

The Dallas Post

SportsWeek

Section 2

Girls wind up softball careers with 2nd place state finish

By BETTY HINDS
Post Correspondent

BACK MOUNTAIN - After seven years together, the teammates played their last game on July 29. Although they lost this championship game, placing second in the state, they had won a lifetime of memories and friendships.

On July 27, this team of 17 and 18 year olds, the Back Mountain Big League Softball All-Stars, participated in their final All-star tournament, held in Shippensburg. For the sixth time, this all-star lineup had qualified for a Pennsylvania State Softball Championship Tournament, along with the other top three teams in the state.

Disappointingly, they lost their first game of the double-elimination tournament. Their excitement was rebuilt as they went on to win the next three games, qualifying for the state championship game. Although they came in second, losing to Jersey Shore by a score of 4-1, the girls, their families, and their fans were proud of their success as a team.

"I am proud of what we accomplished," said Natalie Shiskowski, a recent Lake-Lehman graduate. "Someday I will be telling my kids about the great times we had together." Natalie started playing tee-ball when she was 7.

This group of girls has been playing together since they were 11. Together, they played in Little League (ages 11-12), Senior League (ages 13-16), and finally Big League (ages 17-18). Another team member, Stephanie Simonitis began play-



The 2001 Back Mountain Big League All-Stars finished second in the state tournament. Jan Nunemacher is seated in front. Standing, from left: Colleen Mahon, Carrie Strasser, Danielle Zagata, Erin Madigan, Stephanie Simonitis, Melonie Sappe, Christy Hiller, Cassie Sailus, April Naugle, Natalie Shiskowski.

ing tee-ball at age 8. Last year she played softball for Shippensburg State University. "Softball has taught me discipline and given me a lot of great experiences," she said.

Coach Gary Naugle led this All-star team through every tournament. He has been coaching softball for 15 years, and he has been an All-star coach for 10 years. His daughter

April was part of the team and also finished her Back Mountain career this season.

Naugle has had many great moments with the team. He reminisced about one nail-biting

game two years ago. "The girls were 16, and it was their last year in Senior League. At the time we thought it might be their last game together. It was the bottom of the seventh, with

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Dallas

two outs and two strikes. We had lost one game already and were one strike away from elimination. We went on to win the game and made it to the state tournament."

Carrie Strausser, a recent Dallas graduate, appreciated playing for Coach Naugle. "He is an excellent coach," she said. "This was a great ending to our years of softball."

Carrie attributes much of their success to their cohesion as a team. "Team unity has been very important, getting along on and off the field," she said. "We often lost games when we weren't getting along. Part of the reason we had such a successful season this year was because of our great unity."

Also in her final year of Back Mountain softball, Erin Madigan agreed. "I made some great friends on the team. Most of us have been playing together since fourth grade." She added, with enthusiasm, "I love the game, and it's been a great group of kids."

Erin's mother, Carol Madigan, traveled with the team to Shippensburg for the tournament. "The tournament was exciting and we had a great time," she said. "We are very proud of the girls."

Bird seasons open Sept. 1

Dove season will open Saturday, Sept. 1, as part of Pennsylvania's 2001 migratory bird seasons and bag limits announced by Pennsylvania Game Commission Executive Director Vern Ross.

Selections for migratory fowl, including a statewide early Canada goose season, will include expanded daily and possession limits for geese and a longer woodcock season.

Dove hunters will again have the opportunity to participate in a triple-split season. During the first season (Sept. 1-Oct. 5), hunting will start at noon and continue through sunset daily. The second and third splits will be Oct. 27-Nov. 24, and Dec. 26-Dec. 31, with hunting hours a half-hour before sunrise until sunset. In all three seasons the daily bag limit will be 12 and the possession limit after opening day 24.

The early statewide season for resident Canada geese will open Sept. 1, and continue through Sept. 25. Statewide bag limits have been increased to five daily and 10 in possession. In 2000, only the southeast portion of the state had a daily bag limit of five and a possession limit of 10, while the remainder of the state was restricted to limits of three and six, respectively.

"Based on a resident breeding goose population of 247,000, the second highest figure since 1992, Pennsylvania was granted the authority to increase daily and possession limits statewide," said John Dunn, PGC waterfowl biologist. "This should help address damage and nuisance complaints by farmers and operators of facilities such as golf courses, parks and public open spaces."

The woodcock season will open Saturday, Oct. 20, and continue through Saturday, Nov. 17, a marked increase over recent years when a conservative approach was taken in selecting

seasons.

"This year Pennsylvania went with the same 30-day woodcock season most other states in the East are selecting," said Dunn. "We were guided in this decision by the results of a two-year woodcock survival study jointly conducted in Pennsylvania, Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont, which indicated that hunting has little impact on woodcock survival. What the study did point out was the need to focus on developing and maintaining habitat critical to woodcock."

The daily limit of three birds and six in possession after opening day remains unchanged.

Virginia and sora rails and moorhen hunting will run from Sept. 1 to Nov. 9. A season for common snipe will run from Oct. 20 to Nov. 24.

Young Pennsylvania hunters will be provided with a special day of waterfowl hunting on Saturday, Sept. 22. Youth Waterfowl Day will be open to holders of junior licenses ages 12-15. To participate, a youngster must be accompanied by an adult, who may assist the youth in calling, duck identification and other aspects of the hunt. Adults accompanying a youngster on the Youth Waterfowl Day hunt may not attempt to harvest ducks, but may legally harvest geese as part of the early season, provided they are properly licensed.

All migratory game bird hunters, including those afield for doves and woodcock, must carry a migratory game bird license (\$3 for residents, \$6 for nonresidents) in addition to a general hunting license. This applies to all resident, nonresident, junior, senior and lifetime license holders. All waterfowl hunters age 16 and over must possess a federal migratory game bird (duck) stamp.

Youth Waterfowl Day will be Sept. 22; daily limit to be announced.



GOH players attend ProShot Camp

ProShot Basketball Camp held a basketball camp specializing in basketball shooting and offensive skills. Each camp features competitions, games, as well as instruction. Competition winners were: 2 on 2, Danielle Krawetz; 3 on 3, Erin Delaney; knockout, Erin Delaney; passing, Erin Delaney; dribbling, Erin Delaney and Kim Konnick; rack shooting, Danielle Krawetz; hotshot, Erin Delaney; shooting medley, Kim Konnick; and 3 on 2 Champ, Erin Delaney and Danielle Krawetz. Erin Delaney from Gate of Heaven was named Outstanding Player.

Players first row from left: Erin Delaney, Danielle Krawetz, Krysta Kerrick, Megan Wills. Second row: Kayla Caruso, Julie Haller, Kim Konnick, Hillary Mosca.

Legion falls after game attempt

After back-to-back wins Thursday and Friday, the Back Mountain American Legion baseball team was ousted from the regional tournament August 4, losing 8-7 to Danville.

Back Mountain led 7-3 going into the bottom of the eighth inning, in which Danville scored twice. Things fell apart in the bottom of the ninth, with an error and a game-winning wild pitch leading to a Danville comeback win.

Kyle Ehliis allowed five runs in 7 2/3 innings on the mound. Jeremy Harris took the loss, allowing two hits and two runs in the final stanza. Harris went 2-for-4 at the plate and drove in

four runs. J.B. Bucha went 3-for-4, and Gaise Lacek's triple plated two runs.

On Friday, Back Mountain avenged a loss earlier in the tournament, hammering Sunbury 11-5, with Ryan Spencer leading the offense. Spencer went 2-for-5 and drove in three runs; Lacek drove in a pair with a double and a sacrifice fly. Darrell Evans went the distance for the win.

Back Mountain reached the semifinal round with a 6-5 victory over Plymouth-Grontkowsi Thursday. In that game, Evans drove in two with a triple. Ehliis was credited with the win.

Noon named to All-Star team

Jennifer Noon of Shavertown was named to the Big East Field Hockey Academic All-Star team for the 2000-2001 academic year. The requirements are to letter in a sport and to maintain a grade point average of 3.0 or better. Jenn completed her freshman year at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, N.J. Playing in all of the regular season games, Jennifer netted her first collegiate goal against Brown University, after fixing two shots on goal.

2001 Duck Stamp on sale

Waterfowl enthusiasts and those who appreciate wildlife fine art now can purchase Pennsylvania's 2001 voluntary duck stamp and print from the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

The work of young Linglestown artist Clark M. Weaver is entitled Pintail Trio, and topped 22 other entries in the annual Pennsylvania Duck Stamp contest held last September as part of the Pymatuning Waterfowl Expo.

"Weaver has proven that age is no barrier to achieving acclaim as a wildlife artist," said J. Carl Graybill Jr., Bureau of Information and Education director. "In winning the 2001 duck stamp contest, Weaver also joined a very select group of artists who have been repeat winners in the Pennsylvania competition."

Now a three-time winner, Weaver's first winning entry came in 1997 with mergansers as the subject. He repeated in 1999 with a pair of ringneck ducks as the focus of his talents.

Currently an art major at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, Weaver crashed the national wildlife art scene as a teenager, winning the federal Junior Duck Stamp Contest not once, but twice.

A graduate of Central Dauphin High School, Harrisburg, Weaver is the protégé of long-time friend

Gerald W. Putt of Boiling Springs. Putt's signature on Pennsylvania duck stamps and prints is most familiar. He's the only four-time winner in the history of the Keystone State competition.

The Pintail Trio print with mint stamp is available from the Pennsylvania Game Commission for \$140.50 (add \$75 for framing). Posters of the 1997 through 2001 winning duck stamp contest designs are \$12 each (add \$35 for framing). Pennsylvania residents also must add 6 percent sales tax along with shipping and handling costs.

The voluntary duck stamp costs \$5.50; \$22 for a plate block of four; and \$55 for a full sheet of 10. Five or more full sheets (any available editions) sell for \$40 per sheet. Stamps for the 1997, '98, '99 and '00 designs still are available.

Orders may be placed online by going to www.pgc.state.pa.us and clicking on "The Outdoor Shop." Orders may be billed to most credit cards. Or call toll-free 1-888-888-3459, or write PA Game Commission, Dept. MS, 2001 Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797.

The 2002 Pennsylvania Duck Stamp contest will be held as part of the Pymatuning Waterfowl Expo, Saturday, Sept. 15.

Basketball camp offered Aug. 20-24

Full Court Press Basketball Camp at the Jewish Community Center campsite in Idetown. Camp dates are Aug. 20 thru Aug. 24. Camp will be under the direction of Wyoming Valley West Head Coach Dan Messinger and staff. Players entering grades fourth through eighth are invited. Drinks, refreshments, t-shirts, swimming, and tennis will be available during and after each clinic. For details call Eric Kvanson at the J.C.C. 824-4646 or 639-1889.

Dennis Bonvie Hockey School

Dennis Bonvie Hockey School will host a summer ice hockey camp at the Ice Box Skating Rinks, Pittston, for players ages 6-16. The hockey school will run from Mon., Aug. 20, thru Fri., Aug. 24. For more info contact Amy or Don at 883-1100 or stop by the Ice Box to pick up an application.

Dallas Gridiron Club

The Dallas Gridiron Club is sponsoring the Annual College Kickoff Classic Game on Aug. 26. This year the trip will be to the Meadowlands to see Syracuse vs. Georgia Tech. Tickets are available for \$55 each. Included is the bus, game, food and beverage. There are a limited number of seats available. Call Brad Arnaud for reservations at 675-2751.

L-L Football Club meets Aug. 16

The Lake-Lehman Football Club will meet Thu., Aug. 16, at Grotto Pizza at 7:30 p.m. All parents of football players and cheerleaders are encouraged to attend. Will be finalizing plans for meet the players night.