



Mario J. Oliveri of Trucksville, a member of Misericordia University's class of 2010, poses for a picture at Yankee Stadium after securing full-time employment with the storied franchise. Oliveri served an internship with the Yankees organization to complete his bachelor's degree in sport management.

Wow! He works for the Yankees

Misericordia University graduate Mario J. Oliveri, of Trucksville, still has trouble believing he works for the New York Yankees and gets to watch batting practice while having lunch.

The 2010 sports management graduate parlayed an internship with the storied franchise into a permanent appointment in October, joining fellow MU alumnus Alfred Santasiere III, class of 2001, director of publications, in the corporate offices in Yankee Stadium.

Oliveri was slated to start his internship in July when a mid-season position opened up in the season tickets department. Instead of a typical entry-level internship start, Oliveri was able to make his mark as an account executive intern, placing telephone sales calls and helping provide customer service to 3,000 of the team's season-ticket holder accounts that he was assigned to manage.

Making easy work of the intense learning curve, he was soon recognized by his super-

visors for his enthusiasm and energy, which translated into a high volume of successful sales calls.

"I have three brothers and a sister, and we have always been huge Yankees fans," Oliveri said, who was selected from among 1,000 applicants for the permanent position as sales representative. "I have been going to games since I was little."

While he was a student at Misericordia, Oliveri volunteered with the Penguins for four years, doing anything he could to get experience in team management.

"I did a little bit of everything, interning and shadowing and working with the Pens at the ice rink where they practiced," he said. "It was then that I developed this great mentor relationship with Greg Petorak and he was the one who reached out to Al Santasiere and helped me make the most of the Misericordia-Yankee connection."

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The winning Free Throw Championship contestants are shown with Knights of Columbus volunteers who assisted in making the event successful. First row, Nicole Cavanaugh. From left, second row, Marty Lukas, trustee; Zach Connolly, Jonathan Sabatini, Lee Eckert, Nick Kocher, Andrew Kovalick, Jack Cacoza, Grand Knight; and Bob Lukas, trustee. Third row, Jim O'Donnel, Paul Reich, Stanley Zamerowski, Ed Sholtis, Deputy Grand Knight; and Bill Roberts, free throw chairman.



Accepting the 2010 Pennsylvania Good Housekeeping Grand Champion award were Devon and Eva Fine, Sweet Valley, members of Showin' Blue 4-H Club.

Six locals win free throw contest

Five boys and one girl from the Back Mountain area were named local winners of the 2011 Father O'Leary Knights of Columbus #8224 Free Throw Championship and have earned the right to compete at the district level in February.

The Back Mountain Knights of Columbus sponsored the local competition at the Gate of Heaven School gymnasium. All area youngsters ages 10 to 14 were eligible to participate.

Andrew Kovalick was the winner of the 10-year-old boys' division. Nicole Cavanaugh was the 11-year-old girls' champion and Nick Kotcher, a returning 2010 champion, was the winner of the 11-year-old boys' division.

In the 12-year-old boys' bracket, Lee Eckert was the champion. The 13-year-old boys' division was won by Jonathan Sabatini and the 14-year-old boys champion was Zach Connolly.

Each contestant was allowed 15 free throw attempts in the contests. Ties were settled by successive rounds of five free throws per contestant until a winner emerged.

Each of these winners will compete in the district competition to be held on Sunday, Feb. 6 at West Side Career & Technology Center, Pringle, with an eye toward moving on to the state and international levels.

4-Hers compete at state horse show

Twenty two Luzerne County 4-H horse members participated in the 51st Annual Pennsylvania State 4-H Horse Show held at the State Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg.

To be eligible for the show, members must advance through qualifying competitions at county, regional and district levels.

Members participating in 4-H performance classes were: Lindsay Jayne, Dallas; Kristen Boyle, Shavertown; Thomas Boyle, Shavertown; Kyle Keiper, Dallas; Mallory Lefkowitz, Courtdale;

Tyler Linde, Kingston; Kayla Fine, Sweet Valley; Devin Fine, Sweet Valley; Samantha Zimmerman, Dallas; Amy Polachek, Dallas; Hannah Corcoran, Dallas; Grace Ferrero, Plymouth; Megan Lee, Noxen; Nina Leeds, Wyoming; Kaitlin Ingram, Dallas; Brooke Evans, Dallas; Kathryn Barilla, Dallas; Alicia Remetz, Dallas; and Maggie Fraley, White Haven.

In 4-H horse production classes, participants were: Kianna Spencer, Dallas; Lindsay Jayne, Dallas; Kaitlin Ingram, Dallas;

Brittany Galli, Wilkes-Barre; and Celeste Vitkoski, Trucksville.

Luzerne County was this year's recipient of the Good Housekeeping Grand Champion award and was presented with a perpetual trophy.

The 4-H youth program is administered through Penn State Cooperative Extension.

For more information on 4-H Youth Development Programs in Luzerne County, contact Donna Grey at 825-1701, 602-0600, or 1-888-825-1701.

DALLAS YOUTH BASKETBALL

Michael Anderson explodes for 18 points to lead Fieldhouse Sporting Goods win

Fieldhouse Sporting Goods 40
Diversified Payroll Solutions 32

Michael Anderson dumped in 18 points to lead Fieldhouse to a 40-32 victory over Diversified. Michael Luksic had 24 points for Diversified while Dylan Schuster scored five in the losing effort.

Coon Industries 25
Abstract Resources 20

Ben O'Connell had 16 and Justin Marshall scored seven as Coon Industries defeated Abstract Resources, 25-20. Nick Whitsell keyed the defense.

Jay Bittner scored 12 for Abstract while Carl Markowski added four. Ryan and Connor Phillips were the key defensive players for Abstract.

Harry and Carlos 36
DeLuca Law Offices 18

Mason Gatusso and Cole Wyffels led the offense for Harry and Carlos as it picked up a 36-18 win over DeLuca Law Office. Joey Irvin and Ryan Kostelnick played hard on defense.

Jimmy Powell and Jacob Stritzinger keyed the offense as Chris Allen and Thomas Marsola managed the defense.

Dr. M & M Kovalick 34
Jeff Thompson Trucking 30

In an exciting game, Chris Hadsell and Andrew Kovalick led offensively for The Drs. Who won a 34-30 squeaker over Jeff Thompson Trucking.

David Schuester and Justin Thompson led the offense for Thompson Trucking. Chris Dautrich, Josh Jardin, Evan McLain and Joey Chacke hustled on defense for their teams.

Orthopaedic Consultants Inc. 31
Abstract Resources 30

In an exciting close game from start to finish, Chris Murray led with 21 points and Paul Zabloutney added 10 as Ortho-

paedic Consultants Inc. squeaked by Abstract Resources, 31-30.

Michael Farrel scored 14 with Jay Bittner and Carl Markowski each adding six. Dominic Angelicola, Michael Mesko, and Nathan Maransky played a great defense for their teams.

Thrifty Beverage Inc. 28
Belrick Corp. 16

Lee Eckert led the offense with 24 points with Ethan Szcsecinski, Owen Sprau and Michael Krakowski playing awesome defensively for Thrifty's 28-16 win over Belrick Corp.

Josh Holdrege and Collin Gleco each scored four for Belrick. Justin Phillips played a great game on defense.

Coon Industries 34
Jeff Thompson Trucking 22

Mikail Krochta and Ben O'Connell each scored 10 and Justin Marshall added eight to lead Coon Industries to a 34-22 victory over Jeff Thompson Trucking.

Connor Maloney and Ryan Cohen keyed the defense. Justin Thompson and Adam Borton each had eight points in the loss. Andrew Grabowski played well on defense.

DeLuca Law Offices 40

Orthopaedic Consultants Inc. 33

Jacob Stritzinger and Nico DeLuca had 14 points apiece to lead DeLuca Law to a 44-33 victory over Orthopaedic Consultants.

Stone Manello, Matt Blum and Jake Weiland played great offensive games while Brody Stickland and Matt Bloom played well on defense.

Dr. M & M Kovalick 24
Harry & Carlos 20

Andrew Kovalick and Matt Mathers led the offense as Drs. M & M Kovalick defeated Harry

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