

AMAZING RACE

Shavertown resident Sean Robbins and Tracey McGurk of Dallas used their home field advantage to post outstanding finishes at last weekend's Wilkes-Barre Triathlon. Robbins was the first Luzerne County resident to cross the finish line, while McGurk was the first female finisher from the county.

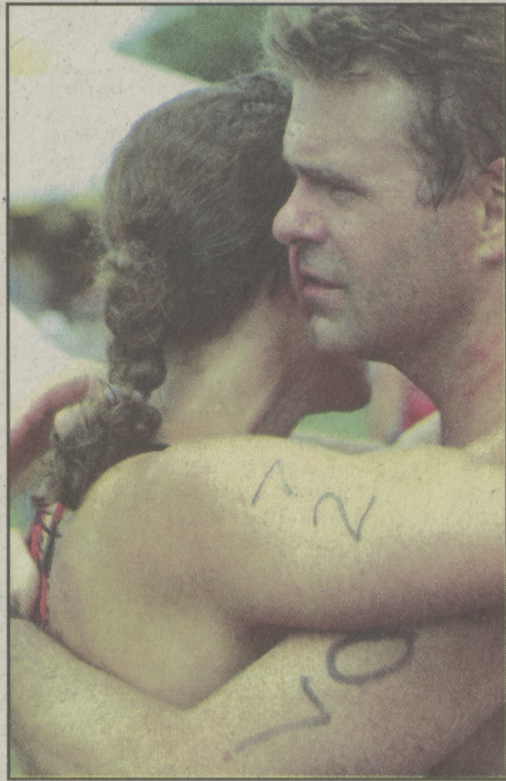
More than 450 athletes competed in the three-sport event, which features a swim of nearly 1 mile in Harveys Lake, a 24.8-mile bike race, and a 6.8-mile run.

More than half of the top finishers from the county were Back Mountain residents. The top finishers from the Back Mountain, listed with their place among Luzerne County finishers, age, and hometown were: 1. Sean Robbins,

Shavertown; 3. Christopher Hackett, Shavertown; 4. John McGurk, Dallas; 5. William Fisk, Dallas; 6. Tracey McGurk, Dallas; 10. Jerry Levandoski, Dallas; 14. Charles Eckman, Dallas; 15. David Mariner, Shavertown; 16. Matt McLaughlin, Dallas; 18. Rick Morgan, Shavertown; 19. Chris Kuhar, Harveys Lake; 20. Paul Lumia, Dallas; 21. Len Romanowski, Dallas; 22. Wayne Devine, Dallas; 23. Andrew Josuweit, Dallas; 24. Ryan Bloom, Shavertown; 26. Nadalie Temperine, Dallas; 28. Eric McCabe, Shavertown; 31. Diane Levandoski, Dallas; 33. Jill Kopicki, Harveys Lake; 34. Joe Maskalis, Dallas; 35. Peter Eckman, Shavertown; 36. Richard Owens, Shavertown; 37. Joseph Boyd, Shavertown; 39. Gregory O'Brien, Shavertown; 43. Joseph Zarola, Shavertown; 49. Bill Zarola, Dallas; and 50. Amanda Young, Dallas.



Shavertown Sean Robbins was the first athlete from Luzerne County to cross the finish line.



Dallas resident John McGurk gives his wife Tracey a hug after they both finished the triathlon. Tracey McGurk was the first female from Luzerne County to cross the finish line.



Sean Robbins of Shavertown takes his bike out of the rack after finishing the swim during the annual Wilkes-Barre Triathlon.



Dallas resident Diane Lewandoski competed in the event with her husband Jerry.



Matt McLaughlin and John O'Donnell help Joseph O'Donnell get ready for the triathlon. At age 65, Joseph O'Donnell was one of the four oldest competitors in the event.



Local volunteers make the event possible. Dallas residents Dave and Lisa Daris announce the names of the athletes as they cross the finish line.

Photos by Charlotte Bartizek