

Sports



PICKED FOR DEVELOPMENT: Area girls (l-r) Jessica Wright, Liz Neidlinger, Elizabeth Gaadt, and Kristin Griffin were selected for the United States Youth Soccer Association's Olympic Development Program.



KARYN DUNN of the Pittsburgh Strikers embraces teammate Molly Kochick after winning the eighth-annual Steel City Classic soccer tournament. Four local girls were members of the team, including Elizabeth Gaadt, partially obscured by her father, assistant coach George Gaadt. (Photos by Erik Gaadt)

Area girls alive and kicking on soccer teams

Four local girls were selected by the Pennsylvania West Youth Soccer Association's Olympic Development Program.

Jessica Wright and Liz Neidlinger, both of Edgeworth, and Elizabeth Gaadt and Kristin Griffin, both of Sewickley, will participate in several regional development tournaments in Virginia and Massachusetts in June and July.

The top players from those tournaments are then selected to attend a regional camp and try for a spot on the regional team. Players who excel on the regional team are eligible to make the national team. Olympic Development teams represent the best 16 players in the various age groups throughout the state.

Ms. Wright, a junior at Quaker Valley High School, was selected to the under-19 team. Last year, she was co-captain of the QV girls soccer team and will hold the same spot on next year's team.

Ms. Wright has played for Sewickley Area Girls Soccer travel teams and also played on the Pittsburgh Strikers '73 team for four years. (The "'73" team means team members were all born in 1973.)

Ms. Neidlinger, Ms. Gaadt, and Ms. Griffin were all selected to the under-16 team. Ms. Neidlinger and Ms. Gaadt are freshmen at Quaker Valley High School and play on the Sewickley Area girls travel team. Ms. Griffin is a sophomore at Sewickley Academy.

The selection for Ms. Neidlinger marks the third time

she has been selected to the Olympic Development Team, and the fourth for Ms. Griffin.

Both Ms. Neidlinger and Ms. Gaadt played in the eighth annual Steel City Classic Soccer Tournament at Slippery Rock University on Memorial Day weekend. The girls, along with Fair Oaks resident Tina Jordan and Moon resident Amy McConville, were members of the champion Pittsburgh Strikers '75 team. The Strikers defeated the Erie Strikers 4-0 and Worthington, Ohio 2-1 on May 26.

On the 27th, the Strikers defeated Reading Berks 2-0 and Penn's Forest 1-0 in the semi-final round. In the championship game the Strikers overcame Reading Razamatazz on Ms. McConville's goal-ahead goal in the final five minutes for the 2-1 victory.

Sports

Boys picked as MVPs

Bill Weif and Justin Glessner stood out from the crowd at the Avon Lake Invitational Soccer Tournament, held in Ohio — enough to be named first and second MVP, respectively, for the Sewickley "Gold" 76 soccer team.

The boys got their selections through a system whereby the tournament coaches chose MVPs from their opposing teams.

The Sewickley 76 team was less fortunate than the sum of its parts, however. Sewickley, coached by Bill Moss, dropped two out of three games at the tournament, getting goals from Glessner, Frank Dickson, and Andrew Marwaha.

Remaining team members included Joe Christof, Ryan Croyle, Chad Froman, Sean Gallagher, Charlie Hamill, George Kastrounis, Chris Lockerman, Jason Novak, Johnathan Rickert, Ian Rahm, Zander Shaw, and John Weidman.

Sports shorts

Area soccer signups set for Thursday

Signups for Sewickley Area Soccer are set to begin on Thursday, Aug. 4, in the lobby of the Car Barn Shops, 409 Broad St., Sewickley.

Registration time is between 9 a.m. and noon and is open to all boys and girls born between and including the years 1977 and 1984.

New players are each asked to bring a copy of their birth certificate. New players on travelling teams must bring a passport-size photo. All players who register after the in-person signup on Aug. 4 will be placed on a waiting list, without guarantee of a place on a team.

Registration fee is \$25 per child. For each additional child from the same family, the fee is \$20.

Those unable to register at the Aug. 4 signup are asked to please call Brenda Hepner at 741-2206 or Carol Perkovich at 741-5581. Extra registration forms are available at United Men's Store, 407 Beaver St., Sewickley.

Canney joins staff of Northwood Realty

Leetsdale resident Helen Canney has joined the realty staff at Northwood Realty Co. Better Homes and Gardens, Coraopolis. Mrs. Canney is a graduate of University of Pittsburgh with

degrees in economics and political science.

Active in her community, she was on the original board of Sewickley Area Soccer Program, and still coaches for the program. She is also founder and former president of Quaker Valley Democratic Organization, and has been elected to a 12-year term as Democratic chairperson in Leetsdale.

Currently she is a member of the board of Allegheny County Democrats.



Helen Canney

Mrs. Canney continues to perform medical volunteer work in her community, as well. She has served as an emergency medical technician volunteer on Quaker Valley Ambulance Authority, and currently serves as a member of Crimson Line Auxiliary, through which she volunteers at Beaver Valley Geriatric Center and her church.

Sports

QV boys prepare to defend soccer section

By Marnie McKnight

Most soccer coaches use pre-season time to slowly build a team's readiness for the challenges of the season ahead. Quaker Valley boys Coach Eugene Klein has a somewhat different approach.

Each year Klein takes the newly-formed Quaker squad to the Carlisle Tournament, scheduled this year for Saturday, Sept. 1, in Carlisle, Pa., to face three of the toughest soccer schools in the state.

"I seriously considered not going to Carlisle this year," says Klein. "It's going to be really strong. All three of the other teams (Carlisle, Neshaminy and Waynesboro) were in triple-A state playoffs last year.

"We play Neshaminy in the first round — they graduate more kids in one year than we have in the whole school. Annually they're one of the top schools in Philadelphia. It's going to be a real test, but that's how you get better.

"Besides," Klein adds, almost as an afterthought, "we're the tournament defending champions."

The squad Klein piles on the bus and takes to central Pennsylvania next week is vastly different from last season's WPIAL Quad AA runners-up. Gone are seniors Mike Hitchens, Demond Bledsoe, Melvin Meade, Dave Wick and goalie Nate Fairfield.

Some key starters for Klein remain, most notably WPIAL standout Graham Perkovich, a senior captain who will again take control of the middle of the field and direct the Quakers' play.

The other senior captain, Frank Muniz, who came on strong as a striker last season, will work the offensive line along with juniors Ben McKnight, Colin McLaughlin, and Noah Rahm, who was sidelined most of last season due to knee surgery.

Senior Mike Lynch, junior Jeff Vorberger and sophomore Kevin Kress will key the Quakers' defensive efforts.

Sophomore Dan Gebhardt will anchor the attack.

Probable new Quaker starters include senior Mike Reismeyer and junior Pat South, who's making a comeback in goal after a few years' layoff.

"Our goals each year really stay about the same," says Klein. "Number one is we concentrate on winning the section (something the Quakers have done for four of the last five years). Then, if we get into the playoffs, we concentrate on winning WPIAL. Those goals are a constant."

Klein feels that his squad has a good nucleus of players and should be able to defend its section IX championship. But he admits there are a few question marks, one being team leadership.

"Most of these kids, even those who started or were lettermen last year, are used to playing support roles on the team. They're used to relying on the older guys. Now they have to realize that they have to take control, take charge. How well they

make that adjustment is going to be the key to the season."

Another key to the Quaker season is finding the right offensive combination.

"We also need to get physically strong defensively — we have a long way to go," Klein admits.

A disappointment to Klein and his players was the realignment of the WPIAL double-A, which put crosstown rival Sewickley Academy in a different section this year.

"I thought that in the last couple of years it was a real competitive rivalry, and it was good for soccer," says Klein. "A few years ago, that wasn't the case, but the last two years was a different story. Each team, I think, respected each other, and there was some really good soccer. So we're really disappointed, but, hopefully, we'll see them in the playoffs."

The Quaker Valley team plays host to a visiting Quad-A squad from Wilson High School, outside Reading, Pa., on Saturday, Sept. 8, for an exhibition game.

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Sports

Quakers, Panthers undefeated in soccer action

Junior Ben McKnight put in a stellar performance for Quaker Valley, scoring three goals and adding two assists to help lift the Quakers over Ellwood City last Thursday in Section IX soccer action.

The Quakers defeated Ellwood City 7-0 for their second straight shutout and sixth straight victory in Section IX play.

For McKnight, the game provided his fifth, sixth, and seventh section goals, and his fifth goal in two games. His two assists brought his section point total to 11 in six games.

McKnight is not the team's leading scorer, however. That distinction belongs to senior midfielder Graham Perkovich. Perkovich contributed two goals

and two assists to the Quakers' assault on Elwood City, limited to just two shots on the QV goal.

Perkovich leads the team with 10 section goals and six section assists, for a total of 16 points in six section games.

Senior midfielder Frank Munizza and sophomore Dan Gebhardt also added a goal apiece for Quaker Valley. For Gebhardt, it was his fourth section goal this year, and for Munizza, his third.

Senior midfielder Mike Riesmeyer picked up two assists in the Ellwood City game to bring to 11, with four goals and seven assists.

At 6 and 0, the Quakers sit atop Section IX and have so far found their only real competition outside section play. Their

most recent loss came in an exhibition game against Wilson High School on Sept. 8, when they went down to their visitors 1-0.

Quaker Coach Gene Klein sees the periodic tough games as good tonic for his charges, lest they become too lax with their easy victories. The Quakers next scheduled game was a non-section affair against Peters Township, which last year

defeated the Quakers in playoff action.

"Sometimes it gets a little too easy," said Klein. "That's why we play Peters Township, but right now we're just going to make sure we're ready for the Center game."

The Quakers were scheduled to play Center — another section game — on Tuesday.

In earlier action last Tuesday, the Quakers got goals from eight

players as they routed Quigley Catholic High School 10-0 to bring their section record to 5 and 0.

Noah Rahm got his first and only three goals so far to lead the Quaker scoring. Ben McKnight had two goals and two assists, and Graham Perkovich had two goals and one assist.

Continued on page 13

Phil Oxendine got his first points of the season as he contributed a goal and one assist, and Mike Riesmeyer also had a goal and an assist.

Dan Gebhardt added a goal for the winners; Eric Happe picked up two assists, and Seth Perkovich picked up one.

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Sports

Quaker girls taking aim at Quad A Goliaths

By Jerry Pelley

Staff writer

There's another soccer team in town wearing the gold and black Quaker colors — it's the Quaker Valley girls soccer team under new head coach Dominick Vezza, and they're setting their sights on the WPIAL playoffs.

Vezza has high expectations for a team he believes "can play with the best of them." And that is exactly what the girls must do under the current WPIAL section alignment, which does not take into consideration school size as is done in boys sports.

As a result of the alignment, Quaker Valley, which is classified as AA in football, basketball, and boys soccer, must compete against the likes of AAAA giants North Allegheny, Fox Chapel and Gateway in regular Section II play. That makes getting into the playoffs an awesome task for a school the size of QV, but the girls and their coach think this is the year they might just pull it off.

Vezza, who is the fifth girls soccer coach in five years, inherited an experienced team with 10 returning starters, six of whom are underclassmen.

Returning senior and co-captain Jessica Wright adds skill and experience in the middle. Last year, Ms. Wright led the team in scoring, with 15 goals. This year she has four goals and three assists in five section games.

Angel Vezza, sophomore halfback and the coach's daughter, is new to the varsity team, but leads in scoring with

four goals and four assists in section play. Juniors Bridget Sullivan (two section goals) and Emily Bikowski (one goal, three assists) complete the Quaker midfield alignment.

Vezza relies on these four to effect the transition from defense to offense.

The defense is also solid, led by junior sweeper Julie Poister, who plays a no-holds-barred, physical game. Versatile Liz Gaadt plays defensive stopper this season. Seniors Lauren Fair and Tracy Parrington add experience as varsity fullbacks.

In goal for Quaker Valley, Liz Neidlinger guards the net in key game situations. At other times, she is an effective striker. So far, she has three goals and five assists in section play, a point total equal to Ms. Vezza's.

Freshman Tina Jordan shares the goaltending duties this year with Ms. Neidlinger.

Sophomores Ann Tirimacco and Julie McDaniel lead the QV offense, acting as "targets" for their team's midfielders. "Our midfield control the field position," says Vezza, "then look to them for offensive pressure."

Ms. Tirimacco has been such a spark for the QV offense that she now shares the scoring lead with Ms. Wright and Ms. Vezza.

Molly Oswald, another returning player, shares the co-captain duties with Ms. Wright.

Other newcomers to the varsity team this year include sophomore Chantelle Rose and freshmen Kari Wheeler, Carrie Bikowski, Jessica Grandey, Jen Tedesko, Christine LaForte and Kara Csensich.

The Quakers reached the

halfway mark of their season last week, and currently stand at 3-1-1 in section play. They are 6-1-1 overall.

The season began for the girls on difficult ground. They lost their first section game, played on Sept. 5, to North Allegheny, losing by a 3-1 score. Next was Fox Chapel, and things got slightly better when the Quakers forced a tie, 2-2.

"We outplayed both North Allegheny and Fox Chapel when we met them on their own fields," says Vezza, "but we had trouble putting the ball into the net."

The third game, against Gateway on Sept. 12, saw the tide turn QV's way as the girls won 3-2. Since then, victories have come a little easier.

The Quakers latest section win came against North Hills last week, a thoroughly convincing 7-1 rout.

Ann Tirimacco led the way against North Hills, scoring three goals, and increasing her section total to four. Jessica Wright scored her third and fourth section goals of the season, and had an assist in the game.

Angel Vezza also picked up her fourth section goal against North Hills, and also had an assist in the QV effort. Kara Csensich recorded her first section goal against North Hills to add to the Quaker scoring.

Liz Neidlinger had three assists in the game, and Julie McDaniel and Tracy Parrington picked up an assist each.

Two days later, in a non-section game against Baldwin,



ALL THE Wright moves. Jessica Wright charges the ball, flanked by Liz Gaadt.

the girls again demonstrated their mastery of the field and dealt their opponents a 7-1 defeat. The Quakers thoroughly dominated Baldwin, which had just come off a closely fought, 1-0 loss to soccer powerhouse Upper St. Clair.

Jessica Wright led the way for QV this time, with two goals and an assist. Angel Vezza, Julie McDaniel, Ann Tirimacco, Liz Neidlinger, and Liz Gaadt shared the remaining Quaker goals.

Ms. Tirimacco also had two assists in the game, while Tina Jordan and Julie Poister each had one.

With their recent surge of victories, The Quakers appear poised to finish well up in their section and to pose a playoff threat.

Coach Vezza is convinced of it. "I really think we could go undefeated the rest of the year," he predicts. "We're getting more and more confident as the season progresses."

Sports

Quakers are section champs once more

By Jerry Pelley

Staff writer

It probably comes as no surprise to anyone in these parts that Quaker Valley High School's boys varsity soccer team have won the Section IX championship.

That certainty was established as early as last week, when the Quakers held an 11-0-1 record with two games left to play. Their closest rivals, the pesky Beavers, of Beaver High School, wound up at 10-2-2.

The Quakers' final two games of the section season, played last Tuesday and Thursday, amounted to a coast downhill as they wiped up 7-0 over Ellwood City and 6-0 over Center.

Quaker Valley finished the season with a 13-0-1 section record — a slightly blemished 1.000 average — for their third championship in a row. It was their fifth in six years.

Later this week the WPIAL powers-that-be will decide upon a playoff schedule.

It all must seem like old hat to Quaker head coach Gene Klein as well. Klein, who has directed the Quaker team through its many glories (state championship, 1985), was faced at the beginning of the season with forging a team that was minus six of its leading players from the year before.

Many seasoned observers of the team noted this year that the players were in general smaller than their predecessors, and wondered if success should come as easily as it did last year.

But not to wonder, Klein and his charges worked out all the contingencies to bring home the championship.

"We definitely got better as the season progressed," Klein said. "When we started there were a lot of gaps to fill with six

starters not returning. But we worked it out."

Now that their section is worked out, there comes the matter of the playoffs, whose schedule has not been drawn up. Whoever the Quakers face, competition will be stiff.

In their five non-section games this year, Quaker Valley fared not so well as in section play.

First there was the Carlisle Tournament, played before the section began. The opening game was a tough 1-0 loss to Neshaminy. But in the second, junior Ben McKnight led the Quakers to their first victory, scoring all the goals in a 3-0 win.

Against non-section Wilson on Sept. 8, the Quakers again went down 1-0, and on Sept. 22 fought defending WPIAL champions Peters Township to a 0-0 draw. Last year, Peters defeated Quaker Valley for the Western Pennsylvania scholastic title.

The Quakers' last non-section contest was on Oct. 6, a 1-1 tie with Upper St. Clair. Junior Noah Rahm scored for Quaker Valley.

A final non-section match, against Fox Chapel, was set for Monday of this week.

In all, the Quakers outscored their opponents 4-3 in non-section play, a negligible margin compared to their 80-9 surplus in section action. Quaker goalie Mike Birely had nine section shutouts this year.

In the final section game, the 6-0 win over Center, Ben McKnight and Graham Perkovich each scored twice to lead Quaker Valley. For McKnight the goals gave him 20 on the year in section and non-section play. For Perkovich, the goal was his 23rd. Seth Pervovich also scored for QV, his fourth of the year, and Mike Riesmeyer completed the scoring with his 13th of the year.



LEADING SCORER Graham Perkovich

Sports

Quaker girls outhustle Butler for 2-0 victory

By Jerry Pelley

Staff writer

Last Thursday night was a first for Quaker Valley's girls varsity soccer team.

The evening marked the first time the Quakers have ever played in post-season action, an elimination quarterfinal match against Section VIII champions Butler, which finished with a 14-and-0 record.

Perhaps auspiciously, they tamed the Golden Tornadoes handily with a 2-0 win on goals from Julie McDaniels and Emily Bikowski.

Playing under the lights at Butler, both teams entered the game tenuously, working against the numbing cold temperature at the open air stadium. Back with Quaker Valley after a three week absence due to tonsillitis, Quaker defender Tina Jordan took the field against the Tornadoes.

Through the first quarter, the players kept each other in check at midfield, neither team gaining a territorial advantage.

As the second period began, the Quakers ever so slightly car-

ried the game to Butler, presenting themselves as more and more of a threat as the center of action drifted away from the midfield area.

On one occasion, the Quakers thought they actually scored, but the ball had gone over the Butler crossbar and had dropped in through a gap in the meshing.

Even the illusion of scoring must have ignited some spark in the QV team's will, as they scored for real at the 17:57 mark of the second period. Julie McDaniels, standing in front of the Tornadoes' goal, headed in a shot from Liz Gaadt to give the Quakers a crucial edge.

As the final frame was played out, Butler became increasingly frustrated and desperate as the Quakers hemmed them in mercilessly.

With five minutes to go in the game, Quaker Valley's Emily Bikowski took a pass from Julie McDaniels (who was fed by Kara Csensich) and worked the ball past the Tornadoes' goalkeeper, effectively sealing Butler's fate.



VALUED LEADERSHIP came to the Quaker Valley girls varsity soccer team this year from its four senior players. From left, Lauren Fair, Jessica Wright, Tracy Parrington. The Quakers' other senior, missing from photo, is Molly Oswald.

Sports

Quaker soccer advances on all fronts

Boys rally past Springdale in quarterfinals

By Marnie McKnight

Correspondent

Senior Graham Perkovich, who led his Quaker Valley boys varsity soccer team in scoring with 23 goals this season, scored his first post-season hat trick last Thursday as the Quakers defeated Springdale Dynamo 5-1 in quarterfinal action.

Through the first two periods of the match, however, it looked as though Springdale was about to pull off an upset.

The Quakers, who entered WPIAL AA postseason play ranked second, struggled awkwardly against seventh-rated Springdale, which finished second in Section VIII behind Hampton, WPIAL's number-one ranked power.

In the game, played at Moon Township, Springdale came out strong, dominating the first quarter. They scored an early goal when Robbie Bayne headed in a corner kick from Brian Slencak. The goal boosted the Dynamo's confidence and

shook that of the already tentative Quakers.

But a between-period pep talk from Quaker head coach Gene Klein fired up the boys, and they began to exhibit the kind of ball control that highlighted their season.

In the second period, the momentum shifted; but still the score did not.

The Quakers came close on a number of occasions, though, including a booming shot by Perkovich from the 6-yard line that soared just over the Dynamo's crossbar.

As the game's second half got under way, the fired-up Quakers took their second-period momentum into the third.

Perkovich showed his leadership early on, as he turned his play up a notch and inspired the whole Quaker team with a booming, direct kick from 25 yards out, past Springdale's defensive wall and into the net by the near-post.

"That was a really big goal for us," said Klein, "but Graham has been doing that

all year long, coming up with the big play. That's the kind of player he is, and he's able to raise the confidence of the other players as well."

Perkovich's second goal of the night came just moments later as he shot a thundering low shot from 18 yards out that skimmed the ground in front of the Springdale goal and sailed past the keeper. The third period ended with the Quakers up 2-1.

The Quakers intensified their offensive pressure in the final period, finishing off Springdale for good. A Perkovich shot that sailed just wide of the goal found junior striker Ben McKnight, who was sprinting toward the near post to nail it home for a 3-1 Quaker lead.

Springdale, sensing the game slipping away, tried to respond with some offense of their own, but goalie Mike Birely and the Quaker defense wouldn't let the Dynamo back into the game.

Senior Mike Lynch, junior Jeff Vorberger and sophomore Kevin Kress

all had outstanding defensive efforts in the second half, shutting down their opponents passing lanes and playing with the aggressive, physical style that characterizes Coach Klein's defensive squads.

Junior Noah Rahm took a well-timed pass from senior Matt Hoehl to beat the Springdale goalie one-on-one with a finesse touch goal late in the game.

"There was no doubt about it," said Klein, paying tribute to Quaker Valley's opponents. "Springdale is a great soccer team. They came second in their section, and their only two losses were to Hampton. We knew we were in a contest right after the opening kickoff."

Klein credited his own squad for keeping their composure and staying patient after a difficult first half. "I knew we could win if we just did the things we're capable of doing and didn't panic. I was proud of the way our guys played tonight. It was a good test for the rest of the playoffs."

Sports



WHAT A MCKNIGHT for Quaker Valley junior midfielder Ben McKnight — he scored twice to lead the Quakers to a 3-0 victory. Academy marksman Tim Kaiser (left) is foiled on this play.



LEAPIN' LIZARDS! Quaker goalie Mike Birely takes one on the chest to keep Sewickley Academy scoreless.

Quakers roll past SA on way to finals

For the first 12 minutes it looked like a classic confrontation.

Crosstown rivals Quaker Valley and Sewickley Academy met once again in WPIAL soccer post-season play as they have for three of the last four years. Early on, it looked as if it might be just the kind of head-to-head competition that typifies QV-Academy play.

That is, until the 12-minute mark of the opening period, when QV senior co-captain Graham Perkovich delivered a perfect corner kick to a racing Ben McKnight. McKnight headed the ball past Academy goaltender Matt Stevens for 1-0

Quaker lead — and an all-out celebration.

From then on it was Quaker Valley's game.

The Quakers controlled the field and shut down SA's top scorers for a 3-0 victory and the right to face Hampton in Monday's (press time) WPIAL playoff final match at Bethel Park. Last year, Quaker Valley lost a 1-0 decision in the WPIAL finals to Peters Township.

For the Panthers, the loss ended an 11-4-4 season in which they finished second in their section. Last year, the Panthers lost 4-1 in double overtime to Elderton in WPIAL quarterfinals.

Academy head coach Doug DeSmit said at the beginning of this season that he was going to miss the rivalry between QV and Academy since the teams' separation this year into sections IX and VII.

But last Thursday's semifinal game at Moon Township was more rivalry than DeSmit might have wanted.

McKnight's goal created the confidence the Quakers needed as they increased their offensive pressure on the Panthers. Minutes after the goal, McKnight took advantage of an open Academy net to push in his second of the night, giving the

Quakers a 2-0 lead less than 20 minutes into the game.

Quaker momentum increased even more in the second period, and Perkovich put the kiss of death on Sewickley Academy's hopes of a WPIAL final playoff game with a booming direct kick from the 18-yard line that just cleared Stevens's upstretched hands, glancing off the crossbar and into the net for a 3-0 lead.

In the game's second half, the Quaker defense went about protecting the comfortable lead built up in the first. The Panthers tried to mount an offensive, but were stymied by the efforts of QV sweeper Kevin Kress

in an outstanding defensive effort. Kress anticipated the Panthers' passes and cleared his end again and again.

QV junior stopper Jeff Vorberger played his best as well, aggressively intercepting the Panthers' offensive passes and outthrusting his opponents.

Quaker sophomore goalie Mike Birely earned the shutout, saving several key shots, including a direct kick by Academy freshman sharpshooter Fabio Nunes that a leaping Birely punched out near the top of the net at the last instant.

QV girls' WPIAL bid bedevilled by Mt. Lebo

By Jerry Pelley

Staff writer

The Quaker Valley girls varsity soccer team saw a valiant bid at WPIAL championship end rather propitiously last Wednesday as they fell victim under aswelling moon to the Mt. Lebanon Blue Devils on Halloween night.

The Quakers lost the semifinal game 4-0 as Mt. Lebanon executed a wickedly splendid game, frustrating their opponents at every turn.

The no. 1 ranked Blue Devils, whose positional play was a thing of beauty, also placed their kicks as if charmed, sailing in neat parabolas over the heads of the two Quaker goalkeepers who tried to defend against them.

First year Quaker head coach Dominic Vezza credited the Mt. Lebo win to no hocus pokus, but to simple, applied skill.

"They played well," the coach said. "They did what we should have done — their throw-ins were great, they were coming on and supporting each other, and we just watched our goal of a WPIAL final game disappear."

The Quakers began optimistically enough, but were soon dragging in effort and cooperation. Angel Vezza set up a good opportunity for Julie McDaniel early in the first period when she broke down the left wing and centered a kick to her linemate, whose shot missed the goal by four feet.

Soon after, however, Molly Bushman supplied the impetus for Mt. Lebanon when she high-looped a shot at 10:21 of the opening frame over the head of Quaker goalkeeper Liz Neidlinger that dropped into the QV goal.

Neidlinger was forced to make a couple of key saves even before the period ended as the Blue Devils pressed Quaker Valley back into their own end.

Bridget Sullivan had an opportunity from 16 yards out of the Mt. Lebo goal, but, like McDaniel before her, shot wide as well.

QV continued to press and showed great determination but came up empty. Shots by Jessica Wright and Angel Vezza missed their mark.

The third quarter saw furious end to end rushes and threatening corner kicks and throw-ins by both sides. Liz Neidlinger put in a strong game in the QV goal, alertly coming out to forestall any dangerous situations in front of her goal.

The sophomore goaltender — indeed her team — suffered a great misfortune as the third period's final seconds ticked away. While the final five-second countdown was on, the QV keeper underestimated the seriousness of a Lynn Langston kick, thinking, apparently, that the period had ended. The ball sailed high and landed in the Quaker net just as the buzzer sounded.

Neidlinger was replaced in goal by freshman keeper Tina Jordan and played midfield in the game's final frame.



BLUE MOON. Halloween night was no treat for Quaker Valley as Mt. Lebanon Blue Devils held them scoreless in WPIAL semifinal action. Here, Erin Butcher controls the play.

Quakers fall from race in busy playoff week

"It's always hard to end with a disappointing loss," Quaker Valley coach Gene Klein said, "but our guys have nothing to hang their heads about. This team improved a lot over the year, and we were in the final eight of the state. That's a great season by any standard."

So ended the Quaker Valley High School boys soccer season — with a 3-0 PIAA quarterfinal loss to District 3 runnerup Wyomissing Spartans on Saturday at Mansion Field in Altoona.

The Quakers, WPIAL Class AA finalists, were ranked fifth in the final H & S rankings of the state's top 10 Class AA soccer teams. Wyomissing, located on the outskirts of Reading, were unranked, but had reached the state quarterfinals by virtue of a 3-2 overtime win over the No. 3 team, Millville, earlier in the week.

In the first quarter against Wyomissing, the Quakers struggled also against a strong headwind and a slippery artificial surface at Mansion Park Field.

"We had trouble adjusting to the turf," said Quaker coach Gene Klein. "The ball was skipping a lot, and we were misjudging it. That hurt us early."

The hurt came midway through the first period as Wyomissing striker Rob Luzader took advantage of the Quaker defense's inability to clear the ball and knocked a shot in for a 1-0 Spartan lead.

"We wanted to put a lot of offensive pressure on them in the second period when we had the wind advantage," said Klein.

Quaker leading scorer Graham Perkovich worked the ball inside throughout the period, trying to mount an offensive threat, but Wyomissing's Mike Niehaus stole the ball at midfield as the Quaker squad

was moving forward and played it back to striker Joey Maturi, who had an open shot for the 2-0 lead.

"When they scored on the counterattack against the wind, that was the key goal," explained Klein. "They caught us pushing forward, and (QV goaltender Mike) Birely didn't have a chance."

Wyomissing's Joel Torcolini scored in the third period on a pass from Niehaus.

Quaker Valley repeatedly tried to get on the scoreboard throughout the second half, but the strong quick Spartan defense shut them down and goalkeeper Alecko Zeppos made several key saves.

Wyomissing had 16 shots at the QV goal, and the Quakers responded with 9 of their own. Birely worked hard in the Quaker goal to keep the score close, making nine saves as Wyomissing pounded away during the second half.

WPIAL final

Last year it was Peters Township; this year it was Hampton. For two years running, the Quaker Valley boys have been denied the prize of a WPIAL Class AA soccer championship.

This year's loss, however, could by no means be considered an upset. Hampton Talbots, who compiled a 21-1 record, were the ones to beat, having gained a No. 1 ranking in the state.

The win over the Quakers must have been sweet revenge for Hampton, who last season bowed out of WPIAL playoff action after dropping a 1-0 decision to Quaker Valley.

On Nov. 5 at Bethel Park Stadium, the Talbots donned the crown of WPIAL champions

after handing Quaker Valley a 2-0 defeat.

The loss for Quaker Valley, though disappointing, was not the end of the soccer world, as it turned out. As WPIAL championship finalists, the Quakers remained eligible for state playoffs and viewed the possibility of a rematch with Hampton.

But those views, too, were disappointed as the PIAA quarterfinal loss to Wyomissing on Saturday put them down for the count.

In the Hampton game, the weather was as adverse to Quaker Valley as their human opponents. Heavy rain and gusty winds and Chris Rihn's head shot conspired against the Quakers to put a WPIAL crown beyond their reach.

Rihn, a Hampton forward, headed in a shot in the second period as the rain poured down on the players.

The 1-0 lead held through the third quarter as the Talbots held the field. Quaker Valley's opportunities were few and far between in the game's second half. One of those rare chances came at the halfway mark of the third as Graham Perkovich maneuvered the ball to a driving Dan Gebhardt, who failed to get the shot off.

A little later, Perkovich tried to set up Ben McKnight with a throw-in, but Hampton defender Sean Hauck intercepted the play.

Yet again in the third, Perkovich tried to set up McKnight, but was foiled by the alert Hampton defense.

With the arrival of the final quarter, Quaker Valley's pressure turned out to be all in vain as Rihn scored his second of the night to tighten the screws on the Quakers.

McConnellsburg

The only up moment in Quaker Valley's playoff week came last Wednesday in the elimination round of Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association playoffs.

The Quakers handed District 5 champions McConnellsburg a 2-0 loss on goals by Ben McKnight and Graham Perkovich.

The venue for the game — the field at Chestnut Ridge High School in New Paris — proved to be a bit of an adjustment for both teams. The field's dimensions fell 10 yards short and 12 yards narrow of the regulation 110y x 65y standard.

While that aspect of the game miffed the Quaker coach, his team's play was of more concern to Klein.

Even though they won, the Quakers failed to generate any scoring or offensive threat throughout the whole second half.

Sports

A splendid season!

QUAKER VALLEY 1990 girls varsity soccer team amazed everyone this year, coasting to a shared Section II title. The girls under new coach Dom Veza wound up with a 10-1-1 record and defeated Butler 2-0 in the WPIAL quarterfinals. The end came for the 1990 squad on Halloween night when Mt. Lebanon ousted them in semifinal action, 4-0.

The team benefitted from the experience of 10 returning starters this year, but next year will miss departing seniors Jessica Wright, Lauren Fair, Tracy Parrington and Molly Oswald.

Front row, from left: assistant coach Kathy Raab, Ann Tirimacco, Kara Csensich, Liz Neidlinger, Tina Jordan, Tracy Parrington, coach Dom Veza. Middle row: Julie McDaniel, Bridget Sullivan, Julie Poister, Emily Bikowski. BACK ROW: Lauren Fair, Angel Veza, Jessica Wright, Liz Gaadt, Carrie Wheeler. Missing from photo due to injury was senior Molly Oswald.



Sports

Looking back on another Panther season

By Jerry Pelley

Staff writer

It is said that nature abhors a vacuum.

When the Sewickley Academy varsity boys soccer team were thrown into a new section this year, they faced the pleasant prospect of not having to play second fiddle anymore to perennial title winners Quaker Valley.

Then along came Carlynton to bung the hole.

The Panthers had their first section title in view as they romped through their first five games in Section VII. They handily defeated their opponents by 4- and 5-0 scores. Only a 2-2 tie with Avonworth impeded their progress.

Then, on Sept. 20, they faced the lurking Carlynton Cougars and suffered their first defeat of the season, a tough 2-1 loss.

"We didn't know anything about Carlynton," said Academy head coach Doug DeSmit. "We thought the title was within our reach."

The loss proved to be crucial in what turned out to be a footrace for the section crown. It was the Panthers only defeat of the regular season, as they finished with a 11-1-2 mark, just under the Cougars' 12-0-1.

In the WPIAL regular season's second-last game, the Panthers faced Carlynton once again — this time on home turf — in a last-ditch attempt to cap-

ture the crown. Only a victory would do for the Panthers, but they came up just short of the mark, battling the Cougars to a 1-1 draw in double overtime.

For winning the section title, Carlynton head coach Gary Weber was selected as Section VII Coach of the Year.

Second place appears to be a familiar spot for the Panther team, which this year completed their fifth WPIAL season. But in some respects, though, the Panthers did outplay the Cougars.

The team's output of 70 goals, in regular and post-season play, eclipsed that of the Cougars, who produced 57.

Carlynton, though, did play a tighter defensive game. Cougar goalkeeper Scott Dominic (11 goals-against) allowed fewer goals than did his Academy counterpart, junior keeper Matt Stevens (26 goal-against).

But Stevens was tested more often than Dominic. Stevens, who compiled 10 shutouts over 21 games, was selected along with three other Academy players among the section's "15 Finest," an accolade Dominic did not receive.

Academy, a predominantly offensive team, had no defensive players make the top-15 list, but senior defender Aaron Masri did receive honorable mention.

The other three Academy players to make the list were junior midfielder and team co-captain Nate Powers,

sophomore striker Fabio Nunes, and, for the third year in a row, senior midfielder and co-captain Tim Kaiser.

Kaiser, who led his team and the section in scoring with 27 goals and nine assists, was also selected co-winner with Carlynton's Don Snyder as section MVP.

Powers also placed high in Academy scoring, contributing 19 goals and nine assists.

"Nate and Tim developed everything for us," said DeSmit. "They did it consistently."

The one other big gun on the Panther offense was Nunes, an exchange student from Brazil, who supplied nine goals and three assists.

Both Nunes and Kaiser will be gone from the team next year, as will defenders Masri, Phil Long, John Schwendeman and Jose Sia (1 goal).

Other departing seniors are midfielder Mark Notaro (2 assists) and forwards Ryan Riley (1 goal, 1 assist) and Fred Schroeder (1 goal, 1 assist).

Two players who were returning lettermen this year will likely play a big part in next year's team: Junior defender R.D. Pascoe (1 goal, 1 assist) and junior midfielder Jamie Vankirk (3 goals, 3 assists).

Other players to watch for in future play are sophomore forward Tony Reid, (5 goals, 1 assist), sophomore midfielder Greg Walters (1 goal, four assists), and junior midfielder Alex Ball (1 goal, 1 assist).



FOILED AGAIN: Sewickley Academy coach Doug DeSmit was again denied a section title this year.



Together Again

THESE FORMER soccer rivals from Sewickley Academy and Quaker Valley High faced each other again last month in a college tournament in Norfolk, Va. From left, Ken Pryor and George Strong (both 1987 grads of QV) and Ben Powers (SA '89). Powers and Pryor are starters for the University of Akron Zips; Strong is a starter for the College of William and Mary Tribe.

Sewickley Academy athletes honored at fete with MVP and coaches awards

Tim Kaiser and Nate Powers jointly received the Most Valuable Player Award for boys varsity soccer while Brad Pasanek took the same trophy in junior-varsity soccer at Sewickley Academy's annual sports awards dinner.

Kaiser and Powers were co-captains of the soccer team and were one and two, respectively,

in individual scoring.

In girls soccer, Shannon Schinagl won the MVP Award, and the Coaches Award was shared by Alyson Deutsch and Andrea Sirko.