

Sports Week

Breaking the mold

By DAVE KONOPKI
Post Editor

KINGSTON TWP. — They've heard the stereotypes. Skateboarders are drug-using juvenile delinquents who love to spend all of their time doing nothing but hanging around.

But that doesn't stop Matt Fuhr, Mike Purdy, Mike McHutchison and the rest of their friends by doing the thing they love the most.

"It doesn't bother me too much," said Purdy, a 17-year-old senior at Dallas High School. "We're no different than the guys our age who play football or baseball. We like to skateboard and have fun with our friends. Most skateboarders are really nice guys."

"I think it's more art than a sport."

Matt Fuhr, 17
Skateboarder

Jennifer Noon agrees. In fact, the owner of HOPE Skateboards in Shavertown says Fuhr, Purdy and McHutchison are the opposite of the stereotype.

"Matt Fuhr and Mike McHutchison are planning on attending college after graduating," she said. "Mike Purdy has plans of becoming a chef. All three are great kids. Mike McHutchison went to Honduras in February to help in the building of a

medical clinic. Matt Fuhr works at The Meadows and also helped raise over \$1,000 for a children's charity who made quilts for traumatized children. Mike Purdy organized a petition for a skate park. They really are good kids and don't deserve the stereotypes that they are given. I think anyone would agree if they spent a little time with any of them."

And Noon says they're not the only good kids who enjoy skateboarding.

"Our experience with skateboarders has been great," she said. "They just need a place where they don't get fined or chased."

Fuhr admits that he's no stranger to being fined for skateboarding. The 17-year-old Lake-Lehman senior has been fined

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Dallas High School senior Mike Purdy, 17, performs a 'boneless' maneuver.



Mike McHutchison, a Dallas High School sophomore, performs an Ollie Melon grab while practicing.



TIMES LEADER STAFF PHOTO/AIMEE DILGER

Lake-Lehman's Jackie Hettes tagged out by Stephanie Pace of Dallas.

Knights wear softball crown

The Lake-Lehman softball team captured the Wyoming Valley Conference Division II championship with a thrilling 1-0 win against rival Dallas earlier this week. The Black Knights, under head coach Stacey Stack, raised their record to 14-1 with the win. The team's lone loss was a 1-0 setback against Dallas earlier in the season.

Winning pitcher Sheree Horvath was in control throughout the game, allowing just three hits while striking out seven. Vicky Lacey provided the game's only run, an RBI single to score Joscelyn Mahon in the sixth inning.

Dallas entered the game with an opportunity to join Lake-Lehman atop the standings. Despite the loss, head coach Joyce Tinner and her squad had a fine regular season, finishing with

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Lake-Lehman pitcher Sheree Horvath fired a three-hitter against Dallas.

SNIDER SIGNS WITH LOCK HAVEN



Dallas High School track and field standout Cassie Snider recently decided to continue her academic and athletic careers at Division II Lock Haven University. Snider was an outstanding performer for head coach Matt Samuel at Dallas. Attending the announcement, from left, first row are Scott Snider, father; Cassie Snider, and Donna Snider, mother. Second row: Samuel, assistant coach Ed Radzinski and athletic director Jack Wolensky.

SAMANAS, TOMKO TO PLAY AT KING'S



Dallas High School football players Rob Tomko and Nick Samanas recently decided to continue their academic and athletic careers at King's College. The two were standout players for head coach Ted Jackson Sr. at Dallas. Attending the announcement, from left, first row are Tomko, Jackson Sr., and Samanas. Second row: Ted Jackson Jr., assistant coach; Bob Mahle, assistant coach; and Jack Wolensky, athletic director.