



Registration open for the 2008 Bay State Summer Games

Apr 02, 2008

Weymouth - The Massachusetts Amateur Sports Foundation (MASF) is pleased to announce that registration for the 2008 Bay State Summer Games is now open. The annual Olympic-style amateur sports festival features 24 individual, team, and festival sports. Opportunities to compete in the games are available for a wide range of ages and athletic abilities.

Competitions are offered in archery, badminton, baseball, basketball, baton twirling, diving, fencing, field hockey, ice hockey, judo, juniors' basketball, lacrosse, shooting, soccer, softball, swimming, synchronized swimming, table tennis, tennis, track and field, volleyball, wrestling, 6 v 6 field hockey and 7v7 soccer.

Distinguishing characteristics of the Bay State Games include giving T-shirts to all participants, medals and award jackets to top finishers, hosting an Opening Ceremony for all athletes, affordable participation fees, and providing athletes in some sports with valuable exposure to college scouts. The Bay State Summer Games, which started as an event with 300 participants in four sports, has since grown to include almost 7,000 athletes in 24 sports. Age requirements for athletes differ by sport, as does divisions offered and registration deadlines.

The 2008 Bay State Summer Games are scheduled for Monday, July 7, through Sunday, July 20. The metro Boston area is home to the first weekend of finals July 7-13, while central Mass. hosts events from July 15-20. Regional qualifiers as well as tryouts for team sports will take place throughout June. Bay State Games events are held at top-notch venues including Bentley College, MIT, Mass Premier Courts, New England Sports Center and UMass Boston.

High school students who are in 11th grade during the 2007-08 academic year and tryout for the 2008 Summer Games are also eligible for the Verizon Future Leaders Scholarship Program. The Scholarship Program, which awards six \$2,000 College scholarships to Bay State Games participants each summer, aims to identify young men and women who will be tomorrow's leaders.

Registration forms and sport specific information can be found in the Bay State Summer Games publication, with your local high school athletic director, or at the Bay State Games' Web site. For updated information about tryout dates, sport specific information, scholarship forms, volunteer information and registration deadlines, visit the Games Web site at www.baystategames.org/summer or call the Bay State Games office at 781-932-6555.

Reagan hangs up his skates

By Mark Ducharme
Thu Apr 03, 2008

Hingham - Garrett Reagan laughed about his future over the phone, "I guess that I have to get a real job now."

Reagan, after 26 seasons of coaching Hingham High hockey announced his retirement to his players at the school last Friday. The veteran coach still enjoys what he has been doing, but felt that it was a perfect time for him to move on.

"I still love hockey and have the passion (to coach)," said Reagan. "I just felt that it was the right time to step down as head coach. This has been in the process for a while and felt that it was the right time. I will still be involved with hockey in some way."

"I hate to see Garrett retire," said Hingham athletic director Bill Barges, who is also retiring after the school year. "We talked about it, but we didn't make it official until Friday. He could have told the team at the banquet, but he did not want to do it, because it was the kid's night."

"Garrett is a great coach. I have met no one that knows more about hockey than him. He is known around here and nationally as well. He put Hingham hockey on the map."

In his 26 years, Reagan had over 400 wins, three state titles and six appearances in the Super Eight, including this year. Reagan was proud of this year's team because of their work ethic that he felt was the key in getting them to the tournament.

"I told the kids at the banquet the other night," Reagan said. "They have a model of how it should be done (for next year). We had a lot of new forwards and defensemen. We knew their work ethic was there and we knew that we would be a good team."

"Over the years, people have asked me which team or which player was the best. I never looked at it that way. Every year, we had high expectations coming into the season and it was because of the work ethic the kids brought."

Reagan felt that his success also came from a staff that has worked a long time together. He is hoping that his replacement will be a member of his present staff, Tony Messina.

"We were talking about the continuity the staff has had," he said. "We have over 90 years of high school experience between all of the assistant coaches. I am going to strongly recommend that Tony Messina take over. Tony played four years of high school at Hingham and has been with me for the last 24 years. He bring the continuity to the program."

"Garrett did all of the scheduling," said Barges. "We play one of the toughest schedules in the state. He didn't duck anyone. Garrett did it the right way. His team won the Malloy Sportsmanship award four times. There is not another team that has won the sportsmanship award and played at such a high level."

"There will be an adjustment, but I will be recommending Tony Messina. Tony is an extremely dedicated coach. We will lose one of the best coaches in the state, but we will be recommending one of the top assistant coaches in the state. I have the confidence in Tony, that he will make it a smooth transition."

However, despite the great success, Reagan is more proud of what his kids have done in getting into college.

"We have had great kids," Reagan said. "It is not so much about the wins and losses. There have so many kids that have come through the program. There have been a lot that have played college hockey. The kids have gone on to get their degrees and be a part of society. I am proud of what they have done with their chance to get the education more.

"I was not going to make this my victory lap this year. The season and the banquet were about the kids. It was not about me. The kids had a great season."

Reagan's final year has been eventful. He was named along with his long time friend, Buddy Ferreira, who coaches Falmouth in the Massachusetts Hockey Hall of Fame.

"The Mass Hockey Hall of Fame is set up for hockey in the state for Mites through the Olympics," Reagan said. "We were selected for what we have done over the years coaching high school, being involved with the Mass coach association (Reagan and Ferreira have both serve terms as President of the organization), the Chicago Showcase and the [Bay State Games](#).

"It is great for Hingham to get the recognition. It is a tribute to a lot of hard work. We have had great kids, great assistant coaches and the administration has been helpful. This does not happen by accident."

"The honor was well deserved," said Hingham football coach Paul Killinger. "I don't know why it took so long. I know that he has taught me a lot (about coaching). He is an old school type of coach. We have spent a lot of talking about coaching over the summer."

Reagan grew up in Belmont and played high school hockey at Belmont High before continuing his career at Boston College. He got his masters at the University of Pennsylvania and is Certified Financial Analyst.

He has coached the Harbormen to 10 league championships, three in the Old Colony League and seven in the Atlantic Coast League before Hingham began its independent schedule in 2000.

Since Hingham played its independent schedule, the Harbormen have won a state title and played in the Super Eight six times.

TAUNTON DAILY GAZETTE

Taunton girls win 4th title

**By Steven Sanchez Staff Writer
GateHouse News Service**

Taunton — The 6th grade Taunton Youth Basketball team continues to grab the headlines.

The Lightning recently won their fourth championship of the season at the Berkley Spring Slam tournament.

Beside its most recent title, Taunton also captured the Franklin February School Vacation Invitational tournament.

In the finals, the Lightning saved their best for the last game of the year. Taunton avenged an early loss in the tournament to Tiverton, R. I. by beating them in overtime during the finals of the Berkley Spring Slam, 28-25.

Alisha Silva led the Lightning with a game-high 18 points, including six in OT to seal the victory. Lauren DeSousa added four while Molly Shea and Kailey March capped the scoring with three points apiece.

A great defensive first half for both teams produced just an 8-7 Tiverton lead at the break.

But the Lightning came out strong in the second half, taking a quick 3-point lead.

The game came down to the final moments of regulation.

Taunton's Molly Shea sank two key free throws that gave the Lightning a two-point lead with a little more than one minute to play.

But Tiverton forced overtime by scoring a last second basket.

In overtime, the Lightning controlled the tip and took a quick lead on a 3-point basket by Silva. The lead grew as high as five points in the extra session before Taunton hung on for a tight three-point victory.

Here's a recap at the other Lightning games in the tournament.

Game 1

Lightning 38

Berkley 13

The Lightning opened the Berkley Spring Slam in strong fashion. Taunton used team basketball to secure its first win of the tournament against the host team Berkley. Alisha Silva led a balanced scoring attack with 12 points. Heather Gaudette chipped in with eight points while Amy Boutin and Lauren DeSousa finished with six each.

Alana DaRosa and Shawna LaPlante combined for six points. Defensively Kailey March, Allyiah Wright-Clay, Molly Shea and Angelica Mercado were terrific.

Game 2

Tiverton R.I. 43

Lightning 31

Taunton suffered its first loss of the season against a strong, physical Tiverton, R. I. team.

Tiverton took the lead late in the second half and never looked back. The Lightning managed to take the lead at halftime, 19-18. In the second half, the Rhode Island team used its height to take a lead for good. The Lightning did pull to within four points with five minutes remaining, but that is the closest they would come the rest of the game.

Offensively, Taunton was led by Alisha Silva with 14 points. Molly Shea was next with nine points.

Heather Gaudette added four while Allyiah Wright-Clay and Angelica Mercado scored a basket

Defensively, the Lightning received strong play from Amy Boutin, Kailey March, Alana DaRosa and Lauren DeSousa.

Game 3

Lightning 35

Fairhaven 14

The Lightning Girls secured a spot in the championship with a blowout win over Fairhaven.

The Lightning made a statement right away by taking a 17-2 halftime lead. In the second half, Taunton worked on fine-tuning things to get ready for the championship rematch against Tiverton.

Offensively the Lightning were led by Alisha Silva once again with 14 points. Lauren DeSousa (nine points) and Molly Shea (six points) rounded out the scoring leaders. Amy Boutin, Allyiah Wright-Clay and Angelica Mercado also finished with a basket.

Defensive standouts were Kailey March and Alana DaRosa.

The MetroWest regular season and playoff champions finishes the season at 23-1. Scores and results were sent to the Daily Gazette.

ELKS HOOPS SHOOT CONTEST

Taunton's Shaquille Davis recently placed third at the Elks Regional Hoop Shoot contest in Portland, Maine.

Davis, who is the Massachusetts champion and representative from the Taunton Lodge Elks Club #150, finished with a score of 20-of-25 from the charity stripe in the 12-13 year old boys' division.

He finished behind New Hampshire state champ Tom O'Hearn, who drained 23-of-25.

BAY STATE GAMES

Signups are currently underway for the 27th edition of the **Bay State Games**. The annual sports extravaganza features 24 individual, team and festival sports. Opportunities to compete in the Games are available for a wide range of ages and athletic abilities.

Age requirements for athletes differ by sport, as do divisions offered and registration deadlines.

The 2008 Bay State Summer Games are scheduled for July 7-20.

For more information, please visit the Games' Web site at www.baystategames.org/summer or call the Bay State Games' office at (781) 932-6555.

O-ZONE ACADEMY

The O-Zone Basketball Academy will be hosting a clinic for girls, grades 3 through 9 on June 23-26 at Bridgewater-Raynham High School.

The clinic, which is open to girls from any towns, runs from 9:00 a.m. - 3 p.m.

An "Early Bird Rate" of \$125, rather than the regular \$140 rate, is applied if received before May 31.

The O-Zone Academy will focus on teaching the solid fundamentals of Basketball in a fun, positive and upbeat environment for players to learn in. Players will receive individual attention and instruction.

Their age and ability is evaluated and considered when forming teams.

Each player also receives a clinic T-shirt and player evaluation.

Nicole Orlando is the director at the O-Zone Academy and the girls' varsity basketball coach at B-R.

Her staff is comprised of outstanding coaches and players from the high school and college ranks.

Enrollment is limited and applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information and a registration form, call Orlando at (339) 364-0849 or reach her by e-mail at norlando12@comcast.net.

You can also visit the website at www.ozonebasketball.com.

TAUNTON WEST LITTLE LEAGUE

The Taunton West Little League will be holding a special Opening Day ceremony to begin the 2008 season this Saturday at the complex on Norton Avenue.

The event is called "Kevin Fagan Day" named after a local man who tragically passed away in February.

Fagan, formally a member of the Orioles and a TWLL All-Star, played in 1995 for a state finalist team that advanced to Beverly.

Fagan, along with five of his brothers, went through the TWLL system and his parents were always first in line to volunteer.

Blade Runner

By Harlan Sherwin
Tue Apr 08, 2008

Norton - Last summer, 13-year-old Kaitlyn Heyden of Norton began her figure skating career. She started by taking group lessons, and was progressing at a very fast rate. Heyden then decided to try out for her middle school's all-boy hockey team, and actually made the squad. But the hockey coach was concerned about her small size, and urged her to take more skating lessons.

Undaunted, Heyden returned to her group skating lessons, and caught the eye of some skating coaches at her rink. By October, highly regarded skating coach Jeannie Glick had taken the young skater under her wing, and there has been no stopping her since. Only four months later, she found herself competing in the **Bay State Games** where as the youngest girl in the 13-16-year-old preliminary category, she took an amazing fourth place.

After only a short time of individual coaching, Heyden performed a one-and-a-half minute routine at the **Bay State Games**, accompanied by the "Theme from Harry Potter." During her performance, she successfully completed a Beilman, where she skated backwards at a fast pace into a spin, and then placed one skate over her head while holding on to her skate blade. She also did a layback spin, in which she spun around while her back was arched. In addition she completed five jumps, including two toe-pick jumps, a lutz, loop and a flip.

Glick told Heyden that she was her first student who did so well at the **Bay State Games**, without getting nervous. The coach also said that Heyden has come so far so fast, she is not sure how far her young skater can go.

Perhaps it is not as surprising to learn of Heyden's lightning quick development when you realize that her father, grandfather, and brother were accomplished hockey players and skaters.

Meanwhile Heyden continues to progress under Glick, and currently practices four days a week, for a minimum of two hours a day. Her immediate goal is to qualify for the Skate America competition in Colorado Springs next year. In order to do this, she will have to finish third or better in next February's **Bay State Games**. Then she would be competing against girls from all over the country.

While skating training sessions are rigorous work, Kaitlyn is fortunate enough to train with her best friend Rachel Bain of Mansfield, who also uses coach Glick, and who competed against her in the **Bay State Games**. "It's really great to be able to train with my best friend," Heyden said. She is also friendly with Melissa Brown, a veteran 13-year-old skater from Foxboro, and another Glick student. Brown finished second in the 13-16 year old category at the Games, and has already qualified for Skate America.

No one will be surprised if Heyden joins her friend in Colorado Springs next year.



Sports Briefs

Fri Apr 11, 2008

Amesbury - St. Marie earns top student-athlete honor

New England College junior soccer player Jocelyn St. Marie of Amesbury will be inducted into the Chi Alpha Sigma National Honor Society this spring. Chi Sigma Alpha honors college student-athletes who receive a varsity letter in their sport while maintaining a 3.4 or higher GPA throughout their junior and senior years.

Amesbury LL Cage Night at Extra Innings

The Amesbury Little League will hold a fundraiser at Extra Innings, Rte.110 in Salisbury on Friday, April 11 from 5 to 8 p.m. Proceeds from token sales for the batting cages will be donated to the league by Extra Innings. The Green Company will match any proceeds collected.

Amesbury LL Flatbread fundraiser

The Amesbury Little League will have a fundraiser at the Flatbread Co. at 5 Market Square on Tuesday, April 15 from 4 to 10 p.m. For every Flatbread pizza purchased the Flatbread Co. will give a portion back to ALL. The Flatbread Co. can be reached at 978-834-9800.

ASA schedules Flatbread fundraiser

The Amesbury Soccer Association (ASA) is hosting a fundraiser at Flatbread on Tuesday, April 29. Plan to come down and enjoy dinner with your family while benefiting ASA at the same time. Raffle tickets will be sold for a chance to win a week of Soccer Camp at the New England Soccer School or four tickets to the Revolutions game on May 17.

ASA Youth Development Program

Amesbury Soccer Association, in conjunction with New England Soccer School, is hosting a Youth Development Soccer Program for boys and girls ages 4-8 to develop their soccer skills. The program will be held Saturday mornings from April 19 through May 17, 8:15 to 9:15 for U6, and 9:30 to 10:30 for U8 at the New England Soccer School.

Registration will be held on Tuesday, April 8 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at New England Soccer School, 20 South Hunt Road. The program cost is \$50. Checks should be payable to ASA. For more information please contact Margaret McCarthy at mmcarthy@amesburyyouthsoccer.org.

Children should wear shin pads, socks to cover the shin pads, and sneakers. Cleats are optional. Please also bring size 3 soccer ball and a water bottle.

Hampton Falls Road Race

The 14th Annual Hampton Falls Road Race will take place on Saturday, May 10 at the Lincoln Akerman School in Hampton Falls, NH. The race is sponsored by the Lincoln Akerman School PTO and all proceeds benefit the PTO.

The 5 mile course winds along beautiful country roads while the 5K route passes through a scenic apple orchard. There is also a Kids Fun Run and a 3 Mile Fitness Walk.

Number pickup and race day registration begin at 7:15 a.m. in the Lincoln Akerman School gym. The one mile Fun Run (ages 7-12) begins at 8:00 a.m., followed by the 5 Mile, 5K, and Fitness Walk at 8:30 a.m., and the Field Race (6 and under) at 9:30 a.m.

Pre-entry fee for the 5M/5K or the Fitness Walk is \$15 (\$18 race day), 1M is \$8 (\$10 race day), and the Field Race is free. T shirts are guaranteed to all pre-registered runners and walkers. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three overall in the 5M and 5K races.

Online registration and information is available at www.hfroadrace.org . Additional contacts are available via: email hfroadrace@hotmail.com, telephone (603) 926-1123 or (603) 772-5442, and Fax (603) 929-3708.

Summer hoop league registration

Sign up online for the Eastern Basketball Reebok Summer League 2008 for Boys and Girls from 4th graded through high school at Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School and Gordon College. Register at www.easternhoopleague.com.

There are two games a week beginning Sunday, June 22 for five weeks and then a double elimination playoff with the finals on Sunday, Aug. 10. Full teams or individuals may sign up. Kids will be grouped by town upon request for carpooling. There will be teams of Boys and Girls who are presently in 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th 8th, 9th and JV grades!

For more information contact Doug Lindland at doug@easternhoopleague.com, or call 978-468-2040.

Registration for **Bay State Summer Games**

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High school students who are in 11th grade during the 2007-08 academic year and try out for the 2008 Summer Games are also eligible for the Verizon Future Leaders Scholarship Program. The Scholarship Program awards six \$2,000 college scholarships to Bay State Games participants each summer.

Registration forms and sport specific information can be found in the Bay State Summer Games publication, with your local high school athletic director, or at the Bay State Games' Web site. For updated information about tryout dates, sport specific information, scholarship forms, volunteer information, and registration deadlines, visit www.baystategames.org/summer or call the Bay State Games' office at 781-932-6555.

Tim Thomas hockey camps at Ristuccia

Boston Bruins goaltender Tim Thomas will conduct hockey camps for boys and girls ages 8-18 at Ristuccia Arena in Wilmington. Session I runs from July 28 to Aug. 1 and Session II will be held Aug. 4-8. Visit www.timthomashockey.com for more info.

Community Bulletin Board

Sunday, April 13, 2008

COACHES WANTED

Anna Maria College — Full-time men's soccer coach. Includes sports information director duties. Information: Dave Shea, director of athletics, (508) 849-3447 or dshea@annamaria.edu.

Auburn High — Boys' JV soccer, girls' varsity cross country and girls' varsity basketball. Information: Bill Garneau, athletic director, (508) 832-7711, ext. 3.

Holy Cross — Assistant men's soccer and assistant women's basketball. Information: (508) 793-3756 or www.holycross.edu/human_resources.

Monty Tech — Head football. Submit a letter of interest and résumé to: James R. Culkeen, Superintendent-Director, 1050 Westminster St., Fitchburg MA 01420.

Tantasqua Regional — Girls' varsity volleyball, girls' JV volleyball and boy's JV soccer. Send cover letter, resume and three letters of recommendation to: Bob Casaceli, athletic director, 319 Brookfield Road, Fiskdale 01518.

PLAYERS WANTED

Danger Shackers Fast pitch Softball — 14U pitcher. Information: Coach DiCecco, (617) 943-4909.

Dudley-Charlton Summer Basketball League — For players in grades 1-10, June 8-Aug. 20 at Shepherd Hill Regional High School, Dudley. Information: Dean Packard, (508) 943-8086 or packardfam@charter.net.

Junior Varsity Basketball League — League plays Sundays June 8-Aug. 20 at Shepherd Hill Regional High School, Dudley. Information: Dean Packard, (508) 943-8086; www.dudleycharltonbasketball.com.

Pedro Martinez Softball League — Information: Jesus Done, (508) 304-3223.

Shrewsbury Big League Baseball — For Shrewsbury residents, 17-18 years old. Experience required. Information: (508) 753-6789.

Southbridge Slow-Pitch Softball League — For players 39 and over. Games are Sunday mornings. Teams are formed through a draft. Information: Dick Lisi, (508) 765-9643 or richard.s.lisi@bankofamerica.com.

TEAMS WANTED

MASSWIFF — Wiffle ball association, for players ages 15 and older. For teams of 5-6 players. Cost: \$200. Information: Seth Rosen, (508) 735-9133, or Bob Berman, (508) 756-7109, ext. 233.

New England Surge and Hit Quarters Flag Football Tournament — For players ages 7-12, April 21-24 at Hit Quarters, Shrewsbury. Cost: \$750/team. Information: Hit Quarters, (508) 842-5002.

Pedro Martinez Softball League — Information: Jesus Done, (508) 304-3223.

REGISTRATIONS

Auburn Street Hockey League — For players ages 6-17, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. today, Saturday and next Sunday at Horgan Rink, Auburn. Cost: \$70/player. Information: Paul or Cilla, (508) 832-7201.

Men's Summer Softball League — League plays Wednesday and Friday nights in Oxford starting May 7. Information: (508) 868-4350 or nylefty9@yahoo.com.

Shrewsbury Youth Football and Cheerleading — 6-8 p.m. tomorrow at Commerce Park, Route 9, Shrewsbury. Information: Mike, (508) 842-9737.

West Boylston/Boylston/Berlin Pop Warner Football and Cheerleading — Final registration, May 3. Information: Linda, (508) 856-5691.

TRYOUTS

Bay State Games Central Baseball — Send player selection information to dbaker1@worchester.edu or call (508) 929-8852. Tryouts are June 14-22 at Assumption College, practices June 23-July 6 with competition July 7-10 at Bentley College.

Griffin Youth Hockey — For Pee Wees, Bantams and Midgets, 9-10 p.m. (Pee Wees and Bantams) and 10-11 p.m. (Midgets) Saturday at Horgan Rink, Auburn. Information: Dan, (860-779-1203, (508) 864-2928 or john.normington@GriffinHockey.org.

Rhode Island Amateur Baseball League — For players 18 and over, 2:30 p.m. registration May 11 at Cranston (R.I.) High. Information: Harold Tillinghast, (401) 345-1474.

Worcester Junior Wildcats Hockey — For players born 1988-1993, April 28-30 and May 1, May 3 at Buffone Rink. Information: www.worcesterjuniorwildcats.com.

CLINICS

April Vacation Softball Clinic — For girls of all ages at Anna Maria College. April 21, 23 and 25. Information: Aimee Lee, (508) 849-3288.

Basketball Shooting Clinics — For players in grades 5-8 from the towns of Rutland, Holden, Princeton, Paxton and Sterling. 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday at Central Tree Middle School; 7-8:30 p.m. April 28 at Mountview Middle School and 7-8:30 p.m. April 29 at Thomas Prince Middle School. Information: Michael Pellegrini, (781) 264-3711 or coachmtp@hotmail.com.

Rocket Classic Baseball Clinic — 9 a.m.-noon, April 21 and 23 at Auburn High. Cost: \$50/both days, \$30/one day. Information: Eric Swedberg, (508) 826-9981 or eswedberg@auburn.k12.ma.us.

Worcester Tech Baseball Clinic — For players ages 7-13, 1-4 p.m. April 23 and 24 at Worcester Tech. Information: Ron Silvestri, (508) 987-3673 or (508) 799-1982.

GOLF TOURNAMENTS

Auburn Visiting Nurses Association Golf Classic — 9 a.m. shotgun, June 13 at Pine Ridge GC, North Oxford. Information: Sheila, (508) 832-2461.

Clinton Gael Open — 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. shotgun starts, April 26 at Twin Springs GC. Cost: \$50/person to benefit Clinton High Class of 2008. Registration forms available at Clinton High, Middle and Elementary Schools and the Wachusett Chamber of Commerce.

Spencer Brookfields Little League Golf Tournament — 9 a.m. shotgun, May 9 at Pine Ridge GC, North Oxford. Cost: \$100. Information: Greg Rosum, (508) 885-7718, (508) 410-3658 or greg_rosum@hotmail.com.

MISCELLANY

Anna Maria College — Seeking a full-time sports information director. Information: Dave Shea, director of athletics, (508) 849-3447 or dshea@annamaria.edu.

Free Golf/Yoga Class — 6 p.m. May 1. Information: (508)752-4700, or www.flowformsyoga.com.

Holy Cross — Two spots for an athletic trainer internship. Information: (508) 793-3756 or www.holycross.edu/human_resources.



Crew catches on at WA

Jim Wilson
High Schools

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

For the first time since 1974, Worcester Academy has a crew team. The Hilltoppers have two fours and an eight in the water, and with head coach Christopher Dow in place, WA is hoping the best is yet to come.

Worcester Academy athletic director Ed Reilly said the decision to bring back crew was not made because of a clamoring from the students or parents, but a feeling from the administration that if the students had an opportunity to try crew — and row on one of the best lakes around — they would sign up. Turns out they were right, as 41 Worcester Academy students turned out to try their hands at the sport.

“The response has been overwhelming,” Reilly said. “Almost too much, as we’ve got so much interest in the first season, we’ve have to be careful about moving forward. We want to take baby steps. We only have three boats in the water now, so we want to be careful about how many kids we’re keeping and to have enough coaches that can work with the kids individually and that have a good background of the sport to be involved.”

As it turned out, while Worcester Academy was toying with restarting the program, Dow was in the building as a math teacher. Dow, a graduate of The Bancroft School, rowed and coached at the University of Colorado and coached rowing at Clark University.

“It took a while to get it started, but now that it is started it’s so easy down at the Donahue Center,” Dow said. “The kids see hundreds of kids there every day. They see the colleges and the other high schools down there and it’s easy to motivate kids when they see other kids they will be competing against.”

While 41 kids showed up for tryouts, the team could only find room for a 25-person coed squad. The group included a few athletes who had been to a rowing camp before, but other than that the assembled squad had to learn from scratch. Dow kept some of the students who didn’t make the team on a junior varsity squad that rows on Saturdays, hoping to give the younger rowers a chance to start strong next year.

“We have kids from every part of the school, we have the three-sport jocks and the kids who have never played a sport before,” Dow said. “We have kids who aren’t real coordinated and ones that are real good athletes at something else. We’re all getting together and we’re doing it.”

Like many new programs, Dow had to pound the pavement to find his shells. Dow looked for used boats and because Dow was already involved in the crew community, he knew where to ask around for deals.

Luckily, the crew fraternity is a tight one and Dow was able to track down three used boats to start up the program.

The season will end Memorial Day weekend at the New England Interscholastic Rowing Association Championships, which should be a target destination for Dow's squad in the next few seasons.

Tonelli heads to St. A's

Shrewsbury's Jenna Tonelli has committed to play lacrosse for St. Anselm College next fall.

Tonelli is also a standout in soccer and basketball for the Colonials and is a three-year starter for Shrewsbury lacrosse. Tonelli is heavily involved in off-season lacrosse. She scored more than 50 goals for her club team, played in the **Bay State Games** for the past two seasons and is also a U.S. Lacrosse certified referee and youth coach.

Tonelli developed her lacrosse prowess under Holy Cross lacrosse coach Stephanie Ridolfi, who is her coach on the Central Mass. Lacrosse Club team. Her mother, Marilyn Coyne-Tonelli runs the Shrewsbury Girls' Youth Lacrosse program for girls in grades 2-8.

Bibeau signs with Owls

Nipmuc's Devin Bibeau signed a letter of intent last week to play golf for Temple University next fall.

Bibeau is one of the area's top high school golfers and has been Nipmuc's No. 1 golfer for the past three years. Bibeau has made the T&G All-Star team three times and the Dual Valley Conference all-star team four years in a row.

Green Wave get independent

The Central Mass. Football Committee and the District E Committee granted Hudson Catholic an independent football schedule for the upcoming season.

The Green Wave previously played in Central Mass. Division 3A and will now play a 10-game schedule against similar-sized schools like Hyde Park, St. Clement, Ware and Pioneer Valley. Hudson Catholic will also end its Thanksgiving Day relationship with Valley Tech. Hudson Catholic will now face Whittier Regional on November 27. This could set up a nice Turkey Day rivalry game between Valley Tech and Nipmuc, which are located across the street from one another.

Hudson Catholic has struggled recently and numbers have been a problem for the Green Wave, which typically suits up a little more than 20 players for each game.

The school will still compete in the Colonial Athletic League in all other sports.

College Athletics in spotlight

Nashoba Regional will host "College Athletics Night at Nashoba — Everything you need to know about competing at the next level," at 7 p.m. tomorrow in the Nashoba Regional Auditorium.

The event is free and open to the public and will feature a panel of college and high school coaches and former student-athletes talking about the recruiting process, how to prepare for the next level, scholarships and financial aid and other things to consider before suiting up for college.

Teams head North of the border

The St. Peter-Marian and Holy Name baseball teams head to Toronto on Friday to spend the weekend playing in the first J.P. Ricciardi Baseball Classic at the Rogers Centre. Thanks to an outstanding job getting donations and raising money, the teams will play in two games this weekend at a Major League ballpark and enjoy Ricciardi's hospitality during what should be a trip to remember.

Skating club to stage 23rd show this weekend

April 24, 2008

The Skating Club of Southern New England will present its 23rd annual ice show, "Won Hit Wonders," this weekend at the Alexio Ice Arena in Taunton.

The show will be performed at 7 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets, which may be purchased at the door, cost \$12. Advance tickets cost \$10; call (508) 801-2495.

Among the featured skaters this year are Kelsey Medeiros and Aleesia Gonzalez, both of New Bedford.

Kelsey is a 17-year-old senior at New Bedford High School. A member of the National Honor Society, she has been skating since age 5, beginning with The Tiny Blades Program.

Since age 7, Kelsey has been coached by Kristen Youlden, and in the past five years, also by Jen Nestelberger. She skates at USFS Intermediate level and has represented the club at numerous competitions, including Boston, Providence and Cranberry Opens, as well as New England Championships.

She is also an Ice Skating Institute Level 6 competitor, and has participated in the **Bay State Games**, State Games of America and ISI Worlds. She coaches for the Bay State Blades Learn to Skate Program.

Along with figure skating, Kelsey also plays soccer and runs winter and spring track. She was a Standard-Times Player of the Year for winter track.

This fall, she will be attending Roberts Wesleyan College in Rochester, N.Y., majoring in forensic science.

Kelsey will be skating to "It's Raining Men."

Aleesia, the first recipient of the Rita Blair Good Sportsmanship Award, is a 12-year-old sixth grader at Roosevelt Middle School in New Bedford.

Besides skating, her hobbies include drawing, singing and dancing. In addition, she recently volunteered at the Boys and Girls Club of New Bedford and helped the counselors with the 7- and 8-year-old cadets. While at the Boys and Girls Club, Aleesia painted beautiful sea portraits that were donated to WOW, the New Bedford Oceanarium vehicle that carries educational programs and scientific equipment into the community. She has also participated in the Walk Against Violence Parade, an awareness walk against guns and violence.

This year marks the third that Aleesia has taken part in The Skating Club of Southern New England's Show. She has participated in many Ice Skating Institute competitions and competed at the 2007 Fall Basic Skills Competition hosted by SC of SNE.

Aleesia looks out for her fellow skaters. She arrives early or stays late at competitions so she can watch and cheer on her fellow skaters or coaches, demonstrating her immense sense of team spirit. Aleesia earned the sportsmanship award for showing, at a young age, what being an athlete is all about.

The skating rink is at 150 Gordon Owen Riverway in Taunton. The phone number is (508) 824-4987.

Mullin has been a big hit for Devils

**By Bryan Brothers
Wed Apr 23, 2008**

Burlington - Burlington High school senior Ben Mullin loves the game of baseball.

It's obvious in the way he plays the game and it's obvious by the amount of it he plays.

Mullin got his start like so many other kids in Burlington did, by playing Little League and Babe Ruth growing up. However, his hard work and dedication has developed Mullin into one of the most feared hitters in the Middlesex League.

"I think my Dad [Joe] has really helped me along," said Mullin. "I remember being younger and he would always take me to hit before every game. This season I am seeing a lot of off-speed junk so I need to keep my hands back and wait for pitches."

As a freshman, Mullin made the junior varsity squad and his sophomore year, cracked the varsity roster as a catcher. However, it was his junior year that it all came together.

Mullin hit a robust .551 to lead the Middlesex League in batting average, edging out Belmont's superstar Matt Ruane. He earned Middlesex League All-Star status and handled one of the league's best pitching staffs led by Dan Walsh and Joe Sheehan, who are both now playing at the college level.

As an offensive threat, his defense sometimes gets overshadowed, but not by Burlington coach Jim Curtin.

"Besides being the best hitter in the league, he's a really good catcher," said Curtin. "He's worked at it and he's throwing more runners out this year than last."

When he was struggling with his defense, Mullin did not rest on the laurels of his offensive success, he worked at it.

"I've worked on my defense a lot," added Mullin. "I was having a tough time blocking balls so I put the work in during the off-season. I would go down to the basement and work on technique."

This season, Mullin and the Devils are off to a 4-2 start and are eyeing the state tournament. The Devils made the tournament last year and fell to Belmont 6-4 in the quarterfinal round, a loss that has stuck with Mullin, who is one three Red Devils captains this year.

"It was really disappointing," said Mullin. "We lost to them twice during the year and thought we had a good chance, we felt we were ready to beat them."

Baseball seems to never end for Mullin.

Last summer after the high school season ended, Mullin played for the Billerica Post 268 Legion team that won its district and competed in the Legion state tournament. The team was coached by Dicky Gearin.

"Ben has a great attitude and is very coachable," said Gearin. "He handles the pitch by pitch running of the game and he's a good hitter. What makes him good is he'll take the walk if they give it to him."

Mullin will return to the Legion team again this summer.

"I'm looking forward to having him back," added Gearin.

Mullin also participated in the **Bay State Games** last summer in front of several scouts at Bentley College.

As if his baseball workload wasn't enough, Mullin keeps busy in the off-season with other sports at BHS. He was a three-year letterman in football who played left guard on the Devils' squad that reached the Div. 2 Super Bowl two seasons ago.

In the winter, Mullin was a two-year varsity performer on the track team where he throws shot put. He has qualified for the state meet the last two years and qualified for All-State meet this winter.

Mullin who has an older brother Joe, 25 and sister Emily, 22 will attend Worcester State College next year where he will play baseball — not just because he is real good at it, but because he loves the game.



Tim Goggins will keep his skills in Berkshire County next season, going from St. Joseph's to Williams.

By Matthew Sprague, Berkshire Eagle Staff
Thursday, April 24

PITTSFIELD — When he first started playing the game of lacrosse eight years ago, the sport was an afterthought in Tim Goggins' native Berkshire County.

Now, however, it's helped him continue his athletic career — and perhaps raise awareness of the sport across the county.

Goggins, a senior attacker for St. Joseph's, will keep his offensive prowess in the Berkshires next season, when he suits up for Williams College. For now, he'll continue to score goals for the Crusaders — something that's been no problem so far this season.

As of yesterday, Goggins had 32 goals for the 5-1 Crusaders, with a game high of eight tallies against Brattleboro, Vt. He's also scored seven goals in a game this season, and is a major part of the St. Joseph's attack.

"Up and down the field, our individual skills — fundamentals, passing, catching — have been a lot better," Goggins said. "All up and down the field, our intensity and hustle are greatly improved."

He likely wouldn't say it, but Goggins is the key to a lot of the improvement. It's not that he's a coach or even a loud vocal leader, but he's simply — to his teammates — standard for them to follow.

"Tim sets a tone," junior Christopher Herr said. "He has a great way of saying, 'This is my level of play. I don't expect you to be at this level, but I expect you to be your best.' He raises all of our games to their best."

"He's always there when you need him. He scores goals in the clutch. He also spreads the ball around when he's in trouble. He does a great job of finding Matt Liponis, Evan Raser and Marcus Pallos."

For St. Joseph's coach Scott Aitken, Goggins' drive is the most impressive thing about him, both on and off the field.

"No one works harder on the field," the coach said. "He never panics and gets the job done."

"He goes home and gets his homework done, and then he'll work on his lacrosse game in the backyard. You can tell he puts in the extra effort in everything. I know he's putting in, and he knows he's putting in, as much effort as he can."

That drive has paid off in the classroom. Goggins is currently carrying a 4.1 grade point average, while also playing soccer and hockey this school year.

Herr joked that the drive hasn't helped him off the field in one area — video gaming.

"He's great at the classic Mario Kart and (Nintendo) 64," Herr said, "but he'll die as soon as it comes to Call of Duty and Halo 3."

He's not sure what his major will be at Williams, though he mentioned history or mathematics as possibilities.

Lacrosse, however, has been his standout sport. He first saw it in Virginia as a fifth-grader, watching a cousin play.

"I saw him a few times and that got me interested," Goggins said. "When I was in sixth grade, they started the CYC program. It was the first regular place I could actually play."

And play he did. In the last two years, he's been an attacker for two regional teams in the **Bay State Games**, and drew interest from many lacrosse-playing schools.

Still, it's the Ephs who emerged the winners — a choice Goggins never second-guessed. He will join fellow Berkshire Countian Dylan Schultz, a Mount Greylock graduate, on next year's roster.

"It will be nice," Aitken said. "Hopefully, more kids realize they can take this sport to another level."

Goggins would love to see others follow in his footsteps. They don't have to stay in the county for college as he has chosen, but he sees a time where lacrosse is more than a small sport trying to gain its footing in the area.

Frankly, he's got big plans for the sport.

"(In four years), I expect Berkshire County to have a league going, with hopefully eight or nine teams, contending every year for the Western Mass. title," Goggins said. "I think it's coming. I think it's right around the corner."

And he'll be there to see it if it happens.

"It's a great opportunity," Goggins said. "From the beginning, I knew it was something I wanted to do. It's great, because I'll be able to see athletics grow in Berkshire County, and hopefully, me playing up there will give other kids something to strive for."

The Beat: A labor love for Bressler

By Andy Vogt/Daily News staff
Apr 27, 2008

Brittany Bressler's love of figure skating started after she was barely able to walk.

It began at the age of two, when she strapped on her first pair of skates, with help from her mom, Karen, who coached the sport.

And it grew through her childhood, when she attended several exhibitions in Boston, watching and idolizing skaters like Michelle Kwan and Tara Lipinski.

"I knew that all I wanted to do was to be like them," remembers Bressler, a 17-year-old Franklin High School senior.

She hasn't won an Olympic gold medal like her childhood heroes, but her resume is still impressive. Just this year, Bressler competed in two international competitions in France with the Colonials, a synchronized skating team based in Boxboro. And on the individual level, she passed her final Gold Medal test in the United States Figure Skating Association's three disciplines earlier this month.

She played soccer in grade school, and was a dancer until she was 12. But she quickly figured out that neither could match the passion she had for the ice.

"I lived at the rink (growing up), and learned to love it," said Bressler.

She's also become pretty darn good at it. Bressler has competed with the Colonials five times at the national level, and this winter the team's second-place finish in Michigan booked them a trip to Rouen, France, to compete in the world championships in March, where they finished seventh. But by then, visiting France had become old hat - she was there in January with her team for another international competition, after competing in England the previous year.

"(The trips) were definitely unforgettable," she said. "It's a great thing because I was able to travel abroad, and not many students have the opportunity to do so."

Aside from her team duties, she also has a **Bay State Games** gold medal, and two appearances in the State Games of America competition. One of her proudest accomplishments, however, is passing that final Gold Medal test.

The USFSA has three different disciplines - Moves, Freestyle and Ice Dance - and skaters must pass a series of tests done before a panel of judges to achieve Gold status.

Bressler passed the final Moves test when she was 15, and Freestyle when she was 16. On April 11, she got that third gold.

"It basically opens up a lot of doors for me, and qualifies me to coach at any level," she said.

The time commitment is staggering. Bressler's 4-minute Freestyle test took six months of preparation, and this month's commitment was well over a year.

As you may have guessed, Bressler spends a substantial amount of time on the ice - up to 20 hours each week. The Colonials do on- and off-ice training for five hours on Thursdays, and nearly the entire day on both Saturdays and Sundays.

Inevitably, Bressler misses out on some things. She's never been to the FHS Homecoming. And when she was up in February for the state's Junior Miss scholarship award, she had to miss out on the competition: the Colonials were at nationals that weekend.

But regrets? Bressler has very few.

"You really have to be committed to the sport," she said. "My school friends have been great, making time to hang out when I'm available."

Bressler laughs when asked if she ever considered playing hockey. Because she did, in fact, want to go out for the team her freshman year, despite never holding a stick in her life. But while she says she was eager to pick up those skills, the hockey team's early-morning practices didn't jibe well with her late nights with the Colonials, and she had to give it up.

Moving forward, there won't be as many late nights - at least on the ice. Bressler's headed to the University of New Hampshire this fall, and while she's planning on joining the club team there, it will only entail six hours of practice each week.

"It's a different ballgame - I won't be going international or anything like that," she said.

Just as long as she has some ice to skate on, that's fine with her.

This past week, a proposal was passed by the MIAA State Hockey Committee to realign the Central Mass. boys postseason into two divisions. Under the new proposal, schools from the Roy and Quinn Conferences will remain in Division 3, while the Coughlin and Russell Conferences will move to Div. 3A.

For those schools in the Coughlin and Russell, which are comprised of smaller and traditionally less strong programs, it eliminates the possibility of playing for a true state championship. Now, the CMass 3A winner will play the Western Mass. winner, while the champion of CMass/WMass Div. 3 will still play at the Garden against the EMass representative.

But area coaches seem to be fine with this new arrangement, like Assabet's Dave Quinn. The Aztecs' program has been in existence for 15 years, and had failed to make the postseason just once. But in 14 years of tournament play, they've won exactly one game.

"We didn't lose those games because we played poorly, we lost those games because other teams were better," said Quinn, whose 12th-seeded team was bounced by Wachusett, 4-0, in the first round this winter.

The important part, Quinn says, is the challenge of playing with teams at your own level to find out the best of the best. He referenced Assabet's terrific season from a few years back, in which his team won 15 games and earned the third seed. But he knew full well the Aztecs weren't the third best team in the bracket, and they were bounced by Marlborough in the first round.

"It's not having to reach or overachieve all the time," Quinn said. "You can do it once in a while, but to consistently have to overachieve, I don't think it's good for any program."

Nashoba coach Steve Kendall was also happy to see a split, although he was in favor of sending the Roy and Quinn Conference teams into Division 2, which was quickly shot down for a variety of reasons.

Among them was a financial aspect, and the predicament of having three sectional champions in the state.

"The new format's not going to help us make the playoffs," said Kendall, who didn't schedule any Roy or Quinn teams this year because of the youth of his team.

It's the idea that should they make the postseason, his kids won't have to run into a juggernaut like Gardner or Hudson. Over the last couple seasons, the only Coughlin or Russell school to enjoy any tournament success against a Roy or Quinn team has been Fitchburg, who Kendall would like to see moved up into Div. 3.

Quinn compared the CMass landscape to the AL East, in which Tampa Bay and Baltimore are shining right now, but eventually it's going to be the same old teams standing at the end of the year. And after watching the excitement in the CMass final at the DCU Center, he doesn't really make a huge distinction between, say, a Super 8 final and the proposed final in Div. 3A.

"The excitement of being the best in your group was still there for every single one of those kids," he said.

Two quick baseball notes while tipping the cap to Tom Lamb and everyone else who made Saturday's dedication of the John Carroll Baseball Complex such a special afternoon. ...

Natick coach Josh Hanna wanted to pass along that an alumni game will be held on May 10 at 10 a.m., and all former players are welcome to play. The graduates from odd years will battle those from even years. You can shoot him an email at joshua_hanna@natick.k12.ma.us with any questions. ...

And just a reminder that player registration for Milford Legion will take place tonight at Fino Field, starting at 6 p.m. All players must have been born no earlier than 1989.