

THE POST

SportsWeek

Section 2

- Sports
- Church
- School
- Calendar

40 early risers will be able to hunt Slocum Park deer

The state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) will conduct a regulated deer hunt at Frances Slocum State Park on Monday, December 8, to help control the deer population within the park.

The one-day hunt is for white-tail deer only, and will be conducted in areas not normally open to hunting. To ensure the safety of all park visitors, the park will be closed to all other activities this day.

To participate, hunters must hold an unfiled Wildlife Management Area 3B antlerless license. Only manually operated shotguns 20 gauge or larger, or muzzleloading firearms will be allowed. The hunt will be limited to the first 40 hunters that arrive at the park starting at 6 a.m., and will not be chosen by lottery drawing. All hunters entering the park will be checked to ensure they have a valid unfiled Wildlife Management Area 3B antlerless license and appropriate firearm, and be asked to

fill out a registration and safety orientation form before being assigned a designated parking area.

"When the deer population is out of balance with the park land, it affects other wildlife, including the elimination of plant species and destruction of habitats for birds and small mammals," said Roger Fickes, director of the Bureau of State Parks.

Fickes explained that the excessive deer herd is destroying park vegetation and needs to be controlled on a yearly basis. He said that after hunts at other state parks, the park staff usually sees a return of long absent wildflowers, shrubs, and small trees.

Safety zones, no hunting areas, and park boundaries will be posted and strictly enforced. Extra park rangers and Pennsylvania Game Commission personnel will be stationed throughout the park area during this hunt.

For more information about the hunt, call the park office at 696-3525.

State Champs!



POST PHOTO/M.B. GILLIGAN

The jubilant Dallas High School Girls Cross Country team was escorted from Luzerne to Dallas by 18 fire engines and ambulances after they won the Class AA State Championship in Hershey on Saturday. They were met at the school parking lot by family members, friends and school district officials.

Pictured after their arrival back at the high school are, from left, first row: Kenslie Kerestes, Whitney Adams, Katie Gilligan, Robin Razawich, Samantha Dimmick, Hillary Adams, Jamie Stanish, Jessica Jones, and Lisa Giacometti. Back row: superintendent Dr. Gilbert Griffiths; school board director David Usavage, coach Matt Samuel holding the team trophy, and athletic director Jack Wolensky.

A well-placed shot, and a prayer pay off

By DAN ARKANS
For The Post

ALLENTOWN — A little prayer from Bishop O'Reilly's Alex Gionta was all it took.

Despite trading jabs with Notre Dame of East Stroudsburg for 110 minutes Tuesday, nothing was settled in Bishop O'Reilly's PIAA Class A first-round match at J. Birney Crum Field.

The game came down to penalty kicks. Each team managed just one goal through the first four attempts. Notre Dame's Ben Vauter then missed wide.

Gionta said a little prayer before his shot and beat Spartan keeper Justin Ross to the right corner of the net for the 1-0, 2-1 penalty kick victory.

"I'm from a Catholic school," Gionta said. "I was just hoping to get a little help."

The District 2 champion Queensmen (14-6) looked to need more than a little help in the first half. The Spartans (15-8-1), the District 11 champs, outshot them 7-1 and created three quality scoring chances. Mike Meehan missed inches wide of the goal on a nice opportunity and O'Reilly goalkeeper

"I'm from a Catholic school. I was just hoping to get a little help."

Alex Gionta
Bishop O'Reilly

Michael Podcasy stopped Jeff Natale on another.

The Queensmen looked like a different team in the second half. Five minutes into the frame it appeared they had scored.

Ross stopped Carl Seitz's direct kick from the 20. Bishop O'Reilly's Robert Baur came charging in for the rebound and scored the goal. But he collided with Ross and was called for charging, negating the goal.

"We scored in regulation, which was a 50/50 ball," said Queensmen coach Dennis Parulis. "In my honest opinion I don't think the call should've been made."

Then the play got chippy with three yellow cards being issued to O'Reilly.

The Spartans responded with

See O'REILLY, pg 10

Lady Mountaineers win in big way

By JOE PETRUCCI
For The Post

HERSHEY — Despite two of its top runners falling early in the race, the Dallas girls came back strong and after waiting more than 20 minutes to receive official word, the Mountaineers fulfilled their dream of a Class 2A team title at the PIAA Cross Country Championships.

"It was going to take everybody's best race all at the same time and you know what, I didn't know if it was possible but apparently it was," said Matt Samuel, the Mountaineers first-year coach.

Dallas, sixth last year, joined Hanover Area (1998) as the only girls teams from District 2 to win the team title at states. The Mountaineers' 49 points were the lowest scored by a 2A champion since 1978. Dallas outdistanced Wellsboro, the District 4 champion, by 20 points and four-time defending team champion Wyomissing of District 3 by 57.

Sophomore Lisa Giacometti, the D2-2A gold medalist, led Dallas and was the top Wyoming Valley Cross Country League runner on the day, taking sixth on the hilly 3.1-mile course in 19 minutes, 35 seconds. The Mountaineers' first and fifth finishers were just 1:24 apart, more than 20 seconds better than districts.

Giacometti was Dallas' only medalist, and it didn't come easy. Giacometti wore a deep, two-inch long gash on her right arm from a fall in the first 250 meters of the race. Junior teammate Jessica Jones also tripped in traffic 150 meters into the race and both she and Giacometti had to dust themselves off and make up ground.

Giacometti had to reclaim about 30 spots to get back in the top 15 and made up eight more in the final 1,000 meters,

including a pass 50 meters from the finish line.

"I had to run this race a little differently than I normally do," said Giacometti, who usually is chased, not doing the chasing. "I knew I had to knock off some girls in order for our team to do well."

Jones, who was 22nd here last year racing for Bishop Hoban, made up about 15 spots herself and wasn't disappointed in her 44th-place finish.

"(Last year) doesn't even compare," Jones said. "Having a team be successful is so much better than just yourself. I can share it with eight other girls."

Even without a stopwatch in his hand, Samuel could tell his girls were in good shape.

"I thought that way at mile two, just the way they were looking when they came by," said Samuel. "They were working, had a lot of grit in their face. ... They ignored all the pain and discomfort from their body. When I can see it in their eyes, their faces and their form I know we're OK."

Senior Jamie Stanish had her best race of the year, taking 27th in 20:28.

"I wanted this more than anything because it's my senior year and I knew everyone else on the team wanted it, too," Stanish said.

The team's other senior, Whitney Adams, was the Mountaineers' third finisher, taking 31st in 20:34. Adams has been a constant at Dallas since her freshman season, when Dallas didn't even have a team.

"I can't think of a better way to end it," she said. "I think our teamwork is amazing."

The post-race scene resembled a ban-

quet room on Election Day, with coaches of some of the best teams in the state conceding to Samuel. Although he felt good about his team's chance, he wasn't about to accept the concessions.

"I didn't want to say until I had it in writing," said Samuel.

When Samuel's father Earl called to tell him the just-posted results confirmed what they had hoped, the Dallas contingent erupted outside their tent and Samuel dropped to his knees and thanked God.

Said Stanish: "I was really anxious and people were asking if we won and I didn't know, but I'm so happy now."

PIAA Cross Country Championships results

Girls Class 2A

- Lisa Giacometti, so., Dallas (6th, 19:35)
- Jamie Stanish, sr., Dallas (27th, 20:28)
- Whitney Adams, sr., Dallas (31st, 20:34)
- Jessica Jones, jr., Dallas (44th, 20:51)
- Kenslie Kerestes, fr., Dallas (50th, 20:59)
- Hillary Adams, so., Dallas (51st, 21:01)
- Kelcey Cole, fr., Lake-Lehman (105th, 21:37)
- Robin Razawich, so., Dallas (133rd, 22:00)
- Caroline Byron, jr., Dallas (168th, 22:28)



Magic win Whitewater tourney

The Back Mountain Magic U-9 Boys recently captured first place at the Columbus Day Weekend Whitewater Cup Classic soccer tournament. The Magic defeated East Stroudsburg Thunder 6-2, the Boyertown Raiders 4-2 and the Back Mountain Blitz 1-0 in a thrilling championship final. This was the team's first travel tournament. The Magic is coached by Don Murray, Mike Richardson and Billy DeAngelo.

Team members include, from left, kneeling: Dominic Deluca, Danny Saba, Ian Richardson, Mike Gallis, Kyle Razawich, Dante DeAngelo.

Second row: John Murray, Kris Konicki, Marc Oliver, Jonathan Barre, Gavin Gagliardi, Zac Goodwin.

Third row: Coach Mike Richardson, Coach Don Murray.

4 pass 72-hour Black Belt test

During the first weekend in October a Martial Arts training camp and traditional Black Belt test and challenge was organized at Frances Slocum State Park in honor of Master Jay Hatin and hosted by the White Dragon Martial Arts Organization. Four candidates were tested continuously for 72 hours by over a dozen black belts, being allowed only two four hour sleep periods. They performed thousands of punches, blocks, kicks, sparring, forms, weaponry, Tai Chi, and self defense techniques. They performed a board and brick breaking demonstration during a dinner and finally competed in the Coal Kicking Karate tournament competition on Oct. 6. David Haas took the gold in advanced weapons.

■ Honors presented, page 10



From left: Sifu Chris Marcikonis, Mr. Clint Kytte, Sifu David Haas II, and Sifu Peg Thomas, who successfully completed the challenging examination and where promoted to 1st degree black sash.