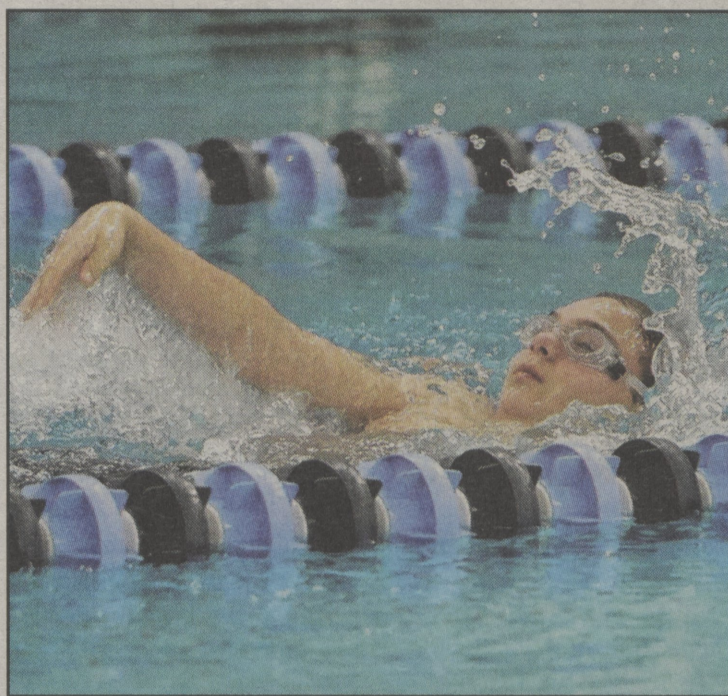




Julia Baur wins her heat in the girls 14 and under 50-yard freestyle during a Dallas Mountaineer Aquatics Club meet.



Garrett Pall swims the backstroke in the boys 12 and under 100-yard individual medley during a DAMA meet.



Mikall Krochta wins his heat in the boys 12 and under 200-yard freestyle during a DAMA meet against Berwick.

Swim club sees steady growth

Dallas Mountaineer Aquatic Club is celebrating its 10th year.

By TOM ROBINSON
For the Dallas Post

The Dallas Mountaineer Aquatic Club continues to grow and is celebrating its 10th year with its largest group of swimmers ever.

"We've grown from a last-place team to one of the strongest in our league," said club vice president Kathy Berger.

The club, which competes in the Northeastern Pennsylvania Age Group Swim League, reached a high of 142 competitors as 6-14 early this season before some dropouts lowered the number to about 135.

Berger said the program had been averaging around 100 swimmers in recent years.

"We've grown significantly this year," she said. "We've improved every year, but it's pretty much been the same structure. I think the Olympics this year helped spark an interest in swimming."

"We've grown from a last-place team to one of the strongest in our league."

Kathy Berger
Vice president, DMAC

The program is run at the Dallas Middle School where practices are held five evenings a week, beginning in October. Meets are held from December through the NEPAGSL championship in late February. When the team is at home, meets are also held at the Dallas Middle School pool.

"We are there five nights per week," Berger said. "We encourage them to come as often as they can because it is an endurance sport."

Berger said there is not, however, a requirement of a specific amount of practice time to take part in competition.

Chris McCall serves as head coach of the program with three assistant coaches and two oth-



BILL TARUTIS PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Hunter Kline wins her heat in the girls 12 and under 50-yard butterfly during a recent Dallas Mountaineer Aquatics Club meet.

ers who volunteer part-time.

There are no residency requirements to be part of the club which caters primarily to Back Mountain residents. Swimmers from the Dallas and Lake-Lehman School Districts are part of the program this winter are some from Wyoming Valley

West.

Berger said some of the swimmers naturally advance on to the high school level. Dallas High School won a District 2 Class AA boys championship last year.

"We're finally becoming a pretty good feeder program into

our school team," she said.

NEPAGSL meets are split into boys and girls competition with races in four age groups - 8-, 10-, 12- and 14-under.

The Dallas team competes in the Southern Division with Hannover, Central Columbia, Wyoming Valley CYC, Pittston, Dan-

ville and Berwick. Its schedule opened with a meet against Northern Division member Delaware Valley.

A Dec. 16 meet at Valley View was the team's third of the season. The league schedule resumes Jan. 5 with a meet at Central Columbia.

Tech students build dugouts at Dallas HS

By TOM ROBINSON
For the Dallas Post

The Dallas High School baseball program is getting new dugouts and the students of West Side Career and Technical Center in Pringle are getting valuable experience.

"It's a win-win for both Dallas and for our students in gaining experience of on-the-job training," said Leo Dragon, a co-op instructor and project coordinator at West Side CTC.

A year ago, West Side CTC students rebuilt the first-base dugout at Wyoming Valley West after it was damaged in the hurricane.

This winter, about 40 students of the school's carpentry classes are taking part in the project to build first and third-base dugouts at the Dallas field.

Students ranging from freshmen to seniors are transported to Dallas two to three times per week in two groups - the morning class from 9 to 11 a.m. and the afternoon class from 2 to 4 p.m.

"They're doing this in addition to their full-time academic schedule," Dragon said. "We work around the academic schedules."

The students are building the 8-by-42-foot dugouts with pole-barn designs.

"There are 6-by-6 posts resting on concrete footings," Dragon



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

David Tupp, a student at West Side Career & Technical Center, works on framing a new dugout.

"It's a win-win for both Dallas and for our students in gaining experience of on-the-job training."

Leo Dragon
Co-op instructor, West Side CTC

said. "The students are involved in pouring footings. There is also an 8-by-10 storage area on each dugout with poured concrete floors."

"The students are involved with pouring the floors."

Dragon said West Side CTC administrative director Nancy

Tkatch worked with the Dallas School District administration in arranging the project.

AT RIGHT: Brandon Orloski, a West Side Career & Technical Center student, saws wood for the new Dallas High School baseball dugout.



DALLAS MOUNTAINEER AQUATIC CLUB

Club splits swim meet

The Dallas Mountaineer Aquatic Club split a dual meet with Valley View on Dec. 16 in the Northeast PA Age Group Swim League. The girls fell, 145-109, and the boys won, 115-105. The following swimmers placed in their events:

GIRLS

- 8 & UNDER
- 25 Free - Gabriella Spaciano, second
- 50 Free - Gabriella Spaciano, first; Jordan Bond, second
- 25 Fly - Jordan Bond, second
- 25 Back - Morgan Sakulich, second; Evelyn Toennes, third
- 25 Breast - Brook Martin, third
- 10 & UNDER
- 100 IM - Jordan Stefanowicz, third
- 50 Free - Lauren Hurst, third
- 50 Fly - Sydney Bittner, third
- 50 Back - Hannah Kline, third
- 50 Breast - Sydney Bittner, first; Jordan Stefanowicz, second
- 100 Free - Melissa Leonard, third
- 12 & UNDER
- 100 IM - Annalise Cheshire, first; Madison Federici, third
- 50 Free - Holly Holthaus, first; Ava Baur, second
- 50 Fly - Abby Zolner, first; Hunter Kline, third

- 50 Back - Jordyn Miller, first; Peyton Ross, second
- 50 Breast - Madison Federici, second; Jessica Ravert, third
- 100 Free - Annalise Cheshire, first; Ava Baur, second
- 200 Free - Peyton Ross, first; Jordyn Miller, second
- 14 & UNDER
- 200 Free - Taylor Cercone, second
- 100 Fly - Madison Hurst, first
- 100 Free - Melinda Ratchford, third
- 100 Back - Madison Hurst, second
- 100 Breast - Holly Holthaus, second
- 200 IM - Abby Zolner, first
- BOYS
- 8 & UNDER
- 25 Free - Gary Weaver, first; Jakob Baur, third
- 25 Fly - Thomas Doran, first; Tanner Manzoni, second
- 50 Free - Gary Weaver, second; Jakob Baur, third
- 25 Back - Stephen Brdaric, second; Thomas Doran, third
- 25 Breast - Tal Richards, first
- 10 & Under
- 50 Free - Shane Szczecinski, second
- 50 Fly - Dennis Dukinas, second

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