

Sports



Jeanne Williams of Lehman Township collects discarded water cups.



Sean Robbins of Shavertown attacks a corner during the bicycle portion.



Doug Alter of Berwick pours water over his head.

Locals win top spots at 30th Triathlon



BILL TARUTIS/FOR THE DALLAS POST

The first wave of triathletes plunge into Harveys Lake to start the 30th annual Wilkes-Barre Triathlon on Sunday.

Local Leaders

Winners of the past 29 Wilkes-Barre Triathlons hailed from across the country and the globe.

This year, for the first time ever, a local man won the swimming, biking and running event held on Sunday, Aug. 14.

Sean Robbins, of Shavertown, won on the 30th anniversary of the triathlon as the first Wyoming Valley resident ever to do so. Robbins crossed the finish line in Lehman Township with a time of



Sean Robbins is the first to cross the finish line at the triathlon.

2:08:26 – a win 17 years in the making.

Kelly Ciravolo, also of Sha-

vertown, placed first in the women's contest with a time of 2:16:59.

Participants started the race with a 1.5 kilometer swim at Harveys Lake and hopped on their bicycles for a 40 kilometer trek through Harveys Lake, Noxen, Kunkle, Dallas Township, Dallas, Jackson Township to the Penn State Wilkes-Barre Campus in Lehman Township.

The last part of the triathlon, an 11 kilometer run, began and ended at Penn State Wilkes-Barre.

Reeling in another prize

By SARAH HITE
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Twelve-year-old Jordan Wilson, of Trucksville, is setting her sights a bit lower for next year's Smallmouth Bass and Walleye Derby in Pillar Point, N.Y.

She wants to place second. That's because this year, the Dallas Middle School student placed first in the competition's youth division, dubbed the largest amateur fishing contest in northern New York.

There are 15 places in the youth division and more than 50 youngsters come out to compete every summer.

Wilson took third place when she was 9 years old, so her goal is to earn each placing at least once before she graduates to the adult contest.

"My cousin Tommy got first, second and third," she said. "He took third with me this year. We were hoping to get first and second, but there was a 0.05 (weight difference) in between."

Her trophy-winning smallmouth bass weighed in at 5.05 pounds and was measured at more than 20 inches long, which she said wasn't too far off from the cash prize-winning fish caught by an older man in the adult division that weighed at 5.24 pounds.

Wilson's fish would have earned her second place in the adult division.

"It weighed almost as much as (my cousin) Connor when he was born," she said.

The contest is a family affair – Wilson said it's a tradition for family members to enter at age 9. So far, Wilson, her cousin Tommy Kulikowski, uncle Bobby Hivish and grandfather (or "Pa," as Wilson calls him) Bob Hivish all placed in the youth division over the years.

Wilson said her grandmother usually makes breakfast sandwiches and snacks for the family of fishermen, who start around 4 a.m. and cast their lines for about 12 hours. The contest closes at 5 p.m.

The story about catching the winning fish is a bit dramatic, but Wilson enjoys retelling the jaunty tale, as most proud fishermen do.

"We were in Hart's Gravel, and ... I was fishing in the back with my Uncle Tom. I lift my pole and it bends, and I cast it out far and it was extremely windy," she said. "So, a minute or two before we see this huge fish jump out of the water and it looked like it had something in its mouth. We didn't even think to realize that (it was mine), and my father claims it was his fish."

"I lifted it and I said, 'Pa, I think I'm stuck on your motor or the bottom of the boat.' So he lifted it and it wasn't the bottom, it wasn't the motor. It was diagonal so it couldn't be the boat. So my



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/FOR THE DALLAS POST

Jordan Wilson, of Shavertown, is proud of the trophy she received for winning a bass tournament in upstate New York.

grandfather starts reeling it in and it just goes."

She said everyone in the boat was excitedly shouting at this point, and her uncle Tom Kulikowski prepped a net for snatching the fish while cheering Wilson on.

"I reeled it in and I was like, 'Yay, I'm done, I finally caught the fish!'" she said. "I hadn't caught anything all morning and I was like, 'I'm determined to catch this fish,' and I just kept saying that and saying that."

When she caught the winning bass, Wilson said she dropped her pole and sunnanned for the rest of the fishing venture.

"I got a nice tan that day," she said.

Wilson's been fishing since she was about 4 or 5 years old, and she said her competitive nature is fueled by the sport.

She wasn't kidding when she said her father Jason thought the 5-pound bass was his own – the two avid fishers often spar and tease each other during trips.

"She cut my line," he laughed. While the family always wins big in the youth division, Wilson said a member of her clan has yet to place in the adult division, in which winners receive a monetary prize.

Wilson received a trophy and mountain bike for her fishing efforts. She's also going to get her prize-winning bass mounted to keep at home.

Wilson's mother, Jennifer, said she's proud of her daughter but was surprised to learn about the extent of her enjoyment for the sport.

"For her birthday...four years ago, my brother said, 'I'm getting Jordan a good fishing pole and tackle box,' and I think that's when it finally hit me that she actually liked to fish," she said.

Now fishing is a pleasurable pastime for Wilson, though she said the virtue of patience and waking up early are just part of the sport and not everyday life.

"It's somewhat taught me patience while fishing," she said. "It doesn't apply to the non-fishing world."

SPORTS BRIEFS

Firm A.C. forming varsity league for fall

A Varsity Boys Premiere Fall Basketball League hosted by the Firm A.C. will start Sept. 4 and run every Sunday in September at the Lake-Lehman High School.

Anyone interested in joining the league is asked to contact James Perez at 235-4832.

Free boys basketball clinic slated for Sept.

Firm A.C. Basketball will conduct a free boys basketball clinic from 7:15 to 8:30 p.m. every Sunday in September at Lake-Lehman High School.

For more information, contact Coach Perez at flashgordon3367@gmail.com.

Girls clinic scheduled for today

A free basketball session will be held for girls in grades seven through 12 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. today, Aug. 21 at Lake-Lehman High School.

For more information, contact Coach D at ford.darnell@yahoo.com.

Boys cage clinic planned for Aug. 28

A free basketball session for boys in grades seven through 12 will be held from 5 to 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 28 at Lake-Lehman High School.

For more information, contact Coach D at ford.darnell@yahoo.com.

Girls basketball clinic planned for Sept. 18

A free basketball clinic for girls in grades four through nine will be held from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 18 at Lake-Lehman High School.

For more information, contact Coach D at ford.darnell@yahoo.com.

PUZZLE ANSWERS

Go Figure! answers

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King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 27 mins.

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Super Crossword

Answers

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