



GRAHAM PERKOVICH named All-American.

Perkovich off to Atlanta

Quaker Valley High School senior Graham Perkovich will travel to Georgia this weekend, where he will be honored as one of the country's top 55 high-school soccer players by the National Soccer Coaches Association.

As All-American, Perkovich will join other high-school and college All-Americans at the Atlanta convention. More than 2,000 coaches will attend the convention, many of them college coaches eager to recruit such star athletes.

Perkovich is only the second Quaker High soccer player to make All-American. Four years ago, George Strong, also a soccer player, made the list.

In addition to being named All-American this year, Perkovich was named to Western Pennsylvania's All-WPIAL soccer team along with teammate Ben McKnight.

Kowalski takes over USA

Aleppo man becomes newest coach of America's national soccer team

A lot can happen between now and 1994.

That's when the planet's premier sporting event, the World Cup of soccer, is played out on American soil, in full and intimate view of American eyes.

But certain is this, that when the nations of the world fix their gaze on the impending contest, an American team will vie with the pack. And it just might be an Aleppo man in charge of the home squad.

Late last month the United States Soccer Federation named John Kowalski interim head coach of the American national team, replacing Bob Gansler.

For Kowalski, who has been the head coach of Robert Morris College's men's soccer team for the past two years, the appointment marks the second time in

his career that he has been called to head up the national squad. In 1988 he took over from the departing Lothar Osiendor and headed the team for three months before Gansler was appointed to the job.

Now Gansler is off to become the national director of coaching and player development for the U.S. Soccer Federation. Gansler in 1990 led the United States to its first World Cup appearance since 1950.

Kowalski's credentials as a coach and a soccer authority are no less impressive. A player with the Connecticut Yankees of the American Soccer League, Kowalski later became player/coach of the Pittsburgh Spirit and the Cincinnati Kids, both of the Major Indoor Soccer League. From there he was elevated to the position of head



A NEW hand at the helm, John Kowalski takes over the U.S. national soccer team in preparation for 1994.

coach of the Spirit and of the Hartford Hellions, also of the MISL.

In 1989 Kowalski guided the American Five-a-Side indoor team to a third-place finish at the world's first Five-a-Side Indoor Championships. The team, which returned to season action this week, has been headed by Kowalski for the last five years.

Sewickley area soccer registration set

Sewickley Area Soccer Association has mailed out registration forms for its fall season to veteran players, but new players can pick up a form at United Men's Store on Beaver Street, Sewickley.

Completed registration forms should be mailed on, or before, Aug. 3, to: Sewickley Area Soccer, Box 71, Sewickley, Pa. 15143.

Forms can also be dropped off in person at the Car Barn Shops lobby between 9 a.m. and noon on Saturday, Aug. 3.

In order for the registration forms to be accepted, the following information must be included: medical release; signature of parent or guardian; child's birth date, including day, month

and year; copy of the birth certificate, regardless of whether one has been submitted in previous years; and passport-sized photos for all boys born between Aug. 1, 1977 and July 31, 1979, and for all girls born between Aug. 1, 1977 and July 31, 1981.

A check or money order must be included on forms sent through the mail, but cash will be accepted at the in-person sign-up on Aug. 3. The fees include \$25 for the first child of a family, and \$20 for each additional family player.

The season will commence the weekend of Sept. 7, and all players should be notified by their coach no later than Monday, Aug. 26.

The U.S. Youth Soccer Federation has enacted new age groupings for youth players, which will go into effect this season. Only athletes who fall within the following birth-date groupings will be eligible to play:

Under-8 is between Aug. 1, 1983 and July 31, 1985; under-10 is Aug. 1, 1981 and July 31, 1983; under-12 is Aug. 1, 1979 and July 31, 1981; and under-14 is Aug. 1, 1977 and July 31, 1979.

For more information, call Tom Pyle for all-girls' teams at 741-3644; Betsy Prendergast for under-14 boys at 741-7766; and Julie Rickert or Betsy Christof for under-8, under-10 and under-12 co-eds at 741-2366 and 741-0807, respectively.

Sports

QV boys' soccer squad shapes up

Quaker Valley varsity boys' soccer coach Gene Klein is starting his 10th season at the helm of the Quaker squad and he is

forecasting some smooth sailing ahead.

"If we can stay away from injuries, I think we can meet our

team goals," announced Klein, adding that a repeat as section champions is the number one goal.

The sea-worthy crew that Klein is leading into the WPIAL AA Section IX pool is sporting seven returning starters, including five seniors.

Considering that last year's squad went all the way to the WPIAL Double-A finals and the PIAA State quarterfinals, the returning starters add up to a lot of big-game experience.

"We have a couple of seniors who are starting for the third straight year," reported Klein. "I'll be looking for those kids to take on the leadership roles that a successful team needs to have. They are the ones who have to stay in control and come up big in the 'big game'."

When Klein talks experience, he's talkin' about guys such as sweeper Jeff Vorberger and last year's second leading scorer, Ben McKnight. The two seniors are co-captains.

Left wing Colin McLaughlin, defender Pete Noll and forward Noah Rahm are the other senior

leaders. Rahm is enthusiastic about the start of the new season, because he had to sit out most of last season following knee surgery.

Center midfielder Dan Gebhardt and stopper Kevin Kress, who are returning juniors, will combine efforts to control the middle of the field for QV, while fellow junior Mike Birely will return to the inner depths of the net this year.

"We haven't had a keeper with a year's experience since Schon Duke in 1983-84," commented Klein on Birely's experience. "It's a nice feeling to know your goalie can handle the pressure of a full season."

Sophomores Seth Perkovich, who is the younger brother of last year's All-American honoree Graham Perkovich, and Phil Oxendine will round out the midfield starting line for the Quakers.

"Quaker Valley's a pretty small school, even for AA, but we're always competitive," Klein pointed out. "Our problem is depth. We've got talent and experience, but we're never



Gene Klein

very deep."

Klein says Section IX appears to be the toughest section in the WPIAL this year and could very well prove to be the most competitive double-AA section in the state.

"Beaver and Center are always going to be strong, and this year's Rochester team will be tough," Klein admitted. "We've got our work cut out for us."

Sports



PHIL OXENDINE, shown here in front of the Wilmington net last Tuesday, went on to score all five goals in a section match at Beaver on Thursday. The Quaker Valley boys' soccer team beat the Bobcats by a final score of 5-2.

QV sophomore stalks Bobcats

After blowing out its section rivals from Wilmington last week, the Quaker Valley boys' soccer team picked up another Section Nine win at Beaver on Thursday.

"I thought the game against Beaver would be a good test for us," said head coach Gene Klein. "Their program has improved 100 percent over the last few years. Meeting them early in the season on their home field was a challenge."

The Quakers came out strong at the gun to stun the Bobcats with offensive scoring power, which gave them a cushion that led to their eventual 5-2 victory.

Sophomore wing Phil Oxendine started the action when he touched in a goal from a corner

kick by senior Colin McLaughlin. He was far from finished for the day, however.

Oxendine later caught fire, scoring four more goals by the middle of the third period, leaving the Beaver coach shaking his head in disbelief.

"Phil's a young player and opposing coaches aren't keying on him yet," explained Klein. "His skills are improving with every game and his speed is unbelievable. When we get him the ball, I know he can outrun his opponent."

The Quakers executed crisp passing skills throughout the match. Senior Noah Rahm, who moves to the center forward position with fellow senior Ben McKnight in the middle,

assisted Oxendine with the 10th-grader's second and third scores.

Junior Dan Gebhardt blasted a shot that hit the goalpost, allowing Oxendine to rebound in goal number four. Sophomore Seth Perkovich sent a perfect lead pass from left midfield for Oxendine's fifth.

The Quaker defense, led by senior captain Jeff Vorberger, shut down the Bobcat scoring threat. An apparent "breather" by the Quakers late in the fourth frame allowed Beaver to score its two goals.

Sports

QV soccer ranked No. 1

There was a lot to celebrate last week on the Quaker Valley High School varsity soccer field. The Quaker boys not only

posted another overwhelming Section 9 victory, defeating their rivals from Quigley by 10-1, they also learned that a coaches' poll

named their QV squad the number-one Class-AA team in the state.

But the team had its biggest celebration when the ninth goal was scored in the Quigley game.

What was the big deal?

Well, the goal was scored by Quaker captain Jeff Vorberger, and represented the four-year letterwinner's first career goal. Vorberger has been a starter for three years with QV, but has always played defense.

"It started when I came out for the team in ninth grade," Vorberger explained. "I had pretty much always played mid-field or forward, but Coach (Gene) Klein must have seen something in my play that made him think defense. I've been there ever since."

Quaker defenders such as Vorberger, senior Pete Noll, junior Kevin Kress and freshman Zander Shaw have been cutting off their opponent's passing lanes so well that offensive opportunities have arisen.

"All my teammates and friends at school have been after me to score this year," concluded Vorberger. "Whenever I even get close to the goal, all I here is 'Shoot! Shoot!'"

"When the ball went in, everyone just went crazy."

The ball went in for quite a few other Quakers as well, including co-captain Ben McKnight, who scored four times and contributed an assist on another goal. One of his goals resulted from a penalty shot in the third quarter.



SETH PERKOVICH attacks a ball last week in Quaker Valley boys' varsity soccer.

In other goals, freshman forward Armon Fenger scored two; senior midfielder Colin McLaughlin scored one and recorded two assists; Phil Oxendine scored one and had one assist; and junior Dan Gebhardt posted three assists.

Quigley's lone goal came in the third period on a penalty shot, spoiling QV goalkeeper Mike Bierley's string of shutout wins.

Earlier last week, the Quakers posted a key win over Riverside by 4-1. The Panthers had been

billed as a possible threat to QV, but the Quakers came out strong early in the game to take control.

"That's our strategy," said Coach Klein. "Teams are usually gunning for us, so we want to score early and play ball control. Once we're in the lead, there aren't too many teams that can overtake us."

Quaker Valley goals against Riverside were scored by senior Noah Rahm, who tallied the first two, junior Seth Perkovich and Oxendine.

Sports

SA and QV vie in soccer

Local high school girls' soccer teams meet for first time at the Sewickley Academy Nichol's Field in Edgeworth

By Rich Bottles Jr.

Staff writer

The players of Sewickley Academy's three-year-old girls' soccer program have had a hard time ignoring all the exposure that their undefeated neighbors have been basking in.

But the Lady Panthers didn't let the national newspaper coverage and high WPAL rankings intimidate them last week when they hosted Quaker Valley at Nichols Field in Edgeworth.

"I think the girls certainly wanted to play well," commented SA head coach Ed Walters. "We were the underdogs; there's no doubt about it, but I think we did an outstanding job against a strong team."

Quaker Valley was held to just two goals in the first three quarters, thanks to junior SA goalkeeper Robin Moll making at least a dozen saves on other QV shots.

"Robin played a very nice game against QV," noted Walters, adding that the junior has had to fill in fulltime during the last three games because of

an injury sustained by senior goalkeeper Andrea Sirko.

The first goal to reach the net came from an unassisted shot by QV's Julie McDaniel, setting the score at 1-0 with 17:22 minutes left in the opening period.

Sewickley had a penalty shot broken up and Cortney Strimlan did a good job hustling for the ball later in the half, but the score remained the same throughout most of the second quarter.

Quaker Valley changed its entire field of players halfway through the second period, which gave Katie Hayes an opportunity to score off an assist from Beth Bodgewic.

In the remaining 4:48 of the first half, Ms. Strimlan initiated a half-field drive and shot for SA, but it was saved at the net by the goalkeeper.

The second half remained scoreless until QV scored back-to-back goals with about 13 minutes left in the game. Julie Poister scored off an assist from Emily Bikowski at 13:14, and Liz Gaadt scored off Ann Tirimacco at 12:21.

"This is a young team, but

we're getting better," admitted Walters. "To me, this has been a very successful season. We're constantly getting better."

He pointed to the experienced contributions of senior defensive wings Anne Fickess and Katie McLaughlin, Ms. Sirko in goal, and Ms. Strimlan on offense. Ms. Sirko, Ms. Strimlan and Ms. McLaughlin are the senior tri-captains this year.

Giving SA some stock for the future, Walters expects freshman midfielder Stacey Puskar to continue her impressive contributions in the years to come.

Other members of SA's team are juniors Elizabeth Sadd, Lisa Eddy, Elvira Eichleay, Becky Medvitz; sophomores Trina Lorch, Lauren Thomas, Holly Michael, Jen Riordan, Kate Arbogast, Libby Stein, Sara Luster; and freshmen Abby Wilcox, Shannon Stokes, Raimee Eck, Erin Mader.

Assisting Walters on the sidelines this year are assistant coaches Emily Morine and Aliza Cisneros.



BATTLING FOR possession of a ball along the sideline last week are Quaker Valley's Liz Gaadt, no. 5, and Sewickley Academy's Jen Riordan, no. 8.

Quaker boys continue climbing to the top

Undefeated Quaker Valley soccer team achieves two more section victories

There's no business like soccer business at Quaker Valley.

And it was business as usual for the Quaker Valley boys' soccer team last week. The guys improved their season record to 17-1-0 with two wins against Section 9-AA rivals from Ellwood City and Riverside.

Even though the Quakers didn't play quite as flat as the Wolverines' field in Ellwood City, they still had to work to pull off a 2-0 victory.

"It was a strange week," observed QV head coach Gene Klein. "We came off a huge win against Upper St. Clair, then struggled at Ellwood City. We definitely suffered an emotional letdown — the intensity just wasn't there."

Quaker Valley had moved up in class to face the Triple-A powerhouse team of Upper St. Clair on Oct. 5, achieving a 5-3 non-section victory.

Against Ellwood City, senior Noah Rahm led the Quaker of-

fense with a goal and an assist. Sophomore Phil Oxendine posted the only other QV goal.

But the admittedly lackluster effort of QV at Ellwood City only served to give the Riverside



QV Mascot Snickers

Panthers a sense of false hope later in the week.

That hope was short-lived, however, because the Quakers rebounded from their low-scoring performance against the Wolverines by crushing the Panthers to the tune of 8-1.

Senior Ben McKnight recorded a career-high five goals, which doesn't even include one successful shot that was disqualified by an official because of a charging penalty.

Senior Jeff Vorberger posted a sensational assist on one of McKnight's goals. Vorberger started the play with an aggressive head-ball to McKnight, who followed his teammate's example by heading the pass into the net.

In other scoring, Oxendine upped his season tally by two and Rahm added the other QV goal

to the scorebooks. All eight Quaker scores came with just over half the game played.

"When our starters perform as they did today, it's not only a good win for the season but it helps the program too," commented Coach Klein. "I can substitute my younger guys in early and give them some varsity playing time. That experience will help us down the road."

McKnight leads the Quakers with 26 goals this season, followed by Oxendine with 19. Senior Colin McLaughlin has scored 13, and Rahm is fourth on the QV hit list with 11.

All four Quaker Valley scoring leaders also appear in the top 20 WPIAL North top scorers' list. The undefeated Quaker team as a whole continues to lead the Class-AA league and state rankings.



Phil Oxendine

ONE SHINING MOMENT...

SPORTS FANS!



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BET**

Sports

QV goalkeeper claims new shutout record

Junior Mike Birely sets school record for career shutouts in final week of regular season boys' soccer competition

By Rich Bottles Jr.

Staff writer

Quaker Valley junior goalkeeper Mike Birely broke the school's all-time shutout record last week when he posted his 22nd perfect game in a 7-0 blanking of Section 9-AA.

Birely, a second-year starter in the Quaker net, surpassed the 21 shutout victories posted by Charles Thorne in the 1981-82 season of the boys' program.

Because Birely has one full year left to play, it's expected that he'll probably hold the number one boys' spot for quite awhile.

Ironically, the starting goalkeepers for both the boys' and girls' varsity teams currently hold the school's shutout records for their respective programs.

"It's pretty exciting," Birely admitted shortly after his 22nd shutout. "I've got a great

defense in front of me though, and that helps a lot."

The defensive middle that Birely is quick to compliment is dominated by two players: senior defender Jeff Vorberger and junior sweeper Kevin Kress.

A three-year starter, Vorberger uses skill and experience to key the defense. His intense competitive spirit is demonstrated in his willingness to take on all comers without hesitation.

"Jeff yells all the time, calling the defensive matchups and telling guys what to do," reported Birely. "He's always firing us up."

Kevin Kress relies on speed and timing to anticipate the opponent's passing lanes and convert defense into offense. Kress also takes all the Quaker goal kicks, Birely pointed out.

"Kevin takes a lot of pressure off me," Birely admitted. "I know I can count on him when

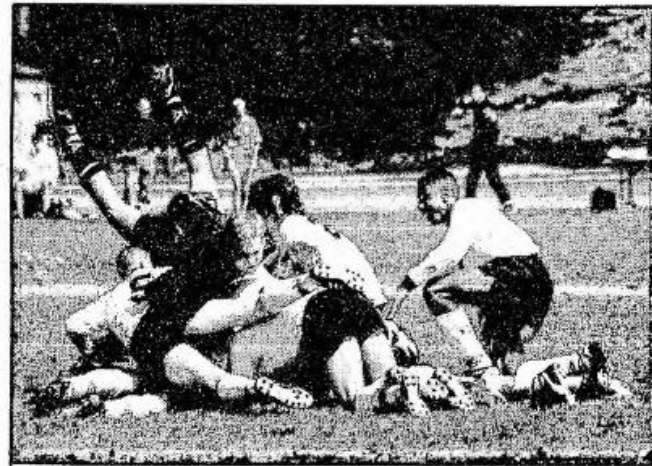
things are heating up."

QV head coach Gene Klein knows a good goalie when he sees one, mainly because he was known as a standout goalkeeper in his playing days.

"Mike has all the attributes to be a really outstanding goalkeeper," Klein concluded. "He's got size, strength, quick reactions, good hands. With each game, he gains more confidence and experience to control the defensive flow and take charge."

In speaking of the defense's domination, Klein also gives credit to senior Pete Noll and freshman Zander Shaw, who represent the squad's outside defensive backs.

"Pete has the size and strength to keep his man out of range," Klein said. "He slows the offensive man down long enough for one of the quicker guys to steal the ball. He's doing a great job for us."



MIKE BIRELY tops off a post-game celebration.

Klein said Shaw also has been a big help this year, displaying a level of poise and aggression that is uncommon for a younger player. "And he's just going to get better," he added.

Birely and his fellow defenders have allowed only nine goals thus far this season,

sewing up the Section 9-AA title with a perfect 14-0 conference record.

With the regular season over, they are now heading into the WPIAL-AA playoffs sporting an impressive overall record of 19 wins over one loss.

Sports

SA soccer 3rd in section

SA boys end winning season in conference

By Rich Bottles Jr.

Staff writer

Sewickley Academy's annual non-section match-up against Shady Side Academy took the edge off an otherwise winning season for the Panthers.

In the season-ending home game at Nichols Field, Sewickley the Academy experienced a close 2-0 loss that set the Panthers' overall record at 9-9-1.

Because the match wasn't a Section 7 game, Sewickley Academy's winning conference record of 9-4-1 remained intact. The conference tally only placed SA third in the section, however, so the Panthers missed out on post-season play.

"I'm a little disappointed we didn't make the playoffs," admitted first-year head coach Dave Kasper. "But overall, I feel the season went well."

Last week's game was a standoff through the first quarter, but some light began to shine through Shady Side later in the match.

The first goal ended up being an almost undefendable penalty kick and the second resulted from a brief lapse in an otherwise perfect SA defense.

"It was a very well-played match by both sides," explained Kasper. "Overall, we played very, very strong defensively."

SA's Pete McClenahan didn't get to add any more goals to his team-leading scoring tally, but senior goalkeeper Matt Stevens took advantage of at least a dozen opportunities to record saves in his last game.

Because the original team had fewer than 20 players, including an injured Nate Bowers, Kasper and Co. were hoping the squad



ALEX'S BALL: Sewickley Academy's Alex Ball throws in a ball from out of bounds during first-quarter action last week in the Panthers' season-ending game. Sewickley lost the home match at Nichols Field to visiting Shady Side Academy by the final score of 2-0.

could still persevere to have yet another winning Section 7 season.

Bowers represented one of six returning senior letterwinners, but the section season had to start without him when a knee injury took him away from the midfield.

SA faced more section competitors this year, but still had a winning conference record of 9-4-1. Sewickley Academy posted a 9-1-2 section record in 1990.

Joining Kasper on the

sidelines this year were assistant coaches Paul Burg and John Ball. Kasper is a retired professional player who is now teaching phys-ed at SA.

Being a first-year head coach, Kasper said he was glad to be welcomed with such a positive attitude from the players, especially considering the changes that are usually expected when new coaches come on the scene.

SPORTS FANS!

Sports



QUAKER VALLEY boys' soccer team members surround head coach Gene Klein upon winning the 1991 WPIAL title on Saturday.

QV boys win WPIAL title



BEN McKNIGHT reacts after his initial first period goal in Saturday's WPIAL championship game.

Three years of striving to go the distance in the WPIAL has finally paid off big for the Quaker Valley boys' team

Numerologists say 'three's a charm,' and the same held true for the Quaker Valley statisticians recording Saturday afternoon's WPIAL Class-AA championship game.

After fighting their way into their third straight WPIAL championship berth, the Quaker boys finally brought home the league trophy.

Quaker Valley shut out South Park by 4-0 to claim the 1991 Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League Class-AA title.

Senior co-captain Ben McKnight scored the first goal at 12:14-minutes of first quarter on a direct kick from the 20-yard-line. The shot curved around the Patriots' defensive wall and into the net.

"Obviously, the first goal of a game as big as the WPIAL final is a huge goal," admitted Quaker Valley head coach Gene Klein. "But after the experience we had just had with Southmoreland, we weren't about to celebrate prematurely."

Quaker Valley had pulled out a nail-biting 2-1 semifinal victory over Southmoreland earlier last week, but only after a scoreless overtime period allowed QV to score a goal in the sudden-death shootout.

In the final minutes of the first period in Saturday's game, McKnight also helped quell any Quaker fears of another 1-1 standoff.

McKnight headed home a throw-in cross by fellow senior-midfielder Colin McLaughlin, sending the first-period score to 2-0.

"That quick second goal by Ben was a key goal," explained Klein. "Now they knew they had to score on us three times to win, and I think it took a lot of wind out of their sails."

With a two-point cushion, all the Quakers had to

do was continue to control the ball and keep it away from Patriot John Reed, who was leading the league at the time with 36 goals.

Senior captain Jeff Vorberger was in charge of covering Reed, and the confrontation between the two players was a physical one that took its toll on Reed by the second half.

"Jeff really played hard-posed today," commented McKnight. "As captains, Jeff and I have been aiming for (the WPIAL finals) all year."

"Heck, Ben and I have been dreaming of this since we were nine years old," added Vorberger. "We wanted it bad. We all did. We were psyched."

Senior defender Pete Noll, junior Kevin Kress and sophomore starter Keith Kelly added to the tough defensive effort that refused to give South Park a chance to get back into the contest.

"I can't say enough about our defense," said Klein. "They are smart, tough and aggressive."

"Kevin has played super for us all year, and Pete is strong and smart," he concluded. "And for a young player, Keith Kelly showed me a lot of poise and confidence out there today."

The second half was all Quakers and it was sweetened by two icing goals, coming one at a time in the third and fourth quarters.

When sophomore Phil Oxendine touched in a ripping far-post shot by McKnight for goal number three, coach Klein started to relax a little.

"I was still pretty nervous up to then," he admitted.

Goal number four was scored by sophomore Seth Perkovich, who nailed a surprise shot into the net from the 30-yard-line with only 39 seconds left to play.



SENIOR CAPTAINS Jeff Vorberger and Ben McKnight raise the league trophy for all to see after Saturday afternoon's match.

QV girls drive into finals

Lady Quakers roll over USC in semis

By Chuck Curti

Staff writer

The Quaker Valley girls' soccer team saw the writing on the wall.

A friend of head coach Dom Vezza sent him a newspaper article in which Upper St. Clair said that the only thing that stood between them and a third straight WPIAL title was Mt. Lebanon.

Vezza hung the article in the girls' locker room to inspire his team.

The plan worked. Quaker Valley tallied two goals in the first period, and goalkeeper Liz Neidlinger denied the Lady Panthers time and time again as the Lady Quakers advanced to the WPIAL title game with a 2-0 victory.

Senior defender Julie Poister, along with sophomores Tina Jordan and Kari Wheeler, enabled Ms. Neidlinger and QV to earn their 17th shutout of the year.

"My defense has been the difference all year long," said Vezza. "We are without a doubt the best defensive team around."

In the early going, it was the QV offense that was making the difference. Ann Tirimacco got her team going, beating Upper St. Clair keeper Amy Zupon on an unassisted goal.

Quaker Valley's second goal came courtesy of junior Julie McDaniel with an assist from

freshman Rachel Stroup at 13:41 of the first period.

The goal was an excellent demonstration of team work and ball control. Junior stopper Liz Gaadt passed a loose ball out to senior Bridget Sullivan at midfield.

Ms. Sullivan, who also helped start QV's first scoring drive, turned and made a clean lead pass up the sideline where Ms. Stroup was ready to burst past the USC defense.

"We underestimated them," said USC head coach Lesley Retallick. "I was impressed by their quickness and their aggressiveness."

"They're little girls, but they don't get intimidated."

USC could mount only one serious threat in the second half, but the Lady Quaker defense wasn't the only enemy of the Lady Panthers.

With Quaker Valley on a breakaway, one of the USC players committed a foul inside the box. She was subsequently red-carded and ejected. The Lady Panthers were then forced to play short-handed the rest of the game.

The victory was most satisfying for Vezza. "We want to play Mt. Lebanon bad. They're ranked second in the country (by USA Today), we're third. It's a great way to end the season."

If there was one negative that came out of this game for the



Angel Vezza

Lady Quakers, it was injury.

Neither Vezza nor Retallick was crazy about playing on North Allegheny's artificial field, and the injury totaled why. Vezza had five injuries, including his left knee. Angel Vezza, who wears number 10, was the final period with a bruised knee.

"Everyone should be in the finals except Angel Vezza. He added that Jusko will probably start in place.

"I'll use anyone on the bench," he said. "The kids off the bench (tonight) will get the job."

As Vezza had hoped, he is slated to face Mt. Lebanon earlier this week in the game of the season for the WPIAL championship.

Letters to the editor

'Soccer Mom' raps Herald sports teaser

To the editor:

As the parent of a Sewickley soccer player, I am writing to protest the front-page "Inside" teaser, "QV and SA gear up for a grudge match."

My son is a dedicated and determined soccer player, as are many of his friends. These boys, who go to both QV and SA, have played together on Sewickley Area soccer for years.

They respect each other, their sport and a fair competitive match. They are competitors on the field and friends off. They are clean players and good kids.

Any hostility between these teams (or these schools) is old news. The Herald's efforts to in-

flame dormant ill-will and promote a "grudge" does a disservice to our community and negates the positive aspects of good sport and competition. We need to affirm the harmony these kids have found through their sport and the modeling of their adult coaches.

The game played made me proud of both teams and of the product of Sewickley Area soccer. It was a close match, a well-played clean game.

Good luck to both teams.

Sign me,
Soccer Mom

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Sewickley Herald



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Victory!

QUAKER VALLEY varsity girls' soccer coach Don Veza rubs the WPIAL championship plaque for all to see at last week's league finals in Moon Township. Both the boys and girls varsity soccer teams won their respective WPIAL titles this year. For the story, see page 15.
(Photo by George S. Gaadt)

Sports



SENIOR TRI-CAPTAINS, from left, Julie Poister, Bridget Sullivan and Emily Bikowski hold up the WPIAL championship plaque that the QV girls' soccer team claimed last week.



CARRYING ON by the fans and players in a post-game pile-up caused Jen Tedesko to receive a hairline fracture on her ankle, but head coach Dom Veza helped carry her to a photo session.

QV girls win it all

Lady Quakers claim WPIAL soccer title

By Rich Bottles Jr.

Staff writer

Hell hath no fury like a Lady Devil scorned.

The Mt. Lebanon girls' soccer team had been enjoying a slightly better ranking than Quaker Valley in the WPIAL polls and the national USA Today surveys for months. So it just didn't seem right when QV scored first in last week's league championship.

The Blue Devils' frustration in not being able to score and tie

the game reached a climax in the final 10 minutes, when a Mt. Lebanon senior socked a QV forward in the head.

The red card infraction sent the Mt. Lebanon player to the sideline to watch helplessly as her team continued to be thwarted by the QV defense.

And when the final buzzer brought a barrage of fans from out of the stands, forming a giant mound atop the Quakers and kicking up a cloud of sawdust at midfield, the ejected player was making her own dust

storm on the sideline.

No amount of consolation from her coaches, parents and fellow players could stop the Lady Devil from beating her fists on the ground and blaming herself for the team's three-year stint of just missing a WPIAL championship title.

But in the sport of soccer, a win is a team win and a loss is a team loss. No one knows this better than veteran coaches such as Mt. Lebanon's Tom Blueming.

"They just played a smart game," said head coach Blueming on QV's victory. "Their goalkeeper played an outstanding game and was really active

in the box."

Most of the interviews were taking place on the other side of the field, however, where a WPXI-TV camera was trying to get a shot of QV head coach Dom Veza amidst a throng of excited players and fans.

"I think it's just great for the high school to take both the boys' and girls' WPIAL (titles this year)," Veza emphasized after breaking free from the crowd.

Happy that the QV offense was finally able to break the scoreless deadlock early in the fourth quarter, Veza specifically credited his midfielders, defenders and goalkeeper for

securing the shutout.

"I told them in the first quarter — one goal and it would be all over," concluded Veza. "My mids didn't let me down, and my defense didn't let me down."

When it came time for the team to pose for a final photo opportunity, Veza helped carry one of his injured players over to the cameras.

After having contributed to the QV victory throughout the match, sophomore Jen Tedesko waited until the game ended to receive a hairline fracture on her ankle underneath the midfield pile-up.

Quaker Valley soccer shuts out top-ranked Mt. Lebo

Liz Gaadt records win on direct kick attempt
By Rich Bottles Jr.

Staff writer

"I want a team effort," Quaker Valley head coach Dom Vezza reminded his players before they pulled off their sweatpants and ran out into the 18-degree weather to claim the 1991 Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Championship.

The brisk night air surrounding Moon High School's stadium last week didn't stop the Lady Quakers from monopolizing the ball in Mt. Lebanon territory for the first two minutes.

The action began to even out as the opening 20-minute quarter progressed, but target Julie McDaniel and midfielder Emily Bikowski continued to Walendasize the ball along the sidelines whenever they got the opportunity.

Such opportunities often materialized as the Quakers physically challenged the opposition for possession. For instance, the Mt. Lebanon Water Authority put out a conservation alert when it heard that a lot of hair-washing was expected as a result of players tumbling head over heels on the dusty field.

Between quarters of the scoreless first half, Coach Vezza complimented his midfielders



CAMERA CREWMEMBERS from the Foodland-Pepsi High School Sports Week show line up to interview senior Liz Gaadt, who scored the goal that won QV a league championship last week in Moon Township.

and defenders, but added, "The forwards are not as involved. I need you to be more aggressive."

And when a chant from Mt. Lebanon's side of the field took his players' attention away from what he was saying, Vezza commented, "They can cheer all they want, gang. They haven't done anything yet."

Thirty seconds into the second quarter, the pressure was back

on QV goalkeeper Liz Neidlinger to make more saves while the opposing goalie was planning an early retirement.

Not afraid to come out of the net to challenge an oncoming offender, the junior goalie kicked away a couple of Mt. Lebanon drives that would even make Gary Anderson proud.

Over the coughs and sniffles of the players at halftime, Vezza warned his squad not to be in-

timidated by the fact that they were playing in a championship game.

"Play your normal game and don't panic," he said. "It's just another ballgame. You've been playing varsity all year."

Whereas the Mt. Lebanon goalie had only one shot by Ms. McDaniel to contend with in the first half, she was kept quite busy in the third quarter, when Kara Csensich and Kari

Wheeler delivered strong shots her way.

Although the game remained scoreless at the end of the third quarter, Vezza realized that the fourth frame may offer the best opportunities for QV.

"Now's the time to put it in the net," he explained between quarters. "You guys put it to them in the third quarter, so let's follow it up."

When Mt. Lebanon was given a charging call with 13:07 minutes left to play and the ball was set up for a QV direct kick, the crowd seemed to sense that the Quakers' time had come.

The girls on the QV bench left their blankets behind to get a closer look at the action and many fans in the bleachers rose to their feet.

The direct kick was sized up for the shoe of Liz Gaadt, who sent the ball hurling 32 yards through the air and directly into the bottom left corner of the goal.

Mt. Lebanon desperately tried to tie the score in the final minutes, but QV held on to claim the league title with its 18th shutout of the season.

The 1991 Lady Quakers, who weren't scored upon in the playoffs, ended their championship season with a perfect 25-0-0 record.

Because girls' soccer is played during the spring in the eastern half of the state, there is no PIAA state championship available.

A Gateway Publications Newspaper

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Sewickley Herald

Wednesday, November 20, 1991

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QV spirit defeats Holy Ghost

Boys soccer team comes home with PIAA championship trophy

The Quaker Valley High School soccer team returned home victoriously from Shippensburg Saturday night — complete with a police escort, cheering supporters and the state trophy.

Earlier in the day, QV defeated Holy Ghost Prep 1-0 to win the PIAA Class AA championship, thanks in large part to senior Ben McKnight, who scored on a penalty shot in the third period to break a scoreless tie.

McKnight, the Quakers' leading scorer, was awarded the penalty shot when a Holy Ghost defender was called for a hand ball in the penalty box at 4:28 of the third period.

"Ben hadn't missed a penalty shot all year," Quaker Valley Coach Gene Klein said, "so I was confident he'd make it. And with the history of this game, I knew one goal was all it might take."

Klein was referring to the fact that the last two PIAA-AA final games have been scoreless ties. Peters Township and Great Valley were declared co-champs in 1989,

and Hampton and Great Valley shared the championship last year.

"We wanted to win it outright," explained McKnight. "We wanted to decide it on the field."

Senior captain Jeff Vorberger was solid on defense despite being bothered by a pulled back muscle he received during a practice last week.

"We've been dreaming of a state title for three years, and no way was I going to sit out this game," explained Vorberger. "The first three minutes I could hardly move, let alone run, but then it started to loosen up some. I guess the adrenaline helped."

The Quakers, the WPIAL Class AA champions, faced an onslaught from the Holy Ghost offense in the final period; but goaltender Mike Birely stopped everything he faced, including four shots during the last 10 minutes of the game.

"They came at us with everything they had," said Klein. "They wouldn't quit; they kept the pressure on us. We had to come up

big."

Junior Keith Kelly and senior Pete Noll played critical defensive roles for the Quakers in shutting down the Holy Ghost offense.

"Keith was responsible for us even being in the final game," explained McKnight. "He cleared a ball with his head in the semi-finals (against Elco) that was a sure goal. I've seen the tape, and I still can't believe he stopped it."

The Quakers also received strong performances from the midfielders. Junior Dan Gebhart and McKnight closely marked Holy Ghost's Joe Nick, the firebird's biggest offensive threat.

"Our outside midfielder play has been one of the strengths of this team all season," Klein said. They are the best pair of outside midfielders Quaker Valley has ever had."

The Quakers finished the season 26-1.

For photos of the game, see page 15.



PHIL OXENDINE knows how to use his head against QV's opponents.

(Photo by George Gaadt)

Sports



HEAD COACH Gene Klein enjoys post-game celebration with his players.

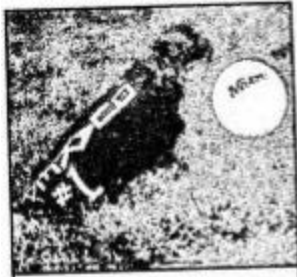


SENIOR BEN MCKNIGHT, who scored the game's winning goal, chases after the ball with a Holy Ghost defender in hot pursuit.

Champions!

Photos by George S. Gaadt

Boys soccer team finishes season 26-1 after victory on Saturday



SNICKERS, the QV mascot, "pawses" to assess the action.



HAPPY MEMBERS of the Quaker Valley boys soccer team swarm on the field to celebrate their state championship victory against Holy Ghost Prep on Saturday.



QV FORWARD Phil Oxendine attempts to head off a pass by a Holy Ghost player during Saturday's championship game.



ENTHUSIASTIC CHEERLEADERS gather in front of QV High School to show their support for the boys' soccer team.

Sports

QV girls soccer goalie wins WPXI sports award

By Chris Studebaker

Staff writer

When Quaker Valley goalkeeper Liz Neidlinger recorded her 10th shutout of the season to lead her team to a 1-0 victory over Mt. Lebanon and a WPIAL AA girls' soccer championship, she gave much of the credit to her teammates.

And when she was honored with the Foodland/Pepsi Athlete of the Week award by WPXI-TV last week for her performance in the championship game, again she passed some of the credit to her teammates and Quakers Coach Dom Vezza.

"My teammates and coach are the ones that really made this count," said Ms. Neidlinger. "I want to thank them for all they have done."

The 16-year-old QV junior received the award from WPXI-TV sports anchor Mark Malone at a ceremony on the front steps of the high school. The students also gathered to send off the boys soccer team, which was

departing for its state playoff game in Shippensburg on Saturday.

"She really deserves this award for the way she played against Mt. Lebanon," Vezza said. She was on top of her game. She was definitely one of the deciding factors (in the 1-0 victory)."

Ms. Neidlinger, who has been playing soccer since the fourth grade, joined the soccer team her freshman year, but only played part-time.

This season she recorded 18 shutouts, including her last three starts.

During the championship game against Mt. Lebanon, Ms. Neidlinger frustrated her opponents by keeping them off the scoreboard. "Their goalkeeper played an outstanding game," said Mt. Lebanon coach Tom Blueming.

The girls team completed its season with a 23-0 record and was ranked number one in the nation by USA Today's National Soccer Coaches Association poll.



QV JUNIOR Liz Neidlinger proudly shows off her Athlete of the Week award with girls' soccer coach Dom Vezza (left) and WPXI-TV sportscaster Mark Malone.

Editorials



VICTORY! The QV boys soccer team and Coach Gene Klein whoop it up after winning the championship.



SEWICKLEY MAYOR William H. Colbert reads a proclamation naming the week of Nov. 18 as "Quaker Valley School Athletic Achievement Week."

Thanks for the memories, QV

It's something they'll tell their children about. New generations of students at Quaker Valley High School will hear the names of these legends of 1991 resound through the hallowed halls.

This championship season.

Boys and girls, coaches of the Quaker Valley soccer teams — our hats are off to you.

Two trophies!

When we learned that the QV girls soccer team had capped a victory against Mt. Lebanon and earned the WPIAL soccer title, that seemed enough for any school. Then, we

anxiously waited to see if the boys would be able to bring home the PIAA championship trophy.

It seemed too much to dream.

But the tooting horns and the police sirens would have awakened anyone to reality as the QV boys returned in triumph following their victory in Shippensburg against Holy Ghost.

Of course, let's not allow the parents of the boys and girls to be forgotten in all this celebration. In some ways, the moms and dads deserve the biggest applause of all.

They're the ones who kept the kids on the

straight and narrow and took them to practices all those years, beginning way back in elementary school.

Let's also not forget what all of us derive from teams such as these. Competitive athletics teaches youth self discipline, the social skills of working with a group toward a common goal, and the satisfaction of knowing that hard work pays off in the end.

That sounds like a time-tested formula for producing tomorrow's good citizens — a tomorrow when those QV athletes of today look back as successful adults and remember that championship season.

PROCLAMATION

IN RECOGNITION OF THE QUAKER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT'S GIRLS' AND BOYS' CHAMPIONSHIP PIAA SOCCER TEAMS

WHEREAS, both the girls' and the boys' soccer teams of Quaker Valley in 1991 are PIAA champions in their respective divisions and have achieved national acclaim for their accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, never before in the history of the school have both girls' and boys' teams earned championships in the same year; and

WHEREAS, the entire Quaker Valley Community is proud of our young women and young men for what they have achieved and wishes to express our collective appreciation to them; and now

THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM H. COLBERT, Mayor of Sewickley Borough, one of the component areas of Quaker Valley, wish to congratulate each and every member of the girls' and the boys' teams with the sincere admiration they deserve; and

I HEREBY PROCLAIM and DECLARE that the week beginning November 18, 1991 be Quaker Valley School Athletic Achievement Week.

Proclaimed this 18th day of November, 1991


Mayor, Sewickley Borough

Mayoral proclamation

FANS AND friends of Quaker Valley School District's boys and girls soccer teams know the accomplishments of these student-athletes are extra special. So much so that the championship teams, which combined for a record of 51-1, were honored with the issuance of a mayoral proclamation by William Colbert, Sewickley mayor.

School news



Stadium cushions help raise funds

The celebration continues for the champion Quaker Valley girls soccer team.

And the success of the girls' No. 1 ranking nationally is not something its fans have to take — well — standing up.

The soccer boosters organization is raising funds to support the girls' efforts this year through the sale of stadium seat cushions that fans can use, no matter the season.

Linda Hoehl, fund-raiser chair, says area businesses and professionals have been quick to support the project financially. This will help pay for the celebration banquet, trophy, and meals for

away games.

The black and gold "QV Varsity Sports" cushions are on sale for \$5 at Giant Eagle.

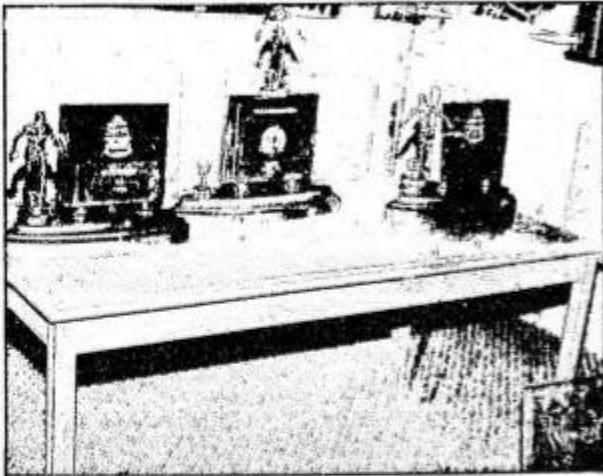
"John Guido, the store manager, has given us super support, and Giant Eagle is our largest contributor," Ms. Hoehl said. "Stores, doctors, contractors — everyone has pitched in."

The Quaker Valley girls soccer team, which finished the season undefeated, kicked off the cushion sales earlier this month in front of the Giant Eagle store in Leetsdale.

They will continue sales to individuals and organizations in upcoming events.

ASHLEY HOEHL (above) sells stadium cushions as part of the soccer boosters organization fund-raiser. The cushion, itself, is shown at right. (Photos by Doug Kaup).

Sports



THE TROPHIES on display at Sewickley Municipal Building.

QV Soccer teams honored

In praise of a championship season, Sewickley Mayor William Colbert honored the Quaker Valley High School boys and girls soccer teams with a proclamation and ceremony lauding their accomplishments.

Among those attending the event were Jeanne Johnson, principal of Quaker Valley High School; boys soccer coach Gene Klein; and Quaker Valley athletic director Ed Perry.



THE CHAMPS: From left, Jeanne Johnson, Quaker Valley High School principal; Julie Poister, Coach Gene Klein; Jeff Vorberger; Leroy Kite, QV superintendent; Sewickley Mayor William Colbert; Bridget Sullivan; Emily Bikowski; and Ed Perry QV athletic director.

Letter to the editor

Kudos continue to pour in for Quaker Valley champs

To the editor:

Last week, I picked up my USA Today to learn that Quaker Valley Womens' soccer team had captured the number-one ranking in the nation. This week I telephoned home to learn the

Quaker Valley Men's soccer team was once again crowned state champions.

From halfway across the country, I not only offer my congratulations to both teams, but to the parents and community

who have, for more than 15 years now, supported Sewickley Area Soccer.

The young men and women on these championship teams could not have done it without your guidance, dedication and support. You were the ones who volunteered your time to be head and assistant coaches and then attended classes to improve your coaching skills. You were the ones who drove the kids to their games (both home and away) and patiently endured many a 0-0 tie.

"As long as they were having

fun," you'd say with a smile. You lined the field, sliced the oranges and found for fields when there were none available. You gave the Sewickley area soccer.

So to all those men and women out there who are and have been a part of Seiwckely Area Soccer for years, I thank you for offering the most valuable gift in the world — your time. Part of both the Quaker Valley soccer trophies belongs to you!

Sincerely,
Karen Logsdon
Chicago