

Sports Week

SPORTS BRIEFS

Gryskovicz earns baseball awards

Former Dallas baseball standout Ryan Gryskovicz was recently named to the College Baseball Foundation's National Honor Roll for his performance last week, marking the first time a Bucknell University player has received national recognition this season.

In a five-game stretch last week, Gryskovicz batted .500 (9-for-18), including helping Bucknell to a 3-1 series win against Navy by going 8-for-14 at the plate against the Midshipmen. Gryskovicz scored five runs, and batted in five with a double, three walks and two stolen bases as the Bison claimed the No. 2 seed in the Patriot League Tournament and tied with Lehigh for the regular season crown.

Gryskovicz was also named the Patriot League Player of the Week. He carried a six-game hitting streak into the Patriot League Tournament.

American Legion sets baseball tryouts

The Back Mountain Junior and Senior American Legion baseball teams will be holding sign ups and tryouts from 5-6:30 p.m. Sunday, May 7 at the Dallas High School field. Senior Legion players (ages 16-19) and Junior Legion players (13-15) are eligible as long as they live in the Dallas or Lake-Lehman school district boundaries.

New players are asked to bring a copy of their birth certificate and players need to come to both tryouts. For more information, call 696-3979 or 714-2625. There is no cost to register and tryout. Fees for the year will be discussed at the tryouts.

Fusion sets U-11 tryout

The Back Mountain Fusion U-11 girls travel soccer team will hold tryouts at 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 10 at field behind the Dallas Middle School. The team begins its season in August. For more information, call Anne Marie Sutton at 696-4503.

Trap shoot set for May 6

The Noxen-Monroe Sportsmen's Association will hold a trap shoot at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 6 at El Rancho on Stonetown Road in Noxen. The public is invited.

Soccer camp taking registrations

Penn State Wilkes-Barre is accepting registrations for its annual soccer camp, which will be held June 26-30 at the campus in Lehman Township. Boys and girls in kindergarten through fourth grade will participate in the camp from 9 a.m. to noon, while boys and girls in grades 5-8 will take the field from 12:45-3:45 p.m. The cost of the camp is \$89.

Emphasis will be on technical skills, such as shooting, passing, dribbling, trapping and heading, as well as game tactics including proper positioning, creating space, attacking and defending. Goalie, advanced defensive and advanced offensive skills will be taught in drills for all interested players. There are special discounts available for teams bringing eight or more players.

For more information or to register, contact Ellen Gregorio at 675-9220 or e-mail her at wbsummeryouth@psu.edu.

Golf tournament seeks registrations

The First Lieutenant Michael J. Cleary Golf Tournament will be held Thursday, June 1 at Irem Temple Country Club in Dallas. The captain and crew tournament is being held in honor of Dallas High School graduate Mike Cleary, who was recently killed in action in Iraq.

The entry fee is \$125 per player, which includes lunch, dinner and prizes. There will also be an opportunity to win a new truck with on a hole in one, a \$2,500 putting contest and a \$100,000 par 3 shootout. Proceeds from the tournament will benefit the First Lieutenant Michael J. Cleary Memorial Foundation.

Registration forms are available at the Ranch Wagon on Route 309 in Dallas and Minuteman Press in Kingston. For more information, call Chuck Garnett at 675-6575.



Brothers Josh, left, and Jesse Reese have been playing the volleyball season with their biggest fan - their mother who passed away Feb. 2.

PHOTOS FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Mom's presence in play

Josh and Jesse Reese prove mettle since her death.

By DAVE KONOPKI
Post Editor

DALLAS TWP. — Teina Foell no longer sits in the bleachers at the Dallas High School boys volleyball games, where she loved to watch her two sons play for the Mountaineers.

But Josh and Jesse Reese can still feel their mother's presence during the games, more than three months after the 54-year-old lost her battle with cancer.

Foell passed away Feb. 2 from the effects of colon, liver, and ovarian cancer that was diagnosed in October 2004. When she died, the volleyball season was just a few weeks away.

"I can feel her around me the night before a game and I'll talk to her before every game," said Jesse, a 17-year-old junior. "I can feel her giving me energy during the game. I know she's there."

Josh says he never contemplated not playing during his senior season.

"There was no way I was going to miss it," said the 18-year-old. "My mother loved watching us play."

The Reese brothers have been playing inspired volleyball since the death of their mother, said Dallas head coach Mike Williams. The two players are a major reason the Mountaineers are in the thick of the District 2 playoff race.

"I'll be honest, I didn't know what to expect from our team this season," said



Josh and Jesse Reese warm up before a recent match against Lake-Lehman.

Williams. "But once I saw the determination and motivation in these two guys, I knew we could have a very good season. Josh is a rah-rah kind of a guy, and Jesse is quiet and laid back. But they're both playing very well."

Josh has taken his game to new heights, said Williams. The coach was so impressed that he unexpectedly named Josh — who is averaging nearly 20 kills a game — as one of the team captains.

"He's been great," said Williams. "I think Josh has established himself as one of the top five or six players in the league. He can play on any team in the

league. Before the start of the season, I didn't see him as our captain. That's not a knock against him. He's really taken control of the team. He's become a great leader."

The brothers watched their mother maintain a positive attitude during her battle against cancer. That spirit remains alive in her sons, says Josh.

"She taught us to never complain and to keep our heads straight," he said. "Even when she was sick, my mom never told us she was going to die. I think she was trying to keep us strong. She knew (the eventual outcome) but she

never told us. My mom always wanted us to do the best we can, in volleyball and in school. We might not be the greatest volleyball players or the best students, but we try our best."

And they have a special relationship. "We have our own kind of brotherly love," said Josh. "We argue, but we take care of each other."

Added Jesse: "Mom wanted us to be good people. She was a great person."

Williams has been overwhelmed by the attitude of the Reese brothers, who live in Dallas with their stepfather Ken Foell.

"I have nothing but respect for these two young men," he said. "It could have been easy for them to say, 'I lost my mom, I'll do drugs' or 'I lost my mom, so I'll drink.' They've been able to keep their heads above water."

"To lose your mother is difficult. To lose her when you're in high school is incredible. You want her to be there for games. You want her to see you graduate. She would have loved to see the way they're playing this season."

Despite losses against Lake-Lehman and Bishop Hoban earlier this week, Dallas can clinch a berth in the playoffs with wins against Wyoming Area, Crestwood, Meyers and North Pocono.

"At the end of the season, I just hope everyone is happy," said Josh. "Our team is very close. We play with the most emotion of any team in the league. I think about my mom every day. I know she'll be there with us."

And she'll be smiling, added Jesse. "I think she's very happy with our season," he said. "She knows that we're doing our best."

LITTLE LEAGUE

Fulton tosses one-hitter to spark Pirates; Dodgers edge Yankees

William Fulton tossed a complete game one-hitter, striking out 13 batters, as the Pirates defeated the Dodgers, 6-2, in Back Mountain Baseball, Inc.'s major league division. Justin Savalti, Michael Banas and Nate Vario led the Pirate offense with two hits each. Hayden Jenkins pitched an excellent game for the Dodgers, striking out eight. T.J. Schultz led the Dodger offense with a double.

• Cody Poepperling pitched a complete game, striking out 13 and allowing just five hits as the Phillies posted a 5-3 win against the Red Sox. Jeff Health, Poepperling, Chris Gerlin and Tommy Donavan had two hits apiece for the winners. For the Red Sox, Neil Shaver and Ryan Thomas had two hits each.

• Hayden Jenkins doubled home two runs to tie the game, and Lucus Lansberry doubled home the winning

run in the bottom of the fifth inning as the Dodgers snuck by the Yankees, 4-3. James DelPrior had a clutch hit to spark the rally. T.J. Shultz got the win as Hayden Jenkins struck out the side in the sixth for the save. Scott Napkora hit a solo home run for the Yankees and Patrick Condo pitched three scoreless innings with seven strikeouts in the loss.

• Alex Ivoska picked up the win on the mound as the Orioles posted a 6-4 win against the Yankees. Alex Zubko, Bobby Saba, Jake Piskorik, Nathan Kish had two hits each in the win. Scott Napkora recorded eight strikeouts despite the loss and Jim Roccograndi added two hits for the Yankees.

• Winning pitcher Noah Kustrin struck out seven batters as the Giants posted an 11-6 win against the Orioles. Kustrin, Ryan Zapoticky and Austin Smith each had a single in the win.

Alex Zubko registered seven strikeouts despite the loss. Bobby Saba slammed two home runs and added a double with three RBI. Alex Zubko had three hits, and Jordan Dolman had a double for the Orioles.

• Shane Dunn and Jordan Stephens combined for a three-hitter with eight strikeouts as the Giants topped the Rangers, 12-2. Bret Wanek, Shane Dunn, Jordan Stephens, Eric Novroski each had hits for the Rangers.

• Eric Ringsdorf slammed a two-run home run and David Wilson had two hits and two RBI as the Pirates topped the Yankees, 8-3. Josh McEntee picked up the win by pitching three innings and allowing one hit. He also struck out six. Scott Napkora pitched well for the Yankees, striking out four batters. Patrick Condo had a single and scored a run for the Yankees.

• Jason Schilling and Aaron Perez

combined on a one-hitter to lead the A's to a 3-0 win against the Astros. Schilling led the offense with a solo home run while Josh Carey added a pair of hits. Kurtis Manganella had the lone hit for the Astros.

• Jordan Stephens recorded eight strikeouts in three innings and allowed only one hit as the Rangers crushed the Orioles, 17-1. Shane Dunn had three strikeouts in one inning of relief. Jason Simonovich had two hits, John McCarthy had a triple, and John Murray doubled in the win. Bobby Saba had the only hit for the Orioles.

• Jason Schilling and Craig Skudulski each had three as the A's posted a 15-5 win against the Giants. Mike Carey and Harry Parkhurst added a pair of hits in the win. FJ Constantino picked up the win, striking out seven. Noah Kustrin and Alex Smith had two hits each for the Giants.