

Herald Sports

Call Keith Vollberg — 741-8200

Leo Moss scores with his fellow coaches Honored as the Coach of the Year

By Keith Vollberg

To be honored by your peers as the best in your field is a rare and exciting experience.

Leo Moss knows that feeling. The Western Pennsylvania State Youth Soccer Association has named him Coach of the Year for his continuing efforts to expand the game in the Sewickley area.

For Moss, a Village businessman, the award is quite an achievement. He has never played the game himself.

"They did not have soccer teams at Avalon High School in those days," he said, pointing out that he had been a spectator several years before becoming a coach, spending two years in Micronesia and two in Malaysia in the Peace Corps.

It was a few more years before Moss got involved in

team, combining the talents of the area's finest players.

He believes there are two reasons for the recent accolades. First, while Sewickley-area soccer numbers approximately 300 youngsters, making the program one of the smallest in the area, the program is consistently one of the state's most successful. Second, the under-14 team has become a feeder team for the Sewickley Academy and Quaker Valley soccer teams. Both have been highly successful. In 1985, QV won the state championships.

In 1986, five local players were voted to the All-WPIAL team. Two were selected for the regional High School All-America Team and one, George Strong, was named to the national High School All-America Team.

With the great players

prestigious tournaments in Reston, Va., and winning the state championship. Last month, the team played in the Sun Bowl in Tampa, coming in third with a record of 4-1-1. Their only loss was to the eventual champions, the Dallas Longhorns.

With fine teams and above-average talent in such a small area, one has to wonder what sets Leo Moss apart from the rest of the pack, especially considering his lack of experience in the game. What is it that makes him so good?

"I think more than anything else we've been successful because of the way we select the kids," he says. Because there is no under-12 team in local Division 1, the players have a chance to grow and mature. By this point, one can judge talent with the odds being that his growth will continue in the pattern



HOLDING DOWN THE FORT. Leo Moss, recently honored as Coach of the Year for Western Pennsylvania youth soccer, is seen behind the counter of his business, United Men's Store, on Beaver Street in Sewickley.

the sport. "It started with my son, who was 11 at the time." Moss was asked by the team's coach to assist. Although he protested, saying he did not know even the basics, he was assured that all youth coaches start out that way. Soon, he was coaching the team.

About four years later, Moss began Sewickley Youth Soccer, a member team in the state Youth Soccer Association. Each area has clubs, which play in several age groups. From them, a Division 1 team in each group is formed, which travels to play other clubs in the same category.

Moss also coaches, with Quaker Valley High School coach Gene Klein, the Hotspurs, an under-16 team built along the lines of a cup tournament soccer

and competitive teams in Western Pennsylvania, it still lags behind other areas of the United States, according to Moss. For this reason, he began the Hotspurs.

Following the "cup team" concept, in which the best players from teams in the region, state or country are combined and play tournaments against similar teams, he organized a group of players to challenge the powers of youth soccer. Maryland, Virginia, Eastern New York and New Jersey have traditionally been the states where soccer's finest hone their game.

The Hotspurs, only a couple of years old, have already proven competitive, last year winning one of youth soccer's most

established. There are fewer mistakes in tracking, the typing of a player as above or below average that stays with him throughout his playing days.

Another theory of Leo's is that most teams are chosen by tryout. As the local club has no younger Division 1 team, "they're really picked by observation over a long period."

"As a result of that, we have fewer mistakes."

Moss does not believe he has a style much different from other coaches. His strength, he says, is his work ethic. "I work a little harder at coaching than a lot of other coaches do," he contends.

Another thing setting him apart is his longevity as a coach. Rather than moving up with an age

group, or leaving the game after his son quit, he stayed with it, continuing to coach the under-14 group, establishing a routine of coaching.

While Moss considers Gene Klein "the best soccer coach in Western Pennsylvania," his peers consider him the best at what he does. Moss is appreciative, but does not find the award cause to look for other coaching opportunities. His goal as a coach is simple.

"I learn something new every year," he says. The challenge, to him, is to further the learning process.

In real life, Leo Moss owns and operates United Men's Store and Soccer Shop with his wife Lois. The store is located at 407 Beaver St., Sewickley.

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Spirit boosters come here

The Pittsburgh Spirit Booster Club has found a permanent meeting place — the Sewickley indoor soccer facility. The club has made arrangements with the center to use the former locker room of the Spirit for monthly meetings and special events.

The room officially opened Feb. 15. A party was held to commemorate the occasion. Guest speakers were scheduled, with hopes that former Spirit coach John Kowalski, who has been coaching a U.S. team in Europe, could make it into Pittsburgh in

time to attend the meeting here.

Kowalski is expected to bring information on the U.S. National Team and their recent trip to Budapest. Several former Spirit players participated in the five-a-side tournament.

Barb Doughty, one of the event organizers said that there is a possibility of the disbanded franchise being purchased and several of the former players re-signed. The Spirit was dissolved by its owner, Edward DeBar-tolo, after several years of losses.

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Sewickley Soccer begins season

Sewickley Area Soccer is starting its 10th year and 20th season. The schedule begins April 5, when the traveling teams begin play.

Spring 1987 Schedule

April 3	Coaches "F" License Course to be held Friday evening and Saturday morning, Sewickley Academy. All coaches are urged to attend.
April 5	Travel teams begin play.
April 11	In-house teams begin play.
Note:	There will be no games scheduled Easter Sunday.
May 30	In-house season ends
May 31	Travel teams season ends
June 13	Playoffs for qualified Travel teams to be held at Slippery Rock Univ.

Herald awards night brings out big crowd at big, red rosy affair

Everything was coming up roses last Friday night.

It was not just another Herald Awards Dinner — it was the 10th anniversary of the annual fete, which recognizes outstanding contributions to the community. And the Sewickley Country Inn was bedecked with roses to announce the milestone.

A record crowd turned out to applaud this year's honorees: Man-of-the-Year Leo Moss, Woman-of-the-Year Milana "Mim" Bizic, and Citizens-of-the-Year Robert and Dorothy Ferguson.

The evening began with a reception during which scores of friends, relatives and admirers of the four paid their respects. Following the informalities, the formalities began in the dining room with a blessing conferred by the Rev. Russell Turner, retired assistant rector of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Sewickley.

The program — presided over by master of ceremonies Edward Schroth, a former Man-of-the-Year himself — commenced as last year's Man-of-the-Year Robert Fusco passed on his title to Leo Moss.

The old saying, "If you seek his monument, look around you," was apropos. Seated throughout the audience of about 250 persons were many of the youth to whom he sparked an interest in soccer. Mr. Moss emphasized that during his years of volunteer work for youth, he got back much more than he put in.

"Lucky" Mim Bizic produced a rabbit

charm after being introduced by her predecessor, Helen Quinn. This symbolized the current year on the Chinese calendar, which has a 12-year cycle, each named for an animal. The Year of the Rabbit has been a good one for Mim; but then, she pointed out, she always has had good fortune: especially in her family, friends, colleagues in the teaching profession, and her life in the Sewickley Valley.

The Doctors Band, last year's Citizens-of-the-Year, could not make it. Presenting the award to the Fergusons were the Ramsburgs — Sewickley Heights Mayor Charles and wife, Dido. The Ramsburgs are longtime friends of the Fergusons and have worked with them on numerous community projects, including Valley Care.

— It was for their efforts on behalf of the Aleppo nursing facility that many in the community suggested the Herald honor the Fergusons.

The couple graciously used their time at the microphone to acknowledge numerous others who made Valley Care a reality and continue to strive for excellence there.

Ed Schroth concluded the festivities by offering roses to the community. In typical Schroth style, he likened Sewickley Valley to an eco-system, where all creatures great and small are necessary for the common good and work to that end.

Like a rose garden.

Story by Mike May



FAMILY AFFAIR. Members of the Karlo and Bizic families came out to confirm the choice of Milana Karlo Bizic as the 1986 Woman-of-the-Year. The family group included her husband Gus and son Nick.



ANOTHER FAMILY AFFAIR. The Moss family lines up for a happy photo. L. to r., son Ray, Lois Moss, Leo and daughter Linda Baude.

Honors dinner packs them in



LEO MOSS indicated a life that emphasizes community involvement with an emphasis on youth.



"THE" MAN, WITH FRIENDS. Leo Moss poses with one of his soccer "sons" — E. Hightower, who was accompanied to the dinner by his parents, Audrey and Joe Hightower of Mount Lebanon. (Photos by Robert Hartley and Mike May)



Leo's boys

Several of the boys whose lives have been touched by soccer coach Leo Moss came to the Man of the Year Dinner April 24 to honor him. Kneeling is Etienne Hightower. Front row, left to right, are John Ferguson, Mike Hammer, Erik Duffy, Joe Pass and Jeff Gregos. In the back row, left to right, are John Michael, Hugh Kenrick, and Chad Skorupka.

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Pro indoor soccer may return to Pittsburgh

By Keith Vollberg

There is a strong possibility that professional indoor soccer will return to Pittsburgh in 1988.

Two groups of investors are interested in bringing an American Indoor Soccer Association team to the

city.

Former Pittsburgh Spirit coach John Kowalski acknowledged that one of the prospective groups has asked him to coach the new club. Kowalski, who coached the club through the 1984-85 season, is general manager and co-owner of Sewickley's Indoor Sports & Fitness Center.

"The problem," explained Kowalski, "is there is not an adequate facility to play in."

The ideal arena, he said, would house approximately 6,000 spectators. There is, as yet, no building of that size in the area.

The prospective in-

vestors expect to utilize the sports facility being built on the campus of Duquesne University. The building will not be finished in time for the 1987-88 season.

Pittsburgh was home of the MISL Spirit from 1981 through last year, when owner Edward DeBartolo Sr. folded the franchise in the wake of substantial

losses.

The AISA is equivalent in caliber of play to a AAA baseball league. "The nature of the league is more of the players that are coming up through the ranks," according to Kowalski. While the AISA clubs do not act as farm teams for the MISL, players are tapped by the

MISL.

AISA players earn an average of \$1,200 monthly. They often work part-time in the team offices in addition to their playing time.

Kowalski is currently coaching the United States National Indoor Soccer Team. He is director of the Three Rivers Soccer Camp.

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Soccer teams score wins in major regional contests

Two Sewickley-based select youth soccer teams have returned from winning major tournaments.

The under-15 Hotspurs travelled recently to Cincinnati where they were tournament winners at the Mid-America Soccer Classic, one of the largest youth tournaments in the mid-west. There were 250 teams of all age groups from the United States and Canada competing.

The Hotspurs were dominant throughout the tournament, winning six straight games. They remained unscored upon until the final match, when they defeated a Chicago team 5-1. The team's preliminary opponents were from Cincinnati, St. Louis and Kentucky. The quarter-finalist was from Michigan. Their semi-final opponents were from Lon-

don, Ontario, Canada.

The younger Hotspurs recently won the state championship of Western Pennsylvania, giving them the privilege of competing against state champions from all the New England states and New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia and Virginia.

The under-12 Hotspurs then travelled to Amherst, Mass. for the U.S. Eastern Regional Championships at the University of Massachusetts. There, they beat the Massachusetts champions 5-1, lost to Connecticut 2-3; and tied 1-1 with New Jersey. The New Jersey champions went on to win the tournament, and the Sewickley team scored the only goal against them.

The young Hotspurs will play again at the German-

American Festival in Toledo, Oh. at the end of August.

Sewickley boys on these teams include Mike Hichens, Graham Perkovich, Seth Perkovich and Kevin Kress from Quaker Valley and John Michael from Sewickley Academy.

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Register now for fall soccer

Sewickley Indoor Soccer Center is now accepting teams for an eight-week fall session beginning Sept. 8. To register your team or for more information, call Chase Edmondson at 741-7787.

Academy soccer team beats QV, West Allegheny

On the afternoon of Tuesday, Sept. 29, the Sewickley Academy varsity soccer team faced off with Quaker Valley on their home field.

It was the fourth game between the Sewickley Academy Panthers and Quaker Valley in the two years that Sewickley has participated in WPIAL soccer.

The Academy defeated QV 1-0. After four meetings, Sewickley Academy has won twice, Quaker Valley won once, and one game was a tie.

In spite of forecasted rain showers and threatening clouds overhead, the game preceded to its finish.

SA soccer coach De Smit, who anticipated a tough, low-scoring game, said his team had been prepared for Quaker Valley.

The first and only goal of the game was made by SA approximately 45 seconds into the game. George Linge lofted a direct kick into the box where

Ben Powers headed it into the QV net.

The remaining time was a scramble by both teams for possession of the ball.

Neither team was able to mount a direct attack on the other's goal.



However, QV threatened SA's net on numerous throw-ins and corner kicks.

This game marked SA goal keeper Will Kastroll's seventh shut-out. Their league record stands at 7-0.

SA feels their victory over QV to be a fortunate one.

The two teams will meet again, this time on SA's home field, at the end of the month.

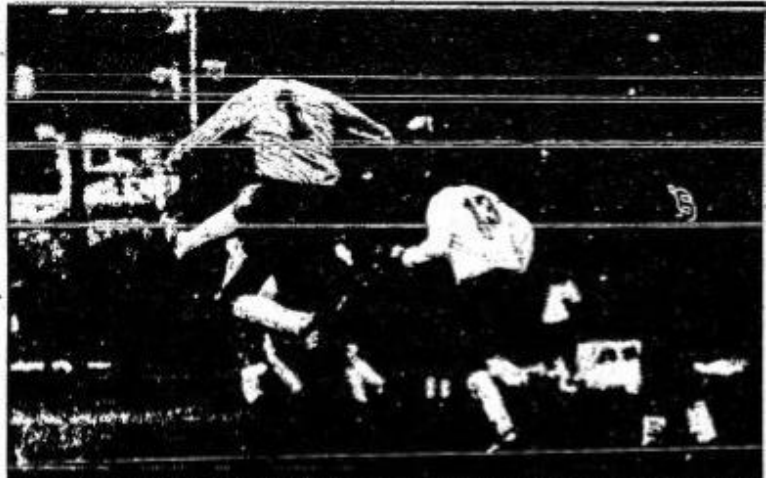
Later in the same week, the Sewickley Academy Panthers played West Allegheny on one of the coldest nights of the season so far. The game was played at West Allegheny on Thursday, Oct. 1 under the lights. The score was 5-1, SA, breaking their seven-shut out record.

Sewickley Academy's first goal was made by Rob Peirce off of a corner kick from Andrew Hutchinson in the second quarter. The Panthers then proceeded to score two more times before half time.

The second goal was made by Scooter VanKirk, unassisted. Goal three was put in by John Micheal who was assisted by Chuck Agar.

In the third quarter, Ben Powers scored from a pass by George Linge.

West Allegheny scored in this quarter on a penalty kick. The final goal of the game was made by Rob Peirce with the assist going to Ben Powers.



HOMETOWN RIVALS Sewickley Academy and Quaker Valley played on the Quaker Valley field, but the Academy won the game. (Photo by Eve Moore)



DEFENDING THE GOAL against West Allegheny. Sewickley Academy won, 5-1.



KEEPING HIS EYE ON THE BALL, a Sewickley Academy player is shown concentrating on the game against West Allegheny.

Panthers score two shutouts

The Sewickley Academy Varsity Soccer Team had two shut-out victories last week, bringing their record to 12-1-1.

On Oct. 6, the Panthers met Our Lady of Sacred Heart. The game was a slow-developing victory, ending with a 3-0 score.

The first goal of the game was made in the first quarter by Ben Powers assisted by Ben Smith. In the second quarter, Brett Roemhild made the second

score with a pass from freshman Tim Kaiser. The third quarter was scoreless, and in the fourth John Michael scored assisted by Brian Huff.

On Oct. 8, the Panthers met Freedom at Nichols Field Taking advantage of all scoring opportunities, the Panthers won, 11-0.

Chuck Agar, Ben Powers, Ben Smith, Philip Coburn, Darren Torbic, John Michael, Brett

Roemhild, Brian Huff, Rob Peirce and Tim Kaiser all scored goals, with Agar scoring twice.

Assists were made by Ben Powers, Philip Coburn, Micah Downs, Brian Huff and Dejan Popovich.

The Panthers will meet Beaver at 4 p.m. on Oct. 15, and Peters Township on Oct. 17 at 11 a.m. Both games will be played at Nichols Field.

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Soccer

QV bound for playoffs

By Josh Green

When reflecting upon the Quaker Valley male soccer team's success, many people like to think back to its state championship victory in 1985. However, Coach Gene Klein prefers to take one game at a time. The Quakers, with the season record, 10-2-2, are ranked second in the WPIAL among AA teams. They are ninth in state-wide ranking.

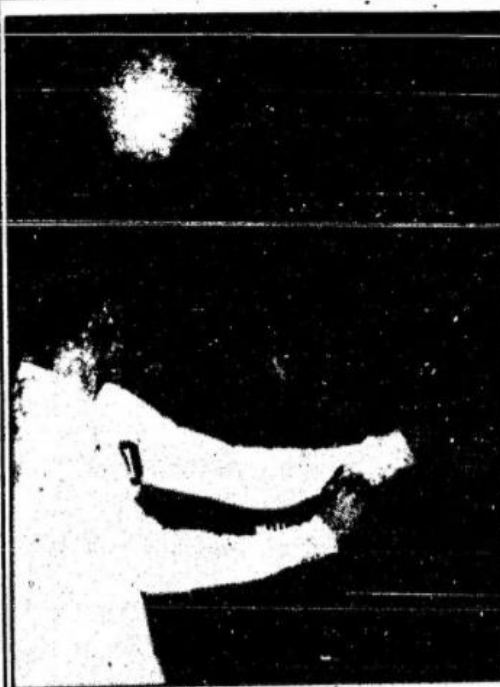
On October 8, Quaker Valley faced an aggressive opponent, Ellwood City. Eight minutes into the game, Captain Jeffrey Roberts (with 62 points this season) opened the Quaker's scoring. After retrieving a shot from Sabastian Bouvet, which was deflected off of the post, Roberts drove the ball into the back of the net for his 22nd goal of the season.

Minutes later, freshman Graham Perkovich played an elegant through-ball on to Matt Danko's, instep.

Danko scored the first of his three goals of the day. Quaker Valley lead 2-0. Goalkeeper Jeffrey Hayes added two saves early in the game throwing their opponent into an irreversible tailspin.

Roberts scored his second goal of the game on the dead run with a full volley, a great play which was set up by junior Mike Hitchens. Additional goals were contributed by Perkovich, shot off of a set play; Captain Timothy Merrill, assisted by Andy Andrews; and Melvin Meade, assisted by Andy Andrews. Mike Maruca split time in goal with Hayes, as QV victory read 9-1.

Quaker Valley will be a representative from their division in the AA WPIAL playoffs again this year. With only a handful of games remaining, the Quakers will be looking to propel themselves into post-season play, with big-game victories.



SOC-C-O. Soccer is one of the most popular interscholastic sports at both Sewickley Academy and Quaker Valley.

Panthers tie champs

On Saturday, Oct. 17, the Sewickley Academy Varsity Soccer team went up against the defending WPIAL AA champions, Peters Township, at Nichols Field.

The game was a WPIAL showcase as the two highly ranked teams met head-to-head. Last November, Sewickley Academy met Peters Township in the WPIAL AA championship game with an outcome of victory for Peters Township. This past Saturday heralded a tie score for the rivals.

The game progressed with each team struggling to gain possession of the ball long enough for a scoring opportunity. In this battle, Sewickley Academy scored first in the second quarter. The goal was put in by John Michael with a deflection off of a head ball by George Linge.

The play continued in its balanced fashion until the three-minute mark. With

three minutes remaining, Peters Township scored off of a corner kick. This tied the ball game. Sewickley Academy's record now stands at 14-1-2. They are ranked number one in the WPIAL standings.

Prior to this game, the S.A. Panthers met Elwood City. Taking place on Tuesday, Oct. 13, the game was tied 1-1 at the end of regulation play.

The first goal by Sewickley Academy in the second quarter was scored by George Linge from a cross kick by Dejan Popovich. Elwood City then scored to tie the game. In the last 49 seconds of the second overtime, George Linge scored off of an indirect kick by Ben Powers. The third goal was made in seconds remaining in overtime by Tim Kaiser who chased down a pass back to the goalie. The final score was 3-1, Sewickley Academy.

Academy, Quaker soccer teams advance

Panthers beat Richland

Sewickley Academy advanced into the semifinals of the WPIAL soccer playoffs with a 3-1 victory over Richland.



The Panthers scored three goals in the first half. Tim Kaiser and George Linge connected for all three of Sewickley's goals. Linge assisted Kaiser for the first point half-way through the first period. Kaiser returned the favor by setting Linge up for the second goal with

two minutes remaining in the same quarter.

Sewickley dominated play in the second period and added their third goal and Kaiser's second after ten minutes.

The Panthers finished the first half with a 3-0 lead.

The beginning of the third period found the Richland Rams controlling the ball. They scored three minutes into the fourth quarter on an indirect kick placed neatly in the corner of the net.

Neither team was able to capitalize on any goal-scoring opportunities for the remainder of the game.

Sewickley advanced to the next round, playing Charleroi on Tuesday at 6 p.m. at Mt. Lebanon.

The winners of the semifinal round will play in the WPIAL finals on Thursday.



SOCCER is one of the most popular games in the local high schools. Both Sewickley Academy and Quaker Valley teams have advanced into the semifinals of the WPIAL playoffs.

Quakers top Springdale

By Joshua Green

The Quaker Valley Boy's Soccer Team advanced to the WPIAL semi-finals by defeating Springdale last week with a score of 3-1.

The Quakers finished the regular season with a record of 15 wins, three losses and three tied games, placing third in their section. Springdale finished first in their section this year.

QV opened the scoring in the second quarter with a shot from Sebastian Bouvet. QV's Matt Danko received a swing shot from Mike Hitchens deep in Springdale's end. Danko pulled up with the ball and played a support pass onto Bouvet's instep. Striking the ball, Bouvet shot high into the left corner of the Springdale goal.

Minutes later, QV extended its lead to 2-0, as Jeffrey Roberts put the

ball in the net on a powerful throw in. Roberts is credited with 36 goals this season, ranking with the top scorers in Western Pennsylvania. He also established an all-time Quaker Valley record for cumulative assists this year with a total of 48.

At the end of the first half, Springdale scored 2-1, was as close as the game would get.

The Quakers extended their lead to 3-1 when Danko dribbled the ball down center-field to score on the Springdale goal.

Tim Merrill, QV's leading defensive player, was supported by a cast of steady defensive players including Marc Smith and Jeff Hayes.

The Quaker Valley team faced Peters Township in the semifinals on Tuesday, Nov. 3, looking for a berth in the state playoffs.

QV girls' soccer team back on winning track

Varsity team finishes season at 10-3-1

The Quaker Valley girls' soccer team is back on track again, according to coach Bob Vosmaer. After two years with only seven games in the win column, the varsity team turned its program around for the better with a 10-3-1 record this season.

Vosmaer credits a relaxed team atmosphere and a 100 percent effort in each game for keeping the team in the race for a playoff spot until the final week of the season. North Allegheny beat QV 2-1 to advance into post-season play.

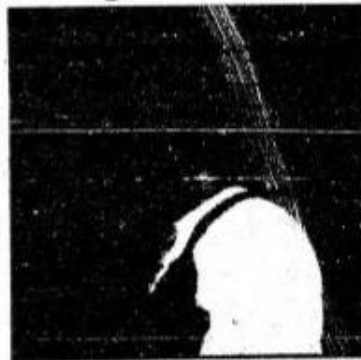
Under the direction of scoring star Jennifer Veschio and seniors Maureen Hansen and Megan Mitchell, the young

team proved to be competitive with perennial powerhouses such as Shaler and North Allegheny.

Vosmaer, in his first year as coach, sums the season up by saying, "Although we have a long way to go to establish ourselves as a premier team, I believe that the girls that were part of this year's team have something to be proud of. Not only did they play beyond expectation, but a great atmosphere among the girls made this season a big success. Coming back from two very disappointing losing years the way they did is something that a coach can only be proud of. This team deserves more attention."



SOCCER ACTION is popular with the girls' team, too.



TOP SCORER Jennifer Veschio.

Local soccer hopes die

Nov. 3 marked the end of the line for Sewickley area soccer clubs, as both hometown squads, Quaker Valley and Sewickley Academy, fell in the semi-final round of the WPIAL tournament.

On the fast artificial turf of Mt. Lebanon's football stadium, the two teams gave up early goals, and finished their seasons with 1-0 losses. Charleroi defeated Academy, and Peter's Township beat QV.

Sewickley Academy played the first game of the night in front of a supportive crowd. As the game began, Sewickley committed a foul in their goal, giving Charleroi a penalty shot and a 1-0 lead.

This gap held through the

remaining 70 minutes of playing time. The nature of the playing surface kept the Panthers and their opponents on their heels, both teams unable to mount any effective attacks on goal.



Quaker Valley was defeated in basically the same way. Peter's set up a corner kick 12 minutes into the game, and converted their opportunity on a deflection that slipped past

QV's goalkeeper.

Because the Quakers depend so heavily on a run and pass offense, they were initially at a disadvantage on the astroturf. Peter's Township used the turf to its advantage and went on to capture their second consecutive WPIAL AA title.

Next year will again bring the two hometown teams to battle in their regular season, and perhaps the playoffs. Both QV and SA look to remain strong, according to coaching word. QV will be fielding Danko, Bledsoe, McFarland, Hitchens, Perkovich and a lot of fine playing experience.

Academy's star will be Powers.

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SOCCKER STARS ALL. Jeff Roberts and Matt Danko of Quaker Valley and Ben Powers and Daren Torbic show their trophies at the Western Pennsylvania Soccer Coaches Association Banquet. Also named to the All-Star team was Quaker Valley's Reggie Bledsoe.

Sewickley home to five All-Stars

Five Sewickley area soccer players were among 49 honored at the Western Pennsylvania Soccer Coaches Association Banquet.

Sewickley Academy players Darren Torbic and Ben Powers and Quaker Valley players Matt Danko, Reggie Bledsoe and Jeff Roberts were named WPIAL All-Stars. They had also been selected by coaches as among the "finest 15" in section IX.

Roberts, a senior at QV and captain of the 1987 team, was honored as an all-star for the second year. He was also named to the Pennsylvania all-state team and earned honors as regional all-American.

Roberts led the league in scoring with 37 goals this year, and contributed 18 assists, giving him the

career-high assist record at QV.

Danko, who has been elected co-captain of the 1988 QV soccer team, was one of the leading scorers in the league with 25 goals and 15 assists this season.



Bledsoe will also be co-captain for QV next year. He was unable to attend the banquet because he is also on the basketball team and had a game.

Torbic, a senior at Sewickley Academy, is

also captain of SA's baseball and basketball teams.

The Panthers' junior Ben Powers is the team's leading scorer, with 16 goals and 12 assists. He also plays for the Beadling Soccer Club, and has been selected to the state Olympic development team.

The all-star banquet is an annual event sponsored by the Western Pennsylvania Coaches Association to promote soccer and to honor top players.

High school coaches, including Gene Klein of Quaker Valley and Doug DeSmit from Sewickley Academy, were present. Also on hand were soccer coaches from 25 colleges and universities who attended to meet prospective players.