

She's a UCA cheerleader

By REBECCA BRIA
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After injuring her back at gymnastics, Michelle Berley thought she'd take a break from the sport and try cheerleading. That turned out to be a good move.

Seventeen-year-old Berley of Shavertown was recently named a Universal Cheerleading Association (UCA) All Star and will perform at the 2008 New Year's Day Parade in London.

"Cheerleading was 10,000 times more fun," Berley said. The Dallas High School senior joined the Dallas cheerleaders as a freshman. Today, she is co-captain of the team.

In August, the Dallas squad attended a UCA Camp at Pine Forest in the Poconos. Berley tried out for UCA All Stars at the camp and was one of 25 girls selected. She was also one of eight out of 600 girls chosen to try out to be a UCA instructor at next summer's camp. Berley expects to try out near the end of the school year.

Before leaving for London, Berley will receive a DVD in the mail with her routines. She will depart for London with her father on December 26 and return home January 2. Berley and the 10th, 11th and 12th grade UCA girls will practice in London every day prior to the parade.

Berley began doing gymnastics at age 3 at Northeast Gymnastics A-

cademy. Though she quit the sport at 14, her gymnastics background helps her in cheerleading with tumblers, strength and flexibility.

Berley says cheerleading requires a lot of athletic ability and she feels cheerleaders are role models for the community.

"It takes a lot of hard work," she said of being a cheerleader. "It's not that easy to lift another girl up in the air."

The Dallas cheerleading team is comprised of 18 girls who practice two hours a day, two days a week. The cheerleaders are required to be at football games once a week in the fall. In the winter, they go to basketball and wrestling games plus have practice, meeting almost every night of the week. The team also participates in competitions.

Dallas cheerleaders have many fundraisers throughout the year to help pay the costs of going to UCA camp as the girls make their own lollipops and sell them at football games, hold several car washes and more.

Berley's bedroom is home to an inflatable banana the Dallas squad received at camp one year for being the most spirited team of the day.

With desires to be a college cheerleader, she hopes to attend Temple University and expects to study either psychology or marketing.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Kayley Peters and Michelle Berley, co-captains of the Dallas High School Cheerleaders and best friends, are shown at the Universal Cheerleading Association (UCA) Camp at Pine Forest in the Poconos in August. Berley was named a UCA All Star at the camp and will cheer in the 2008 New Year's Day Parade in London. Berley was also asked to try out to be a UCA instructor.

Insert: Michelle Berley, Shavertown, was recently named a Universal Cheerleading Association All Star and will cheer in the 2008 New Year's Day Parade in London. Berley, 17, is co-captain of the Dallas High School Cheerleaders.



Wombats place first in championship games

The Back Mountain Wombats U-9 Girls Soccer Team, sponsored by Central Clay Products Inc., recently came in first place in the championship playoff games. Members of the team are, from left, first row, Maria Pino, Nicole Cavanaugh, Mikayla Sowga, Shelby Smith and Sierra Titus. Second row, Coach Terry Cavanaugh, Emma Lehman, Janelle Cawley, Sara Lojewski, Rachel Maniskas, Kaitlyn Hill and Coach Jay Maniskas.



JONATHAN J. JUKA/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Magpies win soccer championship

Members of the Magpies soccer team from the Back Mountain Youth Soccer Association who finished their season with 18 wins, two ties and one loss and recently won the U10 division championship are shown here at a party held in their honor at Pizza Perfect last Saturday. Laying in front is Julia Baloh. From left, first row, Chrissy Snedeker,

assistant coach; Michaela O'Connell, Katie Snedeker, Rachel Luke, Kendra Nulton and Gary Snedeker, assistant coach. Standing, Coach Sandy McCarroll, Izzy Henry, Molly Storz, Rachel Malak, Caroline Banas, Maddy Miles, Julia Adonizio and Bonnie Snedeker, assistant coach. Thanks to coach Sandy McCarroll and assistant coaches Bonnie and Gary Snedeker for an outstanding season. Team statistician was Chrissy Snedeker.

GIRLS BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Dallas Youth Basketball announces the 7th and 8th grade girls schedule for the 2007-2008 season.

SUNDAY, Nov. 11
Noon and 1 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, Nov. 21
6:30 and 7:30 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, Nov. 28
6:30 and 7:30 p.m.
SUNDAY, DEC. 2

Noon and 1 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 5
6:30 and 7:30 p.m.
SUNDAY, DEC. 9
Noon and 1 p.m.
SUNDAY, DEC. 16
Noon and 1 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 19
6:30 and 7:30 p.m.
THURSDAY, DEC. 20
6:30 and 7:30 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 2
6:30 and 7:30 p.m.
SUNDAY, JAN. 6
Noon and 1 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 9

6:30 and 7:30 p.m.
SUNDAY, JAN. 13
Noon and 1 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 16
6:30 and 7:30 p.m.
SUNDAY, JAN. 20
Noon and 1 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 23
6:30 and 7:30 p.m.
SUNDAY, JAN. 27
Noon and 1 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 30
6:30 and 7:30 p.m.
THURSDAY, JAN. 31
6:30 and 7:30 p.m.
SUNDAY, FEB. 3

Noon, 1 and 2 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 6
6:30 and 7:30 p.m.
SUNDAY, FEB. 10
Noon and 1 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 13
6:30 and 7:30 p.m.
SUNDAY, FEB. 17
Noon and 1 p.m.
All games will be played at the Wycallis Elementary School gymnasium.
Regular season games end on February 17. Playoff schedule will be announced.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Basketball clinic slated

The Dallas High School girls basketball team and coaches will host a basketball clinic on Sunday, Nov. 18. The clinic is for girls in grades 3 through 8. The cost will be \$20 per child. For registration information, call Randy Dunbar at 696-2015.

WYOMING VALLEY YOUTH FOOTBALL CONFERENCE PLAYOFFS

Playoff games in the Wyoming Valley Youth Football Conference were postponed last weekend. Inclement weather on Friday and Saturday forced some area high school football teams to play on Sunday, leaving no referees available for the youth football games. Back

Mountain teams scheduled to play today are listed here.
SUNDAY, NOV. 4
11 a.m.
C Team
Kingston Township Raiders vs. Dallas Junior Mounts
12:30 p.m.
B Team

Dallas Junior Mounts vs. Kingston Township Raiders
2 p.m.
A Team
Kingston Township Raiders vs. Dallas Junior Mounts
All games will be played at the Dallas High School football field.



Seniors members of the Dallas High School cross country team were honored after their last home meet against Wyoming Area, Pittston Area and Coughlin. From left, first row, are Chris Box and Eric Danko. Second row, Allison Evans, Lyndsay Ellis, Kasia Szulborski and Erin Delaney.