



Dallas High School 1993 grads Steve McCafferty, left, and Jim Fazzl pose for a photo before the annual alumni soccer game.



Dallas soccer alumni moms Kathy Murray, right, and Diane Domzalski watch their sons play in the alumni soccer game.



Soccer coach Chris Scharff, left, makes a pass as Nick Zabriski, Class of 2011, defends.

SOCCER and CAMARADERIE

Annual Dallas High School Alumni Soccer Game gets bigger and better every year.

By TOM ROBINSON
For the Dallas Post

Johnny Sheehan's roots as goalkeeper made him comfortable directing the teammates in front of him.

When it came time for a group of players from different eras to quickly form into a team for the Dallas High School Alumni Game in bitter, windy conditions on a Saturday morning two days after Thanksgiving, it was Sheehan who took charge.

Sheehan positioned his teammates, noting that the presence of three goalies might be useful against younger opponents. His hearted approach — "hey, are you guys any good?" he shouted to the high school players as they lined up — helped set the tone for the game's mood.

Sheehan, who settled into the stopper position while brothers Mike and Tim Raub shared goalie duties, was the most vocal player on the field, clearly having fun now that he's become part of an annual gathering that has lasted about a quarter of a century.

While he took a break on the sideline, however, Sheehan finished talking about the game by

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John Sheehan
About the late John McCafferty

pointing out an important serious side to the day. The game began under John McCafferty, a native of Scotland who started the Dallas High School program in 1981 and is one of those most responsible for the Back Mountain being at the center of soccer's development in northeastern Pennsylvania.

"He's pretty much the reason these guys in blue have the chance they do every year," Sheehan said of McCafferty, who immediately turned the Mountaineers into a championship program that reached the state final and two other state quarterfinals under his guidance. "The roots in the program started with John and the life lessons he taught every one of us, even after he finished coaching."

It was McCafferty's illness and death in November 2010 that sparked a boost in interest in the Alumni Game, including making



BILL TARUTIS PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Dallas High School 1987 grad John Sheehan makes a save in practice before the annual Dallas alumni soccer game at Lt. Michael Cleary Field.

it a mandatory part of Sheehan's plans.

Attendance spiked in the past two years, leading to one of the two adjustments that booster club vice president and alumni game committee chair Kathy Murray had to make in this year's t-shirt orders.

Murray increased the order of light and dark blue t-shirts, used as jerseys for the game, to 60. She also adjusted the order for XXL, which allowed for necessary use over sweatshirts and/or for adjustments to the effects of age.

Murray said alumni not part of the extensive contact list the club

manages can add themselves by passing along information to head coach Chris Scharff or any booster club officer.

"The turnouts have been better the past couple of years," said Tim Raub, while visiting on the sideline with Steve McCafferty, son of the former coach. "We're

getting some of the older guys who are more than just a couple of years removed from school."

The alumni forms one team, with the assistance of younger legs from an occasional son or daughter who joins in the action.

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TOP LEFT PHOTO: Senior Cara Pricher, left, of Dallas, senior Fal-lyn Bolch, of Mountain Top, senior Madeline Mulhern, of Dallas, and freshman Julia Baloh, of Shavertown, practice modeling rings before the event.

TOP RIGHT PHOTO: Dallas Booster Club event coordinator Denise DeLuca, right, shows off hors d'oeuvres at Appletree Terrace at Newberry Estates during the jewelry fundraiser.

Raising funds with JEWELRY

The Dallas High School lacrosse team held its annual jewelry fundraiser at Appletree Terrace at Newberry Estates on Nov. 18. Female members of the team modeled the jewelry. Denise DeLuca was coordinator of the event.

BOTTOM RIGHT PHOTO: Sheila Davis, right, of Larksville, holds up an earring with Kathie Davis, of Dallas, at the jewelry fundraiser for the Dallas High School lacrosse team at Newberry Estates.

