

Soccer center houses 'Spirits' and more

By Liza Northrop

It's called futbol, foosball and various other names but here in America it's known as soccer, one of the fastest growing sports around.

With the rising interest, particularly in the grade and high schools, many are sharpening their skills at the Sewickley Indoor Soccer Center on Chadwick Street. Young and old from

all over flock to the building to participate in leagues, clubs and practice with their friends.

Operations Assistant Manager Gary "Garo" Jefferes said the facility is open year-round and doesn't just cater to the Pittsburgh Spirit soccer team, which practices there. It welcomes a youth development league, soccer clubs and tournaments. It houses a United Men's

Clothing Outlet, which sells soccer equipment. And, much more is planned for the future.

"Soccer is a different type of game," Jefferes said. "What you see out there is players and good team play. A nice save is just as exciting as a goal. The indoor game was developed to try to get Americans interested."

To help promote the growing interest in the sport, Spirit youth development director Denny Kohlmeier began a league for outstanding high school soccer players. They come from such places as Fox Chapel, Norwin, South Hills, Quaker Valley and Moon Township, to practice with Kohlmeier and former Spirit player Paul Turney.

Following the "senior" players, Jefferes then takes to the field with the six year olds. Using a No. 3 ball, he teaches them the basics of the game and the skills which accompany it. There's also a session for 8-9 year olds and on up.

At night, and on Saturdays and Sundays, the facility is crowded with patrons. Leagues will play game after game, sometimes until 2 a.m.

Club soccer has increased from last year's 116 teams to the facility's

capacity, 131, this year. Jefferes said four years ago only 40 club teams existed. Today there are 56-57 teams, ranging from young to old.

"We're trying to create a club atmosphere," he said. "The indoor game is growing so much. This area has just grown tremendously. It shows here in our business."

Once an ice skating rink, the facility has been through many changes. Management difficulties created problems and it wasn't until new manager Tom Hensler and Jefferes took over that the place began to bloom. The new owners, Jefferes said, are dedicated to soccer but it costs money. Slowly but surely renovations are being completed, such as new siding, fixing the bleachers, new nets and new scoreboards. And the center is beginning to attract well-deserved attention.

The facility will be the site for the regional playoffs of the MITR-sponsored National Amateur Indoor Soccer Championships, March 22-23. The top college teams in the region will converge to compete for the finals, to be held in Dallas, Texas.

In the works, also, is the Second Annual Mickey Cove Tournament. Running for almost four weeks, the tournament should see 64 teams competing for two trophies. One, the Mickey Cove Cup, to be presented to the highest scoring soccer club; the other, will be given to the best individuals in each age group.

Jefferes said 32 teams participated in the tournament last year, which was sponsored by Westinghouse, and more have expressed an interest this year. Unlike other



PART OF THE Youth Development League is developing skills and learning game techniques. Here, a player tries out what he has learned.

tournaments, the teams will play a full 90-minute game.

"Mickey was a big supporter of youth soccer in western Pennsylvania," Hensler said. "The tournament is to see the best in each age level and who is the best overall."

The spring and summer months are slow times for the center. To help stir up some business, the management is getting together new programs, many aimed at adults.

"It's a slow process, time consuming and expensive, but we are progressing," Hensler said. "If this place is going to survive, we have to find a way to keep it going in the summer months."

One of the programs being implemented is FC Pittsburgh. Designed after the European soccer clubs, the FC, meaning Football Club, concept is to develop better soccer players. FC

Pittsburgh is also designed to promote soccer as a recreational activity.

"If we can create an atmosphere where a kid can come down, train and play against another kid, that would be great," Jefferes said. "I hope we'll be doing people a service when he gets back to high school and shows what he's done. It's been shown it can work."

"Soccer for everyone" is a goal for Hensler. He would like to see the facility become used to train, compete and develop young players into better ones; a place where adults can become involved in the sport; and, possibly, begin a women's soccer club.

"We're always looking for suggestions," Jefferes said. "We would like to get something like volleyball started. We can do more than just soccer."



SMOOTH MOVES. A Moon Township high school player practices his skills.



THE CENTER is a bundle of activity throughout the day and night. More programs are being developed for future use. (Photos by Daniel M. Miller)

Academy soccer accepted in the WPIAL

By Liza Northrop

The Sewickley Academy soccer team is back in the Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League (WPIAL).

The team was accepted by the WPIAL in February. Confirmation from the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) came earlier this month. The Academy's Athletic Director, Ridge Devin, said being accepted was something he wanted to accomplish in this, his first year.

"We're obviously thrilled about it," Devin said. "I think it's going to benefit

the soccer team tremendously."

The soccer team was part of the league until 1979 when SA pulled out to become part of the Interstate Prep League. Devin said, at that time, some of the WPIAL rules infringed upon the school's desire to maintain private school contacts.

The expense of traveling in the prep league and other factors convinced the Academy to return to a private schedule. Not being able to play Quaker Valley, due to a WPIAL game limit, was one of the main reasons, Devin said, in hoping to return to the WPIAL league.

"We do play some WPIAL teams in our

section," Devin said. "We have been very competitive. I expect to do just as well. I think if we would have stayed in the WPIAL it would have been exciting for us."

The Academy is anxiously awaiting further word from the league about section play. Devin said, because they are so close, he is hoping SA will be placed in Section 2 with Quaker Valley. QV finished the year as Class AA state champions. The Academy, under coach Tom Fitzpatrick, went 9-4-2.

"I'll be happy with whatever section they put us in," Fitzpatrick said. "Next

year, every single game will count. The WPIAL is very competitive. I hope we can compete with any team in the WPIAL. It's up to our boys to prove we can."

Devin said, "We're now able to maintain our private school contacts. When we were in before, the kids received section and sometimes state recognition. That opportunity has increased tremendously. The kids will get the recognition they deserve."

"We're going into this with our eyes open. We're in and we're going to stay. I think this is a new start for us."

Soccer center prepares for 3 consecutive tournaments

By Liza Northrop

It's festival time!

The Sewickley Indoor Soccer Center is putting together a "soccerfest," consisting of three series of tournaments, beginning March 22 and concluding on April 18. The back-to-back contests will feature young and upcoming soccer stars, competing for area, regional and national recognition.

Beginning in mid-March, according to the center's Operations Assistant Manager Gary "Garo" Jefferes, the Chadwick Street building will be the site of the Mitre First National Amateur Indoor Soccer Championship. Area competition will feature 16 regional and eight subregional teams competing for the Great Lakes title. The winning players and runners-up will join 14 teams from across the nation April 12-13 in Dallas, Texas for the national championship.

"We stumbled on it by accident," Jefferes said. "It was offered to the Cleveland Force Fitness Center but they had a conflicting schedule. We heard about it and said we'll take it."

The decision to become the Great Lakes host for the tournament was reached about a month ago. It means more recognition for the facility, which has been trying to achieve a name for itself as a soccer hotspot for club play, as well as the home of the Pittsburgh Spirit.

"To be selected as the site is important to us," Jefferes said. "It's prestigious to have your facility selected. We're now getting national exposure."

The Mitre tournament will consist of under 19 and senior division (above 19) men's games. Subregional clubs scheduled for the matches are from Wisconsin, New York and Dayton, Ohio. Area teams who have expressed an interest include Alderson-Braddeus, Penn State Soccer Club and River Platte.

"The winner of the tournament goes to Dallas to compete as our representative of the regional championship," Jefferes said.

Games are set to begin at the center on March 22 at 7 a.m. and conclude the following day at 10:05 p.m. An awards ceremony will follow the championship match.

Three days after the Mitre tournament, the center will host a four-day, first-time national tournament. The Three Rivers Indoor Soccer Classic will begin on March 26 and run through the 29.

The idea for the tournament is the brain child of the

center's manager, Tom Hensler. Plans were formulated in late November and December to prepare for the national tournament.

The classic differs from the Mitre matches in many ways. Each team competing in the Three Rivers tourney will be guaranteed three 48-minute games for the \$150 entry fee.

The games are separated into four age groups. The '72 boys are for under 14 year olds, '71 for under 15 year olds, '70 for under 16 year olds; and under 19 year olds. The best individual player, runner-up and winning team in each age group will receive a trophy. Trophies will also be awarded in each age group to the all-tournament team, tournament Most Valuable Player and best offensive, defensive and goalkeeper player.

"Some of the best teams in the area will compete to defend our reputation as a hotbed in soccer," Jefferes said. "We'll be represented locally as well as nationally."

Teams competing will include the New York Cosmopolitan Club, deemed one of the best in the country, and East West Busch Club, which finished second in the country in the 1983 McGuire Cup.

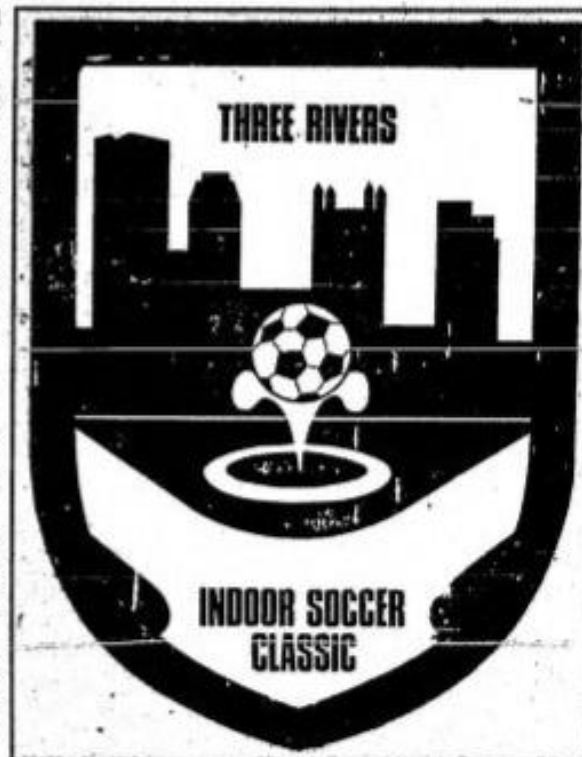
Local merchant Leo Moss's Hotspurs are scheduled to play in the classic. The Beadling Soccer Club, fourth place finishers in last year's McGuire Cup and featuring some of the top soccer players in Western Pennsylvania, will also defend the area honor.

Wrapping up the "soccerfest" will be the Second Annual Mickey Cave Memorial and Western Pennsylvania's Indoor Soccer Championship. Slated to begin on March 31, the Mickey Cave Cup will run from 5-10 p.m. for nearly three weeks, ending on April 18.

Last year, Jefferes said, 32 teams competed in the two-week tournament. This year, the center is hoping to almost triple that number in order to reach nine groups of eight teams. Each team, from the under 10 year olds to the under 19 year olds, will be guaranteed three full-length games.

Each team a club puts in the tournament, Jefferes explained, will be awarded points for its finishing place. The club with the most points at the conclusion of the tournament will win a cash prize of 10 percent of the total registration fee. An individual tournament champion will also be deemed in each age group.

Clubs from Penn Hills, Norwin, West Jefferson and Ambridge-Baden-Economy have opted to compete in the matches. Other prestigious teams are expected to compete, such as the Moon Soccer Club, last year's one point



THIS IS THE symbol of one of the tournaments to occur later this month and early next month at the Sewickley Indoor Soccer Center on Chadwick Street. winner over Upper St. Clair.

Mickey Cave was one of the original Spirit soccer players. He dedicated himself to exposing the game to the community and helped interest grow in the area. The tournament, Jefferes said, is a way of remembering Cave's dedication and love for the sport.

All proceeds, above expenses, will be donated to the D.T. Watson Rehabilitation Home, one of Cave's favorite charities.

Admission charge for all the tournaments will be \$1. Those under the age of 18 can get in the door for a quarter if they're wearing any type of soccer shirt or jersey.

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Local team a winner

Leo Moss's Hotspurs soccer team took first place in the 1972 division of the Three Rivers Indoor Soccer Classic. The tournament was held last week at the Sewickley Indoor Soccer Center.

The Hotspurs went up against a tough New York Cosmopolitan Club in the finals. According to the center's Operations Assistant Manager Gary "Garo" Jefferes, Walter Lamory of the Hotspurs scored the winning goal with just 20 seconds left in the game. The crowd went wild for the Sewickley team as it won, 4-3.

"It was a tremendous game," Jefferes said. "The New York Cosmopolitan Soccer Club were billeted with the Hotspurs. They ended up playing against them in the finals. It was a tremendous show of sportsmanship."

The East-West Busch Club took victories in the 1970, 1971 and premier (under 19) categories. The 1970 team defeated the Beadling Soccer Club, 5-3; the 1971 team won over the New York Cosmopolitan Club, 4-1. The premier team scored six to Beadling's five to win the game.

Spirit sale shouldn't affect local facility

By Liza Northrop

The sign above the door at the Sewickley Indoor Soccer Center will have to be changed.

Part of the sign reads, "Home of the Pittsburgh Spirit." The team, which practiced at the center, is no more.

On Friday, Spirit vice-president Paul Martha announced owner Edward J. DeBartolo Sr. has decided to abandon the team. It was previously announced DeBartolo was considering selling the Spirit.

The manager of the Sewickley facili-

ty, who asked not to be identified, said the Spirit generated only about 10 percent of the center's business. The other 90 percent is from youth and adult leagues.

"It will have an effect, but I don't think it will be business affected," the manager said. "It will be a loss to the community."

The Spirit has practiced in the Chadwick Street facility since it opened about five years ago. The 25 players gather at the center for about two hours on the days there are not games. The games are held in the Civic Arena in

Pittsburgh.

The manager said rumors had been circulating concerning the fate of the team. He wasn't surprised when the final decision reached his ears.

"It was nice to have them here because it was in the daytime," he said. "I don't think it will be that critical to our business."

The Spirit club has lost more than \$6.5 million since DeBartolo bought it five years ago. About \$2.4 million was lost in this past season, with only 8,000 fans attending each of the 24 home games.



THE SPIRIT ARE no more. The sign above the door at the center has to be revised.

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THE CHAMPION HOTSPURS! Bottom row, from left, Graham Perkovich, Hugh Kenrick, John Ferguson, Jeff Gregos, John Michael and Jason Lennon. Top row, from left, Erik Duffy, Bobby Johnson, Mike Hammer, Vee Hightower, Adam Mohney, Joey Pass, Mark Yanni, Sunil Marwaha and coach Leo Moss. Not pictured are Chad Skorupka, Andy Sergi and Walter Lamory.

Hotspurs take championship

The Hotspurs soccer team has won one of the most prestigious youth soccer competitions in the eastern United States.

Leo Moss's team became the Western Pennsylvania State Soccer champions in the 14 and under age group. The group then proceeded to win the Reston, Va. International Soccer Tournament. The victories came within a three week span.

In the state cup playoffs held at Slippery Rock University, the Sewickley-based team sailed through three games. Members scored 19 goals without being scored upon in the games.

The boys met tougher competition in Virginia, playing five games in three

days, with temperatures hovering in the 90s. The team tied Virginia Beach and won matches against East Brunswick, N.J., Little River, Va., Prince William, Va., and finally, Reston, Va. for the championship.

The Sewickley squad will travel to Dayton, Ohio over the Fourth of July weekend to participate in the Centerville Invitational Tournament. The tournament will be the final warm-up before the U.S. Regional Cup playoff in Niagara Falls, N.Y. the following week.

In Niagara Falls, the Hotspurs will represent western Pennsylvania against ten state winners from six New England states, plus New Jersey, New York, Maryland and Virginia.

Herald Sports



For a job well done

The 1985 Quaker Valley soccer team was presented with jackets, honoring its state PIAA championship. The jackets were arranged with the combined efforts of Sewickley Area Soccer, Quaker Valley Soccer Boosters and Quaker Valley School District. Pictured from left, Ron Hitchens, Sewickley Area Soccer, Tony Guiffre, Dave Gregory, coach Gene Klein, Ben Wright and Fay Wright, Quaker Valley Soccer Boosters.

QV, Sewickley Academy battle to a 1-1 tie

Perhaps it was only fitting that they would battle through four quarters and a shoot-out to finish at a 1-1 tie.

Both sides came ready to play, and probably played with more heart and a higher level of competitiveness than they had all season.

Each side would lose their top player, ejected after a brief attempt at an altercation. Each head coach would be given a yellow card defending their respective teams and would later compliment the other's team.

Those people who braved more than two hours of the first true example of autumn weather witnessed an excellent game of soccer between two fine teams. But experience would prove the determining factor, and when Quaker Valley scored with only 38 seconds left in the game, forcing an overtime that would pass scoreless, Sewickley Academy coach Tom Fitzpatrick knew why QV is the defending state champion.

"We knew Quaker Valley was a great team, they're a quality team," Fitzpatrick said. "Actually going ahead and winning after that kind of a deficit. They deserve everything they have."

It was a game marked by a battle of wills, and defensive play, and one the referees seemed obsessed with controlling. The game was so closely called that at times it was more of an interference than a disciplinary measure. Nowhere was that more in evidence than the ejection of the Academy's Troy Thede and QV's George Strong in the fourth quarter.

Both are their teams captains and top players. Thede had scored the Panthers goal in the first period and Strong runs the game from the midfield. They are the leaders the other players follow.

And both were given red cards with 10 minutes left in the game, after Strong was fouled in front of the QV bench. In what could only be termed a "scuffle"—no punches were thrown and neither player did anything more than a quick shove—the referees ejected both players.

QV coach Gene Klein and Fitzpatrick both felt the red cards were unnecessary.

"All he (Strong) did was protect himself. There were no punches thrown by either player," he said. "I think they both should have been given yellow cards, and neither one should have been thrown out."

Klein added that the referees were more concerned with controlling the game than officiating, saying that in most games officials will talk to the players, give them verbal warnings, before issuing cards.

"I think the kids kept their heads better than the referees did," he said.

For Fitzpatrick, the loss of Thede was more significant than the calls of the referees.

"It hurt us a lot. It hurt us more than Quaker Valley," Fitzpatrick said. "George Strong is one of their top players, but Troy is much more important to our game plan, and we felt his loss."

Referees would issue three yellow cards, and three red cards. QV's Reggie Blesdoe would also leave in the fourth, for unsportsman like conduct.

"In a game like that, where there is a lot of emotion, you need the officials to call a tight game," Fitzpatrick said. "You can get carried away with giving out cards, but I don't really have any complaints with the officiating."

QV would score late in the fourth quarter, after the ejections, on a kick by Chad McFarland, with Jeff Roberts getting the assist.

The best match up of the game was the Academy's Frank Courtney and QV's Kenny Pryor. The two played a very strong game; Courtney ignoring the fact that Pryor is the leading scorer in the WPIAL, and Pryor using every move he had.

"Ken played strongly the whole game. They marked him tightly, but he was able to distribute the ball and make it easier for us to take advantage of some scoring opportunities," Klein said.

Pryor was robbed of two goals by Panther goalie Colin Hanaway, who grabbed the ball from behind Pryor's head in the third for what would have been a certain goal. Pryor's first shot on goal in the fourth just barely missed the net, hitting off the top cross bar.

"Colin had a great game, he was really impressive all day," Fitzpatrick said.

Hanaway would also deny Strong twice, the first on a header he stopped with a stunning catch, the second early in the second, on a bullet kick from the left corner.

The Academy responded with each QV scoring drive with one of their own, and the Quakers returned the favor. It was a game of defensive tug-of-war, and neither side ever eased up.

"I thought it would be a low scoring game. I thought we played well. We just couldn't score. It wasn't because the work effort wasn't there," Klein said. "We moved the ball well, but they played a great defensive game."

Fitzpatrick cited the play of Robbie Peirce, who was not usually a starter, saying he played "one of the best games he ever could have." The Academy's Billy Driscoll, Scott Elste, John Chandier and Matt Straka also had solid games.

"The Academy played well the whole game. Tom Fitzpatrick had his team very well prepared for us," Klein said. "They are very well disciplined and they made it difficult for us to penetrate."

For Fitzpatrick, the loss was a difficult one. His Panthers were within 38 seconds of registering their fifth consecutive shut out. There is solace in the fact that both teams are now heading for the section playoffs.

"I'm disappointed, yes. But when you lose to a team like this, in a game like this," he said, "it's still a loss, but it was a very good game."



SA COACHES Tom Fitzpatrick (left) and Doug DeSmit

(Photo by John Symons)

Herald Sports

Academy team advances to semi-finals. . .

It has been a year of firsts for the Sewickley Academy soccer team.

In their first year in the WPIAL, they fared the new competition well enough to earn their first bid to the section playoffs, and during their first game in the playoffs, held off a strong comeback by a scrappy South Fayette team to win and advance to the semi-final round.

And it would be the first time backup goalie Brian Huff would see starting time, but not in goal. He replaced Billy Driscoll, who missed the game due to illness.

"Usually when we're way ahead I put him in, but with Billy Driscoll out, I went to Brian because he's got good speed," Academy coach Tom Fitzpatrick said. "I needed someone who would hustle. He did a good job for us."

Fitzpatrick also brought up two junior varsity players for the game, Will Kstroll and Philip Coburn, because they had "worked hard all year and they are very good players."

The Academy and Quaker Valley were to meet Monday night at 8 p.m. at Moon Senior High School in that semi-final game. Results were not known at press time.

The Panthers were led by the strong play of team captain Troy Thede, who scored two of the Academy's three goals. Thede opened the game, and the scoring, on an assist by George Linge.

Thede's shot followed a strong rush to the goal by Matt Coburn, whose first shot in front of an open net sailed over and behind the goal.

Thede would score again that period, following a South Fayette throw-in. Teammates Dean Campbell, Coburn, Frank Courtney and Jeff Brodmerkel would all take their shots on goal, as the



SEWICKLEY ACADEMY'S Matt Straka (second from left) and George Linge (second from right) challenge South Fayette players for the ball. The Academy would hold back a SF challenge late in the game to record a 3-2 win.

Panthers applied offensive pressure.

The period would be marked by Thede's impressive scoring and the hustle and defensive play of Ben Powers, who consistently ran South Fayette players off the ball, denying them, on at least two occasions, opportunities to score.

SA came out quickly in the second, and Thede would again take the first shot on goal. The Lions were anchored by the defensive play of Kevin Cronin and Ted Vitale, whose skill limited the Panthers to three points at the half.

Thede would catch the official's eye in the second. After Thede was escorted to

the sideline by the official, Coach Fitzpatrick said he was asked to take Thede out of the game to avoid giving him a yellow card.

"Troy was arguing a bad call they made," Fitzpatrick said. "Rather than give him a card, they asked me to take him out for a while, so that's what I decided to do."

The speed of Courtney would play an important role in the game, especially in the second half when South Fayette would erase a three-point deficit to come within seven minutes of sending the game into overtime.

Courtney outran each Lion defender,

chasing the ball back into play. He way through the third, he sped past a through three South Fayette players but his shot sailed past the left side of the net.

Play by the Academy got sloppy in the second half, and the Panthers caught unprepared for a big push from the South Fayette team trying to tie the game up. It was almost as if they thought the game had ended at the half.

"We played well in the first half. We had good ball control, we broke off some opportunities," Fitzpatrick said. "Later in the game, a lot of our goals were slowing down and not playing up to 100 percent."

The Lions would record a goal in the third and fourth, weaving through Academy defense and surprising Coach Hanaway, the Panther's usually citing, astute goalie.

"Their two goals also picked us apart. They really gave it a shot, and they pressured us, but they didn't break through," Fitzpatrick said.

The referees would make for a dangerous play calls against the Academy in the fourth, which is more than the Panthers had called against them all year. Fitzpatrick declined comment on the officiating.

The only thing that mattered at the game's end was the numbers on the score board: Sewickley Academy, South Fayette, 2.

Fitzpatrick said he was pleased with the game, saying his players played well together.

"It doesn't matter if you win 10-0 or 1-0 in the playoffs," he added. "In a limited series like this, all that matters is win."

. . . to meet defending champion Quakers

It's fall. It's WPIAL section play-off time. It's business as usual for the Quaker Valley soccer team.

The Quakers practically waltzed through their first game Thursday night at Moon Area Senior High School, having a bye into the quarter final round by virtue of their section champ title.

For QV coach Gene Klein and his team, it was the first step in their journey to repeat as state champions. They shutout the Richland Rams, 7-0, on their way to a showdown rematch with Sewickley Academy Monday night.

The Rams went 11-3-1 in regular season play, strong enough to finish second in Section 5, and had an impressive 5-0 victory over Ellwood City to advance. But, they ran into the offensive spark that is Ken Pryor and were eliminated by the Quakers.

Not even the formidable play of Kirk Littell, who had scored 32 goals going into the game, was enough to offer a serious challenge to a play-off seasoned QV team. It was the first time the two teams met.

"Richland gave us everything they had. They played a tough game in the first and second," coach Klein said. "We had some opportunities in the first half, but we didn't really cash in on them."

Pryor took up the cause early in the game, scoring the only two goals in the first half, and would add two more in the second half, the final two points in the game.

Pryor benefitted from the finesse game of team captain George Strong, who runs the Quaker offense from the midfield. Strong's overall knowledge of the game and level-headed play allowed the flashier Pryor to take advantage of a quickly weakening Ram defense.

If Richland was aware of QV's titles, they rose to the occasion in the first, playing evenly with the Quakers. But once the Quakers started to score, the Rams' confidence slipped rapidly.

Play in the first period was marked by Pryor's goal and the strong play of Matt Danko and Ben Wright, as QV threatened early and often. Richland goalie Kevin Kick

had his work cut out for him, and he made two excellent saves deflecting a Pryor and, later, Danko kick.

The Quakers were saved a goal by the quick thinking of Andy Hanson, who kicked the ball out of play as it dribbled dangerously close to goalie Mike Foster.

Pryor would open play in the second, following up his errant indirect kick after a tripping goal, to score at 16:46. Danko and Jeff Roberts provided some tough defensive play, and ball movement was a team effort — passing and taking time to set up the plays. Twice Danko was set up in front of the goal, but couldn't capitalize. The score at the half: Ken Pryor, 2, Richland, 0.

"Our tactic was to remain patient in the attack," Klein said. "Once we got the first goal and we could see how they played, we could concentrate on playing our game the way we needed to play."

And play it their way they did. It was the first time the two teams had met, but it was a meeting Richland won't forget. QV broke the game wide open in the third, scoring four goals within two and a half minutes, that simply left Richland stunned.

Strong would break up a Richland scoring drive in front of the goal to start off the third, and it would be Strong again who would keep the ball in play and lead the QV attack in their next two trips downfield.

Sophomore Reggie Bledsoe would begin the scoring spurt, on an assist by Pryor. Roberts would score next, after Richland goalie Kick deflected the ball away from the goal, to a waiting Roberts. Bledsoe would score again, following an indirect kick by Hanson.

Play would be suspended for more than five minutes to remove a Richland player, who collided with Strong in mid air. Strong was not penalized.

Pryor would score the last two goals of the game, and by the time coach Klein had put his last substitutes in place, Richland could only wonder what happened.

"I thought Ken had an outstanding game," Klein said. "He was very relaxed and played exceptionally well."

Klein was also impressed with the play of Hanson, Bled-



KEN PRYOR eyes goal in quarter final match against Riverside. Pryor would score four times that evening to lead the Quakers to a 7-0 victory.

(Photo by Daniel M. Miller)

soe in the midfield and Foster in goal.

"Overall, their play was what we needed from the game," he added. "They played very well, very consistently the entire game."

"I'm really pleased. We scored when we had to, opened up the field, and controlled the ball well," Klein continued. "We came out to play and win. We'll need to continue to play like this in the semi-finals to get to the finals. I am confident we can do it."

Business as usual.

Sewickley Academy soccer men go down

By Keith Vollberg

Sewickley Academy, in its first season of WPIAL soccer, came within one goal of winning the Class AA championships Thursday, going down to defeat at the hands — or feet — of Peters Township, 1-0.

On the heels of its emotional victory 3-1 victory over Quaker Valley in the semifinals, the Panthers moved the ball well from the outset of the game. However, the team became sluggish during the second period, when the momen-

tum shifted decidedly toward Peters.

With 14:42 left in the first half, Peters Township's prolific scorer Allen Duda fed midfielder J.R. Perdue, who kicked the ball over the net.

At 9:00 of the second period, Joe Schwerha led a rush on the left sideline, only to be held off.

The Academy's backfield began to show cracks, allowing Peter's forwards to crowd the net.

At 14:20 of the second period, Peters Township scored a goal that, after

several legitimate scoring chances, turned out to be a fluke.

Bill Donahue's shot from in front hit the crossbar, dropping in front of Panther's goalkeeper Colin Hannaway. As he tried to corral the ball, it dropped to his feet, right in front of Al Lopus, who had slipped under the defenders. He tapped in the rebound.

After the game, Sewickley Academy coach Tom Fitzpatrick said, "Our goalkeeper played a great game; nine out of 10 times that goal doesn't go

in."

Indeed, Hanaway was tested several times, while Peters Township's Jay Kapusta had few shots taken on him.

Fitzpatrick, who used Frank Courtney to mark Ken Pryor in the Quaker Valley game, chose a different tactic for the championships. He used three different players to mark 35-goal scorer Duda. While Duda made some great passes, and had a couple of shots on goal, he had only one clear scoring opportunity, kicking wide to the

left from 50 feet out.

Peters Township coach Jerry Luxbacher said before the game that he would stick to the deliberate style of play that got the team to the title, rather than to outgun the potent SA forwards.

"Since it's the last game, you never know how it's going to affect their play," he said. When asked if his team would try to win with their trademark tenacious defense, he said, "I hope so."

Sewickley Academy used its great command of pass-

ing and shooting to defeat Quaker Valley in the third meeting of the season last Tuesday. On this evening, they couldn't seem to find the open man to finish off the play.

The Panthers' players, while dejected, showed great character after the game. They turned to the bleachers and applauded the fans, who have followed their progress all year.

Sewickley Academy now moves on to the state championships. The schedule is to be announced today.

Quaker eleven defeated by Mars Planets

By John Gray

Football season ended on a losing note for Quaker Valley High School Saturday night, as the Quakers were shut out by Mars, 19-0.

QV, without its starting center John Grayson, appeared to miss his ability to raise the team's emotional level.

His absence was felt on the first series, as miscommunication between quarterback John Murphy and backup center Shawn Fleck led to a turnover at the QV 15-yard line. The Mars Planets failed to capitalize, though, as Mike Ruperto made a touchdown saving pass deflection.

Given another opportunity, Mars scored, after recovering another QV fumble. Mars quarterback Doug Pilariski hit John Riesmeyer from the seven,

to give the Planets a lead they would never relinquish.

Mars came close to breaking the game open in the second quarter when they moved the ball 75 yards downfield on 14 plays. Jason Terosky brought the drive to a halt when he deflected an apparent touchdown pass.

Throughout the first half, the Quakers held their ground defensively, while their offense foundered. While there were individual bright spots, such as Ruperto's 40-yard kickoff return, they could not sustain such momentum throughout a drive.

QV was frustrated all afternoon by the Planets offensive unit and their balance of rushing and passing.

Mars scored again following a 21-yard run by tailback Chris Halsey. Mars

followed with a two-yard scoring plunge.

Looking to motivate the offense, Murphy took to the air, only to have the pass intercepted, his second of the day.

Mars scored yet again when John Riesmeyer hauled in a 35-yard scoring strike on fourth down.

With the score 19-0, QV mounted an impressive drive, led by a 20-yard Pete Jones pass reception, and a 20-yard run by Ruperto.

Inside the Planets 20, the drive ended after fullback Ben Faris fumbled, following a gallant seven-yard run, breaking two tackles.

As the game wound down, QV missed another opportunity to score when a pass to Jessee Martin sailed over his head, as the Quakers ended their season with a 1-7 record.

After the game, coach Jerry Veschio pointed out that, "with a couple of small changes in circumstances, we could have easily been 4-4," with QV losing close games to Slippery Rock and Freedom, as well as the Mars game, which could have gone the other way, barring turnovers.

Veschio said the team showed reason to be optimistic about next year, with the emergence of Ruperto as a rushing threat, Murphy, who gained a year of experience at quarterback, and Terosky and Jeff Tunney in the defensive backfield.

With some changes, and positive contributions from prospects Robert Bosh, Frank Pursuit, and Sam LoFaso, Veschio expects next season to turn around, and show great progress.

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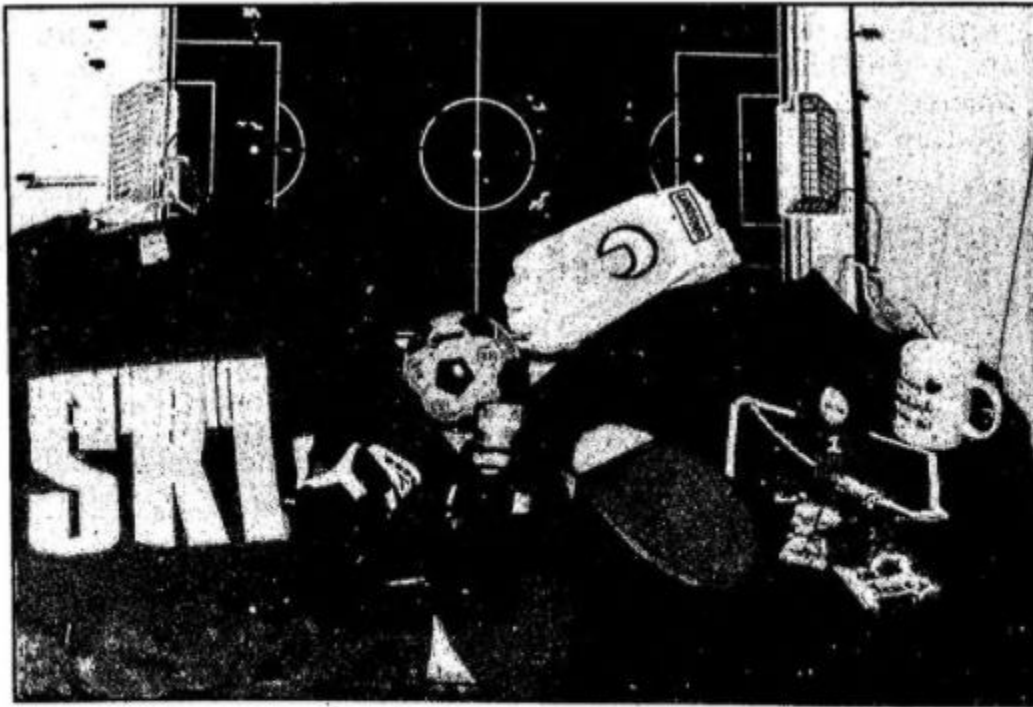
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Strong voted All-American in soccer

Three Quaker Valley High School soccer players recently were honored for their achievements at the WPIAL soccer banquet.

Seniors George Strong and Ken Pryor and junior Jeff Roberts were selected to the 1986 All-WPIAL team. Strong and Pryor were also awarded first team all-state and tri-state (Pa., N.J., Del.) regional All-America honors.

Strong was selected as Western Pennsylvania's sole representative on the 1986 National Soccer Coaches Association of America's U.S. High School All-American team.

A four-year starter at Quaker Valley, Strong was named Most Valuable Player in both 1985 and 1986, and was named team captain in 1986.

He is the first All-American in any sport at Quaker Valley. Strong will receive the honor, with his coach, Gene Klein, at the NSCAA annual convention in Boston in late January.



George Strong