

THE DALLAS POST

SportsWeek

Section 2

Nulton meets Phil s John Kruk

Timothy Nulton, Shavertown and Patrick Cawley, West Pittston, were recently invited by John Kruk, legendary former Phillies First Baseman, to be his pre-game guest at Veterans Stadium. Kruk is now a part of the Phillies broadcast team and also works in the front office. Kruk and the men met prior to the A's doubleheader in June in the executive offices and exchanged stories and shared laughs. From left: Timothy Nulton, former Phillies first baseman John Kruk and Patrick Cawley.



Gryskewicz caps high school career in style

By Kevin Kazokas Post Correspondent

Ryan Gryskewicz cashed in on another opportunity to show off his baseball skills in front of professional scouts last weekend.

The Dallas High School graduate and member of the Back Mountain American Legion team was one of four players from the Wyoming Valley American Legion league to participate in the Pennsylvania American Legion East-West All-Star Game on Sunday at Riverside Stadium in Harrisburg.

Gryskewicz went 1-for-2 with a single for the East squad, which rallied for a dramatic 5-4 victory over the West.

The event marked the fifth and final round of Pennsylvania American Legion All-Star Showcase competition. Gryskewicz and 41 other ballplayers from across the state survived the cut through the first four rounds.

During prior rounds, scouts at each event evaluated players based on their performances in workouts and in simulated four-inning games.

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Abby Sordoni jumps at extra chance to compete

By STEVE SEMBRAT For The Dallas Post

There was a time when field hockey players had time to start a high school career before they could start thinking about a collegiate career.

Times have changed, though, with the prevailing sentiment being that it's never too early to start.

So it probably serves Abby Sordoni well to get a jump on Keystone State Games competition. The 14-year-old Dallas resident, who will be a freshman at Wyoming Seminary this fall, will be on the Pocono junior squad that opens play on Thursday at the University of Scranton. Before that, she'll take part in the new 7-on-7 tournament for players in grades 7-9 that will be held today and tomorrow at Wilkes-Barre Memorial Stadium, playing for Valley Styx.

Sordoni figures to be one of the top incoming freshmen in the Wyoming Valley Conference this fall. Not many have heard her name, but that could start to change as the result of KSG competition.

"I would like to make a name for myself, but I'm more concerned with playing my hardest," Sordoni said. "That's my priority."

Getting noticed at an early age figures to help Sordoni, who says she might like to play in college some day. She laughs nervously when she talks about the subject, knowing full well she is yet to play a high school game.

The U.S. Field Hockey Association, though, is looking toward younger players in its developmental process. Because many who take part in that process are college coaches, the eyes of recruiters are cast in the same direction.

"I have mixed feelings about that," said Karen Klassner, who will be Sordoni's coach in field hockey at Wyoming Seminary. "I don't think it's necessarily a healthy thing. I think kids need to be kids."

The danger in starting players at a younger age is burnout. The risk for Sordoni through the next five days is overextending herself, as she could play 10 games during that span, all on artificial turf. It is something that does not have her overly concerned.

"I haven't really thought about it much," Sordoni said. "I just want to go out there and play."

If she plays well, there is an excellent chance she'll turn a few heads. That was the case during tryouts for the Pocono junior team. A number of selectors who weren't sure who she was felt that she stood out. Similar performances during the Keystone State Games will

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FOR THE DALLAS POST/FRED ADAMS

Abby Sordoni, a 14-year-old Dallas resident, will do double duty in Keystone State Games field hockey competition. She'll compete in the 7-on-7 tournament for players in grades 7-9 today and tomorrow at Wilkes-Barre Memorial Stadium, then play for Pocono in the KSG junior competition from Thursday-Saturday at the University of Scranton.

Keystone Games underway

Athletes from around the state are in the area to compete in the Keystone State Games 2003 Summer Games.

The event is expected to bring 7,500 to 8,000 athletes to Luzerne and Lackawanna counties, KSG executive director Owen Costello said. That is about the same amount as last year.

The hub of activities will be the Wilkes-Barre Vo-Tech school on Jumper Road in Plains Township, which is the site of KSG headquarters during the competition. The nonprofit organization's year-round home is on Hancock Street in Wilkes-Barre.

Athletes can still register at KSG headquarters at the following times:

- Friday, 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
- Saturday, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. and 4 p.m.-8 p.m.
- Sunday 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

KSG officials estimate the games, consisting of 32 sports running from today until Sunday, will generate as much as \$5 million for area business. Starting the competition is junior division baseball, tennis and a 7-on-7 field hockey tournament for players in grades 7-9.

More information about the games is available on the Internet at www.keystonegames.com, or by going to KSG headquarters, which features complete schedules and directions to each venue.

Donovan named scholar-athlete

Amy Donovan, Harveys Lake, a graduate of Lake-Lehman High School, has been named to the 2002-2003 Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) Scholar-Athlete list.

To be eligible for the award, student-athletes must attain at least a 3.25 cumulative grade point average while competing in an intercollegiate varsity sport.

Use front for Lake-Lehman physicals

Lake-Lehman junior and senior high boys and girls sports physicals will be held Tuesday, August 5, at 5 p.m. Students and personnel should use the front entrance, not the rear, as had been previously requested. A paving project has been postponed.

Thursday, August 7, at 9 a.m., will be the final day for fall sports physicals any boys and girls in the junior high.

Lehman seniors to host football camp

Lake-Lehman seniors will host a pass, punt, kick football camp for fourth through ninth grade students on August 2 and 3, from 12 noon-4 p.m. Registration is \$25. Call 696-1546 for more information or to register by July 16. High school coaches will be present.

Newberry Ladies to play at Applewood

The Applewood golf course, Harding, will host the Newberry Country Club Ladies Golf League at its monthly outing on Thursday, August 14. Players are requested to meet at 9 a.m. to receive their pairings with a shotgun start scheduled for 9:30 a.m. Play will be captain and crew. Luncheon and the awarding of prizes will follow play at the home of Flo DePolo, Falls. To register call Diana Dreher or Micky Aicher before August 11.

Red Sox win AAA championship

The Back Mountain AAA Red Sox recently captured the AAA Championship by defeating the Orioles 12-11.

From left, kneeling: Zach Dutter, David Miller, Tanner Baloh, Jon Lando, Justin Rivero.

Second row: Jordan Stephens, Kevin Muldoon, Andrew Sabol, Christopher Clemson, Michael Banas.

Coaches: Shawn Muldoon, Mark Baloh.

Absent from photo: TJ Shutlock, Jacob Sedorchuk.

