

THE DALLAS POST

SportsWeek

Section 2

Seniors make college commitments

BY TIMOTHY J. RAUB
Post Staff

DALLAS TWP. — After a lengthy decision process, Dallas football standouts Chuck Suppon and John Simonitis have signed formal letters of intent to continue their academic and athletic careers on the collegiate level.

Simonitis will be headed to the University of Pittsburgh this fall, while Suppon signed his official letter of intent to play for James Madison University February 6 at Dallas High School.

"It feels great (to sign my letter of intent)," said Suppon. "It has been really stressful for a year to get where I feel comfortable."

Suppon, a four-year starter for the Mountaineers at quarterback, gave a verbal commitment to play for the Dukes two weeks

".. Pittsburgh is definitely the place for me."

John Simonitis
Dallas senior

earlier. James Madison was his first official college visit, and the support of Dukes head coach Mickey Matthews helped the former Mountaineer standouts make his decision.

"I didn't know if because it was my first official visit, that's where I wanted to go," said Suppon. "I met with (Matthews) a bunch of times and he showed a lot of interest in me."

Matthews, who has put together a 14-9 record in two seasons with the NCAA Division I-AA Dukes, said he recruited Suppon for his athletic ability, and likes to recruit

quarterbacks who can play other positions. "Wherever I have coached, both at Marshall and Georgia, we have tried to recruit the best athletic quarterbacks we could find," said Matthews. "Because of Chuck's size and athletic ability, he could play a lot of different positions for us."

Suppon comes to the Dukes along with Lackawanna Junior College running back Mike Kitchen, who will have two years of eligibility with the team.

The decision was a lot easier for Simonitis, who gave his verbal commitment to play for the Panthers in early August.

"It was a lot of pressure on me to decide where I wanted to go to college," said Simonitis. "But Pittsburgh is definitely the place for me."

See COLLEGE, pg 12



John Simonitis, center, signed his letter of intent, flanked by his parents, Debbie and John Simonitis Sr. Standing, from left: Ted Jackson, Dallas football coach; Jack Wolensky, Dallas high school athletic director.

McCafferty, Boris win Killer Bees awards

BY TIMOTHY J. RAUB
Post Staff

WILKES-BARRE — Former Dallas High School soccer coach John McCafferty and Lake-Lehman field hockey standout Lindsay Boris left the Killer Bees Athletic Club Banquet a little heavier.

But not because of the food. McCafferty was honored by the club with the Eddie White Pioneer Award for the promotion of area sports, for his role in establishing one of the area's first high school soccer programs at Dallas, in 1981.

"I am thrilled that the Killer Bees recognized me," said McCafferty. "When I first started (coaching), soccer was not very popular in the area, but I loved doing what I did, so I just did it."

McCafferty joins the late Jerry Stinson, former athletic director at Dallas on the list of recipients.

Boris is an all-state field hockey player who ranks second in

her class at Lake-Lehman, enjoyed her recognition for her work both in the classroom and on the athletic field.

"I feel really grateful that I won this award," said Boris. "I knew the other girls were great student-athletes, so I am just really happy."

Boris joins a list of recipients dominated by Back Mountain student-athletes since its inception in 1996, including: Debbie White (1996, Lake-Lehman), Stephanie Potisek (1998, Dallas) and Sarah Davis (Lake-Lehman, 2000).

High school seniors from Wyoming Valley Conference schools who have an "A" average and a letter in a varsity sport were eligible for the award. A selection committee of club members chose the winners for the student-athlete awards.

Wyoming Seminary's state championship field hockey team was also given special recognition from the Killer Bees for their accomplishments this season.



Shannon Thomas (3) fends off a Nanticoke defender in Dallas's 53-50 win over the Trojans on February 11 at Dallas High School. The win put the Mountaineers in a two-way tie for first-place in the WVC Division II second half play-off race with Wyoming Area.

POST PHOTO/JIM PHILLIPS

Dallas girls tie for 2nd half crown

They'll meet Wyoming Area in tiebreaker

By JOHN ERZAR
Special to The Dallas Post

DALLAS TWP. — The young Dallas girls basketball team hasn't experienced playoff basketball yet, but Monday night felt like a dress rehearsal.

The Mountaineers saw a double-figure lead evaporate. They needed a couple clutch free throws from Ashleigh King with 13 seconds remaining. And, finally, they had to watch a three-pointer miss the mark to hang on for a 53-50 victory over Nanticoke Area in a Wyoming Valley Conference Division II game.

"They gave us the game we wanted," said Dallas sophomore Rosalyn Wentko, who scored a game-high 17 points and diverted Nanticoke's final three-point shot slightly by barely getting a hand on the ball. "They gave it all to us, and it helped us a lot."

Dallas (6-2 Div. II, 21-3 overall) tied Wyoming Area for the

See DALLAS, pg 13



CLARK VAN ORDEN/FOR THE DALLAS POST

Riley is new Northeast Region Game Commissioner

John J. Riley of Pocono Township, Monroe County, was sworn in as a member of the Board of Pennsylvania Game Commissioners on Friday at the Game Commission Northeast Region Office in Dallas Township. Former Gov. Tom Ridge nominated Riley for the seat on Sept. 25. The eight counties in the Northeast Region that Riley will serve are Luzerne, Lackawanna, Carbon, Pike, Monroe, Susquehanna, Wayne and Wyoming. Commissioners serve eight-year terms without compensation. Because Riley is assuming a vacant seat, his term will end in June 2006.

Harveys Lake Little League registration

The Final Registration date for the 2002 Harveys Lake Little League season will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, February 23, at the Harveys Lake Recreation Building.

Children ages 5 to 16 that live in Harveys Lake Borough and Lake Township are eligible to register to play baseball or softball.

The registration fee is \$30 per child or \$40 per household. Parent or guardian must have photocopy of every player's birth certificate at the time of registration and insurance information.

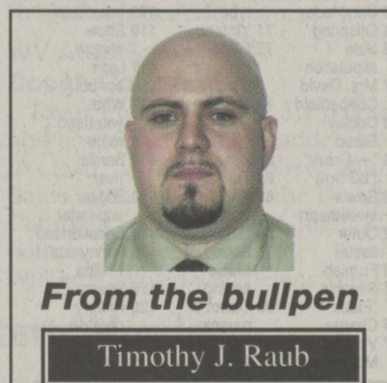
For more information, call the Harveys Lake Little League at 639-1988.

Pocono Pee Wees win one; tie one

The Pocono Pirates Pee Wee A ice hockey team played to a win and a tie this past weekend in Delaware Valley Hockey League Action.

Ricky Rose scored a goal, and Drew Slocum, both of Shavertown. Slocum stopped 17 shots in the Pee Wee Pirates' 3-3 tie with Valley Forge.

Eric Wroblewski of Shavertown and Rose each had assists in the Pee Wee Pirates' 7-0 victory over the PA Predators. Slocum had 10 saves in the winning effort.



From the bullpen
Timothy J. Raub

Soccer standout conquered adversity

left him with serious trauma to the head, and numerous other injuries which put his playing career in jeopardy.

"I was lucky to live," said George. "(The doctors) weren't even sure if I was going to be able to play again."

But through the support of family, friends and coaches, and the self-determination of a million men, George made a full recovery and even signed an official letter of intent to play collegiate soccer for Cornell University, one of the top Division I soccer programs in the country.

"When I found out I got in (to Cornell), it was definitely one of the best feelings I ever had," said George. "A lot of hard work, especially after my accident has made it all worth while."

George has recovered fully from his injuries, and has been

a key part of Dallas's three straight trips to the PIAA Class 2A state soccer tournament.

"Andrew has been a very important player on this team," said Dallas head soccer coach Chris Scharff. "A lot of time and effort went into putting Andrew where he is today, and for him, now it has all paid off."

George, who also carries a 3.2 GPA, was named Wyoming Valley Conference Class 2A Division MVP, PIAA All-State and was just recently named to the 2001 Regional All-American team — not bad for a kid who was not given much of a chance to even step on a soccer field again.

"I am proud of myself for coming through my accident," said George. "It has made me a better person and player."

George will major in hotel and restaurant management, some-

thing he said made Cornell such a great fit for him.

"It has always been an interest of mine to go into hotel and restaurant management," said George. "Both of my parents went to Cornell for the same thing, and many of my relatives are in the restaurant business."

"Andrew has been able to face adversity, and look it in the face," said Scharff. "He has a desire to succeed, and is not willing to quit."

And he shouldn't either.

McCafferty's Honor:

Former Dallas soccer coach John McCafferty's honor by the Killer Bees Athletic Club, recognizing him for his efforts in starting one of the first high soccer programs in the area.

See BULLPEN, pg 12

Lake-Lehman's Baranowski elected to volleyball coaches hall of fame

Lake-Lehman boys volleyball coach John Baranowski was recently inducted into the Pennsylvania Volleyball Coaches Association's Hall of Fame.

Baranowski was inducted during a luncheon at State College High School. Three others also were chosen: Souderton High coach Will Lapp, Slippery Rock University coach Laurie Lokash and Cedar Crest Col-

lege coach Dave Stever.

Baranowski is the only boys coach in Lake-Lehman history. He began his coaching career in 1976, and has a 318-17 record in Wyoming Valley Conference and District 2 matches. His teams have been undefeated WVC champions 19 times, won 16 District 2 titles, qualified for the state tournament 20 times and made the state

quarterfinals on four occasions.

A founding member of the PVCA, Baranowski served as the association's district representative, representative counsel and/or boys vice president for more than 12 years. He also has been involved with the PVCA State All-Star Match as coach, site coordinator or chairperson on numerous occasions.

Baranowski's other accomplishments include: Keystone State Games Pocono Region coach; USA or AAU volleyball coach; volleyball camp instructor at Penn State Wilkes-Barre; and player and organizer of area recreational leagues. He recently became a PIAA and Nagws volleyball official and has four sons still involved in the sport at various levels.