

## THE DALLAS POST

## SportsWeek

Section 2



From the bullpen

Timothy J. Raub

## Red spring flowers are ready to wilt

It's only two months into the baseball season, and already the talk of Red Sox glory is as common as a called high strike.

It is true that Boston is off to a good start, and it is true they are currently ahead of arch nemesis New York in the standings.

But Red Sox fans, or at least those of you who currently admit to being Red Sox fans, hold onto your seats and brace yourselves for what I'm about to say.

It is only a matter of time until the fallout begins.

The ghost of Babe Ruth hasn't yet let Boston off the hook, and as a matter of fact, it looks as though he is only setting Red Sox fans up for a good laugh later in the season.

Let's not forget, the Curse of the Bambino has bitten Boston in the hind side year after year, and the mastermind of the Red Sox follies is getting ready to write another chapter in his storied book of revenge for their trading him for cash to fund a musical.

Could this be a repeat of 1978, when the Red Sox led the Yanks by 14 games with only a number of games to play in the season, only to watch Bucky Dent, a mediocre player at best for most of his career, homer over the famed Green Monster, dash the Red Sox dreams of World Series glory and thus write himself into Yankee history?

Quite possibly.

It seems Boston is trying to steal a chapter from Yankee history by picking up a seemingly ageless Ricky Henderson to overrun the Yankee stronghold on the AL East, just as New York has done with the acquisitions of Wade Boggs and Roger Clemens.

But...

1. Henderson is not an all-star any longer, as a matter of fact, he has not been on an all-star roster since 1991, and won't be on the roster this year either. His days of 100+ stolen bases is a thing of the past.

2. The mighty Pedro Martinez, although maybe the toughest and most intimidating pitcher in the American League today, can only account for about a quarter of the needed wins to seal the division title.

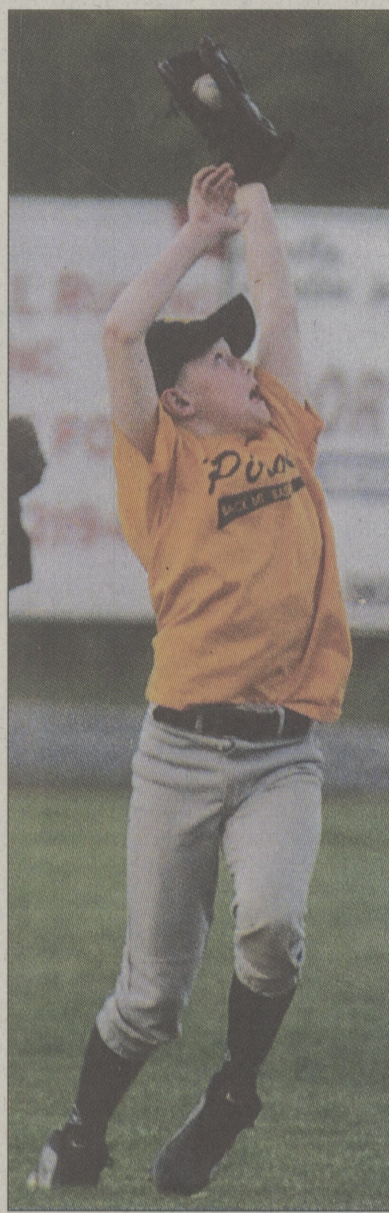
3. The Yanks are in the midst of a dynasty, even though they came one pitch short from repeating as world champions of baseball a year ago, whereas the Red Sox can't even spell the word dynasty given every letter but the -y. Dynasties come with wins, and not a history of near wins.

The Yankees and all 26 World Series championships bring a ton more experience than the

See BULLPEN, pg 10

## Harveys Lake Victory Run June 22

The Harvey's Lake Victory Run 2002 will be at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 22 at Harveys Lake. The 8.1 mile foot race will benefit Our Lady of Victory Church and the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Also included is a half mile fun run for children 14 years of age and younger. For information, contact Race Director, Dan Bartley, at 639-1358.



Scott Summa grabbed a soft liner in last week's Little League action, left photo. Above, teammates congratulated Andrew Judge after he smacked a home run.



POST PHOTOS/JIM PHILLIPS

## Covert steals a win for the Cardinals

Mark Covert provided the heroics as the Cardinals nipped the Tigers 8-7. Covert stole home in the bottom of the sixth inning to provide the margin of victory. In addition to making a spectacular diving catch in the field, Covert contributed an inside-the-park home run, triple and single. Casey Judge added a double and a single to the attack. Pat Murray, Joe Murray and Judge combined to strike out six batters for the Cardinals. Chris Klais fanned twelve for the Tigers. Kyle Caffrey smacked two hits for the losers.

## Giants 12, Indians 4

Doug Harding led the Giants to victory with a triple and a single on offense and eight strikeouts while on the mound. Dylan Cleaves, Casey Baldwin and Ryan Shannon also had multiple hits for the Giants. Kevin Pierce had a double and two singles for the Indians. Dave Fetchko and Jordy Thimot combined to strike out seven batters in a losing cause.

## Yankees 10, Phillies 4

Henry Messinger and Scott Skammer combined to fan eleven en route to hurling a three-hitter for the Yankees. Tom McGrath ripped four hits for the winners while teammates Josh Shaver, Myer Messinger and Joe Collini each had two

hits, including a Shaver double and a Collini triple. Bill Holena smacked a double and a single for the Phillies.

## Red Sox 15, Pirates 2

Andy Judge belted a three-run homer and Tommy Youells, Paul Kowalick, Kevin Little and Dave Zurek contributed two hits apiece, including two doubles by Youells and one by Kowalick, as the Red Sox overwhelmed the Pirates. Youells struck out eight for the winners. Tom Horn, Scott Summa and Peter Steve combined to fan six batters for the Pirates.

## Rangers 4, Reds 3

The Rangers edged the Reds in a classic pitchers' duel. Matt Ruch got the victory, registering eleven strikeouts. Josh Backes led the winning offense with a triple and a double. Ruch helped his own cause with a double. Mike Prater fanned twelve for the Reds. In addition, he blasted a home run and a triple while teammate Tom Perry smashed a homer and a double.

## Astros 10, Red Sox 9

After the Red Sox had broken a 7-7 tie with two runs in the top of the sixth inning, the Astros came roaring back with three runs in the bottom of the sixth to hand the Red Sox their first defeat of the season. Wally

Simko's two-run triple drove home the tying runs and Simko subsequently stole home to clinch the victory. Mike Lipski led the Astro offense with an inside-the-park homer, two doubles and a single. Kyle Arnaud, Mike Eckman and Dan Taroli each contributed two hits to the winning attack, including an Arnaud double. R. J. Dante also doubled for the Astros. Lipski and Arnaud combined to fan eleven batters. For the Red Sox, Kevin Little struck out five in hurling a complete game. Little and Andy Judge each had a double and a single for the Sox. John Bailey added two singles and Bob Gawlas contributed a double in a losing cause.

## Yankees 10, Dodgers 2

Scott Skammer went four-for-four with a triple and Thomas McGrath added two singles as the Yankees cruised to victory. Myer Messinger struck out seven as he earned the win. John Stepanski contributed a double and two singles for the Dodgers.

## Orioles 16, Astros 5

The Orioles were led by Ryan Urzen's three hits and two hits each from Eric Friges and Matt Alfano. Eric Tucker added a two-run homer and Steve Meskers smacked a triple for the winners. Meskers fanned six batters. For the Astros, Mike Eck-

man and Mike Lipski combined to strike out six Orioles.

## Orioles 8, Dodgers 3

Eric Tucker struck out eight in garnering the win. Steve Meskers and Ryan Urzen each had two hits for the Orioles, including a Meskers double. Tucker and Josh Clay also doubled for the winners. David Luksh doubled and singled for the Dodgers.

## Rangers 11, Pirates 1

Matt Ruch crushed two home runs and a triple to lead the Rangers. Josh Backes added a homer and a single to the attack. Mike Supczenski had a double and a single for the winners while teammate Michael Gross belted a triple. Kevin Engler and Gross combined to strike out five batters. For the Pirates, Scott Summa fanned five Rangers.

## Cardinals 20, A's 6

Pat Murray slugged a triple, double and single as the Cardinals walloped the A's. Joe Murray, Mark Covert, Ryan Phillips, John Prater and Casey Judge each contributed two hits for the Cards, including a bases-loaded triple by Joe Murray, a triple by Covert and a double by Judge. Covert was the winning pitcher.

See BMT BALL, pg 10

## Sem tennis pair 2nd in doubles

STATE COLLEGE — Wyoming Seminary's team of Jordan Koslosky and Tye Morris came within one win of claiming the PIAA Class 2A doubles championship Saturday afternoon at Penn State's Sarni Complex.

Koslosky and Morris, the District 2 champions, lost to Ravi Pujara and Usman Zafar of Blue Mountain, 6-4, 6-2, in the title match. Pujara and Zafar were the District 11 champions.

Earlier in the day, Koslosky and Morris, both juniors, rallied from a set down to defeat the Westmont-Hilltop team of Prabh Narahari and Ajay Nune 6-7 (8-6), 6-2, 6-1 in the semifinals.

It was Morris's second consecutive appearance in the state final. Morris and Madhan Srinivasan lost in the 2A state final a year ago.

Both Morris and Koslosky live in the Back Mountain.

## Lehman falls in first round

By JOHN ERZAR  
Special to The Dallas Post

PLYMOUTH — Losing the first two games of a best-of-five match usually means a quick exit.

Instead, the Lake-Lehman boys volleyball team hung on as long as it could before falling to Chambersburg, 3-2, Tuesday in the first round of the PIAA Boys Volleyball Tournament at Wyoming Valley West High School.

Chambersburg, the District 3 third seed, won the first two games 15-7, 15-9. Lehman, the District 2 champion, rallied for 15-12, 15-7 victories before seeing its season end with a 15-6 loss in game five.

"We turned the momentum a little bit after the first two games," said Lehman coach John Baranowski, whose team ended the year 18-1. "We won close and then won decidedly, and had the momentum working for us going into the last game. It just didn't work out."

Blocks by Cory Spencer and Josh Baranowski gave Lehman a 2-0 lead in game five. The Black Knights seemed to have Chambersburg a bit shaken, but couldn't build upon the lead. The Trojans took over slowly and a four-point run allowed them to pull away, 11-6.

While Chambersburg received solid hitting from Danley Shank (18 kills), Travis Yates and Matt Swartz (16 kills each), it was a tap over the net by setter Aaron Gartenburg that ended Lehman's season.

See VOLLEY, pg 10

## 4 from BMT Cyclones make League Select team

Four members of the Back Mountain Cyclones recently tried out for and made the League Select U-11 soccer teams. The League Select Festival was played April 13-14 in York. The league select program provides advanced players an opportunity to play with like players from other teams and a chance for the team to compete against advanced players from other leagues.

More than 50 boys from all over Northeastern Pa., including boys from Honesdale, Clarks Summit, and Hazleton tried out and two teams were picked to participate. David Zurek, Tim Ropel, and Alex Slocum were selected to play on the "Red" team, and Andrew Payne played on the "Blue." Payne played almost the entire three games, and did well defensively. The Blue team beat York 6-0, Inter County 2-1 and lost to Lehigh Valley 0-1. On the Red team, Zurek was a key defender and they won their first game 3-0 over Reading Berks, and lost to United Juniors and Central Penn 0-3 and 0-4. The Cyclones Slocum and Ropel scored the only goals on the entire Red team.



From left: David Zurek, Andrew Payne, Tim Ropel, and Alex Slocum.

## Kiwanis all-star softball game set for June 24

The 23rd Annual Dallas Kiwanis Girls High School All-Star Softball Game will be played at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, June 24 at the Back Mountain Little League Field, Church Street, Dallas.

P.I.A.A. rules and officials will be used. To assure the participation of each girl chosen, nine innings will be played and the 10-run rule will be suspended. Each player will wear her own team uniform. Additional equipment will be provided.

Each team will be comprised of 18 senior girls from teams in the Wyoming Valley softball league, and will be divided into East and West teams for the competition. The divisions will be as follows.

EAST DIVISION - Bishop Hafey, Bishop Hoban, Coughlin, Crestwood, G.A.R., Hanover, Hazleton, Meyers, Nanticoke, Pittston, and Seton Catholic.

WEST DIVISION - Berwick, Bishop O'Reilly, Dallas, Lake-Lehman, Northwest, Tunkhannock, Valley West, Wyoming Area,