

Local curling enthusiast officiates at nationals

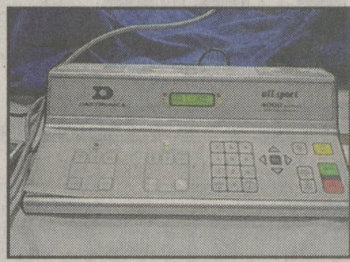
By SARAH HITE
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Alison Piatt is an avid curler. Not the hair-twirling kind. She's more interested in the Olympic sport of curling - a game where players hurl stones across sheets of ice towards a targeted area.

It's like a slippery version of shuffleboard.

Piatt, of Pikes Creek, is so dedicated to the sport, she even volunteered ("I had to pay to volunteer," she said) to officiate at the 2012 USA Curling National Championships at the Ice Works Skating Complex in Aston, Pa.

It was the first time the sport had been held on the east coast in recent years. Previous events



The timer Alison Piatt, of Pikes Creek, had to man during the 2012 USA National Curling Championships in Aston, Pa. in February. Each draw, or game, lasts 73 minutes, and Piatt had to keep a watchful eye on the clock.

have been held in Fargo, N.D.; Kalamazoo, Mich.; Broomfield, Colo.; and Hibbing, Minn.

Because of the closeness of the event, Piatt had planned to volunteer in any capacity she

could until she learned of the officiating courses in January.

"It was a great opportunity for me to learn the rules and learn more about the sport," said Piatt, who runs the Anthracite Curling Club in Wilkes-Barre and the Misericordia Curling Club.

She completed two classes in one day in Philadelphia and had to record hours of service on the ice before she could be certified as an officiator.

Little did she know her practical experience would come from the event in which curlers from across the country face off to qualify for the world competition, to be held in Switzerland in March, and the 2014 Olympics.

Piatt manned a clock during each 73-minute draw, or game. The clock acts as a record for of-

ficials in the event players commit an error and a draw needs to be repeated.

"Though I was intensely focused on the clock because you don't want to mess it up, it was great to watch this really high level of excellent curling," she said.

Piatt travels often to play her favorite sport - most recently she traveled to Rhode Island to visit a fellow curler and participate in a tournament. For nationals, it was a no-brainer for her to get involved.

"I enjoy officiating," she said. "It's another way to be involved in the sport I'm so passionate about."

She said it was also great to see regional curlers do well at the event - players on the men's team from Ardsley, Pa. and

Plainfield, N.J. had qualified for the world championships.

"It's exciting to see that from a person who's from a small area and has a small curling club that locals will compete at the world competition," she said.

Piatt said it was a different kind of experience - she's usually comfortable in an ice rink, but this time she had the chills.

"I live in northeastern Pa. and I like to curl, so I'm use to the cold," she said. "But it was so cold - like two pairs of socks and two jackets cold."

Piatt plans to continue officiating when she can because it will help her learn more about the game she loves.

"It's both helpful to me and to my club here and it will only make me a better curler," she said.

DMAC RESULTS

The Dallas Mountaineer Aquatic Club had a strong showing at the Northeast PA Age Group Swim League District Championships, earning 69 medals (first - eighth place) and 48 ribbons (ninth - 16th place). The event was held at the Wilkes-Barre CYC on Feb. 26 (boys) and March 4 (girls).

FIRST PLACE

Annalise Cheshire
50 Freestyle & 100 Freestyle
Ava Baur
10 & Under 100 Freestyle
Jordan Bond
6 & Under 50 Freestyle
Dominic Augustine
14 & Under 200 Freestyle
Hunter Kline, Madison Federici, Julia Sabol, Ava Baur
Girls 10 & Under 200 Medley Relay

SECOND PLACE

Abby Zolner
12 & Under (2) 100 IM & 50 Fly
Ava Baur
10 & Under 50 Freestyle
Kaylin Augustine
14 & Under 100 Back
Jordan Bond
6 & Under 25 Breast
Porter Luksic
14 & Under 200 IM
Gabriel DeLuna
6 & Under 25 Breast
Tyler Manzoni
12 & Under 50 Breast
Tyler Manzoni, Donovan McCall, Troy Reinert, Thomas Manzoni
Boys 12 & Under Free Relay
Ethan Meuser, Tal Richards, Tanner Manzoni, Gary Weaver
Boys 8 & Under 100 Medley Relay
Heather Shively, Madison Hurst, Abby Zolner, Annalise Cheshire
Girls 12 & Under 200 Free Relay
Lauren Finnegan, Krista Vivian, Julia Baur, Felicia Brittain
Girls 14 & Under 200 Medley Relay

THIRD PLACE

Kaylin Augustine
14 & Under 50 Free
Madison Hurst
12 & Under 50 Fly
Julia Baur
14 & Under 100 Fly
Jordan Bond
6 & Under 25 Back
Dominic Augustine
14 & Under 100 Fly
Porter Luksic
14 & Under 100 Breast
Amanda Puza, Lauryn Lombardo, Emma Thomas, Lauren Hurst
Girls 8 & Under 100 Free Relay
Jordyn Miller, Jessica Ravert, Taylor Cercone, Peyton Ross
Girls 12 & Under 200 Medley Relay

FOURTH PLACE

Madison Federici
10 & Under (2) 100 IM & 50 Breast
Julia Baur
14 & Under 100 Freestyle
Madison Hurst
12 & Under 50 Back
Julia Sabol
10 & Under 50 Back
Jarod Willis
14 & Under 200 Free
Gary Weaver
8 & Under 25 Free
Porter Luksic
14 & Under 100 Fly
Thomas Manzoni
12 & Under (2) 100 Free & 50 Fly
Tyler Manzoni
12 & Under 50 Back
Mikhail Krochta, Evan Sabecky, Garrett Pall, Conner McAndrew
Boys 12 & Under 200 Medley Relay

FIFTH PLACE

Lauren Finnegan
14 & Under 200 Freestyle
Hunter Kline
10 & Under 50 Back
Jordyn Miller
12 & Under 50 Back

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SPORTS BRIEFS

Softball organization seeking players

Wyoming Valley Vipers travel softball organization is looking for a few players. Pitching is a plus.

If interested, contact Jim Dunn at 333-4398 or 332-8027.

MYS hosts futsal/soccer league

Back Mountain Youth Soccer will host an indoor Futsal/Soccer league continuing through March for ages U6 to high school age at the Penn State Lehman Campus gym.

FIFA futsal ball and rules will be used. Games will be played on weekends.

All area intramural and travel teams are welcome. All area individual players seeking a team can sign up online as well.

Divisions will be set to insure fair competition.

More information and sign up sheets are available online at www.bmysa.org.

Gymnastics program begins registration

Shooting Starz Gymnastics, 250 Johnston St., Wilkes-Barre, will accept enrollment for 2012 on February 25 and 27, April 14 and 23, June 11 and 25, August 18 and 27, October 15 and October 29 and December 22.

For more information, please contact Joelle Rose at 822-1212.

Basketball league sets tryout schedule

Firm A.C. Basketball will hold tryouts for the spring 2012. The full tryout schedule is listed online at www.firmacbasketball.com.

All tryouts will be held at the Kingston Rec. Center, 655 Third Ave, Kingston. Cost is \$40 which includes a t-shirt and the option to attend all of the tryouts.

For more information and a registration form, e-mail firmacbasketball@gmail.com.

Blast fastpitch teams seek players

The U12 and U14 Endless Mountains Blast fastpitch teams are still looking for a few qualified players to fill their 2012 rosters.

Those interested in U12 should contact John Keefe at 885-5808. Interested U14 players should contact Bill Kern at 498-5991.

The Endless Mountains Blast is a travel fastpitch softball organization based in Unkhannock. Additional information can be found at <http://www.eteamz.com/endlessmtblast>, or by e-mailing ronh@sbsmod.com.



Knicks' Jack Farrell, right, drives to the hoop past Suns' Michael Starbuck.



Suns' Michael Starbuck, right, goes in for a layup.



Knicks' Aiden Conrad launches a three-pointer against the Suns.

DYB Champions



BILL TARUTIS PHOTOS/FOR THE DALLAS POST

Sun's Todd Phillips, left, drives to the basket as Knicks' Jack Farrell defends in the grade 3-4 Dallas Youth Basketball championship game at the Dallas High School gymnasium on Sunday afternoon.

7TH/8TH GRADE BOYS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Spurs 55
Magic 38
Sukhmail Mathon poured in 30 points to lead the Spurs to a 55-38 win over the Magic in the championship game.

Paul Zabloney added 10 points for the winners and Spencer Bowanko added 8 points and numerous assists. Chris Menning also played well for the winners.

Lee Eckert led the Magic with 19 points while Nico Deluca added 6 points in a losing cause.

Conner McCarty and Frankie Bevavi-

no played great defense for the Magic.

5TH/6TH GRADE BOYS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Raptors 32
Hornets 30

Michael Anderson scored 14 points to lead the Raptors to a hard fought 32-30 victory over the Hornets in the title game. Josh Lupole added 10 points for the Raptors while Zack Bloom, Zack Palfey and Zack Hill all played excellent defense for the winners. The Hornets were led by Andrew Kovalick with 15 points while Derek Answini chipped in with 9 points in a losing cause. Nick Whitesell, Blaine Rex and Cole Wyffels

played excellent defense for the Hornets.

3RD/4TH GRADE BOYS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Suns 48
Knicks 25

Todd Phillips exploded for 38 points as the Suns defeated the Knicks 48-25 in the championship game. Ethan Capitano and Michael Starbuck each added 5 points for the Suns while Nathaniel Spare and Cooper Kelly played excellent defense for the winners. Jack Farrell led the Knicks with 19 points while Aiden Conrad and Drew Lojewski also played well for the Knicks.