

SPORTS

▼ IN-BRIEF

SAS holds registration

Sewickley Area Soccer (SAS) signup is under way for the 1998 spring season. Forms are available at the United Men's Store, Beaver Street, Sewickley.

Personal Sign-up day is Saturday, Jan. 31, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Sportrak Indoor Soccer Arena. Registration will officially close at 2 p.m. that day. A late fee will be charged after this date.

Coed leagues and girls' leagues will be offered in all eligible age groups. Micro soccer will be offered for the youngest players. Children born between Aug. 1, 1990, and July 31, 1991, are eligible for micro soccer.

The season will commence on the weekend of March 28.

Any parent interested in being a coach or assistant can tell SAS officials on Jan. 31, or call Bill Castle at 741-7852. Coaching classes will be available throughout the year.

Feb. 9, at 7:30 p.m., in room 111, of the high school.

The following nominations are: Patty Bajek, secretary; Martha Murdock, treasurer; Mary Gaab-vice president; and Jim Jensen, president.

ADIEU MEN'S STORE



BEGINNING RETIREMENT are Leo and Lois Moss of Leetsdale, who will close United Men's Store. The men's clothing shop has been a fixture in Sewickley for more than 50 years.



Mosses retire after 15 years, bringing close to an era

By Jim Gallagher
Assistant editor

The United Men's Store has made its way in the Village for more than 50 years.

Its run will take its place in the memories of its patrons as owners Leo and Lois Moss pack up the last pair of soccer shoes and shin guards and begin their retirement.

The store has been a part of Sewickley since the early '40s, originally as United Workingman's Store.

Only a handful of area businesses have kept going as long.

The Mosses took over in 1981 — after the store had changed locations from a spot near the Sewickley Hotel and then next to what now is the Nickelodeon Mall — and shortened the name.

The Mosses bought the store recently after Leo finished working

"It's been very good here. We've paid our dues. Now it's time to relax a little bit."

— Leo Moss, men's store co-owner

for the Peace Corps, a job that took his family to the Malaysian island Yap and the corps' Washington, D.C., office.

The store's foray into the soccer equipment market came at just the right time.

Leo already was familiar with the sport, having served as a soccer coach and administrator while in Maryland, when a salesman bearing soccer shoes visited.

Leo jokes they bought enough shoes to last five years. The shoes came in two varieties and cost \$11 and \$14.

But, there were no other soccer

supply stores in western Pennsylvania and the sport took off.

"Soccer was starting to grow very rapidly. People were coming from all over," Leo recalls.

At the time, about 5,000 kids were involved with soccer. Leo estimates today's number at 52,000.

They sold all of the shoes and opened soccer supply stores in Monroeville and Wexford.

The Mosses sold the stores — Soccer North and Soccer Outlet — a few years ago.

Leo started the Sewickley Soccer Association in 1982 with 30 kids and two teams that had to travel to play.

He was named "Coach of the Year" by Pennsylvania West Soccer Association.

A year later, the Herald recognized him as "Man of the Year" for his efforts.

Leo now coaches four teams for

Sewickley Soccer Association and the state association.

"It's been very good here," he says. "We've paid our dues. Now it's time to relax a little bit."

With their business endeavor behind them, the couple will enjoy a partnership that began 45 years ago on a blind date.

Lois recalls their meeting:

"He said, 'Aren't you ever quiet?'" Then, with a smile, she adds, "I fixed him for that."

In his retirement, Leo hopes to start another soccer team.

His wife, who fulfilled one dream when she visited the pyramids in Egypt, wants to have coffee on the Bosphorus and visit Walden Pond.

With shelves bare and racks naked, Lois says their retirement is bitter-sweet.

"It was like having a party without cooking," she says.