

## THE DALLAS POST

## SportsWeek

Section 2



From the bullpen

Timothy J. Raub

## If nothing else, tragedy pulls baseball together

The bonds that are formed among teammates can be stronger than any other force known to man.

So, it comes as no surprise that, following the untimely death of St. Louis Cardinals pitcher Darryl Kile, all of Major League Baseball joined Kile's family in grieving.

You can say what you want about the politics of Major League Baseball, and the greed evident in both the players and owners, but when it comes down to it, both sides do know how to show their true humility.

The evidence is clear. All levels of professional baseball were affected by Kile's death, and reacted with sympathy.

The Red Barons had a moment of silent meditation for Kile prior to Saturday's game against the Columbus Clippers. Colorado Rockies star Larry Walker spoke at a press conference, celebrating the life of Kile, who played for the Rockies for two seasons and a number of Kile's former teammates with the Houston Astros sat out the start of their game against Seattle in his honor.

Kile, who spent 12 years in the Major Leagues with three different teams, was never placed on the disabled list once in his career. He leaves behind a wife and three children.

In a sport where it is becoming more and more evident that business, money and greed is the bottom line, Kile's death shows everyone can get on the same page — at least once in a while — and pay fitting tribute to someone much deserving.

## Americans can stand tall with World Cup performance

Members of the United States men's soccer team, and their fans alike, can hold their heads high even in the loss to world power and three-time cup champion Germany.

The American team more than successfully avenged their pitiful performance in 1998, and showed the world that they can play with the best of the best.

Let's just remember that the U.S. was just a few inches short of tying the quarterfinal game with Germany, and advanced further in the tournament than traditional world powers Italy, Mexico and '98 cup champion France.

Now if they could only convince their fellow Americans that the sport of professional soccer is here to stay.

Timothy J. Raub, a Dallas Post staff writer, can be reached at [traub@leader.net](mailto:traub@leader.net), or by phone at 674-4658.

## BMT Youth Soccer Travel sets tryouts

The Back Mountain Youth Soccer Travel Program has scheduled tryouts for some of their travel teams, if you have any questions, please call the respective coach for the team you wish to try out for. Team and tryout dates are as follows: U-12 Girls, Xtreme, 408-4727, 3 p.m. June 30 at the Dallas Middle School Track.

## Baranowski competes in All-State contest

From Staff Reports

HUNTINGDON, Pa. — Lake-Lehman volleyball standout Josh Baranowski was named to, and competed in the Pennsylvania Volleyball Coaches Association All-State East-West Volleyball match at Juniata College last weekend.

The West squad got three unanswered points late to pull away and take the all-state match in five games, 7-15, 16-14, 15-9, 11-15 and 15-12.

Playing for the East squad, Baranowski and his all-state teammates took an early lead with a win in Game 1, but the West answered with back-to-back wins in Game 2 and Game 3.

The East countered with a win in Game 4, but it was not enough as the West pulled away late to win the game and the match.

## Chacko in national wheelchair games

Andrew Chacko, of Dallas, will take part in the 22nd National Wheelchair Games July 9-13 in Cleveland, OH.

Chacko and five other wheelchair athletes from the Wilkes-Barre VA Medical Center will be sponsored by the Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association.

## Travel soccer tryout

The Back Mountain Youth Soccer Travel Program has scheduled tryouts for some of their travel teams, if you have any questions, call the respective coach for the team you wish to try out for.

U-15 boys, 10 a.m., Saturday, June 29 at Cabbage Patch, Forty Fort. Coach John Gyory, 288-5075.

## BMT BASEBALL

The Yankees had an 8-5 lead going into the bottom of the final inning. The Rangers' Cory Templeton was hit by a Josh Shaver pitch and took first. After Shaver was replaced on the mound by Henry Messenger, Patrick Engler laid down a sacrifice bunt that barely stayed fair in front of the plate, sacrificing Templeton to second. Josh Backes followed with a triple to right, scoring Templeton and narrowing the score to 8-6.

After Joe Evans struck out, Messenger intentionally walked Matt Ruch, but the next batter, Kevin Engler, singled to center, scoring Backes and making it a 1-run game. Ruch advanced to third on a poor throw from center, putting all the fans of each team on the edge of their seats. But after Engler took second on an unchallenged steal, Mike Supczynski bounced back to the mound to end the game.

Scott Skammer led the Yankees at the plate, going 3-for-4, all singles. Myer Messenger added a double and single. Shaver picked up the win, striking out seven.

For the Rangers, Backes went 2-for-3 with a double and triple; Ruch slammed a two-run homer and Kevin Engler was 2-for-3 with a double. Engler took the loss, striking out three.

In the second game of the night, the Giants topped the Cardinals 4-2 to claim the National League championship.



S. JOHN WILKIN/FOR THE DALLAS POST

Amy Aston-Rome visits with her children after winning the Harveys Lake Victory Run women's title Saturday morning.

## Aston-Rome conquers Victory Run

By ROBERT MINER  
Special to The Dallas Post

HARVEYS LAKE — Corey Smith and Amy Aston-Rome ran to easy victories in the fourth annual Harveys Lake Victory Run on Saturday morning.

Aston-Rome, a 35-year-old from Dallas and former standout runner at Penn State, won a diamond pendant for capturing top female honors. She clocked in at 49:44, outrunning second-place finisher and last year's winner Heidi Wolfsberger, 22, of Moosic, by 59 seconds.

Wolfsberger, who recently graduated from Moravian College, where she ran track and cross country, outraced third-place finisher and former Hanover Area High School star Theresa Dennis by 2:03.

Aston-Rome ran behind Wolfsberger in second place for the first four miles. Then she made her move.

"I took the lead and hoped that Heidi, who was setting a good pace, wouldn't pass me," Aston-Rome said. "I knew that she was an outstanding college runner. And I don't have a good kick because I'm old. This is the first time I've ever won this race. I've been running it since high school (when it was part of the Irish Heritage Games). I'm thrilled."

Smith, a 22-year-old from Washington, D.C. who ran track and cross country for Wallenpaupack Area High School and Georgetown University, broke the tape in 42 minutes and nine seconds, scoring a wire-to-wire victory. He outran second-place finisher P.J. Ward, 22, of Mountain Top, by 1:55. Carbondale's Dan Dragwa, 34, placed third, 31 seconds behind Ward.

Smith, who recently graduated from Georgetown, went into the race with a slight groin injury and wasn't sure whether the injury would bother him during the race.

"I saw that I had a pretty good lead at one mile. And the injury didn't both-

See VICTORY RUN, pg 10

## Yankees and Giants win their league championships

The stage was set for Tuesday night for the Back Mountain Baseball Boys Major League championship. In the first game of the evening, the Yankees

## BMT BASEBALL

held off the Rangers 8-7 to claim the American League title. The Yankees had an 8-5 lead going into the bottom of the final inning. The Rangers' Cory Templeton was hit by a Josh Shaver pitch and took first. After Shaver was replaced on the mound by Henry Messenger, Patrick Engler laid down a sacrifice bunt that barely stayed fair in front of the plate, sacrificing Templeton to second. Josh Backes followed with a triple to right, scoring Templeton and narrowing the score to 8-6.

After Joe Evans struck out, Messenger intentionally walked Matt Ruch, but the next batter, Kevin Engler, singled to center, scoring Backes and making it a 1-run game. Ruch advanced to third on a poor throw from center, putting all the fans of each team on the edge of their seats. But after Engler took second on an unchallenged steal, Mike Supczynski bounced back to the mound to end the game.

Scott Skammer led the Yankees at the plate, going 3-for-4, all singles. Myer Messenger added a double and single. Shaver picked up the win, striking out seven.

For the Rangers, Backes went 2-for-3 with a double and triple; Ruch slammed a two-run homer and Kevin Engler was 2-for-3 with a double. Engler took the loss, striking out three.

In the second game of the night, the Giants topped the Cardinals 4-2 to claim the National League championship.



POST PHOTO/JIM PHILLIPS

The Rangers' Mike Gross was safe at home as the Indians' Darius Fetchko went after a stray throw during a regular season game last week.

Bobby Peron was the winning pitcher, striking out nine Cards. Cody Kustrin led the Giants with two hits and Dylan Cleaves had a triple.

Ryan Phillips had two hits for the Cardinals. "We didn't get many hits," said Cardinals coach John Murray. Ryan Phillips took the loss.

The Yankees and Giants were scheduled to meet Wednesday night to play for the BMT Baseball Major League championship. That game took place too late for this issue.

## National League Playoffs

## Cardinals 6, Astros 4

The defending National League and overall champion Cardinals, who finished third during the regular season, defeated the second-place Astros 6-4 to advance to the National League championship game for the third time in the last four years. Pat Murray tossed a complete game with nine strikeouts to get the victory. Ryan Phillips smashed a three-run double to break open the game. John Prater contributed two singles

to the Cardinal attack. For the Astros, Jeremy Fike and Michael Eckman each singled twice. Kyle Arnaud and Mike Lipsky combined to fan seven Cardinals. Eckman made several outstanding plays at shortstop for the losers.

## Regular Season

## Red Sox 5, A's 4

Kevin Little struck out nine A's to get the win. Devin Albrecht and Paul Kowalek each had two hits for the Red Sox, including a double by Albrecht.

## UPCOMING GAMES

## Minor League Boys

Championship  
Thursday, June 27, 7 p.m.

## Major League Girls

All-Star game  
Friday, June 28, 6 p.m.

John Bailey also doubled for the winners. Joe Hayes and Zach Aciekewicz each had two hits for the A's, including a Hayes triple. Aciekewicz fanned seven Sox.

## Yankees 6, Cardinals 0

Josh Shaver and Myer Messenger combined to hurl a one-hitter for the Yankees, striking out nine batters in the process. Messenger and Scott Skammer each had two hits for the Yankees, including two doubles by Skammer and one by Messenger. Michael McHutchinson also doubled for the winners.

## Giants 11, Pirates 2

Cody Kustrin and Dylan Cleaves did it all for the Giants. They combined to strike out ten Pirates and they each had three hits, including a Kustrin double. For the Pirates, Tom Horn, Scott Summa and Peter Steve combined to strike out five batters.

## Rangers 10, Indians 2

Matt Ruch tossed a no-hitter, striking out ten, for the Rangers. Ruch and Josh Backes each had three hits for the winners, including a Ruch double as well as a homer and a triple by Backes. Michael Kravitski and Jordy Thimot combined to

See BMT BALL, pg 10