

The Republican.

Scout skater goes for Gold

By CORI URBAN
Monday, May 11, 2009

NORTHFIELD - Sarah Brault is a figure skater who believes that everyone should be able to participate in a sport. So when she decided on a project for Girl Scouting's highest award, she chose a figure-skating program for children with special needs.

"I love skating so much, and I have known skaters with special needs. I wanted to give children with special needs the chance to try out figure skating in hopes that they would enjoy it or that they would decide that they want to participate in sports in general," she said.

"Sports are a great outlet for children as well as a positive influence in a child's life. I have skated and worked with children with disabilities. Seeing their excitement during lessons and competitions is inspiring, and I wanted as many children as possible to have that same opportunity."

Sarah, 15, provided figure-skating clubs throughout the country with the materials they need to have an open house for children with special needs to try figure skating. She created the Word documents and sent them to U.S. Figure Skating where they were put onto a CD and distributed with packets of materials to more than 300 clubs during National Skating Month in January.

"I was very excited that two clubs signed up to run the program within a few weeks of receiving the materials, and I hope that more will follow," she said. "The more Special Olympics figure-skating programs that exist, the more opportunities there will be for children with special needs to learn to figure skate. The materials from the project will continue to be available to clubs in the future, further increasing the number of opportunities for children with special needs to try figure skating."

Sarah was among 30 young women recently honored by the Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts with presentation of their Gold Awards for their demonstrated leadership ability and dedication to serving their community. They were honored at a reception at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Worcester on May 3.

The Gold Award is the highest award in Girl Scouting, comparable to the Boy Scouts' Eagle Award. Girls must complete projects that help them learn new skills, explore careers, develop leadership potential and give something of herself to make an impact on the community. Only 5.5 percent of the eligible registered Girl Scouts achieve the award.

"The requirements for the Girl Scout Gold Award involve flexibility, choice and progression," said Dana K. Carnegie, public relations manager for Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts.

It usually takes two to four years to complete the entire Gold Award process. "The jewel of the Gold Award is identifying one key community need and developing and carrying out an action project," Carnegie said. "The project must take at least 65 hours, utilize experts in the field and help to solve an issue in an original manner, making a long-lasting and significant impact on the community."

Sarah, a junior at Pioneer Valley Regional School in Northfield, is a member of the National Honor Society and serves as a peer mediator while maintaining a 4.0 average. She plans to attend college to become an elementary school teacher.

She has been figure skating for almost 10 years, and she skates and works out more than 10 hours a week. She has participated in Bay State Games for several years, earning gold and bronze medals in two

of her "flights" (group of four to 15 skaters). She qualified to go to State Games of America in Colorado Springs two years ago and represented Massachusetts, earning a bronze medal. She qualified for the State Games again this year but decided to focus on other competitions like the New England Regionals in Burlington, Vt.

Sarah has been helping with the learn-to-skate program for Baystate Blades in Greenfield for four years and is looking forward to coaching this summer.

"Figure skating is one of my largest challenges in life, and I love going to the rink," Sarah said. "It is so satisfying to work hard and reach my goals whether it is to improve my own skating or if it is to help out the skaters I work with."



Around the Horn with Jason Pacino, North Reading tennis

By Chris Helms
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At 13-0 out of the first singles spot, North Reading senior Jason Pacino is enjoying his best season in his four-year varsity career.

"I have to be honest with you, I didn't see an undefeated season coming," said coach Mark Bisognano. "Jason was in a real a dogfight for the first singles position on our team, our second singles player (Ray Zolman) fought him tooth-and-nail for that spot. But about a week before we started playing matches, his game started coming together.

"He's wanted to be the best player in our league and to be a formidable player in the state, and he's really worked very, very hard for that."

We recently caught up with Jason to go Around the Horn.

What's your family like?

"I have a brother (Matt, 21) who's a junior at Stonehill this year and he plays on the tennis team there. He was a senior at North Reading my freshman year and he played one and I played two. It was a good year, it was cool (to play with him)."

How did you get into tennis?

"(My brother) started playing and as soon as that happened, being the younger brother, I wanted to play right after him. I went to Cedardale in Haverhill. I was pretty young, I don't know, like 7 or 8. It was mostly fundamentals and teaching. When my brother got good, he started doing 12-and-under tournaments, so when I was nine, my parents started throwing me in them and I started doing OK in them, too."

What do you like about being a singles player?

"I kind of like being in control myself, it's just you on the court. My brother and I played doubles in a league for Cedardale, though — it was tough. It was more tough for him because I wasn't at the skill level he was, but he could never get angry at me."

How have you been so successful individually this season?

"I think at the end of last year I looked back at my record (10-6) and I wasn't too happy. I tried to play more in the offseason, get more challenging matches."

Did the open competition for the first singles spot inspire you to do well?

"Absolutely. I'm friends with the No. 2 singles player — he's real good — and this season he challenged me. In the preseason we weren't sure (who was one and who was two), but it got to the point where we knew (our roles). I love having Ray on the team because he really challenges me in practice and I challenge him, too."

How has the team done so well this season?

"It's mostly the singles guys, we're really stepping up our game. The doubles players, we lost three out of four of them last year to graduation, but the new guys are learning and doing real well, too."

What was it like to play in the Bay State Games?

"It's a great experience. Hitting during the summer is always good, and I got to play doubles with a kid on my team (Chris Spano). It was fun to play with him. I've always been friends with him, my sophomore year he used to drive me to practice and everywhere."

Do you have any sports-related superstitions?

"Every match, I'll just wear sandals and not put my socks and shoes on until I get to the match. I've done that ever since my first match when I forgot to put socks on because I was in a rush."

Any nicknames?

"We gave the second singles player (Ray Zolman) the nickname 'Sweet Baby Ray.' He plays basketball whenever he gets a chance, and we all kind of got together and the nickname just stuck." What's your biggest pet peeve?

"Whenever my brother takes my stuff, and it's all recent because he just got home from college this week. The other day, I went to grab my iPod and my headphones were gone. I never get asked, it just always gets taken."

What are your plans for next year?

"I'm going to Roger Williams University. That was the number one — the academics are good and I like the location, and I plan to play tennis there, too."

Time for favorites: Favorite sport to participate in; sport to watch, team, athlete, food and drink, movie, TV show, music, Web site?

"Tennis; baseball; Red Sox; Novak Djokovic, I like his attitude and I think he's very honest with the media — win or lose he's going to state his opinion; chicken parmesan calzone, blue Gatorade; 'Old School'; 'SportsCenter,' it never gets old; I would say anything but country music; YouTube.com."



Bay State Games/Future Leaders Scholarship

Thu May 21, 2009

Boston - The Massachusetts Amateur Sports Foundation (MASF) is celebrating the 28th anniversary of the Bay State Games this summer. This annual Olympic-style competition will be held July 5-19 in Eastern and Central Massachusetts.

During this event, Massachusetts residents of all ages and abilities compete in 25 different sports. In addition to offering sports competition, the Bay State Games, in partnership with Verizon, annually awards six \$2,000 college scholarships to worthy participants of the Bay State Summer and Winter Games.

The Verizon Future Leaders Scholarship's goal is to reward young men and women for their exceptional leadership abilities demonstrated through their community service, academic success, and athletic excellence.

Over the past 18 years, the Verizon Future Leaders Scholarship program has distributed over \$200,000 to students who wish to further their education. These recipients have represented all regions of the Bay State including the Berkshires and Cape Cod and have attended numerous prestigious institutions including Boston College, Harvard University, Wake Forest University, and the University of Notre Dame.

Student athletes who wish to receive one of six scholarships awarded must be in the 11th grade as of the 2008-2009 academic school year. Applicants also must have either participated in the 2009 Winter Games, or are registered and will agree to participate in the upcoming Summer Games. Athletes do not need to make a final roster to be eligible for the scholarship. Interviews for those selected will be held in late June.

Applications for the scholarship must be postmarked no later than Wednesday, June 10. Applications are available with your high school athletic director, guidance counselor, or on the Bay State Games Web site at www.baystategames.org.

For more information regarding the scholarship, please call the Bay State Games' office at 781-932-6555 or e-mail info@baystategames.org.



High School notes: High hopes for MV girls lacrosse

By Russ Charpentier
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May 25, 2009

Coach Betsy Dripps calls her 2009 team the best Martha's Vineyard girls lacrosse team she's coached in her 14 years on the island, and one of the best she's ever had. Considering she coached at the prestigious Shipley School in Bryn Mawr, Penn., before moving to the island, those are big words.

Then again, MV did finish the regular season 18-0 and was selected the top seed in Div. 2 South when the pairings were released Friday.

It is Dripps' first unbeaten team. As a true coach, she's not guaranteeing anything in the postseason, which – for begins Wednesday for MV. Dripps acknowledged the Maritime League the Vineyarders play in is not as strong as some of the leagues around Boston.

"There are some very strong teams up around Boston that we could face who are 7-6 or 7-7. I'm not taking anything for granted," she said after a win last week over Bridgewater-Raynham.

That said, she does like her squad. "We are very well balanced and have great chemistry."

Zoe Fisher has been top-notch in goal. Fisher had major knee reconstruction last summer and missed the field hockey and ice hockey seasons, but has gotten back to speed this spring with 148 saves and 96 goals through 16 games.

MV's two top scorers – senior Laura Jernegan (58 goals, 17 assists) and junior Hayley Pierce (51 goals, 28 assists) lead the way. Pierce was voted the top player in the league this season by the coaches, an award Jernegan won in 2008.

"Hayley is such a talented, all-around player. She plays everywhere all the time," said Dripps. "Talented sophomore Molly Fischer has 24 goals and 16 assists and wins draws every time while being a key factor at midfield. She gets the ball on defense, goes down and scores."

Senior midfielder Cristina Wiley has added 21 goals and 14 assists, more evidence of the depth of MV's firepower. Senior Sophie Lew, junior Kate Cecilio and the defense of Lonnie Phillips, Alexa Fisher (Zoe's twin sister), Olivia Gross, Taylor Chisholm and Brianna Davies have been formidable in front of Zoe Fisher.

Dripps calls senior Anna Cristina Jurczyk her most improved player on offense this season.

MV rolled through much of its regular-season schedule. The Vineyarders edged Falmouth 7-6 at the end of April, then beat the Clippers again 11-5 last Friday in a pair of non-league matches.

The Vineyarders had a tough 12-9 go with Barnstable. Against Bourne, they won 11-6 in the first meeting, then 22-11 in the second. "If you had told me we'd have that score the second time, I would have said, 'I don't think so,'" Dripps said.

Dripps gives a lot of credit to her assistants. Kursten Meehan is a former Vineyarder who played at Ithaca College, and has set up MV's zone defense. Lang Clarke, who retired to the Vineyard, is a goalie specialist.

"We play as a team," Dripps said. "I love it. We're not a bunch of individuals out there."

FRESHMAN POWER: The No. 1 golfer on Nauset's girls team this spring was a freshman, which didn't surprise coach Bob Wilkinson after he watched Rachel Bernstein practice early in the season.

The slender Bernstein finished 9-0-1 during the Warriors 10-match season. She slumped in the season-ending Mass. Bay League Tournament and finished out of the top 10, but Wilkinson said his top player wasn't feeling well.

The only match Bernstein didn't win during the regular season was a halve against Barnstable's Christina Brewster in their first match at Captains.

The second time around, Bernstein took a 1-up victory at Cummaquid.

Brewster lost out on the Mass Bay championship by matching cards to Duxbury's Briana Connolly.

"Rachel was medalist in nine of our 10 matches," Wilkinson said. Bernstein was pretty consistent, with a low score of 41 and a high of 48, and an average round near 45.

Bernstein is a Harwich resident and Cranberry Valley member, who attends Nauset by school choice.

"She's been taking lessons with Bob Miller and has a really nice swing," Wilkinson said. "She's a very competitive girl. Very determined. She gets herself psyched about her matches. She keeps the ball in ball, plays very steady. She's consistent off the tee and has a very strong short game."

Nauset was 3-7 as a team, but Wilkinson believes fortunes are turning around, with Bernstein the centerpiece.

"The program has taken awhile, but the younger kids are coming up," Wilkinson said. "We have two girls who are going to be caddies at Cape Cod National, and Jim Campbell, the pro there, has talked about coming over and giving the girls some help. There are at least three eighth-graders coming up. The Brewster Recreation Department is going to start a program for young girls."

CROWELL HONORED: Caleigh Crowell of Harwich and Worcester Academy was named a New England Prep School Class A All-Star and has received a full basketball scholarship to the College of Charleston. Crowell was a team MVP her two years at Worcester and will graduate with honors on June 5.

VERIZON FUTURE LEADERS SCHOLARSHIP: The Bay State Games, in partnership with Verizon, will award six \$2,000 scholarships to worthy participants in the winter of summer Bay State Games. The goal is to reward young men and women for their exceptional leadership abilities, demonstrated through their community service, academic success and athletic excellence.

Eligible students must be in the 11th grade in the 2008-09 school year and either participated in the 2009 Winter Games or are registered and will participate in the Summer Games, held July 5-19.

Applications are available with high school athletic directors, guidance counselors and on the Bay State Games Web site at baystategames.org and must be submitted by June 10. For more information, call 781-932-6555 or e-mail info@baystategames.org.



Daniel V. Conway, 1963-2009, of Eagle-Vail
Memorial service for Eagle-Vail man is Thursday at Ford Amphitheater

Daily staff report
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Daniel Vincent "Dan" Conway, of Eagle-Vail, died May 21, 2009. Born on Oct. 6, 1963, in Pittsfield, Mass., he was the son of Gerard "Vince" Conway of Eagle-Vail and Barbara Slye Hespelin of Port Orange, Fla.

Dan was manager of racing and special events at Vail Resorts based in Golden Peak. He joined Vail Associates in 1985. Besides his parents, he leaves his children, Keely Conway and Danielle Conway, both of Eagle-Vail; his ex-wife, Cheri Conway of Glenwood Springs; his sisters, Lori Conway Murphy of Dalton, Mass., and Debra Conway Havlick of Port Charlotte, Fla.; his nieces, Katie Murphy, Sara Havlick and Jenny Heer; his nephews, Dan and Matt Murphy; and close friends Mark Manley, Ron McKinnon and Chris Darrohn.

Dan graduated from Pittsfield High School in 1981, where he was the captain of the alpine ski team and was the Massachusetts State Individual Champion in 1981.

He graduated from the University of Massachusetts with a degree in sports management in 1985. While at UMass, Dan was the No. 1 skier on the varsity alpine ski team for three of four years and won the Most Valuable Player award in 1985.

In 1985, he was the overall winner in slalom and giant slalom at the Massachusetts Bay State Games.

Dan enjoyed running, skiing, golf and fantasy football. He will be remembered as a devoted father to his two girls and as a loving brother and son. Dan was loved by his many friends. He attended St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Minturn.

A memorial ceremony and reception will be held at the Ford Amphitheater at 4 p.m. Thursday. In lieu of flowers, donations in Dan's memory may be made to the Keely and Danielle Conway Fund at any branch of FirstBank. Remembrances, memories and reflections may be sent to the family through Everett Family Funeral Home and Crematory, P.O. Box 154, Gypsum, CO 81637.



Top seeded Fenwick girls bounced by Westford

By Jean DePlacido
Correspondent

May 27, 2009

PEABODY — Come tournament time, regular season records can be thrown out the window.

Yesterday afternoon, the top-seeded Bishop Fenwick girls lacrosse team found out how dangerous a red-hot No. 16 opponent can be when Westford Academy shocked the Crusaders, 19-9, on the turf at Donaldson Field in Division 2 North first round action.

"Although we played pretty good defense in the first half, we couldn't afford to give them multiple scoring opportunities," Fenwick coach Karen Guillemette said of Westford. They're too talented right across the board and did a great job scoring on their chances."

The visitors from the Dual County Large broke an early 2-2 tie with four straight goals, then reeled off another five in a row before halftime to take a 12-4 lead into the break. Their explosive offense was led by Lauren Slattery (6 goals, 1 assist), Victoria Flood (5 goals, 3 assists), and Tracy McGrath (3 and 3). Barnes and Libby David both chipped in with four points.

In a pair of tournament wins thus far, Westford (14-8) has already scored 38 goals.

"We knew Fenwick would be tough with (star scorer and league MVP) Bridget Dullea," said Grey Ghosts head coach Shaun Hart. "She played for me in the Bay State Games, so I know what a fantastic player she is.

"Our offense is really clicking now," he added. "We had five girls with four or more points, and we're playing well as a team. We know we're only going to go as far as our senior leadership takes us — and ours are fantastic."

Dullea finished with five goals for Fenwick, which also got three scores and two helpers from Becca Graves.

What made trying to stop Westford more difficult for Fenwick was the balanced attack it possessed, making it impossible to shut down any one person. They moved the ball around effectively to find the open person, and Crusader goalie Jill DeFrancesco was under fire from all angles.

"The effort was there, but this wasn't our best game by any means," said Guillemette. "We started to force things a bit in the second half trying to cut the deficit. Jill made some nice saves for us.

"Dullea, Graves and Maggie Gore (goal) did a nice job offensively, while Kara Gray had a strong game defensively. It's been a great year (16-3) despite the loss."

"We got off to a slow start and didn't have many scoring opportunities in the first half," said Dullea, who is headed for Converse College in South Carolina to play lacrosse. "We mostly had to play defense, but give them credit for that. Westford is a good team, and Coach Hart knows what I like to do. We did pick it up in the second half, but it was so tough trying to cut into their lead."