

**Village beat**

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## **Merchants relax after holidays**

By Lisa DeRose

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The Mosses of United Men's Store are on the move this month. Lois is in San Francisco attending her brother's 50th birthday celebration.

While Lois enjoys the warmth of the West Coast, Leo plans to attend the National Coaches Association of America Convention in Washington, D.C. There, he will meet with soccer coaches from all over the U.S. during seminars and soccer workshops.

# WINTER CLEARANCE

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# Herald Sports

## Strong earns rookie honors

George Strong, a 1987 Quaker Valley High graduate, has been selected by the College of William and Mary as the soccer team's best rookie.

Strong, a freshman, split time between the midfield and sweeper positions. In the team's 3-0 title-clinching victory against James Madison, Strong contributed an important assist with a pinpoint pass from his midfield position.

A national high school All-American during his senior season at QV, Strong was the team's most valuable player in both 1985 and 1986. He helped lead QV to its first-ever state championship in 1985.

Strong continues to be a member of the United States Soccer Federation's Olympic development team for the northeast region.



George Strong  
William and Mary's top rookie

## European soccer squad picks Sewickley youths

Edgeworth resident Graham Perkovich and Joe Pass of Moon Township have been named to the United States Soccer Association's region 1 team.

Perkovich, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Perkovich, of Oliver Road, is a freshman at Quaker Valley High and plays for coach Gene Klein's team.

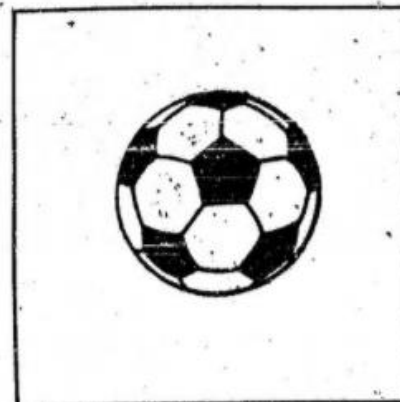
Pass, a sophomore at Moon High, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Pass. He plays on his high-school team, coached by Gene Schapert.

Both players are members of the Hotspurs, a Pittsburgh-area select team coached by Sewickley resident Leo Moss.

The 15-year-olds, who were chosen after last year's tryouts in Pittsburgh, Bethlehem, Pa. and Kingston, Rhode Island, will travel to England and Wales

for a tournament next month.

The March 24 trip is part of the Junior Olympic development program.



# Sewickley's indoor sports on the move

## Partners have high hopes for expanding former ice rink and Spirit training center

By Ed Stankowski Jr.

John Kowalski has a dream. Kowalski, the former head coach of the Pittsburgh Spirit indoor soccer team, envisions a total sports facility on the bank of the Ohio River in Sewickley.

Kowalski and business partner Denny Kohlmyer, a former professional soccer player, are the owners of the Sewickley Indoor Sports Center, located at 474 Chadwick St.

The men have taken the old, run-down ice skating rink and turned it into an indoor soccer facility. The change is striking, but, according to Kowalski and Kohlmyer, there is potential for even more improvement.

"The building was an absolute mess," Kohlmyer says. "It looked like a junk yard and was infested with rats. John and I have done a lot of work. You can see the changes."

Strapped by restrictive town zoning ordinances, the partners are bound to meet opposition to any proposed expansion on the sight.

"The zoning is confusing," Kowalski says. "We don't know what we can or cannot do. As it stands now, the facility is not being used to its fullest potential."

At present, the complex plays host to a variety of soccer tournaments and competitions. This spring, the center is the site for the third annual Three Rivers Indoor Soccer Classic — a four-day invitational tournament with a World Cup format.

Citing the improvement in Pittsburgh's shoreline, the partners would

like to be able to duplicate the effort here.

"Waterway improvement is lagging in this area. Our building can enhance development of Sewickley's shoreline. Sewickley ends at Route 65; we'd like to extend the town to the river bank."

Referring to the bad relations the ice skating rink had with the residents nearby, Kowalski emphasizes that he wants to be "good neighbors."

"We are open to any suggestions that members of the community may have."

Kowalski furthered, "We don't want to play the games that are sometimes played in this town. We want to cooperate with the residents in any way we can. In the summertime people park their boat trailers on our property because of the limited river access. We've been very good neighbors in this respect."

Kowalski describes plans for a "picturesque" facility in a section of town that, for all intents and purposes, is underdeveloped and loaded with potential.

"What we would like to establish is a total community center that would benefit the entire town."

The partners propose a type of community center, where events ranging from church dances to dog shows could be held.

The facility, in its current state, can seat more than 500 persons, making it an attractive site for antique shows, running events and even auto shows.

"We don't want to duplicate the efforts of the Sewickley YMCA — we want



SEWICKLEY-SPORTS: John Kowalski (left) and Denny Kohlmyer are the movers and shakers at the Sewickley Indoor Sports Center.

to enhance them," Kowalski says.

If the partners' plans could be brought to fruition, the current Sewickley Indoor Sports Center would be internally expanded to include a health-and-fitness center and sports-medicine services ranging from stress testing to orthopedics.

The partners are looking to expansion without being a detriment to the community.

"Our goal is to create a facility that is indicative of the village of Sewickley," Kowalski says. "We want to give something to the town that the whole community can be proud of. We want to improve, not interfere with, the quality of life."

"Nobody wants this place to revert to the dump it was," Kohlmyer adds.

The partners relied on absentee

ownership in the past; however, the venture was not productive until Kowalski and Kohlmyer took more active roles.

"The others could have done a better job," Kohlmyer says. "But since John and I stepped in there has been marked level of improvement."

Kohlmyer notes that the venture now is beginning to show a profit.

The Sewickley Indoor Sports complex is home to soccer camps and clinics. Children and young adults from all over the tri-state area make use of the facilities, Kowalski says.

Kowalski says his facility already has had a positive impact on the local community.

"The kids come down to play soccer, and the parents go up into the village to shop, browse or get something to eat."

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## Soccer showcase taps Sewickley youth stars

By Ed Stankowski Jr.

Sewickley residents Mike Murphy and Demond Bledsoe are leaving for the Dallas Cup Soccer Tournament.

Murphy and Bledsoe are members of a Western Pennsylvania team that is led by Gene Klein, Quaker Valley's high school soccer coach. He is taking his team to Dallas for what he describes as "one of the world's most prestigious international tournaments."

According to Klein, the Dallas Cup is considered a showcase for talented American youth players. The National Team coaching staff as well as a

number of college coaches will be on hand to scout and observe.

A squad made up of players from the 1972 Spurs and Pittsburgh Strikers also has been invited to play in the Cup.

Two guest players, Bill Friday from Mt. Lebanon and Rob Rubano from Bethel Park, are replacing Sewickley's Graham Perkovich, who will be playing with the U.S. Olympic Regional Development Team in England and Wales.

One third of all the entrants in the Dallas Cup come from outside the United States.

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## **Soccer sign-up**

It's time again for registration for Sewickley Area Soccer League.

This year, boys and girls born between 1970 and 1982 are eligible to play.

Sign-up will be at the Sewickley Academy on Friday, Aug. 19, from 7 to 9 p.m. and again on Saturday, Aug. 20, from 9 a.m. until noon.

Registration forms can be found at the United Men's Store on Beaver

Street in Sewickley. Forms also may returned to the store.

Aug. 20 is the final date for registration. Those who register after that date will not be guaranteed a place on the team.

The in-house team's season begins on Saturday, Sept. 10, and runs through Saturday, Oct. 30. Travelling teams begin play on Sunday, Sept. 11, and play until Sunday, Oct. 31.

## Host Sewickley bows in soccer tournament

By Ed Stankowski Jr.

The Sewickley Academy soccer team played host to a soccer party last weekend. The Academy, however, was treated rudely by its guests.

Sewickley Academy, hosting its second annual soccer tournament, managed just one goal in two games. The school's soccer squad lost a shutout to North Allegheny on Friday, 3-0, and ropped a tough 2-1 decision to Erie Cathedral Prep on Saturday.

In the tournament opener on Friday, North Allegheny held the Academy scoreless, while Upper St. Clair had the upper hand on Erie Cathedral Prep, serving them a difficult 3-1 defeat.

Saturday's match pitted Friday's losers — Sewickley Academy and Erie Cathedral — in a consolation-round bat-

tle. Sewickley did manage to score a goal in this game; however, it was not enough, as Erie held on for the win.

Upper St. Clair took home the tournament crown with Saturday's championship victory, shutting out North Allegheny, 3-0. Upper St. Clair played a dominating series, allowing just a single goal in two games played.

Despite the Academy's losses, the tournament was a success.

"The tournament was well attended and well received," Academy spokesperson Win Farrin said. The school hopes to hold another next year, Ms. Farrin added.

On the positive side for the Academy, two of the team's players were selected for special recognition. Ben Powers and Phil Coburn were named to the All-Tournament squad.



THE ACADEMY team was victimized by some unfriendly guests. Although they sponsored the tourney, Sewickley Academy managed just one goal in two games.



THE ACTION WAS hot and heavy at Nichols Field in Edgeworth for Sewickley Academy's Second Annual Soccer Tournament. (Photos by Tom Painter)

# Academy opens soccer season with two wins

## Consecutive victories over Wilmington and West Allegheny erase tourney doubts

By Drew Elste

Sewickley Academy's varsity soccer team opened its season against some very tough competition.

Hosting the Sewickley Academy Invitational Tournament, Sewickley faced North Allegheny, while Erie Cathedral Prep was pitted against Upper St. Clair in the first round.

Although his team was defeated, 3-0, Sewickley coach Doug DeSmit said the squad "played very well. North Allegheny took a lot of the game away from us, but we hung in there with intensity."

Although not reflected in the final score, the game was not a one-sided contest. Sewickley was able to push the ball upfield to mount attacks, but they were unable to sustain them.

Coach DeSmit summed up the loss, saying North Allegheny "ended up with the winning squad because they were the better team out there that day."

Sewickley moved to the consolation finals against Erie Prep, losing 2-1.

"We didn't come out to play," DeSmit said. "It was

evenly matched and could've gone either way. The team that wanted it more won."

Sewickley seemed to watch the game rather than play it. No one moved to the ball or attacked 50-50 balls. The intensity Sewickley had in the North Allegheny game was lost — at least until the fourth quarter.

Sewickley was ready for the fourth quarter, knowing it was a do-or-die situation. Unfortunately for the Academy, Prep was able to slow Sewickley's momentum with a fourth quarter goal.

Sewickley was quick to rebound, however, in the form of a little redhead named John Michael. John scored off a throw-in from Ben Smith.

Sewickley was still down one goal, and they were unable to make it up before the final whistle.

In their first section game, Sewickley ended its scoring drought in a defeat of West Allegheny, 7-1.

The Academy took an early lead when Tim Kaiser broke across the top of the box to score. Stopper Jeff Mikita put in the second and winning goal.

Sewickley controlled the ball for most of the game and was able to develop the offense. They played their brand

of soccer.

West Allegheny broke the shutout late in the game on a penalty kick after a tripping call.

Sewickley defeated section-newcomer Wilmington in the season's second contest, 6-1.

Sewickley came out strong, scoring four goals in the first quarter. They accomplished this feat by working the ball up-field and stopping most of Wilmington's offensive thrusts.

In the second quarter, Sewickley began a downward slide. They didn't communicate very well, and their passes were not as crisp.

By the third quarter, Sewickley was in a hole. They found themselves on defense more of the time, and they had trouble moving the ball up-field. Eventually, Wilmington was able to break through the defense to score.

The fourth quarter found Sewickley again dominating play. Consequently, they scored two more times.

Coach DeSmit said he "was pleased with the ball control and the offense" his team displayed in the two victories.





QUAKER VALLEY'S VARSITY SOCCER TEAM is making a strong bid for its fifth consecutive WPIAL title. QV has taken this season's first four matches.



Matt Danko (right) and Reggie Bledsoe are two key elements on the winning Quakers' squad.

## QV soccer squad starts off on the right foot

### Quakers begin new season with four consecutive victories, seek fifth straight title

By Ed Stankowski Jr.

The Quaker Valley Boys Varsity Soccer Team is off to another strong start.

QV began this season with wins over Center, Beaver, Ellwood City and West Allegheny.

The Quakers' only loss came at the hands of Quad-A powerhouse Upper St. Clair. QV dropped this close, non-

section game, 2-1.

The Quakers continue under the direction of head coach Gene Klein, who is beginning his eighth season with the squad.

Klein said he feels the team is coming around. "This team has a good attitude. They work hard each game, and that's what it takes to win," Klein said. "I haven't seen any noticeable let-down in any game. These kids play hard for 80 minutes."

Senior leaders include captain Chad McFarlane and co-captains Matt Danko and Reggie Bledsoe.

Coach Klein said McFarlane is a versatile player who dominates the middle. Danko leads the Quaker offense with eight goals, including hat-tricks against Center and Allegheny. Bledsoe, an all-Conference defender, has recently returned to the lineup following an ankle injury.

Other varsity players include defender Mike Finch, starting goalkeeper Mike Maruca and mid-fielders Andy Andrews, Will Luster and Cebra Grave.

QV's junior class also features several soccer stand-outs: Demond Bledsoe and Mike Hitchens anchor a strong Quaker defense; Derek Gilchrist and Melvin Meade are top forwards; Nate Fairfield spells Maruca in the net; and Dave Wick is a highly regarded sweeper.

Coach Klein's team has been rocked by the loss of two of the squad's starters. Key performers Clay Miller and Mike Murphy are out for the season with injuries. Miller suffered a knee injury during a pre-season scrimmage with Bethel Park; Murphy went down with an ankle injury in the Beaver match.

Sophomore stand-out Graham Perkovich starts in the middle for the Quakers. Other sophomore varsity performers include Mike Riesmeyer and Matt Hoehl.

Several freshmen play key roles on the QV squad. Ben McKnight, Mike Kelshaw, Noah Rahm, Jeff Vorberger and Patrick South have bright futures on the soccer field.

Coach Klein said this year's goal is a simple one. "Our goal for this season is to win our section." Klein said he expects some competition, however. "That's a challenge for us because this section is more competitive than ever."

Klein lists Sewickley Academy, Beaver and Ellwood City as the teams to beat. "If we're fortunate enough to win, then we'll go to the playoffs — but the section comes first."

The Quakers begin a tough stretch of six straight away games, including a non-section affair with Moon on Saturday, Sept. 24. The next section battle pits QV against Sewickley Academy. The game will be played on Tuesday, Sept. 27, at 4 p.m., at Nichols Field in Edgeworth.

# Quaker soccer squad is on roll; foes blanked in three straight contests

The Quaker Valley boys varsity soccer team travelled to Peters Township last week to take on the Indians in a non-section contest.

The schedules listed it as an exhibition match, but from the opening kickoff it was obvious this wasn't just a scrimmage — it was an intense battle between two top-rated squads.

The H&S Soccer Poll, an independant high-school soccer-rating system, rated Quaker Valley seventh and Peters Township second in its Pennsylvania Double-A rankings.

Quaker Valley dominated play in the



game's first half, keeping constant pressure on Peters' defense with crisp passing and ball control. The Indians

managed only one clean shot on goal in the first half, and Quaker Valley goalkeeper Mike Maruca made a crucial save.

The QV offense had numerous opportunities but couldn't put the ball in the net. At halftime, the game was scoreless.

In the second half, the Indians seemed to pick up the pace, and the momentum of the game appeared to be turning in their favor. But the Quaker Valley defense, led by senior Reggie Bledsoe and junior Dave Wick, held the Indians. The game ended in a scoreless tie.

The match was characterized by aggressive, physical play on both sides. Five individual players were yellow-carded, including two Quakers. The Indians were cited for 18 violations, while the Quakers were penalized eight times.

Coach Gene Klein said he was proud of his team's efforts. "A tie with Peter's on their field is nothing to be ashamed of," Klein told his squad after the game.

"I though we played well," Klein continued. "It was a good physical test for us."

The Quakers had an easier time with their next two opponents — both section rivals.

They crushed an inexperienced Freedom team, 14-0. Matt Danko and Will Luster led the Quakers with hat tricks; Derek Gildchrist and Reggie Bledsoe had two goals apiece; and



THE QUAKER VALLEY SOCCER TEAM IS HOT. After playing to a scoreless tie with Peters Township, QV turned up the gas and smoked Freedom, 14-0, and Wilmington, 9-0. Pacing the Quaker squad is Matt Danko. The soccer standout registered hat tricks in each of the Quakers' last two victories.

Melvin Meade, Demond Bledsoe, Andy Andrews and Cebra Grave each pitched in with single goals.

Wilmington also fell to the Quakers, 9-0. Danko again led the QV scorers with

three; Meade scored twice; Andrews, Luster, Graham Perkovich and Dave Wick had one score apiece. Wick's goal was his first of the season and came on a penalty shot.

## Academy soccer team increases record to 8-2

Sewickley Academy's varsity soccer team ran off three consecutive victories last week, improving the team's record to 8-2 overall.

The Academy shutout Kiski, 3-0, and defeated Beaver and Center by identical 2-1 tallies.

Sewickley's midfield controlled the Kiski game. They provided the link to the offense and the stimulus for Sewickley's momentum.

Sewickley goals were scored by Ben Powers, Ben Smith and Josh Szabo, who headed the ball into the goal.

Both of Sewickley's goals in the Beaver game came in the first half. Again, Smith and Powers each scored for Sewickley.

Sewickley showed what they are made of in the game's first quarter.

The Academy carefully developed the offense and bombarded the Beaver goal with shots. The defense, playing most of the quarter ahead of midfield, was able to push Beaver's long balls back into

play.

In the second quarter, Beaver posed more of a threat with the wind behind them. Their long balls glided into Sewickley's end, where Beaver's forwards tried to collect them in order to mount an offensive attack.

However, Sewickley staved them off.

In the second half, Sewickley relaxed its play. Beaver took advantage, scoring in the third quarter to cut Sewickley's lead to a single goal.

Beaver never gave up and almost tied the game when Sewickley goalie Will Kastroll lost a shot in the sun.

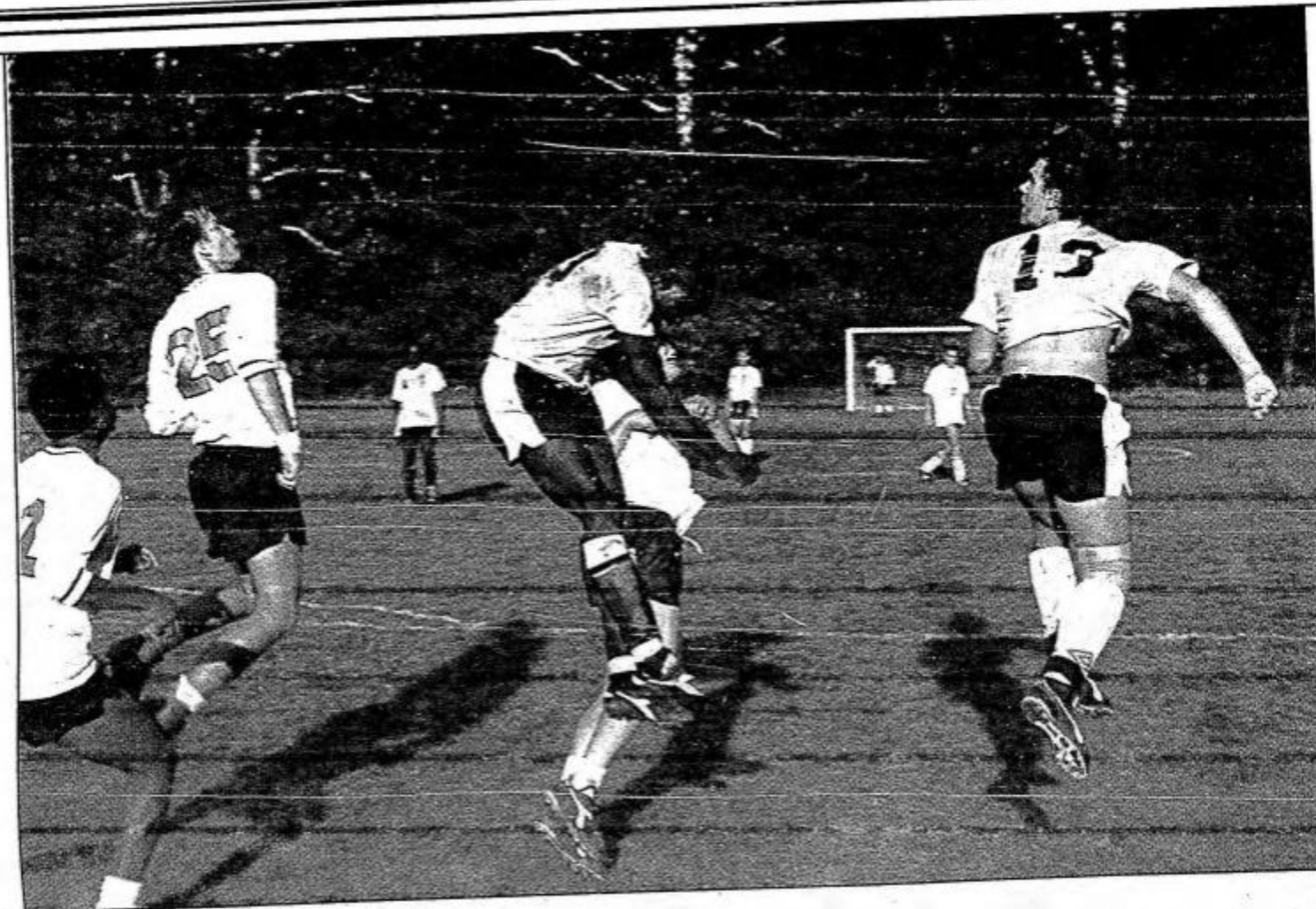
Sewickley played a much more consistent game in its contest with Center. Tim Kaiser scored the first goal, and John Michael scored the second. The game was very physical, and the referees called it closely, giving out a number of yellow cards.

Sewickley let down somewhat after the first half but recovered to finish on top, 2-1.

# Herald Sports

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## Just kicking around

IN A MATCH BETWEEN cross-town soccer rivals, Sewickley Academy defeated Quaker Valley High

School, 2-1. The teams played to a 1-1 tie after regulation action, forcing overtime. Academy's Steve

Morris (center) headed in the winning goal for the victory. For more on the story, see page 26.

## Academy soccer squad tips rival Quaker team; Moon shuts out QV, 3-0

Sewickley Academy defeated Quaker Valley in last week's meeting of the arch rivals.

In addition, the Quakers suffered another loss last week, this one to another tough cross-town rival, Moon.

In the first, QV faced section-nine opponents Sewickley Academy on their turf at Nichols Field.

This rivalry has long produced close, hard-fought matchups in the past, and this contest was no exception.

Although the Quakers appeared to dominate play throughout regulation play, the offense once again was unable to put the game away. The Quakers managed to score only one goal late in the game on a shot by Will Luster that dribbled by SA goalkeeper Will Kastroll.

The only Academy score in regulation play came on a penalty shot awarded the Panthers when QV midfielder out-muscled his man in the box.

In the first overtime period, SA's Steve Morris headed in a crossing feed to hand the Quakers their second straight loss.

Earlier in the week, the Quakers first took on Class AAA powerhouse Moon at the Tigers' home stadium. Moon dominated play from the opening kickoff, keeping the ball in and around the Quaker goal for most of the first half.

Quaker Valley sweeper Dave Wick and goalkeeper Mike Maruca had their hands full as the Tigers kept the pressure on, and at halftime Moon led, 2-0.

In the second half, the Quakers seem-

ed about to shift the momentum to their side when a mid-field collision between QV's Matt Danko and Moon's Joe Pass caused Danko to be carried off the field with a knee injury.

The absence of Danko — the Quakers' leading scorer to date — took its toll on an already sputtering Quaker offense, and Moon added one more goal before the final gun sounded. Quaker Valley ended up on the short end of a 3-0 score.

The game was not without controversy, however. Quaker Valley players and coaches were extremely irate throughout the non-section battle. The Quakers charged that Moon employed various intimidating tactics, including racial slurs.

Quaker coach Gene Klein managed to have some positive thoughts, however.

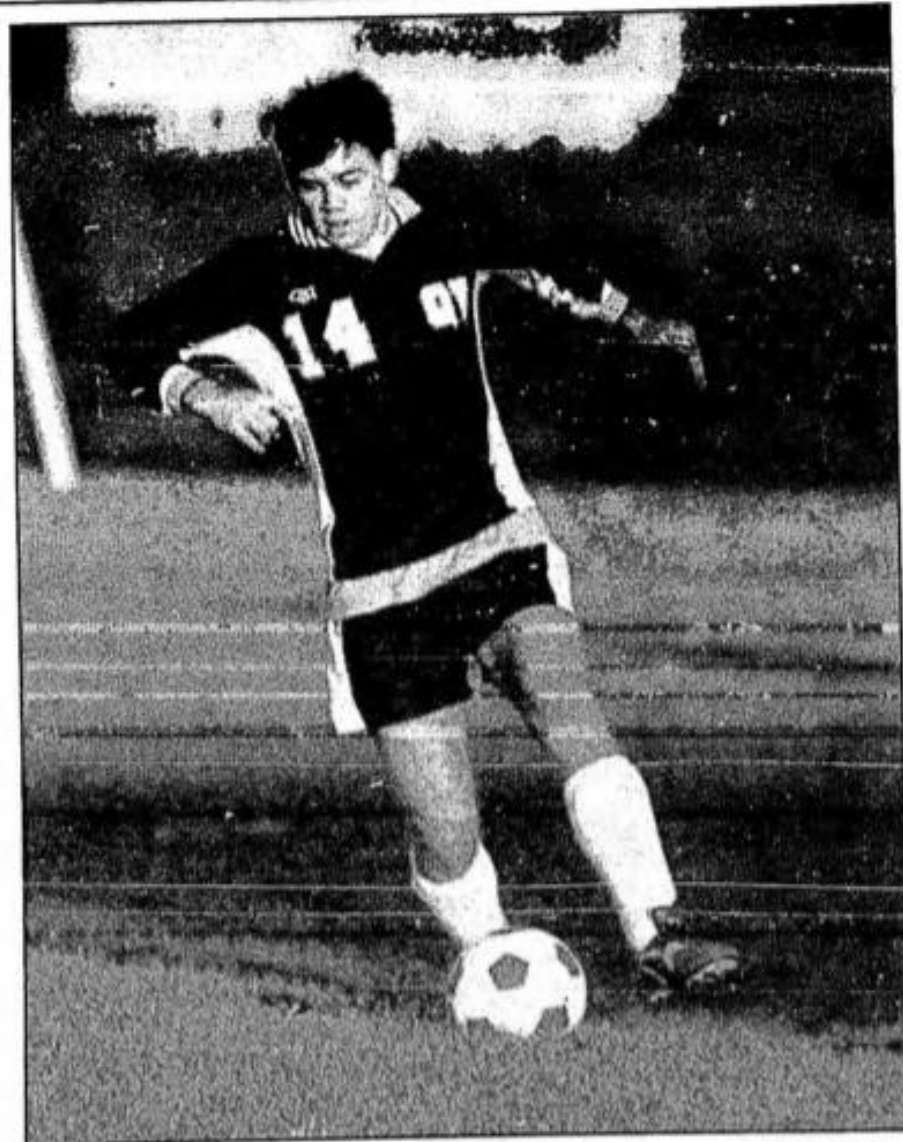
"We never gave up," Klein said. "I thought we played very well against both teams — both tough opponents."

Klein saw some deficiencies in his team's play. "We need to concentrate on finishing the play. When the ball is on the six-yard line, we've got to score. That's where we need to improve."

Several Quaker players had outstanding efforts in both games, including midfielder and QV captain Chad McFarland, senior defender Mike Finch and sweeper Dave Wick.

Forwards Derek Gilchrist and Will Luster hustled on offense, and sophomore Graham Perkovich distributed the ball well at midfield.

Quaker Valley's next home game is Thursday, Oct. 6, at 4 p.m. against section-rival Beaver.



ALTHOUGH HIS TEAM ENDURED two consecutive, difficult defeats, Quaker Valley's Mike Finch (above) managed to turn in two outstanding performances. Finch, a senior defender, was one of just a few bright spots for the losing Quakers.



### Soccer action

STEVE MORRIS (left) played a big role in Sewickley Academy's win over cross-town rival Quaker Valley. Billed as the biggest game of the year, the Academy defeated QV in overtime, 2-1. (Photo courtesy of John Symons)

## Quaker Valley rebounds with two consecutive wins over Center and Beaver

After two straight defeats last week, Quaker Valley soccer coach Gene Klein said his team needed to score goals.

The offense must have been listening.

Quaker Valley's soccer squad exploded with nine goals — five coming in the second quarter — in a 9-1 thrashing of section rival Center last week.

The game got off to a bad start for the Quakers, however.

Shortly after the opening whistle, the QV defenders were caught standing around. Despite QV goalkeeper Mike Maruca's attempt at smothering the ball, Center scored to take an early lead, 1-0. It was to be Center's final score of the match.

The second quarter belonged to the Quakers, and Gene Klein's squad dominated play for the rest of the contest.

Matt Danko again led the Quaker offense with four goals, and Derek Gilchrist posted a hat trick. Junior wing Mike Murphy, who had been sidelined with an ankle injury, returned to the lineup to score a goal, and junior defender Demond Bledsoe scored his first goal of the season with a perfectly executed bicycle kick — a feat that drew applause from both sides of the field.

After a long stretch on the road, the Quakers returned home to face Beaver.

The offensive players were the stars of the Center game, but it was now the defense's turn to shine.

The ball was controlled throughout the contest by the Quaker middle, including Chad McFarland and Graham Perkovich at center and defenders Dave Wick and Mike Hitchens. Wick and Hitchens, both juniors, have proven to be steady, consistent performers throughout the season.

Junior goalkeeper Mike Maruca held the Tigers to only one goal, and the Quakers won, 3-1.

The two victories came without the services of All-Conference defender Reggie Bledsoe. The talented senior was sidelined earlier in the season. He reinjured his knee and will be out indefinitely.

Mike Finch, another senior defender, and backup goalkeeper Nate Fairfield also are sidelined for the Quakers.

"Injuries have really plagued us this season," coach Klein said. "It seems as soon as we get one kid healthy, another one goes down. We have some big games coming up, and we're fighting for a spot in the playoffs. I need everyone healthy and ready."

The Quakers next face West Allegheny at home on Thursday, Oct. 13, at 4 p.m.



Chad McFarland

## QV soccer wins 2

Quaker Valley boys varsity soccer posted two decisive victories last week against section rivals to boost the season record to 13-5-1 (12-1 in section). For Coach Gene Klein, there was good news, and there was bad.

The bad news was injuries to the starting lineup, particularly the defense. Senior defender Reggie Bledsoe, voted All-Conference last year, and a key part of the QV defense, remains inactive with a recurring leg injury.

Other veteran defenders out with injuries are junior Clay Miller, senior Mike Finch and the backup goalkeeper, Nate Fairfield.

Junior forward Melvin Meade, suffering from painful "turf" toe, has left a hole in the middle of the forward line. And to add to the bad news, three other upperclassmen were benched by Coach Klein for various disciplinary reasons.

The good news for Coach Klein came from his bench. In the game against Ellwood City, Klein started

senior Cebra Graves at wing, and two freshmen, Mike Kelshaw and Jeff Vorberger, in defense. Another freshman, Ben McKnight, relieved both Graves and senior Matt Danko on the forward line. Danko again led the Quakers with a hat trick. Junior Mike Murphy and captain Chad McFarland each added one as the Quakers defeated Ellwood City, 5-1.

Quaker Valley next hosted an inexperienced West Allegheny squad. Freshmen Kelshaw, Vorberger, McKnight and Noah Rahm saw action as the Quakers dominated 9-1.

Danko and junior Mike Hitchens both posted hat tricks in this contest. McFarland scored two, and senior George Andrews kicked one for the Quakers.

"This group of ninth graders looks real good," said coach Klein. "They have a good attitude and they hustle."

The Quakers next host Wilmington on Thursday, Oct. 20, at 4 p.m.

# Academy nets two more wins

Sewickley Academy improved its record in section play to 11 wins and no losses by defeating both Freedom and Ellwood City last week.

Spurred on by the cold and biting wind, Sewickley scored six goals in the first half versus Freedom. John Michael and Tim Kaiser each had two goals while Henry Hunt and Tony Renda tallied one a piece.

By the time the second half rolled around, the cold air must have taken its toll on the Sewickley players. Although they continued to dominate play, passes no longer had the crispness found earlier in the game.

Sewickley kept knocking at the door, but didn't score until R.J. Wiegand notched the seventh and final goal during the fourth quarter.

Sewickley's scoring troubles carried over to the Ellwood City game. While they still won the game, 2-0, neither goal came until the fourth quarter.

This problem has plagued Sewickley since



the beginning of the season, as evidenced by the Ellwood City game, when Sewickley outshot the opponent 19-1.

In spite of the low score, Sewickley outplayed Ellwood City. Sewickley came up with more 50-50 balls and sustained offensive thrusts for long periods of time.

"I thought the defense played superbly today. I was pleased with the way they stopped (Ellwood's) attacks, and punched the ball back up into the offense," said DeSmit.

The offensive highlight was the first goal, scored by Tim Kaiser. Kaiser received the ball at the top of the box and then lofted a shot into the upper left-hand corner.

With less than a minute remaining, Josh Szabo scored the second goal on a through ball from John Michael. Szabo fired the shot into the low right corner before the goalie could react.

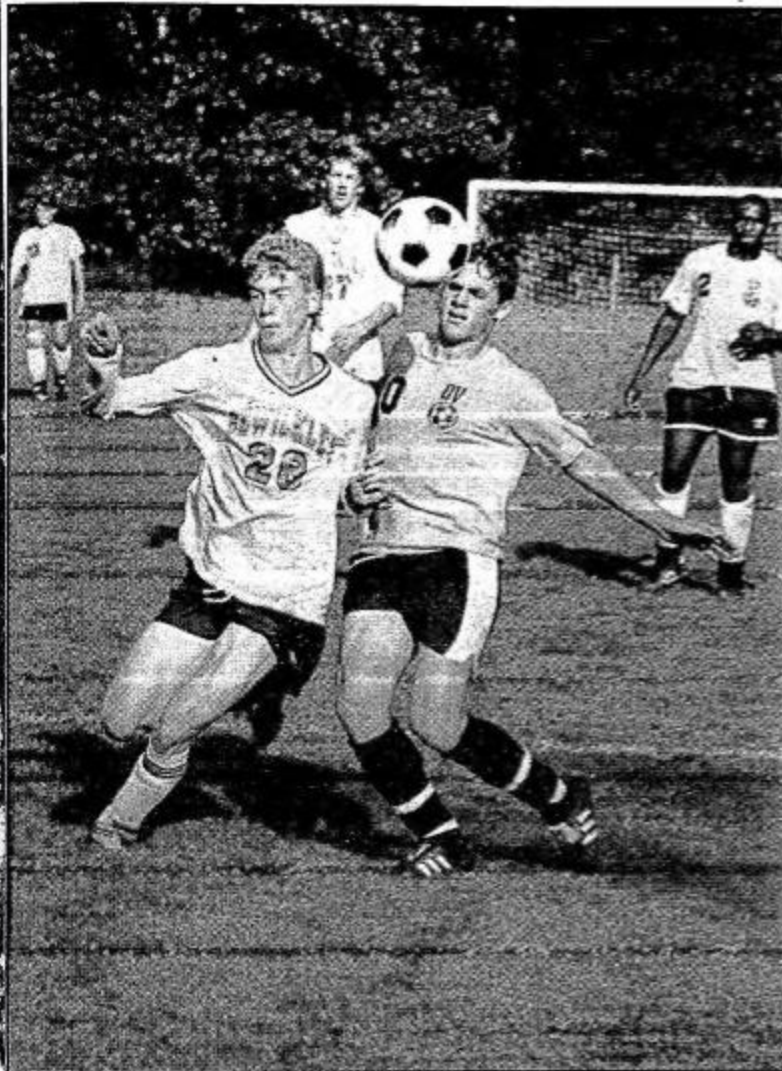


# Herald Sports

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SEWICKLEY ACADEMY'S VARSITY SOCCER TEAM clinched yet another playoff spot with decisive victories over Center and Beaver. Coming off a loss against Peters Township, Sewickley was hungry for a victory. They satisfied their appetite for winning in strong fashion.

## SA clinches playoff spot with consecutive wins over Center and Beaver

By Drew Elste

Sewickley Academy clinched a spot in the playoffs with victories in two of three games last week.

"It was one of the best high school soccer games that I've seen in a while," said Doug DeSmit, Sewickley Academy's varsity soccer coach.

The game DeSmit referred to is the meeting of two of Pittsburgh's top-ranked soccer teams: Sewickley Academy and Peters Township.

Although Sewickley lost the game, 2-1, DeSmit was pleased with his team's play. "We played a good game," he said.

About 10 minutes into the game, Sewickley drew first blood on a shot from Tim Kaiser. Standing about 25 yards from the goal, Kaiser received a pass from Steve Morris and floated the ball into the upper left corner. The Peters goalie tried to block the shot, but he only was able to knock it into the post before it dropped inside the goal mouth.

"It felt great when I put it in," Kaiser said of his goal. "But I knew there were three quarters left, and we had to keep up the intensity."

That, however, was easier said than done: Sewickley returned after the half without much intensity. As co-captain Ben Powers put it, "We had an emotional let-down."

Peters Township, on the other hand, was ready to play. They pounced on the opportunity by scoring twice within 10 minutes during the third quarter.

The tying score came when a Peters player dribbled across the top of the box and shot the ball over the head of Sewickley goalie Will Kastroll.

Peters third goal was a result of a head ball from a corner kick.

"We spent the third quarter reacting to Peters Township and to the referees' calls," senior defender Philip Coburn

said, summing up the defeat.

The fourth quarter was again a dogfight, with each team carrying the momentum for short periods of time. It ended with Sewickley one goal short.

Sewickley's next stop brought them to Beaver. Hungry for a win after the Peters Township game, the Academy defeated Beaver, 4-1.

Early in the game, Sewickley had some problems controlling the ball and working it up-field. Slowly, their passes became crisper, and they began to develop the offensive thrusts.

This led to Sewickley's first goal.

Dribbling around a defender parallel with the goal mouth, Andrew Hutchinson pushed towards goal. When the goalie challenged him, Hutchinson tried to shoot around him. And Steve Morris was waiting to redirect the ball into the goal.

Beaver tied the game during the third quarter. A Beaver player, receiving a pass-and-go, put the ball in from the wing.

Evoking memories of the Peters game, Sewickley's Ben Powers was quick to retaliate by drilling a direct kick.

This brought Sewickley to life, and they scored two more goals in the fourth quarter. The first was scored by Tim Kaiser and the second by R.J. Wiegand.

Clinching a spot in the playoffs, Sewickley defeated Center.

In the first half, the Academy played some excellent soccer. They developed the offense and had patience with the ball when the opportunities to score didn't present themselves.

Fortunately for Sewickley, opportunities abounded in the first half. Tony Renda scored the first goal when he beat his man in the penalty box; Tim Kaiser scored the second on a breakaway; and R.J. Wiegand completed the scoring.

## Quaker goalie is on a roll; senior Mike Maruca posts consecutive whitewashes

Thirteen may be an unlucky number or most people, but not for Quaker Valley varsity goalie Mike Maruca.

Maruca, a senior, has recorded his 13th shutout with a win over section rival Wilmington.

Like most successful goalies, Maruca plays his position with an aggressive,



Senior goalie Mike Maruca

all-out approach. Season-ending injuries crippled back-up goalie Nate Fairfield and freshman goal keeper Patrick South. Maruca has the added pressure of knowing that any injury he might sustain could be devastating to the Quakers — especially with the WPIAL AA playoffs about to begin.

However, Maruca knows he can rely on solid defensive play in front of him. That defense is provided by seniors Dave Wick and Mike Hitchens and sophomore standout Graham Perkovich.

Offensively, the Quakers were on a roll last week. They chalked up 17 goals in two straight games, including the 6-0 shutout against Wilmington and an earlier 11-0 drubbing of Freedom.

Senior Matt Danko continues to lead the Quakers in goal production, with Derek Gilchrist, Chad McFarland, Mike Hitchens, Melvin Meade, Mike Murphy and Andy Andrews contributing goals regularly for the Quakers.



QUAKER VALLEY'S GEORGE ANDREWS (left) puts a good boot on the old soccer ball in the midst of some hot soccer action last week. Andrews and his teammates posted decisive victories last week, posting two straight shutouts.

# Quaker soccer squad upsets Academy foes to clinch share of title

By Ed Stankowski Jr.

It was more than a battle for first place. The last game of the regular season was a battle for soccer bragging rights in the valley.

Entering the game, it appeared as if Sewickley Academy held the edge on Quaker Valley High School. Over the course of the teams' last five meetings, the Academy had dominated the Quakers.

Sewickley Academy had kept QV under its thumb, posting a lopsided 4-0-1 record over the squads' last five meetings. In fact, QV's only loss this season came at the hands of the Academy — last month's 2-1 Sewickley victory in double overtime.

This season, each team lost on the other's home field.

"We felt we had a monkey on our backs," Quaker Valley coach Gene Klein said. "I knew we had the talent to win, but we had to go out there and prove it to ourselves."

The Academy entered the affair with a perfect 13-0 record. The Quakers' record stood at 12-1. A Sewickley victory would have guaranteed the team sole possession of first place and left them with an unblemished record. The Quakers were certain of at least a second-place finish and a playoff berth.

But after the dust settled, Quaker Valley walked away with a decisive 4-1 victory and a share of the Section 9-AA title.

Quaker Valley's Matt Danko broke the ice, scoring at 4:40 into first quarter and giving his team an important early lead, 1-0.

Danko has been the offensive sparkplug of the Quakers all season long. In addition to leading QV in goals scored, the talented forward finished second among league scorers with 33 goals.

Later in the first half, Danko scored again off a pass from defender Dave Wick two minutes into the second quarter. Danko's second goal of the half put the Quakers on top, 2-0.

The hustle and intensity of Danko, a senior, played an important part in the QV victory. One of the team's three co-captains along with Bledsoe and Chad

McFarland, Danko said he felt the pressure to play well in the big game.

"I had a lot of confidence in my team, and that helped," Danko said. "I knew we would win."

Although Sewickley had 11 shots on goal, they were able to put only one ball into the Quaker net. QV goalie Mike Maruca had six saves. Sewickley's only score came on a high-arching shot from Ben Powers midway through the third quarter.

The Quakers iced the game six and a half minutes into the final quarter. Reggie Bledsoe converted a pass from Graham Perkovich, and the Quakers led, 3-1.

"It was a set play," Perkovich explained. "I headed the ball back to Reggie, and he headed it into the goal. We were really up for this game," Perkovich continued. "We felt we were going to win. We were beyond psyched."

Minutes later, Mike Hitchens put the game out of reach when he took a Danko pass and scored the game's final tally. "We had a lot of intensity but also a lot of ineffectiveness," Academy coach Doug DeSmit said.

"They (Quaker Valley) look like they're putting it all together for the playoffs. They're packing," DeSmit said, citing the differences between the two teams since their last meeting. "Our team doesn't seem to be rising to the same heights."

Both the Academy and Quaker Valley squads had several players who distinguished themselves on offense all season.

Sewickley's Tim Kaiser finished 11th in the league with 14 goals; Ben Powers was 13th with 12; and Ben Smith finished in a tie for the 21st spot with eight scores.

Quaker Valley's Matt Danko was second in the league with 33 goals; Derek Gilchrist was the league's 15th leading scorer with 11 goals; and Mike Hitchens finished tied in the 22nd spot with eight scores.

Both the Academy and Quaker Valley posted victories in the opening round of the playoffs. Can you say rematch?

Marnie McKnight and Drew Elste contributed to this story.

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JEFF MIKITA and his Sewickley Academy teammates discovered an upsetting situation in last week's game. QV's Melvin Meade jockies for position as his Quakers end a five-game skid against Sewickley with a decisive 4-1 win.

## SA dumps Hampton in opening round of soccer playoffs, 3-2

By Drew Elste

Going into the first game of the playoffs, the Sewickley Academy Panthers were pitted against Hampton. The Panthers prepared for battle when they should have been prepared for war.

The game went into double overtime, lasted more than 145 minutes and was played through eight quarters.

Neither team was prepared to give up; they all knew that the loser would not play again until next year.

Fortunately for Panther fans, Sewickley emerged the victors by a 3-2 score.

It may not have been one of the most exciting soccer games in a long time — it surely wasn't the best for either team.

"Both teams seemed caught up in the emotion of play and didn't settle down," Sewickley head coach Doug DeSmit said. Each team "had the opportunity to win it in regulation time, but neither team was putting up any major attacks."

As they did in the game against Quaker Valley, Sewickley didn't settle the ball before mounting the offense. Consequently, when Sewickley would push toward goal, Hampton was able to clear the ball.

But Sewickley kept trying. Finally, before the end of the second quarter, Ben Powers popped the ball over the goalie and into the net.

This brought Sewickley, with a 1-0 lead, into the dreaded third quarter — a quarter when they seem to play their worst soccer. Sewickley pulled into a defensive shell, offering little offensive relief.

Eventually, Hampton was able to tie the game when Don Gawne received a cross from the wing and shot it into the lower left corner.

Shortly thereafter, Hampton almost scored again when a shot barely missed the goal mouth and bounced off the post.

Sewickley sobered up after the third quarter and found the determination to mount a number of strong attacks. But with both teams unable to break the tie, the match went into overtime.

Scoring first, Sewickley took a lead

during the first overtime, which was played in two 10-minute halves.

About seven minutes into the overtime, Andrew Hutchinson received the ball at the top of the box. He fired a shot that was dropped by the Hampton goalie. John Michael was waiting patiently and redirected the ball for a score.

"We started putting more passes together, and that's what we were looking for the whole game," DeSmit said. "We were able to get the ball into their end, and it was only a matter of time before we put it in."

The same was true for Hampton during the second half of the first overtime when they tied the game, sending the match into a sudden-death, double overtime.

By this time, both teams' players had become extremely tired. Although all were ready to fight it to the end, Sewickley's experience helped them to stay poised and in control.

This was especially true of Sewickley's senior goalie and co-captain Will Kastroll. Hampton was awarded a penalty kick after handling was called against Sewickley inside the penalty box.

Because it was sudden death, if Hampton scored, the game would be over.

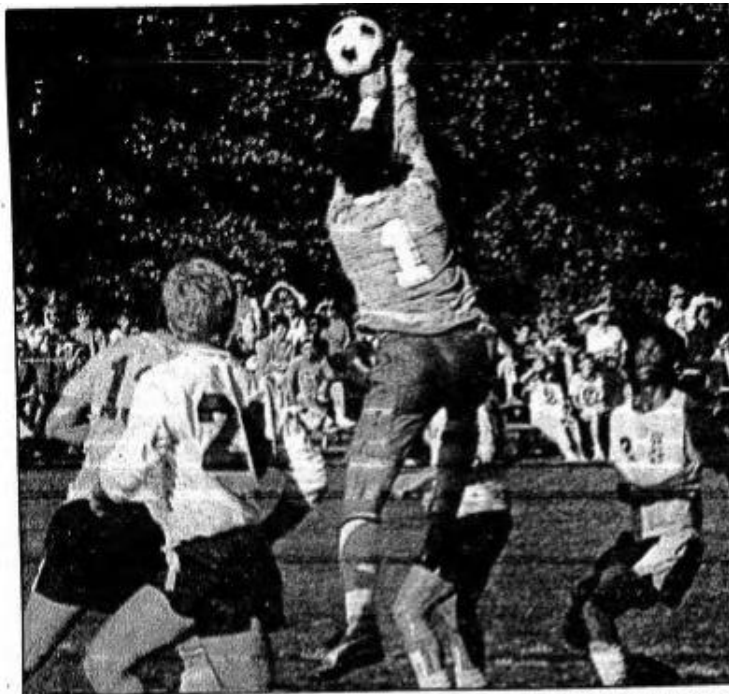
When it came time for the kick, everything was hushed. The Hampton player charged the ball and struck it toward the corner on Kastroll's left.

He dived, stretching his hand just far enough to block the shot. For a second, nobody moved while the ball rolled around in front of the goal.

As Kastroll jumped to his feet and snatched the ball from the ground, a roar of excitement rose from the Sewickley players. The team knew the game was theirs for the taking.

With just a few minutes left in the second overtime, John Michael again came through for Sewickley.

On a throw-in from Andre Hutchinson, the ball bounced off the heads of both Ben Powers and Ben Smith before Michael headed it in for the game.



IN THE MIDDLE OF THINGS is Sewickley Academy goalie Will Kastroll (wearing uniform number 1). Kastroll and his teammates opened the first round of the playoffs with a victory of over Hampton, 3-2.

# Herald Sports

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November 9, 1988 — Page 19

Call 741-8200

## Sewickley Academy defeats Quaker Valley SA Panthers advance in playoff series while the fat lady sings Quaker Valley's song

By Ed Stankowski Jr.  
and Drew Elste

It was the biggest game of the season, and, for one of the two combatants, it was the final game of the season.

Sewickley Academy defeated Quaker Valley High School 1-0 in last week's WPIAL playoff action. The Academy faces Peters Township in the championship game. Quaker Valley, however, puts away the spikes until next year.

The teams had met twice this year before last week's game. On Sept. 27, Sewickley won the first contest in two overtimes, 2-1. Quaker Valley rebounded and defeated the Academy in an Oct. 24 rematch, 4-1.

The cross-town rivals finished in a tie for first place in the section with identical 13-1 records.

Some say history repeats itself. Two years ago, Quaker Valley and Sewickley Academy met in the WPIAL Class AA semifinals. The Academy prevailed, 3-1.

"This win means that we have reached a goal that we established at the beginning of the season: To reach the WPIAL finals," Sewickley coach Doug DeSmit said.

"It allows the players to experience goal-setting and accomplishing those goals," DeSmit continued. "That, to me, was the most satisfying part of the game."

After Sewickley's loss to Quaker Valley two weeks ago, DeSmit commended the Quakers on their play. "They're peaking," DeSmit said.

This time, however, it was Sewickley's turn to peak.

The Academy squad began the game with fire in its eyes and victory on its mind. After their loss to the Quakers and a narrow escape from elimination during the first round against Hampton, Sewickley was determined to win.

This determination was evident in Sewickley's first-quarter play. They attacked the ball with intensity and wouldn't give Quaker Valley time to set up plays. Each time a Quaker came up

with the ball, there were at least five Sewickley players pressuring him, forcing him to make a bad pass.

The Sewickley Panthers controlled play and stayed on the offensive during the first quarter. Emotion was on Sewickley's side, but they didn't let it overwhelm them.

This momentum flowed into the second quarter.

The only score of the game came on a Steve Morris deflection early in the second quarter. The Academy's Andrew Hutchinson and Ben Powers assisted on the play.

However, there is some confusion about exactly what happened on the play. But the end result of the play was all that mattered — the ball ended up in the Quaker net.

Sewickley kept the adrenalin flowing and remained on the offensive. Shortly after the first tally, Philip Coburn scored an apparent goal, drilling the ball to the back of the net after a corner kick. The goal was disallowed, however, when a Sewickley player was called for obstructing.

Quaker Valley had opportunities to score but couldn't capitalize. Matt Danko, the WPIAL's second-leading scorer, blasted a strong shot on goal, but it was deflected.

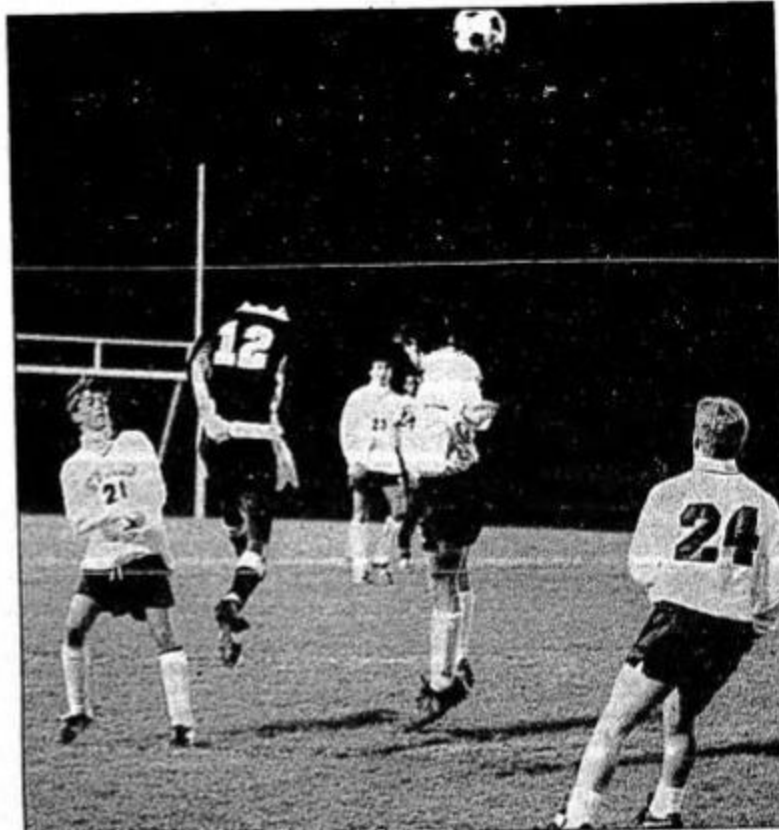
The second quarter ended with Sewickley's clutching its precarious 1-0 lead.

The third quarter has been something of a sore spot for the Academy all season long. It seems they save their worst soccer for this quarter and are notorious for letting down.

Fortunately for Panther fans, Sewickley survived the third quarter unscathed, but they were a little weary entering the fourth.

Quaker Valley pushed into Sewickley territory and pressed the goal. But that domain was ruled by Will Kastroll, Sewickley's senior goalie.

Quaker Valley stayed on the attack and later received a direct kick for a tripping call, but it was blocked by



SEWICKLEY ACADEMY was on the ball last week, posting a big playoff victory over cross-town rival Quaker Valley, 1-0. The Panthers need just one more win to clinch another WPIAL title.

Kastroll.

Both teams exchanged possession during the fourth quarter. The Quakers almost tied the contest when Melvin Meade received the ball at the top of the penalty box and blasted a beautiful shot just above the goal.

Sewickley rallied and countered with

some offensive thrusts of its own, but neither team scored.

"We did what we needed to win," DeSmit said, summing up the victory.

But the Sewickley coach is not content to rest just yet; there is still one more mile to walk, and the last one is sometimes the longest.

# Herald Sports

Call 741-8200

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## Sewickley Academy bows to Peters Twp. in playoff defeat, 1-0

By Ed Stankowski Jr. and Drew Elste

Sewickley Academy lost its bid for a WPIAL section championship last week, bowing to Peters Township, 1-0.

The defeat marks the third consecutive year Peters Township has captured the WPIAL Class AA championship. With the title on the line in 1986, Peters Township defeated Sewickley Academy by an identical 1-0 margin.

Sewickley lost not only the game, the Academy lost the services of mid-fielder Ben Powers. The talented senior suffered a leg injury when he slipped and fell with 5:44 remaining in the third quarter.

Powers, the Academy squad's offensive sparkplug, led his team in goals this year. In addition, he and Quaker Valley's Matt Danko shared the league's Player of the Year Award.

But when Powers limped off the field, he carried his team's chances with him.

It was believed Powers would miss at least a week's action.

Without Powers, Sewickley was unable to mount much of an attack until a fourth quarter surge almost tied the game.

The Academy had two good chances to tie, but both Tim Kaiser and Andrew Hutchinson missed scoring bids late in the final frame.

Peters Township scored the game's only goal in the opening quarter. The Panthers' Kevin Ringling booted a shot past Academy goalie Will Kastroll from 15 yards out with 9:55 remaining. Ring-

ling was assisted on the score by Nick Gismondi.

This goal was almost a copy of one in the first meeting between Peters Township and Sewickley Academy earlier in the season. Sewickley lost that game, 2-1.

The Academy rallied after the goal, but they never put enough together to pressure Peters Township.

Sewickley didn't have the fire they had when they defeated Quaker Valley in the semi-finals. Sewickley equalled Peters Township on physical readiness, but mentally they had lost it.

Coach DeSmit attributed Sewickley's lack of intensity to stage fright. "We were ready a day early," he said.

Sewickley reacted to Peters Township instead of playing its brand of soccer.

The Panthers began to work with each other more in the second quarter, and they started to put consecutive passes together. They were able to move the ball out of the defensive end and mount some attacks.

Neither squad dominated the quarter, and the two teams juggled momentum.

Sewickley sprinted onto the field to begin the third quarter and didn't stop for at least 10 minutes. Fearing a loss, the Panthers' intensity rocketed, helping them to dominate play by sustaining the attacks.

Maintaining the ball on Peters Township's defensive half, Sewickley worked the ball with patience until opportunities for shots presented themselves.

The roof caved in when Powers was felled during the third quarter.



Academy junior John Michael managed to get off a swift kick, but Sewickley dropped a 1-0 decision to Peters Township last week in a bid for the WPIAL crown. The Academy's season is not over yet, however. The team is set to begin action in the upcoming state championships.

As the game entered its last 20 minutes of play, Sewickley was faced with a do-or-die situation. The team knew a loss would erase all hope of a WPIAL championship.

The Sewickley Panthers rallied to the call. As the clock ticked down, Sewickley became more bold with its game.

All balls in the air were recovered by the Sewickley Panthers; the Academy shut down any of Peters Township's offensive thrusts, keeping the ball in Sewickley's offensive end.

The Panthers' aggressive play forced

Peters Township to pull into a defensive shell, presenting Sewickley with many scoring opportunities.

These opportunities were never realized, however, because Sewickley became too anxious to score and booted many shots wide of the goal.

"We were putting six and seven-shots together," DeSmit said, summing up the loss. "We haven't done that all year. We had the best opportunities to score, but we didn't capitalize on them."

DeSmit, however, kept a positive outlook for the state playoffs. "The cup is half full, not half empty."



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## A tale of two teams

### Soccer wrap-up looks at Sewickley Academy's and Quaker Valley's seasons

By Ed Stankowski Jr.

It is a tale of two teams — cross-town soccer rivals Sewickley Academy and Quaker Valley High School.

After a season that was as thrilling as any soccer fan could have hoped for, it can be said that neither Quaker Valley nor Sewickley Academy were losers; both teams won.

There is precedent for this school of thought.

Remember the 1975 World Series that pitted the Cincinnati Reds against the Boston Red Sox? The Red Sox didn't lose that battle, the Reds won it. It went down as one of the most exciting World Series ever.

There is a subtle difference between what passes for success and what constitutes failure. Sometimes a win-loss record is not the full measure of a team. Let it suffice to say the valley was treated to some outstanding soccer performances this year. Isn't that what it is all about?

Until the Academy's 1-0 playoff victory over QV, Sewickley and Quaker Valley were about as evenly matched as two teams can be.

Both squads posted identical 13-1 section records, finishing in a tie for the top spot. QV and the Academy split the two regular-season meetings. On Sept. 27, Sewickley won the first contest in two overtimes, 2-1. Quaker Valley rebounded to defeat the Academy 4-1 in an Oct. 24 rematch.

Both teams pulled out victories in first-round playoff action, setting the stage for what very well might have been the biggest game of the season.

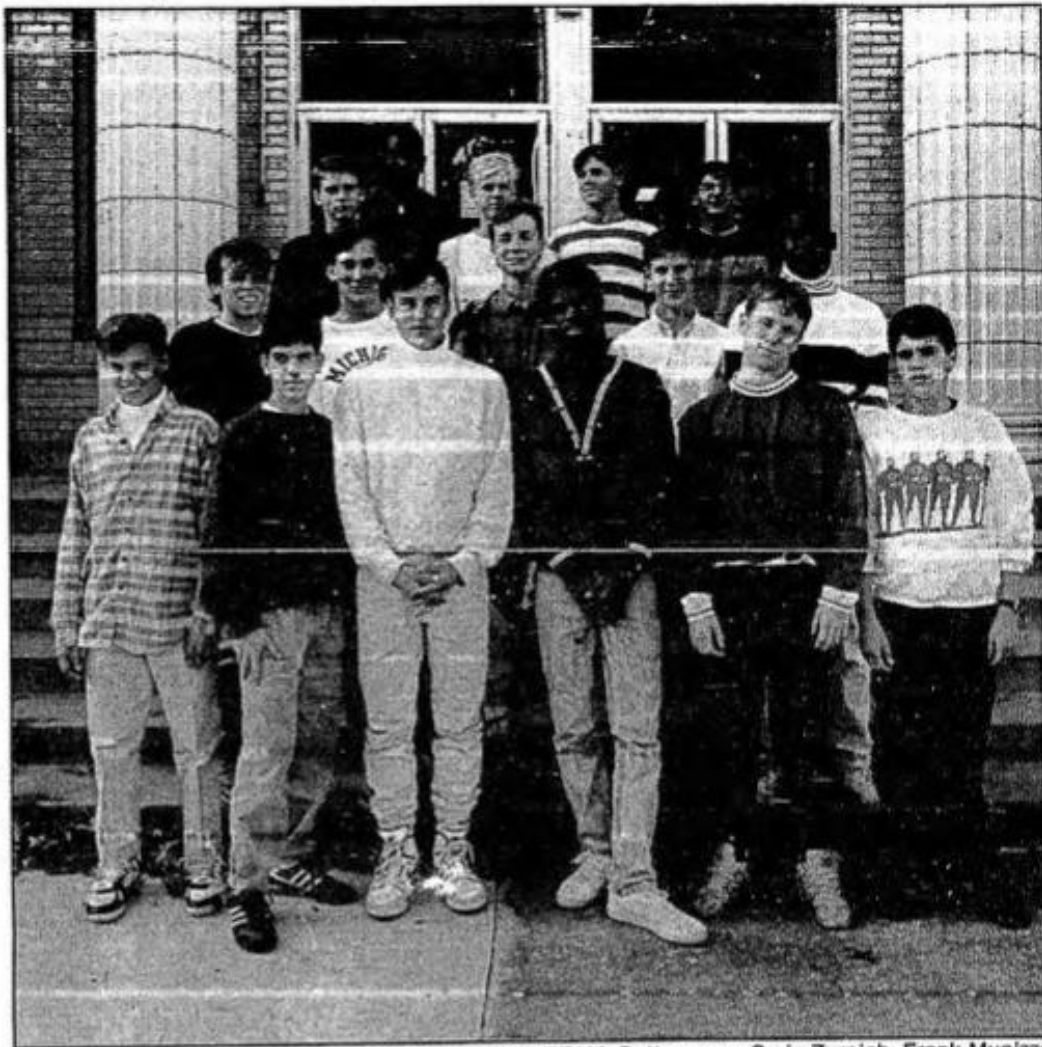
Sewickley Academy prevailed in that matchup, shutting down the Quaker Valley offense. The Academy moved on but later bowed to Peter's Township in the championship game; QV called it a season.

Give a slight season edge to Sewickley Academy.

However, in the final analysis, one victory — or one loss for that matter — does not make all that much difference.

Parity is further illustrated in WPIAL's Boys Soccer Section 9 "Finest 15." Both the Academy and Quaker Valley squads are well represented on this all-star team. In fact, QV and Academy players dominate the roster: Four players from each team were selected, with another player from both squads receiving honorable mention. No other team in the section had more than two players selected.

According to Quaker Valley head coach Gene Klein, the "Finest 15" were chosen by the Section 9 coaches under the auspices of the Western Pennsylvania Soccer Coaches Association.



THE 1988 QUAKER VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER TEAM: Bottom row: Craig Zurnich, Frank Munizza, Dave Wick, Derek Gilchrist, Clay Miller and Al Torchig. Middle row: Cebra Graves, Chad McFarland, Jeremy Gray, Mike Riesmeyer and Mel Meade. Back row: Reg Bledsoe, Will Luster and Graham Perkovich.



Making the grade for the Academy were seniors Will Kastroll and Ben Powers, junior Ben Smith and Tim Kaiser, a sophomore. Representing Quaker Valley were seniors Matt Danko and Chad McFarland, junior Mike Hitchens and sophomore Graham Perkovich.

Quaker Valley's Dave Wick, a junior, and Sewickley Academy's Phil Coburn, also a junior, received the coaches' honorable mention.

Sharing top honors as the section's "Player of the Year" were QV's Matt Danko and Ben Powers of the Academy.

Danko, Quaker Valley's talented forward, finished second in the league in scoring. In addition, the senior put his foot to work kicking field goals for QV's varsity football squad.

Powers, a mid-fielder who sustained a leg injury in Academy's loss to Peters Township, was the team's sparkplug all season long and finished among the league's top scorers.

Also receiving post-season accolades was Sewickley

Academy head coach Doug DeSmit, who was chosen Section 9's "Coach of the Year."

DeSmit said he was pleased to receive the award but was quick to share the credit. "The award is really a gift from the players," he said.

Although he said Sewickley's season came to a frustrating end, DeSmit maintained he was satisfied with his team's play this year. Citing the Academy squad's intensity, DeSmit said the "players were able to come together and put their focus into the finals."

There are more peaks than valleys in season that sees a team win far more games than it loses. DeSmit said the "peak" game for him this season was that semi-final matchup with QV.

Also ranking among the season's highlights, DeSmit said, is capturing a share of the section title. "We didn't

know if we were going to be able to do that," DeSmit confessed.

If there was a low spot in the season, it came in the championship game. "It was an honor to play," DeSmit said, "but to lose 1-0 and lose Ben Powers was difficult.

"Ben Powers is a tremendous player. We won't replace him for a number of years," DeSmit said. "If there was anything going on, he was there."

DeSmit also gave senior goalie Will Kastroll high praise. "He did a tremendous job and will be sorely missed. We don't have anyone behind him."

Despite the loss of both Powers and Kastroll, DeSmit said he is looking forward to next year.

"We were able to develop several players this season. I'm looking forward to a seasoned, experienced group returning."

Although DeSmit admits he "doesn't know what to expect next season," he said he has cause for hope. "There's a bunch of good players who are returning," he said, listing Jeff Mikita, Wes Kimmell, Ben Smith, Tim Kaiser, John Michael and Steve Morris as future stars.

Gene Klein, Quaker Valley's head coach, said he is pleased with his team's play this season. "We were disappointed with the outcome of the last Sewickley Academy game, but, in the long run, it was a good year, a solid year."

When a team posts a 13-1 section record and makes it to the playoffs, there are bound to be fond memories of the season past.

For Klein, the highlights of the season were participating in the Carlisle Tournament at the beginning of the year and the late-season defeat of the Academy that secured a share of first place.

The season, however, did have its low points. "Losing to Sewickley Academy in the semi-finals was not very pleasant," Klein said. "I wasn't happy with the style of play we exhibited. It's not that we lost, it's how we lost."

Although he maintained he is satisfied with Quaker Valley's performance, Klein said he feels the squad "never really clicked together as a team." Klein blamed this on the fact that QV players suffered their share of injuries, denying the team opportunities to perform as a cohesive unit.

Quaker Valley will lose several talented seniors to graduation, but Klein said he remains confident. "I'm already looking forward to next season."

Continued to page 20



THE 1988 SEWICKLEY ACADEMY PANTHERS: Front row: Head Coach Doug DeSmit, Charles Agar, Ben Smith, Ben Powers, Steve Morris, Micah Downs and John Michael. Back row: Carter Keairns, Drew Elste, Wesley Kimmell, Henry Hunt, Terry Quinn, Dejan Popovich, Philip Coburn, Josh Szabo, Timothy Kaiser, Rodney Burton, Jeffrey Mikita, R.J. Weigand, Andrew Huthinson and Will Kastroll. (Photo courtesy of Studio C, Coraopolis)

# Sewickley Academy loses to McConnellsburg

## 2-1 loss in state championships ends an otherwise successful season for Academy soccer

By Drew Elste

After a long and successful season, Sewickley Academy soccer has finally come to an end.

In the first round of the state playoffs, the Sewickley Panthers lost to McConnellsburg in overtime, 2-1.

Because McConnellsburg is located in the middle of the state, the game was played on neutral turf at Somerset High School.

Not only was Sewickley playing without the services of senior Ben Powers, the team knew nothing about its opponents. Consequently, tensions ran high as to the direction of the game. But those tensions eased as soon as play began.

The Panthers easily dribbled around the McConnellsburg players and con-

trolled the momentum of the game. In the first quarter, Sewickley pushed into the McConnellsburg end and barely missed many opportunities to score.

McConnellsburg, on the other hand, would boot the ball upfield and try to break through Sewickley's defense with its speed. This was not very successful, considering they only had 10 shots for the entire game, compared to Sewickley's 30.

Second-quarter play mirrored the first, but McConnellsburg's strategy paid off.

As Sewickley fell back into position after one of McConnellsburg's long kicks, the referees called tripping against Sewickley. The call was made inside the penalty box, giving McConnellsburg a free kick. The shot was drilled into the lower-left corner, and Will

Kastroll had no chance to make the save.

The Panthers rallied after McConnellsburg's goal, but were unable to tally any points by the end of the first half.

By the end of the third quarter, McConnellsburg began to feel more confident, and they made a number of attacks on the Sewickley goal.

Sewickley, on the other hand, began to worry about a possible loss instead of putting the ball into the net; their confidence was shaken.

"Normally, we score first and our offense gets going. That's how we did it all season," said co-captain Ben Powers, who watched the game from the sideline because of an injury.

As the game moved into the fourth quarter, Sewickley began to play again

as it had during the first half. The Panthers kept the ball in the McConnellsburg end and continuously attacked the goal with intensity.

On one of many Ben Smith throw-ins, Tim Kaiser headed the ball into the goal to tie the game and send it into overtime.

After having recently scored, Sewickley carried its momentum into the first overtime. The Academy controlled the ball and blasted a number of shots on goal, including one by Ben Smith that the McConnellsburg goalie barely saved.

But Sewickley's dreams of advancing to the quarterfinals of the state playoffs were stolen when McConnellsburg scored again on a head-ball.

## Soccer season in review: a tale of two teams

Continued from page 19

The head coach points to this season's juniors as a team strength. "We have a group of junior veterans who have been starting for years. That crew had a really good year. I hope they are hungry."

Regardless of talented underclassman, Klein will have a difficult time filling Matt Danko's spikes. "We need to replace Danko," Klein admitted. "We need to find people to put the ball in the back of the net."

Danko, however, remains a difficult man to replace. "He has all the tools — speed, strength," Klein said. "I hope he can continue at the college level."

Danko wasn't the only story at Quaker Valley this year,

however. "Chad McFarland, the other senior captain played very well," Klein said. "A core of juniors matured; Mike Hitchens consistently played well. Desmond Bledsoe and Dave Wick (both sophomores) showed improvement."

Klein had nothing but praise for his cross-town counterpart and described the teams' rivalry as healthy.

"Their team played hard and together," Klein said. "Ben Powers and Will Kastroll are two great leaders. Those two guys elevated everyone else. Doug DeSmit is doing a great job."

DeSmit agrees with his counterpart's sentiments, saying the rivalry is a positive one. "I appreciate the intensity of the competition on the field," DeSmit said, describing the matchups of the rival teams. "Those games help us prepare for the bigger games; unfortunately, those games are against each other."

Next season promises to provide another installment of outstanding soccer in the Quaker Valley. To borrow an old baseball expression: "Wait 'til next year."



SHARING honors are QV's Matt Danko (above) and Sewickley Academy's Ben Powers.

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# Year-end banquet toasts QV soccer squad

## Senior standout Chad McFarland selected as this season's Most Valuable Player

Not only did Quaker Valley High School's soccer team post a winning season, several players excelled on an individual basis as well.

And, in recognition of a fine year, the Quaker Valley boys varsity soccer team was recognized at a banquet held in its honor.

The Quakers finished the 1988 season with a 15-5-2 record and a share of the WPIAL Section Nine championship.

Senior co-captain Chad McFarland was voted by his teammates as 1988's Most Valuable Player. As he made the presentation, Head Coach Gene Klein expressed his personal satisfaction with the players' choice. "Chad is a leader both on and off the field, and I feel that the players' selection of Chad as MVP is a mature decision," Klein said. "Being chosen by your peers is the highest honor."

Matt Danko, senior co-captain, was singled out for several individual honors. Danko was the Quakers' leading scorer for the season, with 35 goals and seven assists. He also was named to the prestigious All-State Team, a squad comprised of the best AA soccer players in the state.

In addition, Danko was named to the All-WPIAL Team and was chosen a

Post-Gazette North All-Star and a Post-Gazette All-Star.

Other QV soccer players gained local attention as well.



Chad McFarland

Junior standout Mike Hitchens also was named to the All-WPIAL Team. Hitchens, who started at midfield for the Quakers, was named the 1989 team captain.

Receiving WPIAL honors were Danko, Hitchens, McFarland and sophomore Graham Perkovich. The talented sophomore, who plays center midfield, had five goals and 10 assists this season.

A surprise announcement at the banquet was the selection of Gene Klein as the Western Pennsylvania Coach of the Year by the board of directors of PA West, an organization that sponsors all youth and club teams in the western region.

Klein, who has led the Quakers for the past eight years, described the 1988 season as one of commendable effort that fell just short of the players' and coaches' expectations.

The coach said that the only difference between a team that wins the state title and one that is eliminated in the first round of the playoffs, as the Quakers were, is "intangibles."

These intangibles, Klein said, are things like dedication, attitude and teamwork. "It is not enough to just make the squad, but you need to make a commitment to the team. It's not enough to play with your teammates, but you must play for them."

Earning a four-year senior letter was senior Matt Danko. Three-year letter

winner were Chad McFarland and defensive senior Reggie Bledsoe, who was sidelined with injuries most of the season but still recorded five goals and six assists.

Several players received their second varsity letters: senior Andy Andrews, who had seven goals and led the Quakers with assists with 12; senior defender Mike Finch; junior midfielder Mike Hitchens; sophomore Graham Perkovich; and junior defender Dave Wick, who also was named 1989 varsity co-captain.

Some players earned varsity letters for the first time: junior defender Demond Bledsoe; junior forward Derek Gilchrist, who was second to Danko with 11 goals and six assists; senior midfielder Cebra Graves; senior defender Will Luster; goal keeper Mike Maruca, who recorded 64 saves and had eight shutouts; and senior defender Clay Miller.

Recognizing the importance of maintaining academic excellence, Klein singled out Cebra Graves, who maintained a perfect 4.0 average during the soccer season. Klein also awarded honor-roll pins to the members of the varsity and junior varsity who had a 3.0 average.

## Sewickley chosen as site of soccer tourney

The Sewickley Indoor Soccer Center is the site of the regional playoffs for the nation's only indoor soccer tournament.

The playoffs begin Thursday, Dec. 22.

Sewickley is one of 24 sites nationwide to host regional competition for the fourth consecutive Mitre/Soccer America Indoor Soccer Championships. Teams are vying for a slot in the national playoffs, with winners of the regional playoffs advancing to the national championships.

"Soccer is an extremely important sport in the Pennsylvania area, and we're pleased that Sewickley is playing an important role in the only national indoor soccer championships," said Keith Heyes, president of Mitre Sports and chairman of the Soccer Industry Council of America.

According to Heyes, more than 12,000 players participated in last year's games, and tournament organizers are expecting

even greater participation this year.

"Soccer is experiencing tremendous growth in America, and Sewickley is no exception," Heyes said. "Approximately 12 million people play organized soc-

cer in the U.S., with the biggest growth at the youth and college levels."

A maximum of 20 teams will be invited to participate in the national tournament.

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