



FOR THE POST/S. JOHN WILKIN

Bishop O'Reilly's Chris DeRojas passes around Kennedy Catholic's Blair Rozenblad



Bishop O'Reilly's Tim Crossin works to the basket under pressure from Kennedy Catholic's Pat Mastrian during the PIAA Class A boys championship.

O'REILLY

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coach Mark Belenski, whose team finished the season with a 29-4 record. "Playing good defense got us this far and we knew it was time to turn up the intensity."

The District 2 champion Queensmen raced out to a 10-0 lead and took a 52-33 edge on a pull-up jumper by Crossin with 4:02 left in the third quarter. Crossin finished with a game-high 27 points. Aciekewicz added 15 points, 10 of them in the first quarter.

But the Golden Eagles (25-5) stormed back. While the Kennedy defense held the Queensmen without a field goal for the rest of the third quarter, the Golden Eagles offense went on runs of 9-0 and 15-4, making the score 59-57 with 1:54 left in the game.

The Queensmen then used full-court pressure to force three consecutive turnovers by the Golden Eagles. Between the turnovers, Crossin made a baseline layup and connected on

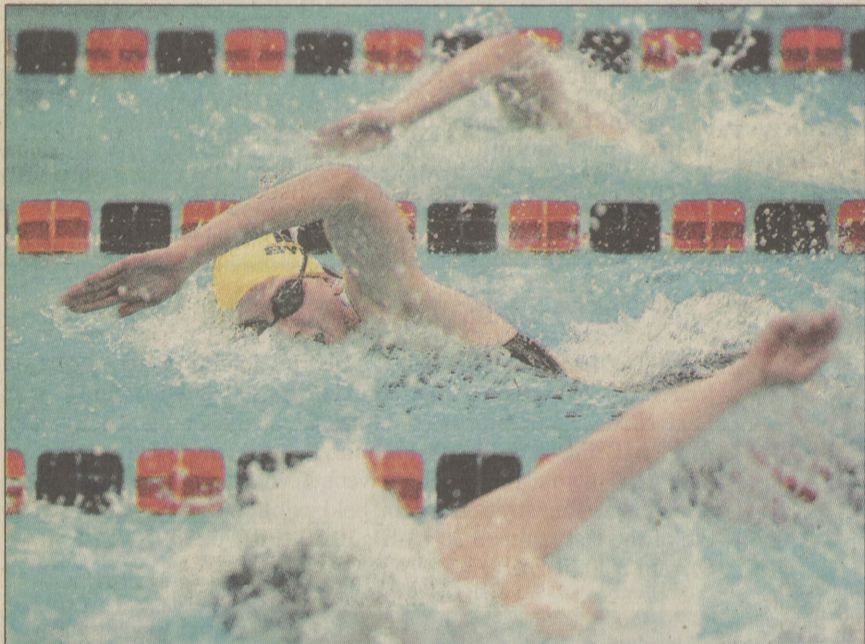
three of four free-throw attempts to push the lead to 64-57 with 47 seconds remaining.

O'Reilly pounded the ball inside to the 6-foot-5 Aciekewicz early in the first quarter. The junior center responded by scoring 10 of his 15 points in the first eight minutes, including a run of six consecutive points to make it 10-0 with 5:35 left in the first quarter.

"We got the ball inside and they had no answer for Josh," said Belenski.

On the state's biggest basketball stage, Crossin took over the spotlight in the second quarter. The 6-2 guard scored 12 points in the quarter, including a wild spurt just before halftime.

Crossin made a steal and missed a layup before rebounding a missed tip by DeRojas. Crossin rebounded the ball and made the basket. He scored again with 26 seconds left in the half, then recorded another steal and a basket with six seconds remaining.



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Caroline Byron captured her second state gold medal in the 100 freestyle.

BYRON

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Lindsay Guers produced a huge drop in time and was seeded second by fractions. Right behind was Yough sophomore Kelsey Grushecky, who set a meet record on Wednesday in the 100 butterfly.

To add to the tension, officials had to start the race twice. Somebody used a flash camera near the start. Byron completed 25 yards before she

realized officials stopped the race because the flash created an unfair start (there is a flash on the automatic timing system that signals the start of the race).

Byron gained an early lead when the race started again and held it, winning in 51.55 seconds. Guers was second in 51.97, and Grushecky was third in 52.66.

'Identiflyer' available for beginning bird watchers

To assist beginning bird watchers, the Pennsylvania Game Commission has added a bird song audio "identiflyer" to its list of merchandise available through "The Outdoor Shop" on its website (www.pgc.state.pa.us). Just click on "Merchandise," select "Misc. Items" and scroll down to the bird song audio identiflyer.

The device, which sells for \$35.50, comes with two audio cards, an earphone for in-the-field use, a bird-watching guide booklet and three AAA batteries already inserted.

The cards that come with the Identiflyer are the Yard Bird series. Each card has the name and a drawing

of the bird. By pressing the button beside the each bird, the Identiflyer will play a short sample of the bird's song.

Other song card series cost \$10.50 plus tax and consist of one card each.

The Warbler Identification System, which costs \$33.75, is a four-card pack that features 40 different types of warblers, including the Northern water thrush, yellow-breasted chat and the Kirtland's. The pack includes a special booklet on identifying the different types of warblers.

A carrying case also can be purchased from "The Outdoor Shop" for \$14.95 plus tax.

Dallas Youth Basketball banquet April 10

Dallas Youth Basketball will hold its annual banquet on Sunday, April 10, beginning at 6 p.m. at Genetti's in Wilkes-Barre. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. and trophies will be presented to all first and second place teams and skills competition winners. Adult tickets are \$15 and children under 10 are \$12 if they are not players. Players are free but they will require a ticket. Children under 2 are free but also need a ticket. All players must be accompanied by an adult. For tickets and more information, call Jean McCabe at 696-1190.



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Alaric Eby and coach Matt Stretanski watch the action between divers.

EBY

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when divers who went before him had more points, but Eby never trailed after he performed his dive in any of the 11 rounds.

"I tried to forget about it," Eby said. "I knew I was a couple points ahead, but I tried to forget about it. It was so close the whole meet it was tough to stay on."

Instead of worrying about the opposition, Eby focused on an aspect of his performance that hasn't always been a strength. At times he has struggled on his required dives, usually the simplest of his routine, while excelling at optional dives. On this day, he was just as good at doing the simple things as he was at performing the flashy twists and somersaults.

"We've been working on putting it all together as a package and not as just one individual dive," Dallas diving coach Kim Kuzma said. "His head really got in it after districts."

Eby led Cowley by a little over seven points after the first five dives, when the field was cut to 20. Eby stretched the lead to 17 points after the three dives in the semifinal round, but still had some work to do to earn the gold.

He put himself in command with his ninth dive, the first of the final round. It was a reverse dive from the pike position, a basic dive with a degree of difficulty of 1.7. However, Eby got 8s and even one 9 on it and increased his lead to 22 points.

"That's my first 9 ever," Eby said. "It's the perfect time to do it."

Eby was solid over the final two rounds, building his lead even more with his 10th dive and then protecting it with his final attempt.

"Everything went right," Kuzma said. "He wasn't thinking about things. He wasn't nervous. He wasn't tight. He was a totally different diver in not worrying about anything."

IN THE SERVICE

Maj. Walsh earns Bronze Star

Army Maj. Joseph P. Walsh has been decorated with the Bronze Star Medal while deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The medal is awarded to an individual who, while serving in the U.S. armed forces, has performed a heroic act, meritorious achievement or distinguished service during armed conflict or ground combat while engaged against an armed enemy of the United States.

Operation Enduring Freedom is the official name given to anti-terrorism military operations involving U.S. troops and allied coalition partners.

The major, a battalion executive officer with 18 years of military service, is normally assigned to the 35th Infantry, Schofield Barracks, Oahu, Hawaii.

He is the son of Paul and Maryann Walsh of Westminster Drive, Dallas. His wife,



Maj. Joseph P. Walsh

Stephanie, is the daughter of Stephen and Ilse Osier of Carlsborg, Wash.

Walsh graduated in 1984 from Dallas Senior High School, and received a bachelor's degree in 1988 from Edinboro State University. He earned a master's degree in 2001 from Louisiana State University.

Air Force Staff Sgt. Meighan L. Lerma is one of hundreds of U.S. Air Force members who participated in the 55th Presidential Inauguration of George W. Bush on January 20, 2005, at the nation's capital, Washington, D.C. The participants are assigned to the Air Force District of Washington and the 11th Wing at Bolling Air Force Base, D.C.

The airmen provided logistical and human resource support and performed a variety of assigned and special duties to help secure Washington streets, memorials and government installations during the inauguration and parade. They escorted dignitaries and media members, and stood watch as cordon members along Pennsylvania Avenue or at the Capitol.

Lerma, a personnel readiness supervisor, is assigned to the 11th Mission Support Squadron. The staff sergeant has served in the military for six years. She is the daughter of Mary A. Wallace of Boland Ave., Wilkes-Barre, and Michael McAnney of N. Lehigh St., Shavertown.

The sergeant is a 1997 graduate of Hanover Area Junior-Senior High School, Hanover Township.

Air Force Master Sgt. John T. Kelley is currently deployed to Balad Air Base, Iraq. Kelley, a first sergeant with 20 years of military service, is normally

assigned to the 355th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Tucson, Ariz. He is the son of John and Mary Kelley of Staub Road, Trucksville.

Navy Seaman Recruit James C. Evalenko, a 2004 graduate of Dallas High School, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

During the eight-week program, Evalenko completed a variety of training which included classroom study and practical instruction on naval customs, first aid, firefighting, water safety and survival, and shipboard and aircraft safety. An emphasis was also placed on physical fitness.

Army National Guard Pvt. Cody A. Lamoreaux has graduated from basic combat military training at Fort Sill, Lawton, Okla. During the eight weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission and received instruction in drill and ceremonies, rifle marksmanship, weapons, map reading, tactics, armed and unarmed combat, military courtesy, military justice, physical fitness, first aid, Army history, core values and traditions, and special training in human relations.

He is the son of Christine Lamoreaux of Shavertown. The private is a 2004 graduate of Lake-Lehman High School.

Fresh Air Fund plans summer visits

The Fresh Air Fund is seeking volunteers and host families for the summer 2005 visits of children from New York City. Each summer, more than 5,000 children, ages 6 to 18, spend two weeks or more with host families in suburban and small-town communities in the northeast and Canada. Local Fresh Air Fund volunteers recruit and interview prospective host families, check references and coordinate activities.

For more information or to volunteer, call Denise Moskaluk at 674-3707. To learn more about The Fresh Air Fund, visit www.freshair.org.

Summer hosts sought for orphaned children from Russia

Volunteers of America is again seeking host families to make dreams come true for orphaned children this summer.

A "Summer Dreams" information night will be held on Tuesday, April 5 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Fellowship Evangelical Free Church, 45 Hildebrandt Road, Dallas, near Dallas High School.

Summer Dreams is a hosting program through which families welcome children from Russia, ages 6-12, for a five week visit this summer. This powerful program often leads to adoption and can forever change the lives of these children.

For information or reservations, call 1-888-350-4862.

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