

The Dallas Post

SportsWeek

Section 2

Academics, swimming give Liz Byron college options

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DALLAS - Will it be Notre Dame, Stanford, Harvard or Yale? Those are just a few of the prestigious colleges that are interested in Liz Byron, daughter of Tom and Joan Byron, of Dallas.

"It's a lot of fun to get their letters," said Liz. "The first one is real basic but then they get more and more personal. The last one I got from Notre Dame told me about the girls' basketball team meeting the president and a lot about their other sports teams."

Liz, who just completed her junior year at Bishop Hoban, is a standout swimmer. This year she led her team to the state championship at Penn State Main Campus where the team placed sixth. Liz was the only member of the team who had been to the state level of competition before.

Liz joined the swim team at the Catholic Youth Center when she was 8 years old. "It was fun getting medals when I was little but now I really like to do well to gain points to help our team," she said.

After swimming on the CYC team for seven years, Liz has served as a volunteer coach there for the last three years. She has been on Hoban's team for her three years of high school and, in addition, joined the Bloomsburg Area YMCA swim team last summer.

"There is a lot of competition on that team and I really get pushed. One of the members is on the world swim team and there are a couple of national winners," Liz explained.

Bloomsburg is an hour away and Liz swims there at least three times a week during the school year and six days a week during the summer.

"It has really taught me how to man-

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Liz Byron
Hoban swimming star

age my time. During the year, I frequently go there after a two and one half hour practice with school. I use all of my other time to study or do what I need to do," said Byron. "I'm always doing something."

In addition to swimming, Liz participates in a spring sport and this year she won the award for Player of the Year for Track and Field at Bishop Hoban. "That was really great for me

because I had a very short season. The swim season limited me to a 28-day track season and I won two medals in track," she said.

Liz has won plenty of medals and trophies throughout her swimming career. She likes all of the strokes but her best are freestyle and butterfly. She also does well with the backstroke. This past year she traveled to the Swimming Hall of Fame in Fort Lauderdale for the national YMCA competition where she won four medals. Also, during her sophomore year at Hoban, she was on a relay team that came in second in the state. "It's always a great atmosphere there because we have a big cheering section for Bishop Hoban," she said.

Liz likes to surround herself with swimming. "Her bedroom is like a work of art," said her mother, Joan. "The

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Liz Byron, wearing one of the medals she won at the state championship swimming meet.



POST PHOTOS/JIM PHILLIPS

Safe at home

Cassandra Backes slid under the tag in Senior League softball action last week. Abby Wasserott, above left, let a pitch fly. In lower right photo, Lauren Pyskoty and Sarah Piezynski waited for their turns at bat.

Pocono I girls go for gold

Pocono I Girls Junior Basketball Team has been selected to compete in Johnstown. Sixteen teams, with two teams from each of the eight regions across the state will compete for the gold medal. Members of the team are ninth graders Shannon Thomas, Dallas; Meredith Lacey, Dallas; Jackie Hardwick, Dallas; Rosalyn Wentko, Dallas; Ashleigh King, Dallas; and eighth grader Cory Patton, Dallas. The team is coached by Lew Thomas and Mark Lacey. Thomas, Lacey, Wentko, King and Hardwick were all members of the 1999 Youth Gold Medal Team.

Sharkus to play at King's

John Sharkus, a standout member of the Lake-Lehman High School football team, has announced he will continue his academic and athletic career with the 2000 Eastern College Athletic Conference Southern Region champion King's College Monarchs.

The 6 foot 3 inch, 220-pound Sharkus was a three-year letter winner for the Black Knights where he was a defensive end and offensive lineman. As a senior, he was named a first team Northeastern Pennsylvania Football Conference Southern Division all-star at defensive end. As a junior, he was also named a Wyoming Valley Conference second team offensive lineman. Sharkus has also been selected to play in the UNICO All-Star Game.

He has also been an outstanding baseball player at Lehman where he is a three year letter-winner and was a WVC all-star choice.

"I feel that King's is very strong academically and the facilities are first class for both academics and athletic," Sharkus stated.

At King's he will join an NCAA Division III program which competes in the highly regarded Middle Atlantic Conference. The Monarchs come off a 7-4 season in which the team captured the ECAC Southern Region title. He is the son of Charlie and Sandy Sharkus, Hunlock Creek.



JOHN SHARKUS

Astros, Cards win first playoff tilts

Cardinals 10, Dodgers 0

The Cardinals, regular season co-champions of the National League with a record of 15-3, rode the power hitting of Mike Stolarick and Scott Henry, as well as the power pitching of Dylan Sealey, to victory over the fourth-place Dodgers, who compiled a regular-season record of 12-6. Stolarick and Henry each blasted a home run and a double for the winners. Chad Gelso added two singles for the Cards. Sealey threw a complete game two-hit shutout, striking out eight. Jeff Clemente and John Giampietro combined to strike out six batters for the Dodgers. Clemente and Tommy Oswalt accounted for the

Dodgers' hits.

Astros 9, Reds 2

The Astros, co-champions of the National League during the regular season with a 15-3 record, began their playoff run with a 9-2 victory over the third-place Reds, who finished the regular season at 13-5. Jon Janerich struck out seven batters while tossing a four-hit complete game for the Astros. Dan Taroli powered the Astro offense with a double and a single while Jared Kopechne and Wally Simko each added a double. Chris DeRojas led the Reds with three hits. Joe Bevevino and Greg Harris combined to strike out nine Astros.



Mark Engler had a little fatherly coaching advice for his son, Kevin, above.



Mike Supzenski was not happy after striking out.



Tom Parrish took a throw at second, too late for an out.

O's top Tigers in seven innings

If you happened to catch the Major League Little League game between the Orioles and the Tigers last week, you were treated to one of the most exciting games of the year.

The Orioles, with a record of 12 wins and 5 losses, needed to win to stay a game ahead of the Yankees and Tigers. The Tigers with a 12-6 record, needed the win to pull even with the Orioles going into the last game of the season. The last meeting of the two teams earlier this year went to the Tigers 5-4, with Brian Feleccia outdueling Tom Parrish in a true all-star pitching matchup. This night the starting pitchers would be Brian Feleccia again for the Tigers, against Eric Tucker for the Orioles.

After P.J. Precone flied out in the top of the first, Ben Gardner walked and

Chris Jerzak singled, bringing Feleccia to the plate. His line drive was caught by Josh Clay who was able to double Jerzak off at first, ending that half of the inning. Clay led off the Orioles' half of the first with a line drive to the gap in left center field that was caught by Vincent Oliveri. The Orioles were able to push across a run later in the inning thanks to a single by Tom Parrish and four consecutive walks.

Dan Jacobs led off the Tigers second with a booming double to center and scored thanks to three walks and a hit batsman. With the bases loaded and none out, Tucker was able to strike out the Tigers and leave with the Tigers holding a 2-1 lead.

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Send your sports reports
by e-mail
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