

Sports Week

SPORTS BRIEFS

Bevevino records second hole in one

Dallas resident Joe Bevevino recently recorded his second career hole in one at the Huntsville Golf Club. The Dallas High School student made the ace on the 163-yard, No. 3 hole while using a 9-iron. The shot was witnessed by Huntsville staff members Jeff Muchler, Brandon Wills and Mike Wills. Bevevino is a member of the Dallas High School golf team. He will be a junior in the fall.

Lacrosse group plans meeting

An organizational meeting of the newly-forming Back Mountain Lacrosse Association will be held at 8 p.m. Thursday, June 22 at the Rock Recreation Center on Carverton Road in Trucksville. Anyone interested in playing is encouraged to attend the meeting or call Rich at 696-4440.

Dallas football sets annual camp

The Dallas High School football team will hold its annual youth football Wednesday through Friday, July 19-21 at the high school. The three-day camp for players ages 7-13 will be held from 9 a.m. to noon each day.

The clinic will be under the direction of veteran head coach Ted Jackson, his coaching staff, parents and former players. Jackson has led the Mountaineers to a state championship, 10 Wyoming Valley Conference titles, three District 2 championships, and four Eastern Conference titles.

The camp stresses all aspects of offense and defense, including throwing, running, receiving, blocking, and tackling. One of the things that make the camp unique is that every player is given the opportunity to play each position.

In addition to the on-field instruction, Jackson will talk to the participants about sportsmanship, the importance of getting good grades, weightlifting, discipline and dedication.

For more information or an application, call 696-3748.

Basketball camps at Misericordia

College Misericordia will host its annual basketball school for boys June 26-30 and July 17-21 in the Anderson Sports-Health Center. The camp will be under the direction of men's head coach Trevor Woodruff. The school is also holding its annual basketball school for girls July 10-14 under the direction of women's head coach Tom Griffith.

The camps are open to boys and girls between the ages of 8 and 15. The cost of each session is \$115 and includes a T-shirt, basketball, lunch, and access to the Anderson Center pool.

For more information, call 674-6289.

3-on-3 soccer tourney June 24

Registrations are being taken for the ninth annual 3v3 Summer Soccer Clash on June 24 at Abington Heights High School. The rain date is set for June 25. The EPYSA-sanctioned event is open to players of all skill levels, ranging from U-7 to U-18. There are also divisions for college-aged and adult teams. The entry fee is \$125 per team (four to five on a roster) and teams are guaranteed a minimum of three games.

Medals will be presented to the top two teams in each division. Each division also qualifies teams for the Challenge Sports National Tournament at Disney World in July and the 3v3 national tournament in San Anto-



Members of the Dallas girls softball team listen to their coaches after a heartbreaking extra-inning loss in the state eastern final against Lakeland.

Success a true team effort

Host of players shine as Dallas softball reaches state eastern final

By LISA SOKOLOWSKI
For The Post

It's been nearly a week since the tears fell at Mid Valley High School, six days since the Dallas softball team's season ended in a marathon game. It took Lakeland 11 innings to oust the Mountaineers from the PIAA Class 2A tournament, ending their season one game from the state championship contest.

Sometimes, all people remember is the end and what happened to finish the season. The thing about Dallas, though, is that the end could have arrived much sooner than it did. But each game had a hero—a player who carried the team on her shoulders for a bit and extended the season a bit longer.

"This year, just playing with those girls, honestly, kept me going and made me love softball," said Dallas' lone senior, Sara Swepston. "Every single girl out there wanted to go for that state title."

In the District 2 quarterfinals, it was Swepston who hurled a complete 13-inning game against Elk Lake, striking out 23 in the process. In the same game, she hit a two-out, two-run single to end the game in a 3-2 victory.

In the next game it was Ally Evans who, after Swepston struck out 11 in 5.1 innings of no-decision ball, pitched perfect ball the rest of the way to earn the win. And Sarah Flannery, Dallas' usual designated hitter, did what she was supposed to. She hit an infield single against Riverside to give Dallas a 6-5 lead in the bottom of the sixth in an eventual 7-5 win.

The D2 final, though a loss, was freshman Shauna Phillips' time to shine. She hit a 1-0 pitch to deep right field to score two runs—the only two runs Lakeland pitcher Arielle Pruzinsky gave up in the D2 tournament.



Steff Pace takes a swing at a pitch during a state playoff game against Lakeland.

Against Annville-Cleona in the PIAA opening-round game, there was Phillips again—hitting a two-run single up the middle to put Dallas on the board in the top of the fifth in a 5-0 win.

Kasey Corbett was the defensive standout in the PIAA quarterfinals against St. Pius X. After Swepston gave up three singles to the first three batters of the game, Corbett gunned down two baserunners who attempted to steal to end the inning. But Steff Pace stole the offensive glory by hitting a grand slam in the sixth to give Dallas its first runs of the game in what would be a 10-0 victory.

And, yes. There's the 5-2 loss against Lakeland in the Eastern Final.

In the last game of Dallas' season, centerfielder Ju-

lie Pettit made four unbelievable catches that kept the Mountaineers in the game. Without Pettit, the game would have been done before the sun set.

"Steff hitting the grand slam, Kasey being an awesome catcher," Swepston said, "we spread the glory around."

And now that the season is over—ending three days after Dallas celebrated graduation—it's almost time to look ahead.

It's easy to look at the younger players, the ones coming up in the ranks. But those kids are the ones Dallas coach Joyce Tinner is a bit wary of, hoping the middle school students could still enjoy softball when they get to the varsity squad.

"A lot of it is not trying to burn the kids out," she said. "Some kids, they play too much softball. The big sport in Dallas years ago was basketball. But, a lot of kids are coming through the ranks playing softball. I'm not 100 percent for that because they can burn out."

But Tinner hasn't.

She's a longtime member of the Dallas softball team. Aside from playing during her high school years (she was the starting shortstop on the 1988 squad that made it to the state semifinals in Class 3A), she's been the one standing in the third base box since 1998.

And all this time, she's played Dallas softball. And Dallas has played Dallas softball. And every player brings up playing Dallas softball in interviews.

But, what is it?

"Get a runner at first," Tinner explained. "And bunt. No matter who the kid is. We bunt them over. That's Dallas softball. That's how we play the game. Move the runner to scoring position, and, when they're in scoring position, hit them in."

Sure, it sounds good in theory, but it's not just a theory. It works. Dallas proved that this year.



Dallas third baseman Erin Belles blocks a throw during the game against Lakeland.