

Soccer-team registration opens for Sewickley-area youngsters

Sewickley Area Soccer Association (SAS) is still accepting player registrations for the upcoming spring season, but deadline for application is March 1. Anyone who has not registered should mail the completed form and entry fee to: Sewickley Area Soccer, P.O. Box 381, Sewickley, Pa. 15143.

According to John Vorberger, president of SAS, any applications received after March 1 will not be guaranteed placement in the program. These late registrations will be placed on a waiting list and added where possible.

Registration forms are available at the United Mens Store, Beaver Street, Sewickley.

Vorberger also made a request for renewed parental involvement in this year's soccer season. He noted that many excellent college athletes began their career in the SAS program, with trained fathers and mothers as coaches and referees.

"We need to continually increase their skills and abilities by using educated and trained parents. I would ask them to



please consider becoming involved with the SAS program."

Coaches clinic

This season, SAS also will offer a Level E coaches' clinic, conducted by Western Pennsylvania State Youth Soccer Association. The clinic is designed for SAS coaches, especially in age groups under 8, under 10, and under 12.

The coaching clinic will be held at Quaker Valley High School. For more information, call Vorberger at 741-6295.

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Feature

They get a kick out of it!

Area businessmen nurture community soccer programs

By Missy Merlo

Although the days of major-league indoor soccer in Pittsburgh are gone, its heart and soul remains. Several members of the now-defunct Pittsburgh Spirit remain in the area, coaching youth teams or conducting skill clinics. Two of those men, John Kowalski and Denny Kohlmeier, are thriving on the soccer thirst of area athletes.

Kowalski, of Aleppo Township, and Kohlmeier of the South Hills are part owners of the Indoor Sports and Fitness Center (ISFC), located below the Sewickley Bridge on Chadwick Street.

As their soccer business booms, Kowalski and Kohlmeier are set to begin a new adventure. They have been named coach and assistant coach, respectively, of Robert Morris College's varsity soccer team. They replace Tom DeRosa, who resigned after coaching at RMC for three years.

"Not only does each have a solid background on the playing field, but John and Dennis have strong local ties, which should help regionally, nationally and internationally," said Bob McBee, RMC athletic director.

The pair joined with four other soccer professionals in 1982 to open the center, which conducts soccer leagues, clinics and camps for children and adults of all ages.

Kowalski, who coached the Spirit from 1981-85, and Kohlmeier, Spirit youth development director, manage everyday operations of the

center. Chris Wright (former Spirit general manager), Chris King (Wright's father-in-law), Gene Zappa (former Spirit physical therapist), and Al Meehan (of the St. Louis soccer club) are financial partners in the business venture.

The Spirit used the center as a practice facility until they folded in 1986. From there, Kohlmeier and Kowalski developed ISFC into the mecca of youth soccer throughout the area. "We even have teams travel from Irwin or West Virginia to play in our leagues," Kohlmeier said. Just this past weekend, ISFC hosted the MITRE national indoor soccer championships for the under-16 and under-19 age groups.

Other soccer celebrities associated with the center include former Moon High School star Sean Shapert, who led Indiana University to a 1988 NCAA Division I championship and was named tournament

MVP, former professional soccer players Dave Kasper, Gee Peckich, and Paul Child, who all are either currently or have spent time working with ISFC programs.

The United States Soccer Federation named Kowalski head coach of its national indoor team in 1986. This past January, the team won a Bronze medal at the Indoor Soccer World Championships. Other coaching stints include the Spirit (posting a 106-82 record and two playoff berths), Hartford Hellions, and assistant for the Cincinnati Kids.

Kohlmeier, in addition to overseeing play at the Sewickley center, is heavily involved with the Beadling soccer program. Beadling is one of the oldest and most successful youth soccer programs in the country. "Cup" teams from Beadling often compete for regional and national titles.



Denny Kohlmeier and John Kowalski

Sewickley Hotspurs capture state title

The Sewickley Hotspurs, select 14-and-under boys' soccer team, are the new western Pennsylvania state champions.

Winning four straight games at the state finals tournament at Slippery Rock University, the Hotspurs earned the right to represent western Pennsylvania at the U.S. Eastern Regional Championships in Niagara Falls.

After shutting out its first three opponents, a last-minute goal gave the Hotspurs a 1-0 victory over the Beadling Soccer Club in the final match.

The Hotspurs' impressive performance in the state cup tournament followed by a week its victory at the prestigious Potomac, Md. invitational soccer tournament. There the group earned wins over teams from eastern Pennsylvania, New York, Maryland and Virginia.

Kevin Kress, an eighth-grade student at Quaker Valley, and seventh-grader Seth Perkovich are the local representatives on the Hotspurs, in addition to coach Leo Moss.

The Sewickley Hotspurs is an organization made up of two teams: 14 and under and 17 and under. In fact, some say they are the two most successful youth soccer teams currently playing in western Pennsylvania. The younger team has won both the under-12 and under-14 state championships, while the older team has won the under-14 and under-16 state title.

Three local boys play for the 17 and under group. Quaker Valley students Nathaniel (Finney) Fairfield, Demond Bledsoe and Graham Perkovich. The team is coached by Gene Klein, soccer coach at Quaker Valley High School.



THE CHAMPS. First row (l. to r.): Seth Perkovich, J.J. Smith, Paul Johnston, Ryan Zuzek, Kevin Kress, Steve Bell, Paul Phillips, Bill Siple. Second row: Joe O'Donnell, Chris Kirchner, Todd Williams, Kevin McClure, Mike Green, John Guna, Brian Gira. Standing: Coaches Lou Kirchner and Leo Moss.

Sports

Soccer: It's not just for the kids anymore

Local men get their kicks from this sport, too

By Tony Soltis

They're 4-1-1 already this season and league champs three years running. Local men's soccer, represented by the Sewickley F.C., is growing and prospering. The F.C. stands for "football club" as soccer is known in England.

Ron Hitchens, owner of Sewickley Distributing, has been the coach and sponsor of the team for the past five years. When he started, finding other teams to play was not easy. They would drive as far as Oil City looking for a game.

"I got started because my 8 year old son was playing and they needed coaches," Hitchens recalls.

"My mom wouldn't let me play football," his son, Chris interjects.

"So Jerry Thompson and I and some coaches got together to play and try to learn more about the game," Hitchens continues. "We were originally called the Pacemakers."

They have since joined the Beaver County Soccer League and now play teams in Center, Beaver Falls, New Kensington,

Heidelberg, South Fayette, North Allegheny and Beading.

It's an open league and basically any male of high-school age or older can play. Hitchens's son Chris plays, the one who got him interested originally, as well as his other son, Mike, who's a senior at Quaker Valley.

This year's roster includes the oldest player at 35, Jay Abraham of Pittsburgh, a director for Heinz, and several high-school students at the young end of the scale.

Many of the players are college athletes home for the summer from school, like Kenny Pryor who attends classes at Akron; Jeff Rona, Stanford; Jim Gregory, Villanova; George Strong, William and Mary; Troy Thede, Babson College; Sam Lanza and Cris Riding, both from Pitt; and George Lange, from Colby College.

While others are men who enjoy the game or want to keep in shape, like Jim Kittelberger of Sewickley, a physical therapist who used to be a trainer for the Pittsburgh Spirit, a defunct professional soccer team. And some have even been professional

players from the Major Indoor Soccer League, like George Tiger and Paul Tomey, both of whom played for the Spirit.

Chris Smaillwood, now Ringgold High School's soccer coach, played soccer professionally in England before joining the Sewickley F.C.

Hitchens has taken it upon himself to improve as a coach. He reports that he has attended coaching clinics, read a lot of books, and become a coach for Quaker Valley High's soccer team.

The team holds practice on Wednesday evenings at Nichols Field, but that doesn't always mean that the team that's working on the field will be the one that plays on Sunday.

"A lot of the guys have to work and miss practice, and we get a lot of guys who just drop by to work out with us.

"High school kids will come down and scrimmage, and sometimes we arrange scrimmages against the older youth teams so they can tune up their game for a tournament."



COACH: Always ready to lend a hand is Ron Hitchens.



IN PLAY: Kenny Pryor faces an onslaught of Center opponents.



HANDSHAKE: Players Jeff Rona (left) and Kenny Pryor conclude the game on good terms.

Sports

QV has soccer camp

Keystone Soccer Kamps will hold a day camp Monday through Friday, July 24-28, from 9 a.m. to noon, at the Quaker Valley soccer field, Leetsdale.

The camps are directed by Gene Klein, soccer coach at QV High and director of coaching for the Pa. West Soccer Association, and Joe Luxbacher, head soccer coach for the University of Pittsburgh.

Tom Mulroy, who holds the world record for juggling a soccer ball atop the Empire State building, will present a special soccer clinic that is open to the public at Slippery Rock University, Thursday, July 20, at 1 p.m.

The clinic will be held in conjunction with Keystone Soccer Kamp's advanced resident soccer

camp for boys and girls at Slippery Rock during the week of July 16-21.

For more information, call 221-9117 or 766-8180.

Sports



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Sports

Double duty: soccer heads kick pigskin

By Tony Soltis

In an age of football where offenses have become high-powered run-and-shoot scoring machines, there remains an indispensable aspect of the game that does not require brute strength, great speed, or a strong arm.

One of the more distinctive features of football is that a game can still be won or lost by a team's kicking game.

Like many schools, Quaker Valley is looking to its soccer team for skilled footmen. Head Coach Tim Vermillion hopes he has found them in Dave Wick and Mike Hitchens, co-captains of the QV soccer team — two young men who say kicking comes naturally to them.

Hitchens says he watched Matt Danko handle the kicking duties on the football team last year. Since Danko graduated, an opening existed, and Hitchens wanted to give it a shot.

Hitchens says he had always wanted to give football a try, but felt his size made him ineligible.

Wick, on the other hand, says he got interested after a conversation with Coach Vermillion. Wick then approached Pittsburgh Steeler kicker Gary Anderson, who attends Orchard Hill, the same church as Wick's family in Franklin Park.

"Anderson knew I was serious, not just some kid bothering him,"

says Wick. "He was really helpful."

Wick says he felt more comfortable with kick-offs and field goals, so Hitchens was recruited to kick punts. He says he owes a debt of gratitude to Danny O'Neil, who showed him more of the techniques involved in a good punt.

The two seniors find themselves now quite busy. They practice six days a week under Coach Gene Klein to play games every Tuesday, Thursday, and every other Saturday. At 5 p.m., when the rest of the soccer team hits the showers, Hitchens and Wick go to football practice.

"It's like one big practice," the boys say.

This is all in addition to their scholastic pursuits: Both boys are involved in the Junior Academy of Science, which means more hours doing research.

In game conditions, everything could be different, but in practices Wick reports he is kicking 40 yard field goals. Hitchens says he is hitting 40 yard punts on the average.

Although now they both most likely will earn at least two letters, (Wick also plays basketball), they both are quick to say their first love is soccer.

Neither would back away from making a tackle on the football field, "out of respect for the team." But by the same token, an injury could mean a premature end to playing soccer, which is



TALENTED FEET on Mike Hitchens and Dave Wick could earn them letters in both soccer and football.

something both of them want to pursue next year in college.

Wick and Hitchens both say they're undecided where they would like to attend college. Wick says he may also be a walk-on for a kicker position if the situation is right.

Meanwhile, Coach Vermillion is still waiting to see the boys kick in

a game. This past weekend, the QV soccer team traveled to Carlyle, Pa. to play in a warm-up tournament.

And as the football team played Avalon Saturday, it was Rick Ruperto handling the punting and Chris Beadnell the kick-offs and field goal tries.

Both Beadnell and Ruperto say they would like a shot to stay on in their kicking roles. That, of course, would be in addition to Beadnell's jobs as running back and line backer and Ruperto's roles tight end and line backer.

Double-duty seems to be a way of life at QV.

QV soccer makes great start

By Marnie McKnight

The Quakers are looking tough. They're off to a terrific start, 6-0 for the season, 4-0 in section play.

"Balance is the key to this year's squad," Coach Gene Klein feels. And the scoring statistics back up that claim.

Last week, in their 7-0 victory against Ellwood City, each of the goals was scored by a different player: Dave Wick, Melvin Meade, Mike Hitchens, Graham Perkovich, Demons Bledsoe, Derek Gilchrist, and Colin McLaughlin.

The Quakers also downed section 9 rival, Riverside, in a lopsided 12-0 contest. The veterans so dominated early play that Klein had the luxury of giving his bench plenty of varsity time.

Perkovich posted a hat trick. Hitchens, Gilchrist, and junior Frank Munizza each scored two goals. Bledsoe, Ben McKnight, and Matt Hoehl had one each.

QV's harbinger of the season was the Carlisle tournament. Midfielder Perkovich was named tournament MVP as the Quakers swept both Rosemont-Wolcott and hosts Carlisle.

Rosemont-Wolcott, located near Syracuse N.Y., played an intimidating game marked with aggressive physical play. But the Quakers' speed proved to be a better weapon as they scored four goals in the first half to their opponents' one.

Senior and co-captain Hitchens teamed up with Meade to score the first goal. Shortly after, Meade scored on his own with a perfectly timed header. It came from a direct kick awarded to the Quakers for one of many penalties called against the aggressive New York players.

Perkovich scored the third QV goal, dribbling the ball through defensive traffic and pushing it around the goal post. Hitchens figured again in the scoring when his shot bounced off the post to senior defender Bledsoe, who booted home the rebound.

Late in the closing minutes of the first half, the first and only ball got past senior goalie Nate Fair-

field for the whole tournament.

Fairfield combined with senior stopper Wick to keep New York's attempt to out-muscle the Quakers at bay, and the 4-1 Quaker lead held.

The Quakers then met Carlisle in the tournament championship game. The Bisons had defeated Pittsburgh's Central Catholic to earn their spot.

Solid defense marked play between the two squads. With less than two minutes remaining in the first half, Perkovich ripped a left-footer from 25 yards out that sailed past the Carlisle defense for the game's only score.

Klein was pleased with his squad's tournament play. "We maintained our composure throughout the tournament... Most of all, we played as a team."

The Quakers took that collective composure into section play, which began against Center.

Co-captain Wick took a free kick that Meade headed past the Center goalie seconds before the first quarter ended. Bledsoe scored for the Quakers when he hit a left-footer off a Perkovich pass. Center closed the gap, and at the half, QV led, 2-1.

The second half was a defensive struggle as both teams attempted to gain control of the ball. Hitchens was ejected from the game on an unsportsmanlike conduct call early in the third period. The Quakers had to finish with a one-man deficit.

However, the questionable penalty seemed to spark Quaker play, and with four minutes left, Gilchrist, cutting across the center of the net, knocked in a Perkovich pass for a goal, and a 3-1 Quaker victory.

Next, the Quakers shut-out Beaver, 6-0. Beaver is considered by some to have the size and experience to challenge the Quakers and Sewickley Academy for the section 9 title.

Freshman Kevin Kress, starting his first game for QV, led off the scoring attack. He was followed by Wick, Meade, and Bledsoe. Sophomore McKnight scored a pair.

QV soccer defends winning season

By Marnie McKnight

Quaker Valley boys soccer team experienced its first defeat of the 1989 season with a closely played 1-0 loss at the hands of defending WPIAL AAA champions, Upper St. Clair.

The Quakers defense kept the powerful Panthers scoreless throughout nearly three quarters of play — a good job that fell just a little short, as Upper St. Clair finally did manage to score the game's only goal.

The defense has been directed by senior goalkeeper Nate Fairfield. Fairfield has allowed only three goals and registered six shutouts so far in the Quakers' season.

Coach Gene Klein has keyed the QV defense around sweeper Dave Wick, a heady, dependable player with solid skills. Flanking the experienced Wick are two younger defensive starters: junior Mike Lynch, who provides the size and muscle, and sophomore Jeff Vorberger, who adds quickness and versatility.

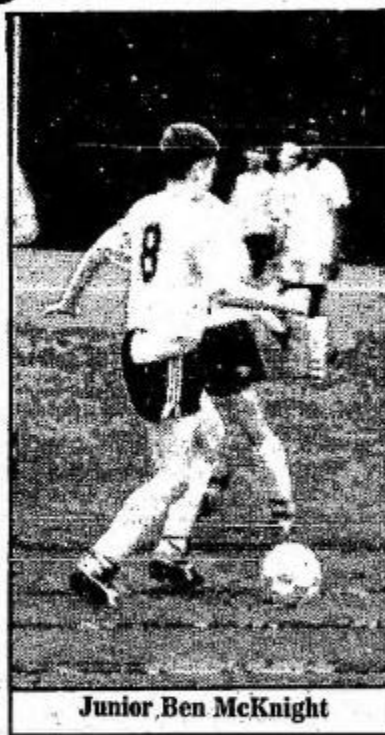
Senior stopper Demond Bledsoe plays in front of Wick and with his strength and speed is a defensive key as well as a potential scoring threat.



Senior Melvin Meade



Senior Dave Wick



Junior Ben McKnight

The Quakers continue to roll over their AA section 9 rivals. Shaking off the tough loss to Upper St. Clair, Klein's squad rebounded against Freedom, winning easily at home, 7-0.

Graham Perkovich and Melvin Meade each scored two goals. Juniors Matt Hoehl and Frank

Munizza and sophomore Colin McLaughlin also scored for the Quakers.

QV came out strong against section rival Wilmington. The Quakers scored three goals in the first period, which proved to be too much for Wilmington.

Goals were posted by seniors Derek Gilchrist, Melvin Meade and Mike Hitchens. Meade added a second score late in the fourth quarter for a 4-0 Quaker win.

The Quakers, 6-1, are ranked fourth in their class. In front of them are Peters Township, Fleetwood, and Great Valley.

SA girls win, lose and draw

By Tony Soltis
and Dan Nelson

The girls at Sewickley Academy are off to a pretty even start in field hockey, at 1-1-1. The team has looked strong and even offensively dominated two traditional field hockey powerhouses: North Allegheny and Vincentian.

On the other hand, the shots aren't going in. Leigh Boens had the only goal in the North Allegheny match, and the Panthers played Vincentian to a 0-0 tie.

"We totally dominated that game," said Coach Lori Yost. "We must have had 35 shots (on goal) to their two or three."

She points to two areas in which she wants to see improvement: communication and second efforts.

"We need a little more talking between the players, more communication on the field," remarks Coach Yost. "We're trying to instill that in our leaders. It's key to winning. You need to communicate the whole game."

Coach Yost explained the other quality the girls need to develop:

"We usually have a real good first effort, but we need a second, third, and fourth effort. Sometimes they miss the ball, and they get frustrated. (They need to learn) that's part of the game."

The Panthers only defeat of the season came at the hands of Ellis, 2-0, when Ellis scored twice quickly in the opening period. The two teams did, however, play evenly for the remainder of the game.

Coach Yost feels that co-captains Claire Lang and Kendra Carter are good, solid hockey players, providing a strong sense of leadership. And she feels the team is showing good unity.

The defense is looking strong and playing consistently. Suzanne Harris and Kendra Carter have been stopping the opposition.

Megan Mansmann and Autumn Mowrey are contributing to offense. If they could just get that ball into that net a few more times, this Panther team could be dominant in a section filled right now with quality field-hockey teams.

"I'm working on it," reports Coach Yost.

Sports

Academy soccer shuts out opponents, 6-0

By Dan Nelson

Sewickley Academy boys soccer team is developing into a legitimate contender. They made a believer of Center Township last Thursday.

The Panthers were going into the Center game with the opportunity to prove themselves. They did, winning 3-0. The victory gave Academy a 6-0 record in their section.

Until the third quarter, the two teams remained deadlocked thanks to good defensive play. Sewickley kept returning to the offensive zone until Tim Kaiser scored off a throw-in by Ben Smith to take a 1-0 lead.

Center seemed to let down, and John Michael took advantage to score his 12th goal of the season.

The fourth quarter went from end to end as sophomore goalkeeper Matt Stevens denied Center a goal on several attempts. After Center knocked the ball into their own net, the game concluded, and the Panthers had their sixth win.

SA's winning season did not get off to a propitious beginning. Like

last year, the Panthers were defeated twice in their own home tournament. And also like last year, they have rebounded with an effective offense and a young goaltender of surprising quality.

Stevens has not allowed a single goal in any of the Panthers six victories. When asked about his young goalie, Coach Doug DeSmit stated, "Stevens is playing well."

DeSmit went on to point out that Stevens has been making key saves during critical parts of the game. And he is complemented by an abundance of goals by his teammates at the other end.

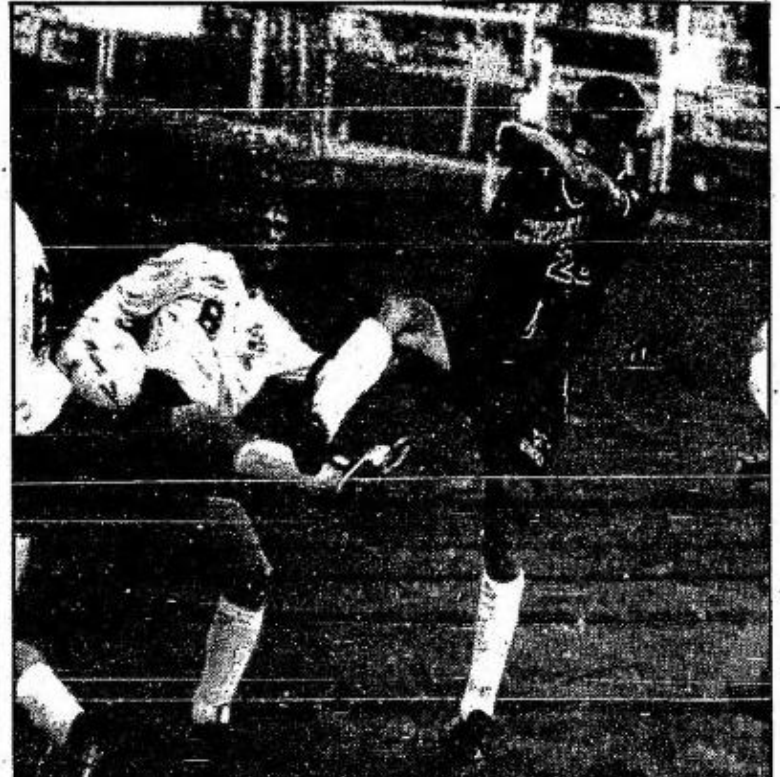
The offense has emerged. It is headed by WPIAL scoring leader, John Michael. Michael and the rest of the productive attack have become constant threats to their opposition in the section.

The Panthers are led by eight starting seniors. "The seniors are performing up to expectations," says a pleased DeSmit. "This is a stable, consistent soccer team, which is playing decent soccer."

As DeSmit says, "The team has come a long way since the beginning."



JOHN MICHAEL leads the WPIAL in goals.



EXTRA EFFORT provided by senior Steve Morris.

QV shuts out SA in crosstown soccer game

By Tony Soltis

The Quakers downed their cross-town rivals, the Sewickley Academy Panthers, last week, 3-0, to win their sixth in a row.

The game, played on QV's turf, brought out a good-sized crowd of approximately 100 fans to watch the first of two regular season games between these two schools.

The pitch was in good shape, as the British say, but the wind was blowing fairly hard from north to south, giving a distinct disadvantage to the southern goal. Two of QV's three goals came in the third quarter, when SA had to defend the the southern net.

Not that the Quakers needed the weather to help them. Overall, SA was forced to spend much of their time and energy on defense. Even in the scoreless first half, the Panthers weren't able to mount much of an attack.

SA was forced to play without senior starter Ben Smith, who was ineligible because of a red penalty card in the Panthers' last game against Kiski Prep.

But QV couldn't get their offense in gear, either, in the first half, as they had difficulty trapping the ball to get off shots. And SA goalie Matt Stevens didn't make it any easier on them.

Stevens played ambitiously, plucking shots from the air, and making a great save after a QV free kick. But when Stevens did not handle the rebound, the ball

bounced right back to Melvin Meade. He shot it and only a fast dive by Stevens stopped the Quakers.

On the other side of the field, Quaker goalie Nate Fairfield had to make a few saves of his own. A mishandled QV throw-in was almost knocked in by the Panthers, and only a fast move by Fairfield stopped them.

Even though Steve Morris was fast on right wing and John Michael handled the ball well, SA was not threatening when they took the ball down by the goal.

Quaker Valley used the middle of the field, instead of the sides. But SA only responded modestly in trying to utilize the wings.

At the half, SA coach Doug DeSmit speaking in by his team, verified that the Panthers "were playing it all down the middle." DeSmit sounded somewhat content, even though the games was still scoreless at that point. He admitted the Panthers were outsize at mid-field.

However, Coach Gene Klein was angry at his Quakers. He seemed to feel they should have had a point or two to show for their first-half efforts.

The third quarter was all Quakers. Derek Gilchrist kept coming close with shots, and finally Graham Perkovich came down from mid-field, handling the ball with confidence, and nailing it on a left-footer from 10 yards out.

Perkovich looked strong on the field for most of the game. He might just be QV's most valuable player.

Panther goalie Stevens broke up a Quaker play by charging the ball and grabbing it. But Mike Hitchens blasted in a shot on a direct kick to give QV a 2-0 lead.

At the end of the third quarter, Hitchens and Petrovich were given yellow cards by the refs. These were the first of a relatively clean game.

Melvin Meade added a third goal in the fourth quarter to cement the Quaker victory. SA tried a late flourish of shots near the end, but couldn't make any of them count.

"I thought it was a fun, competitive game," DeSmit said. "In the second half, we just ran out of steam."

DeSmit stated that although his Panthers were disappointed in the loss, they were not devastated.

"QV used their strengths well. They have speed on the line and good ball skills," said DeSmit. He added that SA was further hurt by a lack of healthy players, including an injury to Steve Morris and several players suffering from illnesses.

"But not to take away from QV. They played a good, tough game."

The shut-out by Fairfield was his seventh. After this game, QV raised its record to 9-1-1, while SA fell to 6-1.



IN THE NICK of time: Sewickley Academy keeper Matt Stevens reaches the ball before QV striker Derek Gilchrist.

Sports

SA Girls soccer

By Tony Soltis

Sewickley Academy has fielded its first girls soccer team this year.

Coached by Ed Walters, the 18-girl team has scrimmaged to a 1-1-1 record so far in the season.

They tied in their opening match against Avonworth, 1-1, then lost their second bout to Hopewell, 4-1. And their historical first win came against North Catholic, 3-2. Kristen Griffen scored all three goals for the Panthers.

Along with Griffen, team members include seniors Lauren Sangillo, Rolla Sangodeyi, and Stacey Spanovich; juniors Miranda Berner, Michelle Cokrlic, Allison Deuth, and Shannon Schinagal; and underclassmen Jennifer Berner, Andrea Circo, Elvira Eichleay, Lucy Hoch, Missy Knots, Rashmi Luthra, Becky Medivitz, Robin Moll, Elizabeth Sadd and Funke Sangodeyi.

Their next home game at Nichols Field is Friday, Oct. 13, against Avonworth.

Sports

Soccer roundup**QV and SA soccer teams dominating section 9**

By Tony Soltis

Once again, Quaker Valley and Sewickley Academy are dominating section-nine soccer play. QV sits at the top by one game, followed by Academy. And then, there's the rest of the league.

The Quakers also are rated number four in the state for AA soccer.

Since QV beat SA, they have won three in a row. Some of that credit must go to goalie Nate Fairfield, who has shut out all opponents.

Fairfield has not been healthy. Hurt the summer of 1988, he's had two knee operations. Last year, he tried to come back too soon and was re-injured.

Coach Gene Klein, a goalkeeper himself when he played, says, "Fairfield has been playing very well despite being plagued by some nagging injuries. But he's fought off adversity and worked hard to come back to play very well for us."

Fairfield now has had nine straight shut-outs. He says the record is 18, set by Chris Hitchens

back in 1985. To urge him on, Hitchens has bet Fairfield that the record will not be broken.

"We have a real strong defense," Fairfield says, as to why other teams aren't getting the ball by him. "Sewickley gives us the hardest time. If not physically, at least mentally."

The Quakers defeated Center, 5-0. Sophomore Ben McKnight started the scoring in the opening minutes of the contest. Graham Perkovich scored twice: once on a penalty shot in the first period and once again from a Dave Wick corner kick. Mike Hitchens and Melvin Meade also knocked in goals.

Beaver was knocked off next, 5-0. Hitchens and Derek Gilchrist each had two goals, and Demond Bledsoe also scored.

QV routed Ellwood City, 9-0. Goals were scored by Meade, who had three, Hitchens and Mike Riesmeyer, two each, and Wick and Perkovich each had one.

SA rebounds

After SA's loss to QV, they re-

bounded with four straight wins. They defeated Riverside, 10-1, Wilmington, 3-1, Freedom, 4-0, and Shady Side Academy, 2-0, in a non-section game.

Despite the victories, Coach Doug DeSmit points out a few weaknesses. He feels the team could improve the transition of play up the field into the offensive scheme. In addition, he wants to see more communication on the field among his players.

Against the Freedom Bulldogs, SA looked tough. Offsides calls kept slowing the Panther's momentum, but some of the calls appeared to be questionable.

Nate Powers was temporarily sidelined with a bloody nose, but appeared ready to play after a short rest.

Charles Edwards scored the first goal off a corner kick by Ben Smith. R.J. Wiegand had the second off a Tim Kaiser pass.

John Michael added two more, once off another Kaiser assist, the second on a bicycle kick.



ON OFFENSE, Tim Kaiser orchestrates the attack against Freedom.

Cont'd on p.14

"He's been trying to do that since he was 5 years old," said Coach DeSmit.

Offsides calls continued to be called and the Panthers started to debate the referee. Coach DeSmit lectured his team at the end of the period.

"The guys in the striped shirts are calling the game," DeSmit stated. "They're not going to help you out. You can outrun these guys. You don't need to be on the edge."

The final score could have been much larger, considering Freedom seldom could keep the ball on offense, and SA missed several break-away chances.

The next big game for both teams is the next time they square off against each other, Monday, Oct. 16, at Nichol's Field.

Marnie McKnight and Ben Nelson also contributed to this article.

Sports



PROLIFIC PANTHER point scorer John Michael moves the ball against Beaver.



THE COACH gathers his troop. Coach Gene Klein provides the guidance for this tough Quaker team.

QV and SA ready to face off for first Oct. 19

The soccer season will climax on Thursday, Oct. 19, at Nichols Field at 4:15 for SA and QV. This is providing that QV destroyed Wilmington and SA defeated Center on Tuesday, after this newspaper went to press.

Chances are when these two teams meet, the Panthers will be looking to tie QV for first place.

"We're friends with a lot of guys (from SA)," says QV Coach Gene Klein. "It's always a good, healthy, intense rivalry."

Klein stresses that Sewickley always fields a good team.

"They give us the best competition," he says. "We know each other well."

And that knowledge of each other provides not only a physical-

ly competitive game, but also a mental battle.

Prediction: The Quakers are ranked fourth in the state. Their opponents are wary of several of their goal-scorers. They'll beat Sewickley by several goals. QV has never beaten SA twice in the regular season. But they'll accomplish that on Thursday.

The Panthers must have had their cruise control set last week against Beaver. After five consecutive easy wins, their path was interrupted.

Beaver kept the game deadlocked through the first three-and-a-half quarters. Sewickley was stunned when Beaver scored on a penalty kick due to a tripping call inside the box.

But SA increased their intensity and quality of play. Then, with just 33 seconds left to play, senior John Michael knocked the ball in from the far post, tying the game and sending it into overtime.

But as Coach Doug DeSmit said later, "The seniors came through for us."

SA dominated the overtime period. Senior Steve Morris put the ball on goal, and it ricocheted off the goalie and into the net. In the second period of overtime, junior Tim Kaiser and senior R.J. Weigand scored to make the final score 4-1.

An angry, yet relieved, Coach DeSmit said, "We'd better come better prepared for the next two games (against Center and QV)."

Earlier in the week, the Academy also defeated Ellwood City, 8-0.

And at QV...

The Quakers played to a 1-1 deadlock against AAA Fox Chapel in an exhibition match.

QV put offensive pressure on the Foxes early in the first quarter when sophomore Jeff Vorberger stole the ball in his end and passed it to senior forward Derek Gilchrist. Gilchrist used his speed to beat the lone Fox defender. The goal gave the Quakers a 1-0 lead.

In the second quarter, the Foxes threatened when they were awarded a direct kick on their 25-yard line. The Quaker defensive wall denied the Foxes as senior Dave Wick proved his worth once again

by clearing the shot.

The opening minutes of the second half proved costly for the Quakers. The Foxes scored on a throw-in that sailed in front of the goal. The ball was one-touched to the side by a Fox in front of the goal past goalie Nate Fairfield.

The Quakers have dominated section play. Victories over Riverside, 12-0, and Freedom, 10-0, have pushed their record to 12-0.

Goals continue to be scored by a variety of players. Junior Graham Perkovich is the team offensive leader with 16 goals and 13 assists. Senior Mel Meade has 16 goals with six assists. Senior Mike Hitchens has 10 goals with six assists. Senior Derek Gilchrist has tallied 10 goals with six assists.



QV junior Graham Perkovich



SLIP SLIDING away from the ball are Mike Hitchens and Ben Smith.



Displeased Coach DeSmit

Quakers beat Academy for second time

By Tony Soltis

Good passing, good defense and speed left the Panthers in the mud last Thursday at Nichols Field. Quakers Valley High School scored three times and shut out Sewickley Academy to clinch section 9 of the WPIAL AA.

The Academy played without their second-leading scorer and commanding mid-fielder, Tim Kaiser. Kaiser missed the game because of flu-like symptoms, which might have been food poisoning.

But it's hard to believe Kaiser's presence would have made a major difference in the game's outcome. After QV scored the second goal in the first quarter, the momentum never seemed to leave their side.

Neither the Quakers nor Academy Coach Doug DeSmit believe Kaiser would have altered the ultimate outcome of the match.

"Kaiser is a good player," said QV senior Mel Meade, who scored once in the game and left several SA defenders behind with quick

moves. "But it wouldn't have made any difference. Even with Kaiser, we'd have beat them."

Mid-fielder Graham Perkovich, also with a goal, agreed Academy has good players. But he feels the Quakers were ready to win. "We shut them down," he says.

Coach DeSmit credits QV with playing mistake-free soccer.

"QV was quite strong... They moved the ball well, given the quagmire we were playing in."

The field was muddy. And the cold, wet leaves covering a portion of the field only added to the number of players slipping, sliding and falling.

Yet, QV looked sharp passing the ball. SA goalie Matt Stevens made 20 saves. But QV missed a few shots Stevens might not have been able to stop.

Perkovich kicked several that moved like bullets fired from a gun but went wide of the net. Mike Hitchens had two that careened high over the goal.

On the other side of the field, Nate Fairfield says he was wary of SA's corner kicks and throw-ins. Fairfield out-jumped everyone in

the area of the goal to nab the ball on several corner kicks.

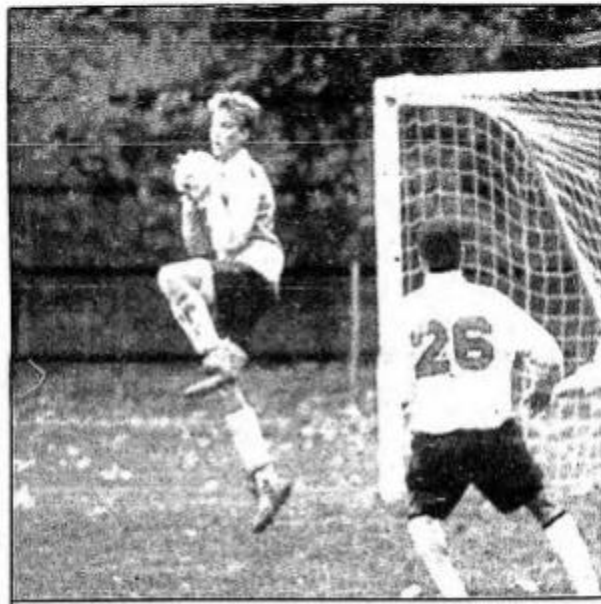
"I can get up," says Fairfield. He now has shutout 14 opponents. If he can get four more, he will beat the 1985 QV record set by Chris Hitchens, who has good-naturedly motivated Fairfield by making a bet with him that the record will stand.

Also looking good for QV were Derek Gilchrist, who continues to show good speed on the field, and Dave Wick, who added a goal and stopped several drives on defense.

QV had never beaten SA twice before in the regular season. They might meet once more this year in the playoffs. As the newspaper went to press, no announcement had yet been made concerning first-round opponents.

Earlier in the week, Qv pounded Wilmington, 10-0. Academy, while outshot on goal, beat a determined Center team, 3-0.

QV ended the season undefeated in the section with a 14-0 record. Academy finished in second place, qualifying them for the playoffs, with a 12-2 record. Both of those losses came against QV.



QV GOALKEEPER Nate Fairfield snags the ball in front of Steve Morris.

Soccer playoff picture: Quakers win, Academy done

WPIAL soccer playoffs began last week. They also ended last week for Sewickley Academy. Meanwhile, the Quakers easily proceeded into the second round to be played this week.

Under the lights at Moon Stadium, the QV boys met and defeated Carlynton, 5-1.

The game remained scoreless for most of the first quarter, although QV had three direct shots within the first five minutes of play. Sophomore Ben McKnight then lofted a shot over the goalkeeper's head for the 1-0 lead.

Mike Hitchens scored next for the Quakers on a well-timed forward pass from freshman midfielder Dan Gebhardt. Mel Meade added the next point on a header after a direct kick from the midfield line by Dave Wick.

In the third quarter, Hitchens scored his second goal on a direct kick. The Quakers were awarded the kick when McKnight was taken down by a Cougar defender just outside the Carlynton penalty area.

The game remained at 4-0 until late in the fourth quarter, when the QV defense became confused over defensive assignments after a substitution. Carlynton scored, and although the point was not a factor in the game, it did end a string of 14 straight shutouts for senior goalkeeper Nate Fairfield.

QV scored one last time on a goal by Graham Perkovich. Perkovich, third in the WPIAL North scoring leaders with 20 goals, hit a direct kick that curled into the corner of the Cougar net.

Academy out early

"One team was prepared, one wasn't," said Sewickley Academy coach Doug DeSmit.

He watched his Panther team with 11 seniors lose to Elderton, 4-1, in double-overtime.

This year marks SA's first time since joining the WPIAL four years ago that it did not advance to at least the second round of playoffs. In the last two years, Academy had made the finals.

Elderton scored first in the second quarter, but the Panthers matched it with a shot by John Michael, assisted by Tim

Kaiser.

Regulation play ended in a tie. However, Chad Prugh scored in the first period of overtime. Jason Richardson added two more scores before it was all over.

"It was kind of a disappointing way to finish the season," stated DeSmit.

Coach DeSmit declined to name any player he thought played well in the loss.

Although the team is losing many players to graduation, two players who were dominant at times on the field this year, Tim Kaiser, a junior, and Matt Stevens, a sophomore, will be back.

Marnie McKnight also contributed to this article.

Sports

Quakers playing for soccer championship

By Tony Soltis

At the beginning of the season, QV swept a warm-up tournament in Carlisle. Afterwards, Coach Gene Klein credited the players for playing so well together as a team.

And after three straight years of losing the semi-finals, the Quakers have reached the WPIAL Class AA soccer finals, playing as a team.

"We're proud of them," says assistant coach Ron Hitchens. "It was a very good game and a big win."

Last Wednesday at Moon Stadium, QV battled Hampton for the chance to play Peters Township in the finals. The Quakers beat Hampton 1-0.

"It was an even game," remarks Hitchens. "Both teams played evenly."

The deciding difference seems to be the way the Quakers work as a team. That attitude has evidenced itself in at least three ways: the number of players who score goals, the finesse of their passing game, and the impervious play of the defense.

"That's been the main thrust of this team all season," Hitchens concurs. "Last year's team was very good but more individualized."

The game was deadlocked in a scoreless tie until the third period. Momentum seemed to swing back and forth with neither team able to



THE GAME'S only goal is scored by Mike Hitchens.



EXTRA EFFORT by the Quakers makes for playoff wins.

establish an advantage.

"Their sweeper got hurt. That's when we took over," Hitchens explains.

With about five minutes gone in the third period, QV was awarded a free kick and moved fast. A Demon Biedsoe kick hit off the post and co-captain and senior Mike Hitchens got the rebound. He knocked it past Hampton's goalkeeper for the only score of the day.

Meanwhile on defense, the team's other senior co-captain,

Dave Wick, helped minimize the number of shots fired at QV goalie Nate Fairfield.

Fairfield recorded his 15th shutout of the year. Both he and the rest of the defense seemed sharper after they went ahead in the game.

Hitchens agrees. He says as the game went on, the Quakers played with more confidence and momentum. They're weren't going to let Hampton take away their shot at the championship.

By qualifying for the finals, the

Quakers also will play in the state playoffs, for the PIAA Class AA championship.

In the WPIAL final, which was played Monday after the newspaper went to press, QV was pitted against the three-time WPIAL champs. Earlier this year, the Quakers met Peters in an exhibition match, which ended in a 1-1 tie.

"They've won three years in a row," says Hitchens. "We'd like to take that away."

Going into the finals, Peters was

ranked third in the state with a record of 19-2-1, their only loss coming at AAA Mount Lebanon, ranked third in the nation.

The Quakers were ranked fourth in the state with a 18-1-2 record. QV's only loss came in a 1-0 non-section match against AAA champs Upper St. Clair.

Peters made the playoffs by beating Elderton 3-0. Elderton was the team that eliminated Sewickley Academy in the first round of playoffs.



FIGHTING FOR control is Melvin Meade.



HUSTLE IS the name of the game and Ben McKnight shows it here. (Photos by Tony Soltis)

Quakers get edged out by Peters

By Tony Soltis

So close. Soooo close. The Quakers came painfully near to winning the WPIAL AA soccer championship last week against a fast Peters Township team. But at the end of the match, they were on the losing side of the 1-0 score.

Peters seemed to dominate early in each of the four periods, but was held without a point. QV Coach Gene Klein thought Peters was especially dominant in the second period.

Both teams played a physical game. At one point, Peters' coach, Jerry Luxbacher, complained to the referee: "Hey, ref, he had a piece of the man."

The referee shot back: "This is a piece of the man game."

Within the first 30 seconds of the game, Peters took a shot at the goal after the ball ricocheted off the QV goalie, Nate Fairfield. But Demon Bledsoe scooted into the net to make the save.

QV took several shots in the first period: Graham Perkovich kicked one over the net; Gilchrist tried to

head in a pass. But none of the shots was very close.

By the end of the first half, Fairfield made several agile saves. Half of the period expired before QV finally was able to keep the ball on offense.

"We really felt they intimidated us in the second period," said Klein.

Fairfield did a good job keeping Peters scoreless, especially in the first half, when he faced several hard shots on goal. Said Klein:

"Fairfield's play was no surprise. It's no fluke. He's one of the top keepers in the WPIAL and if he didn't prove it tonight, I haven't seen any goalkeepers... Without Nate, the game could've gotten out of hand."

QV's passing game, so accurate and fast this season, was stymied by the speed of several Peters players. The Quakers seemed only able to keep the passing going until about midfield, when they ran into opposition.

The first ball to enter the goal came at 7:21 in the fourth period. John Lopus hit a direct kick, which

was called back for an offside call.

The Quakers sparked at that point. Within the next two minutes, they brought the ball down and almost scored what looked like a sure goal. Mike Hitchens passed the ball to Mel Meade, who headed it past Peters' goalie Ryan Rizzo. But Lopus made a diving save at the last possible second to knock the ball out of the goal.

Then, with only 3:12 left in regulation, Lopus hit another direct kick into the net. His first one went to right; this one went to the left.

"Lopus has scored goals like this before," said Luxbacher. "We had confidence in him."

Luxbacher, obviously happy with the big win, was generous in his praise of the Quakers. "It was a showcase game," he said. "Part of the thrill is when you win against a class team like Quaker Valley."

The win gave Peters, last year's state champions, their fourth straight AA title.

Senior sweeper, Dave Wick, played the entire game with pulled muscles in his lower back.

QV ended with 13 shots, six on goal. Peters had 22 shots, nine on goal.

PIAA games start

The Quakers won their first-round game in the state AA playoffs, 5-1.

Playing in Altoona against McConnellsburg, QV fell behind in the first two minutes of the game, 1-0, but quickly recovered and never looked back.

In the second period, Graham Perkovich smashed a free kick at the McConnellsburg goalie, Charles Carbaugh. Carbaugh made the save but could not hold the ball. Demon Bledsoe put the rebound in, tying the game.

In the second half, Derek Gilchrist put the Quakers ahead to stay. Goals by Melvin Meade, Perkovich and Frank Munizza followed.

McConnellsburg was handily dominated, outshot 23-6.

Sports

QV's bid for state championship stopped

By Tony Soltis
and Greg Hohman

The Quakers fell just one game shy of making the state championship game. Peters Township, the WPIAL champs and last year's state champs, shut out QV 3-0 last week at Mt. Lebanon Stadium.

Mt. Lebanon's Blue Devil Stadium was chosen as a neutral site for the game. But its neutrality is a matter of opinion. Peters played four previous games this year on AstroTurf. The last time a QV team played on AstroTurf was 1987.

The damp, hard, fast surface took passes farther than intended for the Quakers. The turf is lower on the sides for better drainage, so balls played down the wings often roll

wide out of bounds in gutterball fashion. A pass struck too hard, a ball not trapped flawlessly, is lost.

Peters got the jump on the Quakers. The Indians' Jeff Lignelli scored first with 12.5 minutes left in the first period. He scored on a John Lopus direct kick.

Just three minutes later, they scored again. This time, a Matt Francesconi throw-in was headed in by defender Kevin Shaeffer for a 2-0 Peters lead.

That second goal marked the first time all season that QV goalkeeper Nate Fairfield allowed more than one point in a game.

The Quakers started to exert extra effort after the second goal. Yet, while they had the better of play, Nick Gismondi demonstrated why Peters would remain strong.

With 15 seconds left in the half, Ferrari juggled the ball, knocked it past one QV defender then took a shot from almost 30 yards out that just missed being a goal.

In the second half, QV seemed to come close a few times to the Peters' goal, but couldn't finish. At 5:25 of the third quarter, a low shot off a free kick was followed a strong head off a corner. Unfortunately, the head ball was directed right at the keeper.

Minutes later, Demond Bledsoe raised Quaker spirits by upending Gismondi with a strong, clean tackle.

The absence of QV goals did not appear to be the result of great goaltending by the two Peters goalies, Ryan Fender and Ryan Rizzo, each of whom played a half.

On the other side of the field, Fairfield continued to look impressive with several

saves.

Yet, without QV goals, fans found little to cheer about, except for applauding a short tirade by Coach Gene Klein against a QV fan who allegedly threw something at the Peters' bench.

Klein asserted that fans should "root for the game."

Peters scored one last time in the fourth quarter. Ferrari scored unassisted from 25 yards out on a blast that got past Fairfield.

This game was the third match-up of the season for these two teams. They met once in exhibition and played to a 1-1 tie. Next, they met in the WPIAL championship game, which Peters won 1-0.

The Quakers record for the entire season, including playoffs and exhibition matches was 20-3-2. Not bad at all.

Sports



Soccer smiles

THE 1989 Sewickley Academy boys soccer team took second place this year in WPIAL AA Section 9 play. Although they were eliminated in the playoffs against a surprising Elderton team, the Panthers were once again a dominating force. Pictured from left, bottom row: Ben Smith, Steve Morris,

Coach Doug DeSmit, Jeff Mikita and John Michael. Middle row: Greg Manifesto, Aaron Masri, Robert Pascoe, and Jamie Yankirk. Back row: Nate Powers, Pitt Means, Tim Kaiser, Jose Sia and Eric Kaveny.

Jessica Wright is MVP for QV Ladies

Quaker Valley Fighting Lady Quakers co-captains Sandy Clark and Jessica Wright received laurels at last week's season-end banquet.

Sandy, a senior who played center sweeper for the Quakers, was named Most Valuable Player. Jessica, a junior center midfielder, was named to the Western Region All-star team. She led the team in scoring (15) and assists (15).

Other seniors honored were Kate McKnight, a midfielder/wing who placed second on the team with assists; Beth Schroth, defender; and Cindy Bruzio, midfielder. Kate, Beth and also Jessica Wright were each four-year letter winners.

Anne Phipps, first year coach of team, called the 1989 season "a tough, but successful one."

Unlike boys soccer, which divides participating schools into

AA and AAA classes depending on the size of the student body, the WPIAL divides the girls into two sections. Quaker Valley, one of the smallest schools in the area, is in Section II along with Fox Chapel, Gateway, North Allegheny, North Hills, Shaler and Woodland Hills.

"It's a tough, tough schedule for us," Ms. Phipps emphasized. "Those schools are perennial powerhouses. Shaler is always tough, and North Allegheny has dominated the section for several years. Yet, we play all those teams close and surprise quite a few of them."

The Quakers posted a 8-7 record this year, 6-6 in Section II play, placing fourth.

"One thing our record doesn't show is how close we played everyone," said Ms. Phipps. "We lost seven games this season, five of them by one goal. And overall, we outscored our opponents

51-19."

Coach Phipps and her assistant, Nellie Springer, are looking forward to the future as eight freshmen filled the Lady Quaker squad. Liz Neidlinger started every game for the Quakers and was the team's second highest scorer with 11 goals and five assists.

Other team members were juniors Lauren Fair, goalkeeper; Mollie Oswald, forward; and Tracey Parrington, defender. Sophomores include Emily Bikowski, stopper; Julie Poister and Bridget Sullivan, defenders; and Meghan Stroup.

Liz Gaadt, a freshman standout, was the third highest scorer at wing with 10 goals. Other freshmen players were Dallas Hambrick, Sara Henning, Julie McDaniel, Jill Moody, Anne Riley, and Abby Smith.

Soccer Boosters make clean sweep

To the editor:

On behalf of the Quaker Valley Soccer Boosters, we would like to thank the entire community for their support during the car wash held in October.

Our special thanks to Jack McKnight, who organized the very successful fund-raiser; all the team members who worked well together to accomplish the labor; the parents who did the supervising; Quaker Valley Schools, which provided the facilities; and the following businesses who contributed supplies:

Pizza Roma, Sewickley Hardware, Pizza Works, Hegner Hardware, Sewickley Distributors, Ed Brosie's Gulf Service Station, John Herbst Exxon Service Station and Sickeler's Hardware.

Sincerely,
Greg Hoehl, President
Jackie Wick, Secretary

Academy awards

John Michael was named varsity soccer MVP.

The Panther coaching staff named its top athletes for fall sports at the annual awards banquet.

Ben Smith won the varsity soccer coaches award; R.J. Wiegand was named most improved; and the junior varsity MVP went to Watts Humphrey.

In girls soccer, the MVP award went to Kristen Griffin and the coaches award to Shannon Schinagl.

Perkovich gets top honors for soccer

Quaker Valley junior Graham Perkovich has been named to the 1989 all-state soccer players list. Perkovich, who played the midfielder position for QV, was the only local player to be so distinguished.

However, several were named to the 1989 WPIAL all-star team, including Sewickley Academy coach Doug DeSmit and QV's coach Gene Klein.

Also named to the WPIAL list were QV's Demond Blédsoe, Nate Fairfield, Mike Hitchens and Graham Perkovich.

From Sewickley Academy, Ben

Smith was named to the all-WPIAL list.