed the margin to 10-4 in the fifth before Wyoming scored four more in the bottom of the inning to send Dallas packing early. Piekara had two home runs in the outing and Chuck Fehlinger added one.

Nanticoke 17, Dallas 13

Nanticoke rattled off ten runs in the bottom of the sixth inning to take a 17-12 lead and then held on to end Dallas' season with a

17-13 loss May 16. Nanticoke captured second place avenging their loss to Dallas a day earlier to take second place in AAA.

TRACK

Aileah Kvashay captured a District 2 medal and qualified for states in the discus event at the District 2 Track and Field Championship held May 14. A toss of 113-11 earned her the gold medal. The medal eluded Kvashay in the shot put where she was only able to gather a fourth place finish. Other Dallas contenders included Nadalie Temperine who placed fourth in the 3200m run while Stacey Wagner finished fourth in the 300m hurdles.

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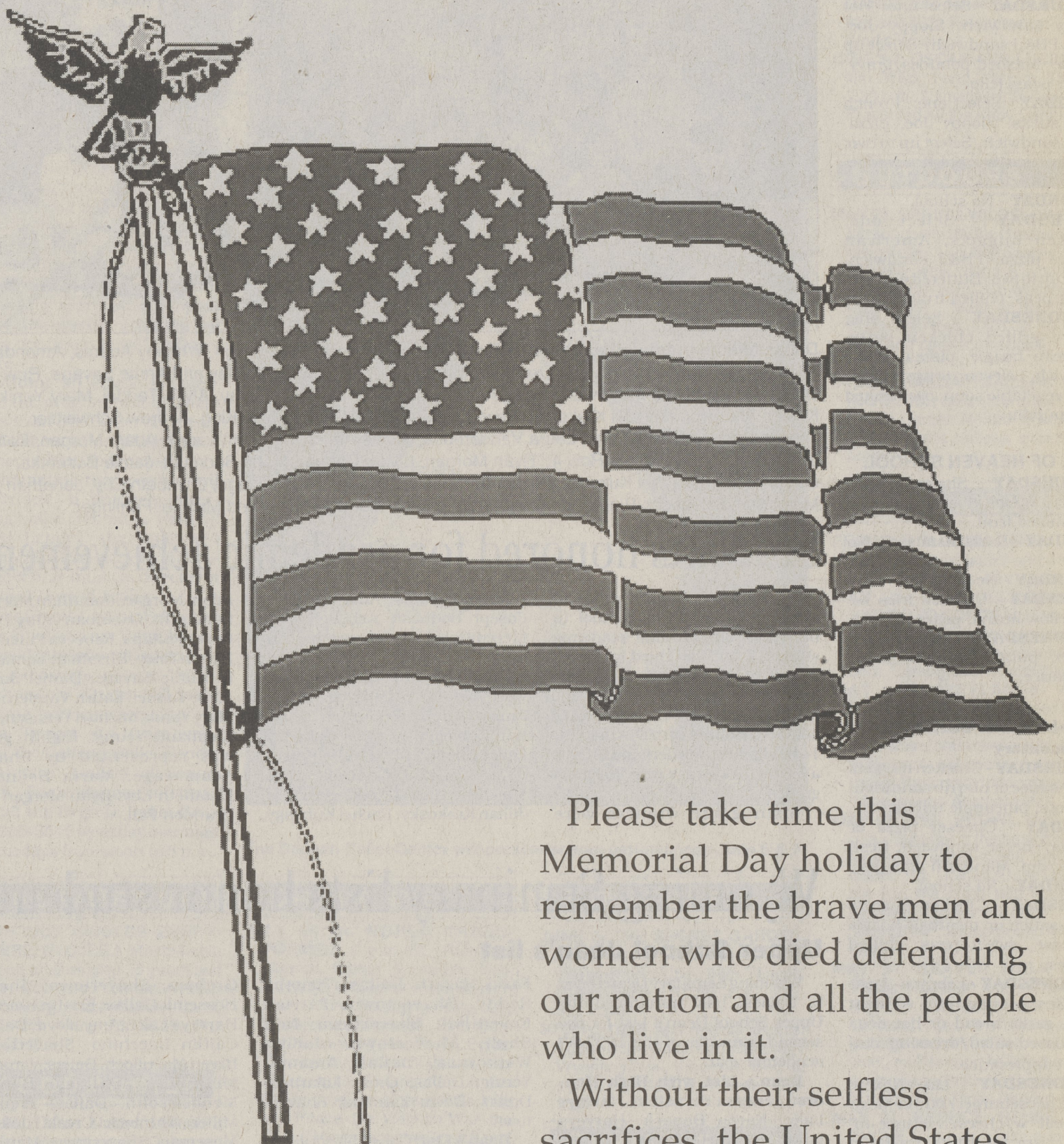
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