

The Dallas Post

Sports Week

Section 2

Rich Patton is key player on top Division III baseball team

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Special to the Post



RICH PATTON

LAKE-LEHMAN - For Lake-Lehman graduate Rich Patton, it all started with pee-wee baseball.

Patton, 19, son of Richard and Holly Patton, is a member of the Keystone College Giants Baseball Team, ranked 15th among Division III schools. Recruited by Mike Collins, Associate Director of Athletics at the college, Patton has loved baseball since he was 5 years old when he started playing on a pee-wee team.

He played other sports as he grew up, but baseball has been his mainstay. In

fact, it was one of the reasons he decided to go to college. "If I didn't go to college, I wouldn't be able to play baseball. I'd say college is a big deal," he said.

College baseball is a big deal, too. Just ask Collins about some of the challenges he faced when he joined the Keystone family in 1997. At that time, the Giants were ranked the worst team in their region. Since then Collins has taken them to the second position in 1999, and the third in 2000. Both years the

"Rich is a strong, quiet leader behind the plate. He's a calming influence on the pitchers."

Joshua Michael Balk
captain

team lost only to the team that took first place in the National Championship.

As they rise to the top, Collins is focusing on the team's one weak link - offense. Offensively the team has struggled in the past, but Collins is optimistic this time around. "This appears

to be our best offensive team on paper," he said. "When we were making up the lineup, we didn't see any holes. We see a lot of potential."

That potential is apparent in Patton. A sports management and recreation major, Patton plans to get a four-year degree before thinking about his possible career in baseball. He has come close to the big league before. While playing in the district championships his sophomore year at Lake-Lehman, Patton hit a home run at Lackawanna Stadium which tied up the game. "I thought it was really cool hitting a home run in a minor league stadium."

It was this game that grabbed his fu-

ture coach's attention. "I knew I had to get involved with Rich Patton," Collins said. He focused a lot of his attention on Patton the next two years until he decided to attend Keystone. "My entire staff was very pleased when Rich came to Keystone," he said.

The school was right to be excited with their new catcher. He was a proven leader on the field in high school and has demonstrated those skills with his new team. "Although he's a great guy off the field, he's not afraid to speak up on the field. He's a leader and proves to be good in that role," Collins

See PATTON, pg 10

Gate of Heaven will play for state championship

The Gate of Heaven Gators in Dallas has earned the chance to compete at the state level after clinching the Diocesan championship in Scranton recently. The Gators needed three wins to earn the spot, defeating Nativity BVM, Our Lady of Peace and in the final game, defending state champs St. Paul's.

In the first game, Matt Wilson hit a 3-point shot with 4 seconds on the clock to send the game into overtime. Gate of Heaven then pulled out a 62-56 victory. Matt Wilson, Brian Ostrowsky and Tim Crossin combined for 51 points. In the second game the Gators defeated OLP 41-32, while Matt Wilson and Ken Regan combined for 23 points, scoring 12 and 11 respectively.

In the final game, Gate of Heaven defeated St. Paul's 47-45. The Gators took a three point lead into the fourth quarter and sealed the win on the foul line. Matt Wilson hit two foul shots with wight seconds on the clock to seal the victory.

Matt Wilson was high scorer with 18 points followed by Brian Ostrowsky with 15 and Tim Crossin with 12.

The Gators completed their 2000-2001 season with some highlights. Matt Wilson reached the 2000 point mark and went on to become the highest scorer in the history of the school. Tim Crossin received the MVP award in the Solomon Junior High league in Plains. Matt Wilson and Brian Ostrowsky were co-winners of the sportsmanship award in a recent tournament held at Bishop Hoban High School.

The Gators will open the tournament Friday, March 30 and play the diocesan champions from Harrisburg. Members of the team are Sean Leary, Tim Crossin, Matt Wilson, Brian Ostrowsky, Ken Regan, Ryan Murray, Robert Baur, Connor Judge, Jim DeRemer, Jared Nothstein, Steven Goode, Michael DeRojas, Jonathan Stephens and Gregory Suhocki.



POST PHOTOS/JIM PHILLIPS

Tim Crossin (left photo) looked for an opening around Lake-Lehman defender Brandon Burkhart in a game played last week. Above, Matt Wilson drove to the baseline past Matt Shiskowski.

Hook your fishing license on-line

Pennsylvania fishing licenses are now available on-line. A Quick visit to the Pennsylvania fish and Boat Commission's homepage (www.fish.state.pa.us) and a click on the "Outdoor Shop" allows outdoor enthusiasts to purchase fishing licenses. The service can also be accessed through the PA PowerPort at www.state.pa.us.

The majority of licenses will continue to be sold through 1,300 sporting good and department stores that serve as issuing agents for the Fish and Boat Commission. However, the internet provides an option for Pennsylvania's anglers to purchase licenses from the convenience of their own home any time.

The availability of on-line licensing comes as anglers are gearing up for the annual opening of trout season, this year at 8 a.m. on April 14.

For the next few weeks, fishing licenses and trout stamps will be mailed. Within a month or so, purchasers of fishing licenses and trout stamps should be able to purchase "instant" fishing licenses and trout stamps online.

Purchasers will print their licenses and stamps on their home printers. These instant licenses will contain various safeguards to ensure their authenticity.



Senior Night for L-L boys basketball

Seniors were honored at a banquet on March 25th at the Apple Tree Terrace sponsored by the Lake-Lehman Boys Basketball Booster Club. From left: JV Coach Joe DeCesaris, April Eaton, John Popko, Al Sennett, Matt Dunn, and Varsity Coach Jim Spencer. Absent from photo; John Sharkus.

Lehman wrestlers advance to regionals

The Knights placed 15 wrestlers in M.A.W.A. Districts and will compete at Shamokin Sat., Mar. 31 and Sun., April 1 in the Northeastern Regionals. The top 4 place winners will advance to East Stroudsburg to compete in the Eastern National Championships.

They were: Bantam: Jake Winters, 52lbs., 2nd place; Ryan Murphy, 60lbs., 1st place; Josh Zacharias 52lbs., 3rd place; Derick Elard; 65lbs., 3rd place. Midget: Tyler McDonald, 80lbs., 2nd place; Shane Stark, 66lbs., 2nd place. Junior: Rick Bower, 91lbs, 2nd place. Intermediate: Matt Dragon, 128lbs., 1st place; Matt Davis, 136lbs., 1st place; Joe Klamunes, 145lbs., 3rd place; Andy Joshweit, 115lbs, 2nd place. Advanced: Derek White, 110lbs., 3rd place; Jeremy Schutz, 130lbs., 1st place; Scott Carter, 135lbs., 3rd place; Kevin McHugh, 145lbs., 3rd place.



HL White Dragons score gold

Members of the White Dragon Martial Arts School from the Back Mountain area recently attended the prestigious Coal Kickin Karate Tournament at Marion High school in Tamaqua Pa. hosted by tournament Director Jon Bonner. The students scored well, taking trophies and several scored the top prize in karate competition. Pictured from left are White Dragon stylists David Haas Sr. taking third in adult intermediate Fighting and third in Kata competition; Michael Weisenbacher taking First Place in intermediate youth Kata Division and Chris Marcikonis taking First Place in Junior Beginner fighting Division. They are commended for their professionalism, conduct and good sportsmanship. The students are trained in the art of Pai Lum, known in English as White Dragon KungFu, under the direction of Sifu William Lamoreux.



DHS Soccer craft show

The Dallas High School Soccer Club is sponsoring the annual Spring Craft Show on Sunday, April 1, at the Dallas Senior High School from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. More than 100 vendors from Pennsylvania and New Jersey will be represented and selling various crafts. Soccer Club members will be selling lunch and baked goods. Admission is free.

Seated from left: Kay Love, Blanche George, craft show co-ordinator and Pam Pambianco.

Standing from left: Christine Shiber and Rita Recchia.

DYB tournament teams results

5th Grade Tournament Team

Mark Covert scored 11 points and Eric Tucker eight as the DYB 5th Grade Team defeated Regis Academy 36-28 in the CYC 5th Grade Tournament. Mike Kravitsky added six points. Earlier in the tournament, Dallas edged Sacred Heart 26-18 behind Doug Harding's six points and the defense of Joe Kaiser and Michael Gross. The team lost to Valley West 34-25. DYB was led by Kyle Arnaud and Daniel Taroli with four points each and Peter Steve with three.

8th Grade Tournament Team

Jimmy Schwerdtman scored 17 points and Matt Kelly 14 as the 8th Grade Tournament Team defeated Northwest 68-43 in the consolation game of the Gate of Heaven Tournament. Also scoring for DYB were Ryan Marascio with eight points, D.J. Molino with seven, John Parulski and Matt Daube each with six each, and Curtis Mound with five.

In the opening round game, DYB lost to Lehman by 16 points as Eric Samanas and Michael Lloyd led the offense.

Baseball travel teams seek members

The Wyoming Valley Huskies traveling baseball teams are seeking players for the 2001 season. Players born on or after Aug. 1, 1990 are eligible for the ten and under team, while players born on or after Aug. 1, 1988 are eligible for the 12 and under team. The teams will play a 40 plus game schedule against all-star caliber teams from throughout the United States. Majority of games will be played on Saturdays and Sundays. Prospective players from the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton/Hazleton areas should email player profiles to wvalhuskies@netscape.net, or call Chris at 820-0510 for more information.