

Christian Central Academy

Baseball teams stepping up to the plate

The idea of a baseball program at Christian Central Academy, 39 Academy St., Williamsville, started four years ago over a cup of coffee at The Original Pancake House in Williamsville.

The schools' attendance was increasing steadily for years and it was becoming evident that the athletic program needed to grow with the school.

In the summer of 2004, a fifth grade baseball team was assembled and competed in the Catholic Diocesan fall baseball league. After two consecutive successful seasons on the little league diamond, the CCA Crusaders launched a middle school team that competed in the fall of 2006 on the big diamond.

"I am excited about the direction of the sports program," said Board President Robert Zima. "It's great to see that CCA is using its sports field and the new Emmanuel Athletic Facility to our



Christian Central Academy hopes its seventh-eighth grade modified baseball team will eventually lead to a high school junior varsity and varsity team. Pictured is the seventh-eighth grade team, front row, from left - Daniel Wrigglesworth, Mark Goszewski, Nathaniel Jacobs,

Peter Kazmierczak, Joel Lattimer, Nathan Warnock; back row - Austin Tom, coach Joseph Lauto, Andrew Lauto, Rotimi Owolabi, Gabe Chen, Jonathan Whited, Jack Ranallo, coach Tom Ranallo, and coach Paul Kazmierczak.

students' benefit."

"We have started the baseball program at CCA from the ground up," added manager and board member Tom Ranallo. "Because of the increased enrollment at CCA, the athletic department has grown. We took the temperature of the community and found that there was an overwhelming interest in baseball at CCA. We have slowly cultured, developed, and gradually grown the baseball program from birth."

A modified seventh and eighth grade spring team is the next step in creating a high school junior varsity and varsity team at CCA. The schedule this spring includes schools such as Nichols, Elmwood-Franklin, Grand Island, Starpoint, JFK, Cheektowaga, Tonawanda, and Depew.

In preparation, the CCA players will be practicing on their own athletic field and bringing in a pitching mound, batting cage and pitching machines.

SSPP JV girls claim CTK tourney

The SS. Peter and Paul Knights girls finished the 2007 season as champions of the junior varsity division of the 30th annual Christ the King Invitational Basketball Tournament.

In the semifinals, Colleen Kenney led the Knights with six points in a 14-7 defeat of hosts Christ the King. Laura Wendelin sparked a key second quarter rally with four straight points, while center Emily Rutowski and floor general Julie Dudek contributed three and two points, respectively.

On the defensive end, twin towers Julie Roehmholdt and Rebecca Postek dominated the glass, while guards Gina Nasca and Valerie Quebral created a number of turnovers by relentlessly pressuring the ball all evening. Lighting the lamp for Christ the King were Claire O'Neill, Jacki Wydysh, Caroline Klein and Charlotte McLellan.

In the championship contest, a packed gym saw SSPP come back from a three-point halftime deficit to up end a strong St. Mary's of Swormville squad, 19-14. Rutowski, with a game-high 10 points, and Kenney, with eight points, showed their shooting range by scoring both from inside and from long range. Rounding out the scoring for the



The SS. Peter and Paul girls JV basketball team was recently crowned 2007 CTK tournament champions. Members of the team, pictured from left, are: front row — Gina Nasca, Kim Schlosser, Alyse Bradley, Laura Wendelin, Valerie Quebral; second row — Rebecca Postek, Emily Rutowski, Julie Roehmholdt, Colleen Kenney, Corinne Shanahan, Julie Dudek; third row — Sal Nasca, John Wendelin, Paul Quebral (head coach), Mike Bradley, and Gary Dudek.

Knights was Dudek, who again controlled the offense from her point guard position.

Corinne Shanahan gathered in several critical rebounds for the winners, while Kim Schlosser and Alyse Bradley stood tall at both ends of the floor to help hold off

a fierce rally by St. Mary's in the closing minutes.

Smooth guard Maggie Steele and teammate Megan Cooper each had four points for St. Mary's, while Therese Mastrandrea and Kristin Zucarelli each added buckets of their own.

Youth basketball

Syracuse earns title in nail-biter

The championship game of the Amherst Youth Basketball fourth-fifth grade gold bracket division pitted the Syracuse Orange versus the Marquette Golden Eagles at the Clearfield arena. Syracuse squeaked out a 36-34 victory.

The first quarter ended in a 10-10 tie demonstrating two evenly matched teams. David Maher and Jason Cohen slashed to the basket to pour in four points each, Quinn Keenan added a bucket. Patrick Hartigan was extremely effective driving to the baseline and hitting outside jumpers. Joe Brady used his patented moves in the paint to score three points.

The second quarter saw Marquette jump out to a 21-17 lead led by Jeffrey Calderon's stellar seven points. Syracuse stayed in the game with outstanding defense exhibited by James Doyle and Patrick Kelly crashing the boards. Jacob Schoelkopf added a key bucket to keep the game close going into the half. Jonathan Hall played smothering defense for the Golden Eagles.

The second half was a seesaw battle with each team exchanging baskets and many brilliant defensive gems displayed. Colin Greenway played outstanding defense in limiting Joe Brady to nine points. Keenan stepped up his game and poured in a team-high 14 points, earning a share of game MVP honors.

The game came down to the final 15 seconds tied at 34-34. The inbounds play saw Keenan dish off to Cohen who hit a spinning layup jumper. The Golden Eagles just ran out of time.

Ben Scharf played tremendous defense causing numerous turnovers and the fantastic play of Greenway and Maher helped fill the void of a missing Michael Keenehan, who was participating in the state hockey tournament.

A tremendous season was exhibited by Mandella Namaste, Eric Duran, Brady, Calderon, Hall, Patrick Hartigan, Liam Hughes, and Elliot Schulefand as they battled in the title game.

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YMCA Sharks win district title

The Northeast YMCA Sharks swim team came home from Niagara Falls with a district championship.

The Sharks now hold district records for the girls' 9-10 medley relay and freestyle relay. The relay team is Aleza Epstein, Olivia Marable, Emily Smith and Madison Reimers.

The 13-14 girls garnered a first place. The relay team is comprised of Alex Skomra, Courtney Denk, Karalyn Evanco, and Emma O'Connor.

The 15-18 girls' medley and freestyle relay team of Jayne O'Connor, Hanna Bleichfeld, Kerri Bubar, and Michelle Niblock placed first. Julian Marable placed first in the IM, 50 free and backstroke. Jacob Zarzecki placed first in the boys back. Dimitrios Lippe placed first in the IM and breaststroke.

The team will compete at Cortland State College for the State YMCA Championships. The state qualifiers are Julian Marable, Dimitrios Lippe, Jacob Zarzecki, Jonathan Zarzecki, Devin Finan, Natalie Jusko, Phoebe Lippe, Haley Epstein, Camryn Sullivan, Aleza Epstein, Madison Reimers, Olivia Marable, Emily Smith, Natalie Ryan, Grace Lawson, Charlotte Drozda, Kaelyn Sullivan, Linnea Cotto-Ecklund, Michelle Niblock, Kerri Bubar, Hannah Bleichfeld, Emma O'Connor, Jayne O'Connor, Karalyn Evanco, Courtney Denk, Alex Skomra, Joelle Reimers, and Larisa Kumm.