

BACK MOUNTAIN LITTLE LEAGUE

Chad Phillips' hits lead Phillies to win

**PHILLIES 10
GIANTS 7**
Chad Phillips had two hits, including a double and Jeremy Jayne added two hits as the Phillies held off the Giants, 10-7. Rosario Bevevino was the winning pitcher, recording nine strikeouts in four innings. Jackson Shaver led the Giants with two hits. Greg Skrepenak reached safely in all four plate appearances, including a key single in a fifth-inning rally. Tommy Williams pitched well, striking out six Phillies.

**YANKEES 16
GIANTS 2**
John Kane had four hits, including a home run and two triples and picked up the win on the mound as the Yanks crushed the Giants, 16-2.

Cody Coolbaugh added four hits while Zach Connolly, Nick Muldoon added two hits each. Owen Sprau pitched an inning of hitless relief while striking out two. Jackson Shaver led the Giants attack with a double.

**PHILLIES 16
ATHLETICS 10**
Cody "Moose" Long and Rosario Bevevino had three hits each as the Phillies cruised past the A's, 16-10.

Daniel Mingey added two hits in the win and Chad Phillips was the winning pitcher with five strikeouts. Aaron Napkora led the Athletics with three hits, including a double, and Omar Nijmeh had two hits, including a double. Aaron Yurko struck out seven Phillies in the loss.

PHILLIES 7

ASTROS 5
Lee Eckert III blasted a 3-run homer and singled to lead a 13-hit attack as the Phils squeezed by the Astros, 7-5.

Daniel Mingey had three singles and Brandon Kozlowski and Cody Long had two hits each in the win. Jeremy Jayne ripped a double. Eckert was the winning pitcher, allowing no runs in four innings of work. Noah Gorski led the Astros with three hits. Patrick Newhart had two singles and Nicholas James and Alec Jones each doubled in the loss.

**PIRATES 1
ASTROS 9**

The Pirates overcame a 7-1 deficit to defeat the Astros, 17-9. Tommy Calpin picked up the win in relief of Nick Romanowski. Calpin also helped his own cause with two singles and two runs scored. Romanowski added three hits, including a double, and Ryan Cheskiewicz contributed to the offensive attack with two doubles. For the Astros, Nicholas James pounded out a three-run triple and Patrick Newhart added two singles.

MAJOR GIRLS SOFTBALL

**TORNADOS 7
HARVEYS LAKE 5**

Mallory Faux doubled and struck out six as the Tornados topped Harveys Lake, 7-5. Elizabeth Dillon pitched well in relief and had two singles. Katie Kapral also had two hits. Kyleigh Kravits had a great defensive play in left field.



Lake-Lehman catcher Erin Bellas makes a catch at home plate to end the first inning.



Alexa Decker slugs in a run for Lake-Lehman.



With members of the Dallas girls softball team in the background and her mom, Donna, at her side, Jess Ras is ready to toss out the first ball at a benefit softball game played between Dallas and Lake-Lehman.

Softballers rally 'round a comrade

By CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK
Dallas Post Correspondent

The softball game played last weekend between the Dallas and Lake-Lehman girls' teams wasn't about Sarah Konopki's 3 run home run, though it was fun, or Erin Bellas' catching skills which are awesome. And it didn't matter who the best pitcher of the night was.

The game played showed how good-heartedness and tradition can be fostered even at the most competitive of levels — high school sports.

The benefit game was also important as a fund raiser for a fellow sportswoman who loves softball - 18-year-old Jess Ras, a former Wyoming Valley West softball standout diagnosed with leukemia. The game collected about \$1,000 to help defray medical costs for Ras and

her parents, Donna and Dave Ras, of Kingston. This game illustrated the camaraderie players can feel for each other.

Taking the time to talk to team players from both Dallas and Lake-Lehman puts things in perspective.

"It's exciting because we're helping a fellow sportswoman who loves the same sport as we do and as much," said Rachael Litchman, a senior at Lake-Lehman.

Just a year ago, Ras pitched the Lady Spartans softball team to a 12-3 regular season record and then onto the Wyoming Valley Conference West Division championship. After starting her freshman year at East Stroudsburg University, she had to stop school and start chemotherapy in November. It's been shocking for her and heart-breaking for her family.

"I was hard; it's very hard now," sobbed Donna Ras, standing on the field on Mother's Day, watching her only child try to pitch the first ball. Ras has lost 40 pounds to the chemo regime she must undergo.

"The doctors are not saying much of anything," Donna said.

Things weren't always like this for the Ras family, though.

Dallas senior catcher Erin Bellas remembers the sting and competitiveness of playing against Ras during the regular season last year.

"I played against her; she was a very challenging pitcher," said Bellas. "It's kind of sad, though, to even have to have a benefit for someone like her who's so young."

The benefit game this year had extra special meaning.

The concept of a benefit game between the Dallas and

Lake-Lehman softball teams started last year as a senior project of some Lake-Lehman students when Justine Martin, a senior at Lake-Lehman and a student athlete, was killed in a car accident.

This year, after hearing about Ras' diagnosis, the team's head coaches - Joyce Tinner of Dallas and Lake-Lehman's John Anglovich - decided to have another benefit with hopes of continuing the tradition each year.

The big-hearted games are, "A good community project and we going to try to keep them going," said Anglovich and his assistant coach Kevin Koziol. Tinner and John McNeill, also a Dallas coach, agree and will find another worthy benefactor for next year's game.

As for Ras, she says "This has been just awesome; I hope they do, do it every year."



Corey Metz (No. 15) of the Back Mountain Bandits faces off against an opponent from Bethlehem.

Bandits get 2nd win

The Back Mountain Bandits lacrosse team hosted Bethlehem last Saturday and came away with an 8-3 victory, its second of the season.

The Bandits started the first quarter with a score by Keith Gillette.

Middies Stone Mannello, RJ Driscoll, Rick Morgan, Corey Metz, Duncan Breig, David Nape, Justin Hutchins, Connor Duffy and Justin Phillips played hard the entire game for the Bandits.

By halftime, Gillette had two

scores, David Nape had one and the Bandits were ahead, 4-1.

At the start of the second half, the defensive play of Connor Switzer, AJ Spears, Owen Morgan, Noah Mirro, Adam Adelman, Xavier Barber and goalie Michael Golden held the Bethlehem team to three scores during the entire game.

Duncan Breig had a great game with two scores. The Bandits' victory was aided by the offensive play of Luke Yapple, Louis Parente, Dylan Hakim and Keith Gillette.

SPORTS BRIEF

Starz organization holds registration

The West Side All Starz Cheer and Dance Organization will accept registrations for the 2009/2010 cheer and

dance season from 6 to 8 p.m. today, May 17, at the Joan Harris Conservatory for the Performing Arts, 545 Charles St., Luzerne.

For more information, e-mail info@westsideallstarz.



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Throughout the day, children participated in stations and learned about the many things the outdoors has to offer. Some of the events offered this year included archery, outdoor cooking, trapping/furbearers, b.b. guns, shotgunning and turkey calling.

The Red Rock Chapter has been the recipient of a national award from Nashville for "Best Jakes/ Extreme JAKES Event," hosting 151-250 children for the last three years.

More information about this event may be found at www.redrockchapternwtf.org.