

Sports Week

Section 2

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'Uphill racers' help charities while they stand on it

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BACK MOUNTAIN - When Dave Beccaris and Alan Boonin race their fire-engine red Camaro up the Wilkes-Barre Hill Climb this weekend, they'll be racing for more than their own glory, they will be there to promote two worthy charities.

Beside the decals promoting a number of business that support their race car are two extra logos. Big Brother/Big Sisters and the Arthritis Foundation will also be flying up that hill at 100 miles per hour.

The Camaro is owned by Boonin, of Dallas, who has been racing since 1987. "My dad used to work for Roger Penske," he remembers. "My dad got hired to build the first radios for talking to the pits." Penske ran a garage two blocks from his home in Newtown Square.

Boonin was a Penske crew member in high school, and went to the race track in Watkins Glen, New York frequently when at Penn State. When he moved to the Back Mountain, he started racing. He raced Toyota MR2s, and in 1989, while racing in the National Series, he placed 5th overall in the entire Northeastern Region. He also held a class record at the Wilkes-Barre Hill Climb.

Boonin, a physician, bought the Camaro he now races in 1992. It runs in the American Sedan class, just like cars driven by an idol, Mark Donahue, a Penske racer. h

He has earned two second places and a third with the car.

Why does he race? "It's better than Valium!" laughs Boonin. "It's great therapy."

"It's more than a hobby," says Dave Beccaris. "I just am compelled to do it."

Beccaris races in 8 to 10 events each summer, and will travel as far as Ohio, Watkins Glen, and Connecticut. He has been road racing for 15 years, and has driven the Hill Climb six or seven times.

"Drivers sharing cars in hill climbs is very common," says Beccaris. Fifty to 60 cars will be in the race, and drivers compete in heats according to car class. Beccaris won't be the only one driving the red car.

"There's lots of history to the Hill Climb," says Boonin. He enjoys participating in the race because it is fun and it appeals to "the greaser" in him.

Both Beccaris and Boonin enjoy racing the same car. "You get two different inputs, two different

Boonin: Racing has made me a better driver

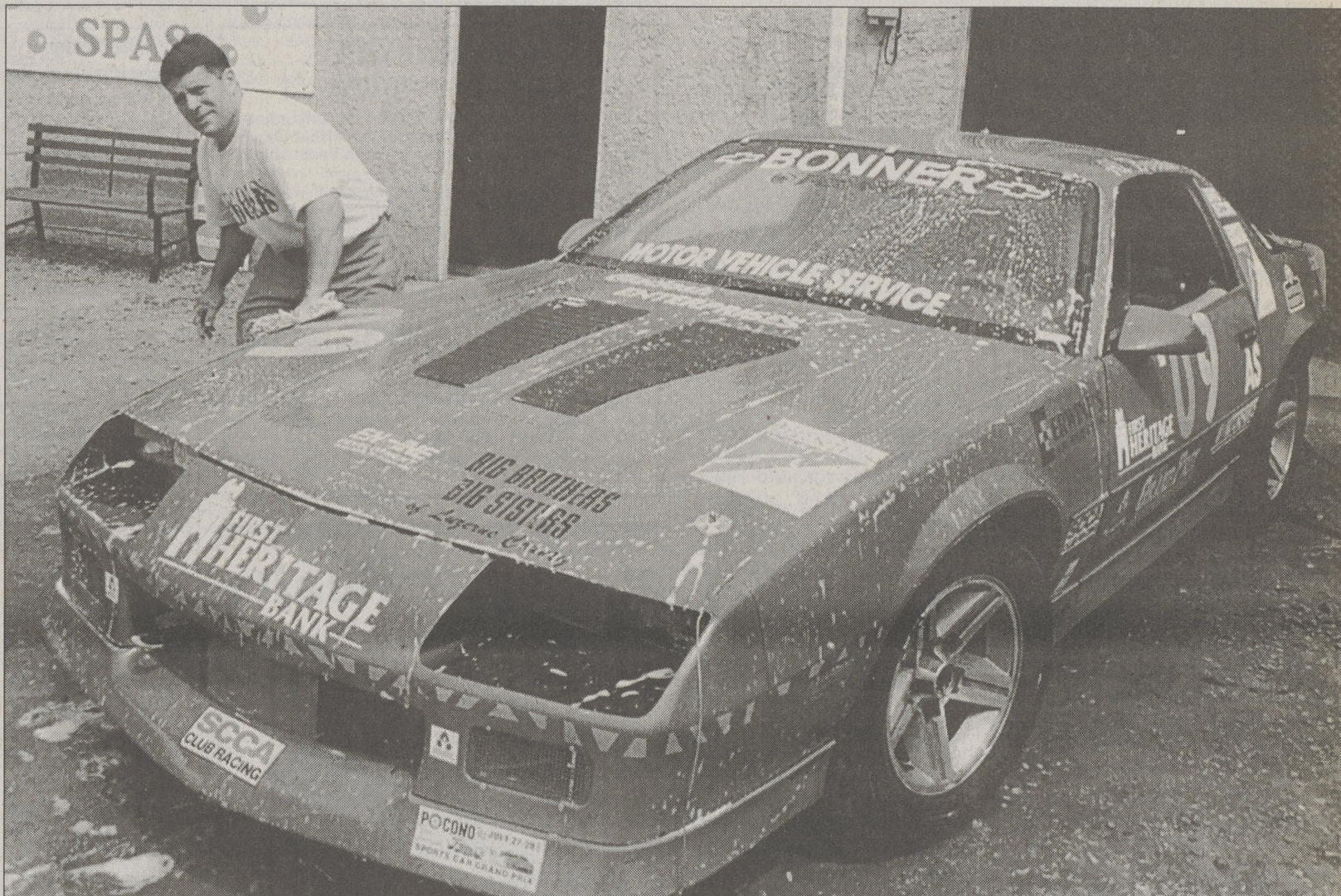
An added benefit of car racing, according to Dr. Boonin, is that he has become a much better driver. Race Car Driving School taught him to how to anticipate what is ahead, instead of what is right in front of him. "I look two to three cars down now," says Boonin. Drivers practice on rigged cars that skid on command. "You learn not to panic when your car skids," says Boonin.

Boonin would recommend that all drivers take the SCCA drivers course. "I'm a much better driver since I race," adds Boonin.

experiences, two different views," says Beccaris. "You can both put your brains together," adds Boonin. Experience adds to success in car racing. "Old man time works in your favor," laughs Boonin. "and you get crafty."

Bill Zukowsky, of Competition Plus in Dallas, works on the Camaro to keep it running its best. "We've had really good luck this year," says Zukowsky. He predicts that the best is yet to come; both drivers are getting even faster. "We're doing fine tuning here and there," says Zukowsky.

The Camaro boasts a 305 cubic inch engine, and can hit a top speed of 150 miles per hour. The



POST PHOTO/RON BARTIZEK

Dave Beccaris washed down the Camaro he and Dr. Alan Boonin, the car's owner, will drive in the Giant's Despair hill climb.

interior is stripped down, and a built-in roll cage has been added. It races in the American Sedan Class of the Sports Car Club of America (SCCA), which includes Firebirds, Camaros, and Mustangs.

Carey Giadosh chairs the Mini-Grand Prix for the Arthritis Foundation. "I've know Dave many years through racing," says Giadosh, who raced vintage Formula One Ferraris and Endurance races. Giadosh appreciates the exposure Beccaris gives to the Arthritis Foundation.

People see him and realize that

this gentleman is not just racing for himself, says Giadosh. "It makes the public more aware of the situation with arthritis," notes Giadosh. Over 146,000 people in Northeastern Pennsylvania suffer from arthritis. The Arthritis Foundation sponsors the Mini-Grand Prix, which attracts many young adults and children, in part to remind people that arthritis affects both young and old.

"The appreciation is there," says Giadosh. Beccaris will be displaying the red Camaro during the Mini-Grand Prix on Sunday, August 2, in Kingston.

Sweetening the Pot

Rich Crossin, manager of Bonner Chevrolet in Kingston, will be donating \$50 for every car that Beccaris and Boonin pass going up the hill at the Hill Climb. "It was \$300 or so last year," remarks Crossin.

The Hill Climb will be raced this weekend, July 11 and 12, at the top of East Northampton Street in Wilkes Barre Township. Runs start at 9 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Call Dan Lepperini at 654-0560 for more information.

The 5th Annual Mini-Grand Prix, benefiting the Arthritis Foundation, will be held Sunday, August 2, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. In addition to the races, there will be Family Activities, a Petting Zoo, an Antique and Classic Car Show, a Craft Show, and food and music. Call the Arthritis Foundation at 823-2888 for more information.

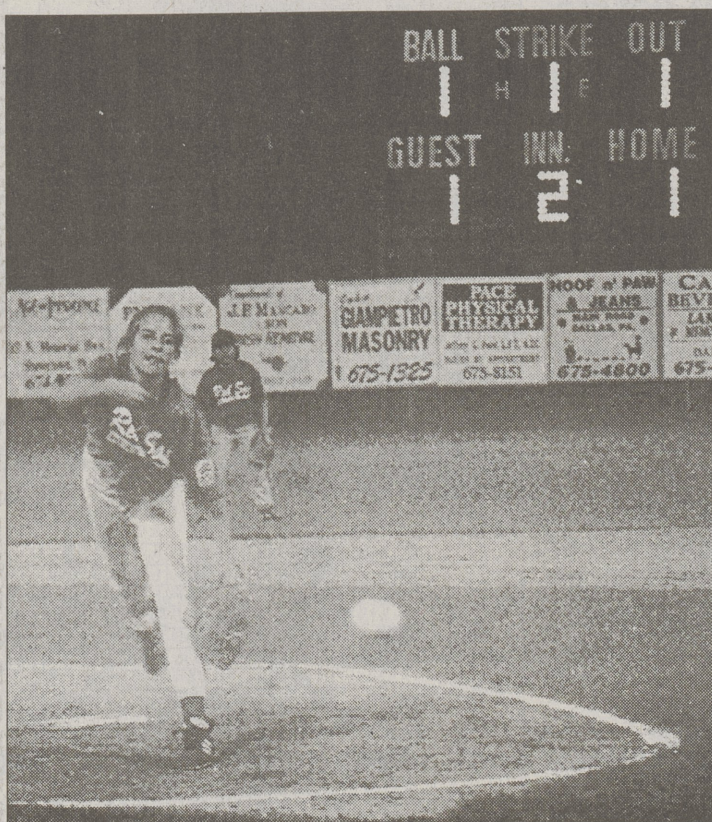
Red Sox overwhelm Dodgers 18-1 for championship



The Red Sox Kara Makarewicz was out at home in the third inning, on a tag by Dodgers catcher Stephanie Latosek.



Shannon Thomas, with a characteristic move. She struck out nine while going the distance.



The scoreboard looked even in the second inning, as Shannon Thomas delivered a pitch, but it was all Red Sox after that.

POST PHOTOS/RON BARTIZEK

The Dodgers jumped out to a one-run lead on a walk to Abby Wasserott and a single by Stephanie Latosek in the bottom half of the first to give the Dodgers the lead 1-0. Abby Wasserott was able to keep the Red Sox in check through two innings, striking out three before leaving the game with an arm injury. She was followed by Sara Brown, Alana Allan and Brigette Henry, who struggled gamely to stop the Red Sox attack.

Shannon Thomas turned in an outstanding pitching performance, striking out nine over six innings. A host of Red Sox players turned in fine defensive performances, led by Jennifer Konopki turning a key double play in the third inning, to quench a possible run by the Dodgers.

The Red Sox scoring attack was led by Callie Carsman, Jennifer Konopki, Shannon Thomas, Kara Makarewicz, Cassandra Backes, Shannon Dingle, Sara Sweptston and Anne Savage.

Members of the Red Sox: Callie Carsman, Jennifer Konopki, Shannon Thomas, Kara Makarewicz, Cassandra Backes, Anne Savage, Megan Savage, Kim Durr, Megan Baker, Tiffany Bromack, Sara Sweptston, Shannon Dingle, Alyssa Daniels and Ashley Wolanski.

Members of the Dodgers are: Alana Allen, Abby Wasserott, Nicole Allan, Stephanie Latosek, Rikki Ritts, Lauren Collini, Joanna Williamson, Lauren Lipski, Sarah Killian, Nikki Macri, Brigette Henry, Sara Brown and Erin Tanner.

Metz takes two 1sts at AAU Nationals

Mike Metz of Dallas and the King's College Wrestling Program competed in the National A.A.U. Grand National Wrestling Championships held at the Walt Disney World of Sports Complex in Orlando, Florida, June 24-27, the competition attracted over 2200 athletes from 47 states.

Metz competed in the Espoir division at 149.5 lbs.

In the competition Metz claimed 1st place National titles in both the Freestyle & Greco-Roman Styles. Which is the second straight year he has claimed Chamionship titles in both styles.

He was also named the most Outstanding Wrestler by the Middle Atlantic A.A.U. Wrestling Association for his performance in the competition.

A.A.U. Amateur Athletic Union is the oldest governing body in wrestling and amateur sports.

Hole-in-1 highlights Brennan tournament

Paul Berdy made a hole in one on Four Seasons 12th hole during the recently held St. Therese's Joe Brennan Golf Tournament.

The foursome of Joe Paratore, Chuck Heffron, Joe Piazza, and Don Gosart won the A Flight with a gross 56.

Flight B was won by the team of Mike Supczenski, Francis Bekampis, Sam DeSalvo and Karen Natishan with a 58 gross.

In the Ladies Flight, the winners with a gross of 74 were Irene Coburn, Rosemary Schwab, Helen Simons and Helen Kempenski.

Other winners were Mike Popsun and Mike Harper, closest to the pin, Mike Supczenski longest drive and Karen Natishan closest to the line on 17.



Arsenal wins U-12 championship

Back Mountain Arsenal recently won the Northeast Travel League U-12 Boys Fall Championship in a shootout with Bloomsburg. The game was postponed until June due to bad weather. The Arsenal went undefeated in regular season and playoff games.

First row, Jeff Pace, Tim Kerestes, Frank Buzin, Greg YestrumSkas, Carl Seitz, Greg Andrusisian, Sean Gilroy; 2nd row, coach Jeff Pace, Kevin Domzalski, Nathaniel Dickey, Phillip Kurello, head coach, Joe Kerestes, Tyler Van Scoy, Richard Eckman, coach, Frank Buzin.

Absent from photo: Greg Kostrobala, Gene Lispi, William Gagliardi.

Dallas Gridiron Club golf tournament

Dallas Gridiron Club Annual Golf Tournament will be held, Sat., Aug. 8 at Blue Ridge Trail Golf Club in Dorrance. Shotgun start at 2 p.m. Format is Captain & Crew. Cost is \$65 per golfer (includes green fees, cart and dinner). Sponsorship: Friend of Dallas Football Sponsor: \$100; Hole Sponsor: \$50; Tee Sponsor: \$25. Please make checks payable to Dallas Gridiron Club and mail to Russ Eyet, 19 Highland Blvd., Dallas, Pa 18612, 675-6459.

Captain & Crew tournament at Four Seasons

Four Seasons Golf Club, Exeter, will be holding a Captain & Crew Golf Tournament and pig roast on Sun., July 26. \$30 per person includes 18 holes, beverages, prizes and a stuffed, roasted pig dinner with all the trimmings. Tee times will be taken starting at 8 a.m. Call 655-8869 to reserve a tee time for your foursome.

PSU Alumni Society tournament July 16

The Alumni Society of Penn State Wilkes-Barre has rescheduled its third annual "Masters" Golf Tournament to Thurs., July 16, at the Irem Temple Country Club. Proceeds of the tournament benefit Penn State Wilkes-Barre's scholarship funds.

Todd Sloan, chair of this year's event, announces the shotgun start is at 1 p.m. Cost is \$90 per golfer which includes greens fee, cart and buffet dinner. Serving as co-chairs are Bill Haddle and Jim Cocolin.

The hole-in-one prize is a new Buick Regal provided by Community Buick. Penn State "Masters" blazers will be awarded to members of the winning championship flight team and there are additional prizes. The tournament will follow a captain and crew format, but individual golfers are welcome. For more information, call Bobbie Steever, 675-9202.