



Back Mountain's Brian Stepniak delivers a pitch against Plains.

S. JOHN WILKIN PHOTOS/ THE DALLAS POST

BMT AMERICAN ADVANCES TO CHAMPIONSHIP GAME



Dalton Simpson picked up the win while Michael Anderson led the 12-hit BMT offense, going 3-4 with a home run and four RBI as Back Mountain American defeated West Pittston, 12-7. Mason Gattuso and Simpson both had two hits and two RBI while Ethan Zawatski and Michael Doggett both doubled and drove in two. With the win, BMT American advances to the Section 5 championship beginning next week in North Pocono. Members of the Back Mountain American team are, from left, kneeling, Derek Answini and Mason Gattuso. Second row, Darren Kerdesky, John Betzko, Michael Collins, Michael Doggett, Zane Nardone, Michael Luksic, Michael Anderson, Kyle McAndrew, Ethan Zawatski and Dalton Simpson. Third row, Scott Answini, Jeff Doggett and Mike Luksic, coaches.



Back Mountain's Zack Yursha takes a cut while batting against Plains during the Wyoming Valley American Legion playoff game.

BMT wins AL title

Brian Stepniak returned to the pitcher's mound for Back Mountain and hurled his team to a 6-0 drubbing of Plains to win the Wyoming Valley American Legion championship.

Stepniak's throwing hand was hit with a line drive off the bat of a Plains hitter during a regular-season game. He left that outing immediately and was worried his right hand was broken. Turns out, he was fine.

The junior-to-be at Dallas High School was in perfect condition as he tossed a complete game, seven-hit shutout to lead Back Mountain to its first league title since 1991. The win snapped the longest current championship drought of teams that have remained active since then.

Both teams advanced to the Region 5 Tournament which was scheduled to begin Saturday.

BMT LIGHT BLUE ALL-STAR TEAM



Members of the Back Mountain Light Blue 8 & 9-year-old All-Star Team are, from left, first row, Tyler Osipower, Zach Holthaus, Matt Dolan, Matt Maransky, Kyle Sincavage. Second row, Jake Connolly, Nick Solinsky, Tanner Saracino, Ryan Maloney, Everett Klusmeyer, Brett Ostroski. Third row, Jeff Connolly, assistant coach; Dan Maloney, head coach; and Ray Ostroski, assistant coach.



Carley Perloff, of Dallas, puts one into the box with the advice of Maggie Gilbertson, Shavertown.



Kyla Saracini, of Shavertown, and Morgan Vincelli, of Dallas, face off in front of the goal during a field hockey clinic for girls.



Madeleine Ross, Dallas, practices her skills at the field hockey clinic.



Learning the game of field hockey

Youngsters learned the fundamentals of field hockey at the Mounts Field Hockey Camp held recently at the Cleary Soccer Field on the campus of Dallas High School. Dallas field hockey coach Kylie Rosengrant conducted the camp.

Jennifer Cave, left, of Shavertown, talks about field hockey strategies to camper Angelena Allen, of Dallas.

CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST