

Branco

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his back yard practicing moves, dribbling and shooting. He works out about five times a week to keep sharp. "The best advice I have for younger players is that it takes hard work and dedication," he said.

His biggest fans and supporters are his parents, grandparents and uncle Joe Branco. "I'm very fortunate to have a family that supports me the way they do.

"So many people have inspired me, but my uncle has always been there like a big brother," Ricky said, giving him guidance on the field and off.

Success has not gone to Ricky's head. He is very grounded and modest about his abilities. "I'm scared," he said, "The Europeans are very serious about soccer and I just don't want to make a fool out of myself."

But the grade school who told teachers he wanted to be a professional soccer player when he grew up now is getting his chance to taste the reality of his dream.

"For two weeks I get to pretend I'm a professional soccer player, playing in huge professional stadiums in Europe. It's a dream come true," he said.

"This is an opportunity of a

lifetime for Ricky," his mother Sharon Branco said. "He lives and breathes soccer. It's his number one love in life."

As with so many dreams, this one has a price tag attached. The two week extensive training with the world's top coaches will cost \$3,900.

Sharon said Ricky knows he has to raise the money himself in order to go to Europe. "He made up his mind in March that he was going. He has been trying to raise the money ever since."

"I've been selling hoagie tickets for Mamma's and Papa's. I wrote letters to local businesses asking for support," Ricky said. He is currently building a wall for his family to make some extra money. He also works part-time at Bi-Lo in Dallas.

"Everyone has dreams and goals they want to achieve," Ricky said. "I hope the community will help me achieve my dream." For the boy who has always been the smallest one on the field, world class competition will no longer be just a dream.

Anyone interested in helping Ricky with his opportunity of a lifetime may call him or his parents at 674-5972.



POST PHOTOS/JIM PHILLIPS



Mountaineers down Lehman

Mountaineer pitcher Kyle Ehls limited the Knights to one run over his five innings of work as the Mounts defeated their rivals on Thursday in Dallas. Senior Jeremy Harris finished the day 2-3 with 3 RBI and a homerun at the plate. Ryan Gryskewicz was also 2-3 and doubled. Junior Jordy Spencer homered in his only at-bat of the game. Jason Race and Josh Katyl each finished 1-3 with a double. Ehls and Race each knocked in a pair of runs, while Katyl crossed the plate twice. For the Knights Dustin Kapson and John Sharkus each went 2-4.

In top photo, Ryan Spencer tried to get a jump off first base, with Darrell Evans holding him on. Pitchers, above, were Ryan Spencer, left, for Lehman and Kyle Ehls for Dallas.

Wyoming Valley modified softball

| Standings | W | L |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| Back Mt. Harvest I | 3 | 0 |
| Immanuel Baptist | 2 | 1 |
| Evangelical Free | 2 | 1 |
| Wyo. Valley Christian | 2 | 1 |
| SV Church of Christ | 1 | 2 |
| Dallas Baptist | 1 | 2 |
| Alderson UM | 1 | 2 |
| Back Mt. Harvest II | 0 | 3 |

Last week's results

Back Mt. Harvest I 22, SV Church of Christ 13; Evangelical Free 32; Back Mt. Harvest II 8; Immanuel Baptist 20; Dallas Baptist 15; Wyoming Valley Christian 12; Alderson 8.

Bob Horlacher softball results

Bob Horlacher Brewers, 16, Back Mountain Dodgers, 6
Leading the Brewers with three hits apiece were Megan McDonald, Molly Kalish, and Katie Goode. Amanda Worditch followed with two R hits, and Jackie Brace with one hit. Katie Goode was the winning pitcher with ten strike outs.

Bob Horlacher Brewers 13, Back Mountain Phillies 3
Laura DeSoo led the Brewers with two hits including a triple. Jackie Brace followed with two hits. Amanda Wooditch and Katie Goode followed with one hit apiece. Winning pitcher was Katie Goode with 14 strikeouts. Leading the Phillies was Ally Evans with two hits.

BMT Baseball

(continued from page 9)

Pirates 7, Tigers 6

Brad Fagula struck out 13 Tigers in registering the complete game victory. Fagula and Mike McAndrew each singled twice for the Pirates. For the Tigers, Brian Feleccia blasted a home run. Dan Jacobs added a triple and George Yanchuk belted a double.

Phillies 7, Indians 1

Ryan Konopki pitched 3 hitless innings and struck out 8 of the 9 hitters he faced to lead the Phillies to victory. Billy Holena struck out 5 in his 3 innings on the mound. Mitchell Artzma led the offensive attack with a double and a single. Matt Hufford struck out 8 for the Indians.

Cardinals 6, Giants 0

Pat Murray and Mike Stolarick tossed a combined 2-hit shutout for the Cardinals, striking out a total of 8 batters. Stolarick singled twice while teammate Dylan Seeley collected a double. Doug Harding and Bobby Peron allowed only 3 hits for the Giants, combining to strike out 4.

Cardinals 11, Rangers 1

Dylan Seeley struck out 11 in pitching a 3-hitter for the Cardinals. Mike Stolarick and Ryan Phillips each belted a double and a single for the Cards while Seeley and Pat Murray each singled twice. Chad Gelso and Mark Covert added doubles for the winners. D J Anderson and Rob Crossley each doubled for the Rangers. Matt Ruch and Preston Balavage combined to strike out 6 for the Rangers.

JUNIOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Back Mountain Rockies 4, Wyoming/W. Wyo. Indians 3

Matt Kapitula struck out 5 en route to picking up the complete game victory. Kapitula also went 3 for 3 at the plate. Brandon Wills, who went 2 for 3, doubled home the winning run.

W. Wyoming Exterminators 13, Back Mountain Braves 2

John Paul Parulski and Ryan Harvey each collected 2 hits for the Braves. Parulski, Eric Samanas and Alex Harding combined to strike out 9 Exterminators.

For the victors, Kenny and Falzone each had 2 hits. Falzone recorded 9 strikeouts.

SENIOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Back Mountain Rockies 8, Wyoming 1

Matt Shiskowski struck out 11 in tossing a complete game for the Rockies. Mike Rackoski cracked 3 hits and Mike Yenason had 2 for the winners. Chuck Stajewski added a 2-run double to the cause.

MAJOR LEAGUE SOFTBALL

A's 25, Red Sox 15

Kelsey Moody led the A's offensive explosion with a triple and 2 doubles. Jackie Thomas ripped 2 doubles and a single for the winners while Stephanie Pace singled 3 times. Kathleen Paley

added a double and a single to the A's attack while Courtney Taylor had 2 singles and Angela Wagner had a double. Moody was the winning pitcher with 7 strikeouts. For the Red Sox, Susie Krogulski had 3 singles and Stephanie Konicki doubled twice.

A's 25, Harveys Lake 17

Kristin Evans led the high-powered A's offense with 3 singles and a double. Kelsey Moody contributed 2 doubles and a single while Shauna Phillips smacked 3 singles. Courtney Taylor tripled and singled for the winners while Amber Cahill had a double and a single and Stephanie Pace collected 2 singles. Kathleen Paley added a double. Pace was the winning pitcher, striking out 4. Moody struck out 2 en route to picking up the save. For Harveys Lake, Amanda Kotulski belted a home run and a single. Kasey Welebob

collected 2 singles. Kotulski struck out 3 A's while on the mound.

White Sox 17, Harveys Lake II 13

Rebecca Banks and Lauren Zook powered the White Sox offense with 3 hits apiece. Jessica English and Kristin Dalkiewicz each contributed 2 hits, including a triple by English. Dalkiewicz was the winning pitcher, striking out 1. For Harveys Lake, Melinda Ritts blasted a home run while Martine Besteder and Vicki Lacey each singled twice. Megan Devine struck out 1 batter.

Shootout ends Dallas soccer season

It took a full game and then some for Wyoming Valley West to hand Dallas its only loss of the season and knock the Lady Mountaineers out of the district playoffs Monday.

After finishing regulation and four overtimes in a scoreless tie, Valley West's Jen Marks scored on the fourth shot of the shootout, the first goal scored against Dallas since April 23.

Stacey Amann had scored a shootout goal for Dallas, but Marks, Stephanie Iveson and Jill Soroka found the net for Valley West.

Gate of Heaven 8th grade girls reach milestones

Five Gate of Heaven eighth grade girls each scored 500 points during their basketball career at Gate of Heaven and Janelle Zabresky scored her 1000th point. The 500 point scorers were: Kim Durr, Katy Whalen, Kristen Evans. Standing: Devin Carey and Sandy Krogulski.



POST PHOTOMONICA MARZANI

On track

Kevin Arnaud took that handoff from Peter Miller in the District 2, Class AAA track meet last week. They were two of the four Dallas runners in the 3200 meter relay. Dallas placed sixth.

CROSSWORD CORNER

challenger THE INTERNATIONAL CROSSNUMBER GAME

DIRECTIONS:
Fill each square with a number, one through nine.
• Horizontal squares should add to totals on right.
• Vertical squares should add to totals on bottom.
• Diagonal squares through center should add to total in upper and lower right.

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| 15 | 23 | 12 | 5 | 13 | | | | | | |

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Super Crossword

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| ACROSS | 1 Word with dance or hero | 57 Team scream | 107 Pigeonhole | 9 Rapidly, to Rossini | 10 Frenzy | 11 Garfield's pal | 12 Gilpin of "Fraser" | 13 Nautical rope | 14 Check | 15 Impressive building | 16 TV's "My Sister" | 19 Dilute | 20 Sneaky sort | 27 Meyers of "Kate & Allie" | 28 Ornamental dangler | 29 Principles | 33 Duty | 34 Saxophonist | 35 Ned | 36 Small bird | 37 Great bird? | 38 Actress | 133 Toboggan | DOWN | 1 College club | 2 "That hurts!" | 3 Quee | 43 Can. | 46 '87 Warren Beatty film | 48 Last name in fashion | 8 Eastern leader | 51 "Dies —" | 52 Rowan or Rather | 53 Truman Cabinet member | 54 Movie mogul | 55 Whitman's bloomer | 60 Fied | 61 Frigid | 62 Monsarrat's "The Cruel" | 63 Night vision? | 64 Inventor | 66 Actress | 67 Pepsin or lipase | 69 Barrier | 70 Word form for "environment" | 71 Goof | 73 Sanford of "The Jeffersons" | 74 Ralston or Miles | 75 Hardy woman | 77 Tennis legend | 79 Golfer's gadget | 81 Nervous — | 83 "Swan Lake" | 84 1, 102, to Calpurnia | 86 Ian of "The Borrowers" | 87 Role for 27 Down | 88 Nasty | 90 Sturm — | 91 Drang | 91 Compass pt. | 92 Mine find | 93 Lyricist | 94 Coal container | 95 Doughboy's duds | 96 Conceal | 101 Light | 103 Poet Wylie | 105 Burnt — | 106 Branch | 109 Terrible name? | 110 Periwinkle, for one | 112 "Would you look at that!" | 113 Algerian port | 114 Vex | 115 Winelet of "Hamlet" | 116 Jackknife, e.g. | 117 — surgery | 118 Puppy | 119 Monopoly destination | 120 Stare sallyciously | 121 Daring | 122 Ample abdomen |
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King Crossword

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| ACROSS | 1 Applaud | 5 Fond du -, WI | 8 Go under | 12 Singer Fabian | 13 Menu phrase | 14 King of Siam's employee | 15 Racetrack | 16 Work-shift indicator | 18 Mexican entree | 20 Locations | 21 Poi base | 23 "- not choose to run" | 24 Jack, for one | 28 Within (Prefix) | 31 Alter - | 32 Illinois city | 34 Noise | 35 Took off | 37 Escape humiliation | 39 Apprehend | 41 1492 vessel | 42 "20 Questions" category | 45 Coy | 49 Take a shortcut | 51 Privy to | 52 Finished | 53 Workweek start (Abbr.) | 54 Earring type | 55 Government agents | 56 Unsuitable | 57 Weeding tools | 9 South American boa | 10 Concerning | 11 Young fellows | 17 Yale student | 19 Fasten a sneaker | 22 Keyboard instrument | 24 A mere handful | 25 Census datum | 26 Plotted | 27 Share-holder's due | 29 Spasm | 30 "A Chorus Line" song | 33 Hawaiian goose | 36 Circus performers | 38 Cause to starve | 40 McGwire's tool | 42 Since | 43 Hub | 44 Branch | 46 Golden Rule word | 47 Licentious one | 48 Remnants | 50 Extinct New Zealand bird |
|---------------|-----------|-----------------|------------|------------------|----------------|----------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------|------------------|----------|-------------|-----------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------------------|--------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|---------------|------------------|----------------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------------|----------|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------|--------|-----------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|

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