

Important Fed hockey games on Thursday

The Amherst Pepsi Center, 1615 Amherst Manor Dr., will host two important Section VI Western New York Varsity Hockey Federation league games at 7 p.m. on Thursday. In Division II, Sweet Home faces Williamsville East on the Olympic Rink while Division I rivals Williamsville North and St. Joe's will battle on the Feature Rink. Are four teams are undefeated in league play.

South indoor track rebuilds on the fly

by PATRICK J. NAGY
Reporter

Although it's a rebuilding year for Williamsville South's indoor track program, coach Sam Hasan sees the blueprints for a great season from several individual runners.

"It's a rebuilding year but I hope we do well on the fly," said Hasan, who will be joined by first-year assistant coach Natalia Brenton. "These kids are very eager and it makes it that much easier as a coach to develop them."

Hasan is no stranger to building a track program at South. Eight years ago when his daughter Alyssa, then in seventh grade, now a sophomore at University of Notre Dame, came out for the team, the Billies only had seven athletes. Since then they've fielded as many as 68 competitors. There are 41 on the roster between the boys and girls teams this season. A lot of them are freshmen and new to the sport.

"The whole thing is developing these kids," said Hasan. "There are a lot of kids who just have raw talent; now you have to teach them how to run, jump or hurdle. This is the part I love the most, just pulling that talent out."

Girls

Coach Hasan returns his daughter, senior Jenna Hasan as well as senior Jennifer Lopez, juniors Colleen Hurbtise, Leah Neumann, Lauren Falzone, sophomore Ashley Ferenczy and freshman Allie Van Buren.

As of this writing, Jenna Hasan is the No. 2 triple jumper in Section VI. She was eighth at last year's Section VI Championships. She also just missed finals at sectionals in the 55-meter hurdles.

Van Buren is only a freshman but should be the top 55 hurdler in the section, coach Hasan said. She was fifth at sectionals last year. She can also run a great 300 and is a returning member of the team's Section VI champion 4x400-meter relay along with Ferenczy, who was an alternate for states but ended up running, freshman newcomer Amanda Breymer and either Hasan or freshman Rebecca Emo.

At South's first meet on Dec. 2 at Fredonia State College, the quartet of Van Buren, Ferenczy, Breymer and freshman newcomer Danielle Giancarlo won by 160-meters.



Paul Mangold, far left, Tim Krempa and Jennifer Lopez captain Williamsville South's indoor track program.

Photo by Joe Eberle

Boys

Paul Mangold is already having a great season, setting a personal record in the 3200 by 12 seconds.

"Every year, he's worked his butt off," said coach Hasan. "Other than my daughter, Alyssa, I would have to say Paul is probably one of the hardest working kids I've been around in terms of wanting to learn. When there's down time, he's doing things you told him that are important things to do. He's always been a leader, is very coachable, and his times keep dropping."

Mangold, who can run the 1000 to the 3200, has been a member of the team since eighth grade and is a co-captain with third-year runner junior Tim Krempa, a 55 hurdler and jumper.

Senior Joe Dash (55 hurdles, long jump) and junior Alex Podvezko (mid-distance to distance events) also return.

Freshman Peter Galbo (300 and up) and senior Shawn Mooney (sprinter, high jump) make their debuts. Sam's son, eighth grader, Sam, is one of three eighth graders on the boys' side, but is recovering from a broken ankle suffered on the last play of modified football. The rest of the team are freshmen.

South 2006-07 Schedule

- 12-22 at Fredonia State College..... 5 p.m.
- 12-27 weight throw exhibition/pole vault competition at Lancaster 9 a.m.
- 12-29 at Fredonia State College..... 9 a.m.
- 12-30 USATF meet at Rochester Institute of Technology 9:30 a.m.
- 1-5-7 Dartmouth Relays..... TBA
- 1-13 Seventh-tenth grade championships at Fredonia State College 9 a.m.
- 1-15 WNY Relays at University at Buffalo..... 9 a.m.
- 1-21 at Fredonia State College..... 9 a.m.
- 1-27 at Lancaster High School noon
- 2-3 at Fredonia State College 9 a.m.
- 2-10 League Championships at Fredonia State College 9 a.m.
- 2-17 Varsity Invitational at Lancaster 8 a.m.
- 2-24 Section VI Championships at Fredonia State College 9 a.m.

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Ferenczy is on pace to qualify for sectionals this year in the 600.

Breymer also won two high jumping events this season along with the 600 and was fourth in the 300.

Coach Hasan said Breymer's work ethic is unbelievable.

"Amanda is focused, always asks questions, wants to learn and is very hungry and eager," he said. "I like to see that out of the young kids."

Lopez, a sectional qualifier in the shot put, is the girls' captain. It's her fourth year on varsity.

Neumann has already reached her high jump goals from last year, coach Hasan said.

Falzone, on the team since seventh grade, runs the 55 dash.

Newcomers who should contribute include Emo (300, 600) as well as fellow freshmen Jenny Mooney (600 and up), Ellie Falletta (55-dash, 300) and eighth grader Elisa Frazier (600, 1000).

Coach Hasan sees the 55 hurdles to 1000 as team strengths.

"I can see the rebuilding of a very good team," he said.

Sweet Home boys hoops discovers its identity

by PATRICK J. NAGY
Reporter

Sweet Home boys basketball coach Paul Schintzius was looking for his team's identity and he got his answer last week.

"We're a very gutsy team who competes until the final bell rings and will not go easily against any-

body," said Schintzius. "We're getting back to our old Sweet Home days. We're playing defense like last year's team and communicating better on the floor. They're starting to understand it takes a total team effort."

The Panthers played its best basketball of the year, defeating Jamestown, 61-43, at home last Tuesday, then losing, 58-57, to No. 1 Western New York Large School St. Joe's, in the ECIC-MMA Challenge on Friday at St. Mary's of Lancaster High School.

A dominating first quarter, including a 14-0 run to open, led Sweet Home, ranked fifth among large schools at the time, now third, to a surprising easy victory over then fourth-ranked, now sixth-ranked Jamestown.

"Up until that point, we hadn't played very well," said Schintzius. "I just didn't feel like everything was coming together yet. (But against Jamestown), the kids were ready to play. They had beaten us at our gym last year and

I think our guys were eager to avenge that loss."

Terrell Rankin and Glenroy Carr scored 17 of Sweet Home's 19 first quarter points as the Panthers rolled out to a 19-4 lead. Rankin finished with 29 points and eight rebounds. Carr had eight points and seven rebounds.

"Terrell and Glenroy are starting to take over the leadership and scoring role that was left by Quentin Hudson and Daniel Joseph (both graduated, led Sweet Home to Class A state final berth)," said Schintzius.

Sweet Home led 36-23 at half-time and 44-30 after the third quarter.

Schintzius was most proud of

his team's defensive effort, holding the Red Raiders to six two-point baskets. Jamestown stayed in the game with eight three-pointers.

"We're a very gutsy team who competes until the final bell rings and will not go easily against anybody."

— Sweet Home coach Paul Schintzius

Eric Schirel hit three three's, finished with 15 points and was his normal pesky self-defending Jamestown's best player, Dominique Kendrick, said Schintzius.

Kendrick finished with 17 points.

Steven Roberts

chipped in seven points. Ali Ramadan grabbed 11 rebounds and played great defense, Schintzius said.

It was a playoff-type atmosphere between Sweet Home and

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Sweet Home's Terrell Rankin looks to drive past St. Joe's John Greer and to the hoop during the team's ECIC-MMA Challenge on Friday at St. Mary's of Lancaster High School. Rankin finished with 15 points but St. Joe's won 58-57.

Photo by Joe Eberle