

# SportsWeek

## March Madness for kids and parents

The ninth annual Back Mountain Basketball Shootout will be held Sunday, March 28 at Dallas Middle School, starting at 12 noon.

There will be competition in three-point shooting, free throws and layups for boys and girls age 7-16 in multiple flights. There will also be a parent/child team shooting competition. Registration and warmup at noon, competition starts at 12:30 p.m.

The program is sponsored by the Kingston Township Recreation Commission. For more information, call 675-0066.

## Dallas Junior Football signups Saturday

The Dallas Junior Football Association will hold football/cheerleading registrations on Saturday, March 27 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Dallas Township Municipal Building. Children ages 5-14 living in Dallas, Dallas Township and Franklin Township areas are welcome to join the Dallas Junior Mounts in the new Wyoming Valley West Youth Football Conference. Bring at time of registration a copy of birth certificate, copy of health insurance and a recent photograph of child.

Any questions, call the hotline at 674-5549.

## Junior football meets

The Dallas Junior Football Association will hold a monthly board meeting on Sunday, March 21 at 7 p.m. at the Dallas Township Municipal Building, Rt. 309. The public is invited.

## DYB banquet April 18

Dallas Youth Basketball will hold its annual banquet on Sunday, April 18 at Genetti's in Wilkes-Barre. Trophies will be presented to first and second place playoff teams, skills competition winners, and most improved players for each grade level. Call 696-1190 or 639-1467 for ticket information.



## Vanessa Parsons wins uneven bars, 2nd all-around at state championship

Vanessa Parsons, a second grader at Dallas Elementary School, captured the state championship on uneven bars with a score of 9.355 at the Level 4 YMCA Gymnastics State Championship, held March 13 in York. She also placed third on the balance beam and sixth on the vault.

Vanessa competed against members of 16 other YMCA teams from across the state. She finished the meet with a silver medal in the all-around competition with a score of 35.6.

Vanessa also recently won gold at the Central Pennsylvania YMCA Gymnastics League Championship in Hanover, where she won the floor vault and uneven bars and finished fourth in balance beam. She won the all-around title with a score of 35.8. Vanessa is 8 years old and a member of the Wilkes-Barre YMCA Gymnastics Team.

Send your sports reports by e-mail  
thepost@leader.net

## States Roundup



FOR THE POST/PETE G. WILCOX

Bishop O'Reilly's Tim Crossin drove upcourt with Scotland's John Howie in pursuit during Wednesday's Boys PIAA Class A semifinal in Hershey.

## O'Reilly charges into title contest

By DAVE KONOPKI  
For The Post

HERSHEY — The Queensmen outhustled, outdefended, outrebounded and, most important, outscored two-time defending state champion Scotland School on March 17 earning a berth in the PIAA Class A state championship game with a 64-49 victory in the Eastern Regional Final at Hersheypark Arena.

Sophomore center Josh Aciekewicz led O'Reilly with a game-high 24 points. Senior guard Matt Flanagan added 17 and the Queensmen's defense forced Scotland into 26 turnovers.

District 2 champion O'Reilly (29-4) played Sewickley Academy (26-4) Friday at the Giant Center in Hershey for the state title. Results were not available in time for this issue. Sewickley, of suburban Pittsburgh, advanced with a 45-36 victory against Johnsonburg in the West Regional Final.

Simply put, the Queensmen were the much better team Wednesday. And Scotland head coach Randy Young knew it.

"They played very well and we didn't," said the first-year Cadet head coach. "We were a step slower than them all night. They got all of the loose balls and they were in the game mentally much better than us. I was very impressed with them."

The Cadets committed 15

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## Byron wins top honors in swimming

By STEVE SEMBRAT  
For The Post

UNIVERSITY PARK — It takes a lot to make Bishop Hoban junior Caroline Byron cry tears of joy.

She stayed rather calm March 13 when she captured her second gold medal at the PIAA Class 2A Swimming Championships, taking first in the 100-yard freestyle.

When she was named the Outstanding Swimmer of the meet, though, that's when the tears started to flow.

"It hit me all at once, how hard our team has worked to get here," Byron said. "It's an incredible sense of accomplishment to know everybody on the team did their best, and the whole year you had everybody supporting you. It's a feeling you can't describe. You hope that everybody can experience it."

Byron is the first female swimmer from District 2 to be named the Outstanding Swimmer at a PIAA meet.

Three boys previously have earned the honor, which is determined by the power-points system of the National Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association.

"She is just a wonderful athlete that doesn't come around often in a coach's career," Hoban coach Mara Pawlenok said of Byron. "She handled the pressure very well. She was not nervous. She was very laid-back."

Byron has that demeanor even when she is making history. On March 12 she became the first Hoban girls swimmer to win gold in an individual event at states when she won the 50 freestyle. She won another that Saturday, and is believed to be the only area female swimmer to win two

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## Eby is proud of comeback from brink



FOR THE POST/JACOB KEPLER

Alaric Eby performed before judges at the PIAA State Diving Championships, where he finished fourth.

Overcomes setback from phantom brush with diving board

Staff reports

UNIVERSITY PARK — Dallas sophomore Alaric Eby doesn't dwell on what might have been at the PIAA Class 2A Diving Championships.

Instead, he takes pride in his ability to bounce back from a disastrous break that jeopardized his chance to come away with a medal, which was his goal going into the competition.

"I just tried to forget about it, and move on," he said. Eby said in the past he had been unable to recover from a bad dive, but this time was different.

Eby led early in the meet, held at the McCoy Natatorium on Penn State's main campus, and was second going into the fifth and final dive of the preliminary round. He plummeted to eighth after the referee ruled he hit the board, meaning he could get no higher than a 2 out of a possible 10 from any of the judges.

The dive was a back 1 1/2 somersault, carrying a 2.3 degree of difficulty — not the hardest dive, Eby said, but definitely not easy, and one he usually hits.

He put the questionable call behind him masterfully, and surged to a fourth-place medal with 369.20 points.

"He did a phenomenal job of getting back into the game," said Dallas diving coach Kim Perez. "That was a great comeback."

There are no appeals, so Perez turned her attention to helping Eby refocus during a break, when the field was cut to 16 divers. Eby hit his next dive, and was narrowly in fourth after semifinals, when the

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