

THE DALLAS POST

SportsWeek

Section 2



From the bullpen

Timothy J. Raub

College athletes show they care

As I pulled into the Stanton Lanes parking lot Saturday, I was met by a wall of cars in just about every direction.

And then, as I opened the front doors, I could barely make my way into the main lobby of the bowling alley.

I was really surprised to see the number of college athletes at the alley at an early time (for them) of 10 a.m. on a Saturday. From football to softball players and from fraternity and sorority members to just the average "Joe," thousands of people turned out for Big Brothers/Big Sisters annual Bowling For Kids Sake at Stanton.

It is a true sign that not all college athletes are out to play sports, drink beer and occasionally go to that thing called class. Some of these athletes really showed they cared.

At one point in the morning, a stretch of about 10 to 15 lanes was taken up by just King's College athletes, all of whom could have stayed out to make sure the keg got kicked and stayed in bed until a much more reasonable time of 1-2 p.m.

But they didn't.

These athletes raised money, and showed those who turned out for the event that they could be part of the answer as well, and not the problem — like some collegiate athletes.

Is it getting that hard to make money in the Majors?

I could not believe what I had heard, when I learned that now former New York Yankee Ruben Rivera stole a glove from Derek Jeter's locker in the team's spring training facility.

For a guy who stood to make about \$1,000,000 this season, it is almost impossible to believe he would do such a stupid thing, especially to a teammate, and for only a few thousand dollars.

Teams share a lot of emotions together, and the locker room is like their home. A lot of things happen in a locker room that build bonds for teammates, and Rivera went to to an extreme extent to shatter the code of honor and respect athletes have for one another.

This should have never been an issue, and athletes on all levels should be able to leave a locker room with their locker door wide open, and not have to worry about anything ever being taken from it.

It's a matter of respect, Ruben. Thank God your teammates had the wisdom to send you packing and not forgive you, because it's apparent they'll never trust you.

Rich's Return

Rich Butcofski, a 1995 Dallas High School graduate and former East Stroudsburg University standout linebacker, made his return to the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Pioneers lineup Monday.

Butcofski, who sat out almost a week with an ankle injury, returned to practice March 25, a week before the team's mandatory roster cut, which will narrow the squad to 21 players.

"I missed a week of camp, so I'm a little behind," Butcofski told the Times Leader. "I've got to push myself a little bit."



RICHARD SABATURA/FOR THE DALLAS POST

Amy Aston-Rome, 1st female in the Winter's End Foot Race at Penn State Wilkes-Barre March 24.

Aston-Rome returns to win Winter's End 4.5 Mile

By ROBERT MINER
Special to The Dallas Post

LEHMAN TWP. — The dream matchup nearly everyone from the area running community had been waiting for finally happened on Sunday morning at the Wyoming Valley Striders' 22nd annual Winter's End 4.5 Mile Foot Race at the Penn State Wilkes-Barre campus: Amy Aston-Rome vs. Michelle Wolyniec.

Aston-Rome, 35, who had made her mark running for Dallas High School and at Penn State University in the 1980s and returned to area racing just recently, defeated the 23-year-old Wolyniec, of Plains Town-

ship, the area's most recent dominating female runner.

Aston-Rome broke the tape in 26 minutes and 58 seconds, winning top female honors. She finished sixth overall. Wolyniec, formerly of Coughlin High School and Bloomsburg University, placed second and eighth overall, 28 seconds behind Aston-Rome. Carly Graytock, 23, of Cambridge, Mass., finished third among the women and ninth overall in 27:41.

Aston-Rome's win over Wolyniec marked only the second time in more than five years that another area female defeated Wolyniec since she began dominating area road races. The

last time another area female runner defeated Wolyniec was when Patty Kupstas, then age 43, returned to action for one race, after a seven-year absence, and defeated Wolyniec, then 20, at the Jack Daniels Mile in Tunkhannock in August 1999.

When Aston-Rome reached the turnaround (about 2 1/4 miles into the race), she could see that Wolyniec was not far behind her.

"I knew that Michelle was a strong finisher," the winner said. "So I just kept trying to keep pace with Sean Robbins (third-place finisher in 26:43, also from Dallas), trying not to be passed."

Two other runners — both males — eventually passed Aston-Rome: Dave Horvath, 48, of Palmerton, who finished fourth, two seconds behind Robbins; and Bo Krawczeniuk, 36, of Wilkes-Barre, who finished fifth, seven seconds behind Horvath.

But on this day, Aston-Rome wasn't about to be passed — at least, not by another female.

The next time these two women meet, it should be interesting.

Former Lake-Lehman standout Joe Maskalis finished seventh overall, nine seconds behind Aston-Rome.

This article appeared in original form in the Times Leader.

Samuel takes reins of Dallas track teams

BY TIMOTHY J. RAUB
Post Staff

Following in the footsteps of one of the most successful coaches in Dallas High School history is not an easy task.

But Matt Samuel feels he is up to it.

The former Mountaineer and University of Pittsburgh standout runner is replacing long-time coach Bill Kvashay at the helm of the Dallas boys and girls track and field teams, and has the daunting task of rebuilding a program which has fallen victim to smaller numbers over the past few years.

Kvashay retired from the program at the end of last season.

"I try to tell the kids every day that the team aspect is most important here."

Matt Samuel
Dallas track coach

"I jumped at the chance to be the team's head coach," said Samuel. "(Kvashay) was like my father, and it is an honor to be able to coach after him."

Under Kvashay, Dallas enjoyed years of success, including four straight District 2 team titles from 1991-95, and numerous state placemen and all-state team selections, including Samuel.

"I wanted to share my successes with Dallas, and repay the school for the opportunities I was given," said Samuel. "This is my chance to promote the sport in the area."

Samuel will have his work cut out for him, though.

The girls team has only about 12 members, which will not be

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SPRING SPORTS PREVIEWS

The weather outside has been frightful lately, but spring is here and with it the spring high school sports schedules.

Here is a roundup of this season's prospects for Dallas and Lake-Lehman.

Note: Repeated attempts to reach some coaches were unsuccessful, leading to no report for those teams.

Girl's Soccer

Dallas

Head Coach: Chris Scharff and Chris Chapple (2nd season, 12-1-1)

2001 postseason: 12-1-1; lost to Wyoming Valley West in a shootout in the first round of the District 2 Class 3A playoffs.

Top Returners: Jackie Hardwick, soph., forward; Jen Toth, sr., midfielder; Jill Youngblood, sr., midfielder; Hallie Williams, soph., fullback/midfield; Jill O'Brien, sr., fullback; Janelle Opello, sr., forward; Kaitlin Dukas, soph., midfielder/forward; Ashleigh King, soph., fullback/midfield; Mandy Alles, soph., midfielder/forward.

Outlook: "We're relatively young, and I'm pretty sure we will be starting six underclassmen, so experience will be key. Most of the girls have experience from last year, hopefully we can challenge for conference title and do well at Districts."

Lake-Lehman

Head coach: Jan Elston (9th season, 99-31-8)

2001 postseason: 11-4, lost in the District 2 quarterfinals.

Top Returners: Janna Elston,

sr., midfielder; Lindsay Boris, sr. sweeper; Joelle Lussi, sr., midfielder; Katy Pritcher, sr., midfielder; Stephanie Frank, jr., forward/midfield; Lisa Wasser, jr., forward/midfield; Vanessa Wengen, jr., fullback; Betsy Pitcher, jr. midfielder; Dee Wengen, jr., goalie; Amy Ruda, jr., forward; Casey Horvath, jr., midfielder; Megan Desaris, jr., fullback; Erin Loughney, jr., fullback; Callie Carsman, soph., forward.

Outlook: "We have a lot of seasoned girls back on the team this season with playing experience. The experience on the field will be our strong point, and we have quality subs that will see playing time."

Baseball

Dallas

Head Coach: Steve Federici (3rd season, 21-11)

2001 postseason: 15-3, District 2 champions; lost to eventual state champion Phoenixville in the first round of the PIAA Class 3A state playoffs.

Top Returners: Jeremy Harris, ss/p (2001 WVC MVP); A.J. Harris, c; Jordy Spencer, 2b/p; Ryan Gryskevicz, cf/p; Ryan Bolton, of/p; Mike Smith, of; Mike Fehlinger; Jeff Dickson inf/of/p; Sean Whalen, p; Adam Tkaczyk, 3b.

Outlook: "We lost five very good seniors and our top pitcher, but I am very optimistic. The kids are working extremely hard, and hopefully some of the sophomores from last season can step in and supply what we need to win."

Lake-Lehman

Head Coach: Scott Miner (4th season, 46-18)

2001 postseason: (6-8, 3rd in WVC Division 2)

Top Returners: Gaise Lacek, sr., c, First Team All-Conference; Charlie Besteder, sr., p; Second Team All-Conference; Dustin Kapson, jr., ss; Zach Ragukas, sr., 3b/p; Matt Ide, jr., 2b.

Outlook: "I think as of right now, we have a good shot at making the playoffs, but we're gonna need a lot of guys to step up with four positions open. We do have a lot of experience up the middle of the field."

Softball

Dallas

Head Coach: Joyce Tinner (6th season)

2001 finish: 7-9

Top Returners: Erin Swepston, jr., util; Kelly Brzozowski, jr., catcher/ss; Shannon Thomas, soph., pitcher/ss; Meredith Lacey, soph., cf; Lauren Patton, jr. 2b; Sam Oschman, jr. 3b/ss.

Outlook: "We're going to have to take it one game at a time and hopefully learn from our mistakes as we go. We are relatively young again this year and really inexperienced in some positions. Hopefully, we can mature as a team as the season goes on."

Lake-Lehman

Head Coach: Cherub Straigis

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Delaney, Katyl named Sem MVPs

Wyoming Seminary Upper School Director of Athletics Karen Klassner has announced Sem's Most Valuable Players from the Back Mountain for winter sports played during the winter term.

In girls basketball, Kathryn Delaney, a senior from Dallas, was the defensive MVP.

In boys ice hockey, Matthew Katyl, a junior from Dallas, was MVP for the Sem Blue Team. Seen following the awards presentation are, Matthew Katyl, left, and Kathryn Delaney.

Final BMT Baseball tryouts Saturday

Back Mountain Baseball, Inc. will conduct baseball tryouts this Saturday, March 30 at the playing fields on Church Street in Dallas. All players ages 8-12 who are not already on a major league baseball team and wish to play major or minor league baseball, but did not try out last Saturday, must attend. American League tryouts are scheduled for 11 p.m. National League tryouts will be conducted at 1 p.m.