

Pair of Amherst defenders to play in college

by PATRICK J. NAGY
Reporter

Two of the Amherst Central lacrosse program's top defenders are taking their game to the next level.

Senior Tim Monahan of the boys lacrosse team and Meagan Hurley of the girls lacrosse team signed National Letters of Intent to play lacrosse at the University at Albany and Canisius College, respectively, last Friday morning in the Amherst High School faculty cafeteria.

Each felt they made the right decision.

"I pretty much wanted to go there," said Monahan of the University at Albany. "It was my top choice. I liked the coaching staff, academics. I got a good vibe."

"A lot of my family went to Canisius and ever since I was little, my family kept saying I would end up there," said Hurley. "When my high school team went there for tournaments, I liked what I saw and the coach (Scott Teeter) is real good."

Hurley also likes how women's lacrosse is turning around at Canisius. In the first seven seasons of the program, the Golden Griffins went 10-84. In the last three years, they have been 26-25.

"It's a great time to join the program," said Hurley. "They're getting closer to being one of the top teams. They're looking to go to the NAAs."

Hurley's defensive coach at Amherst, Kristy Grossman, also played for Canisius.

Hurley, who Amherst coach Janet



Amherst Central seniors Meagan Hurley, first row left, and Tim Monahan signed National Letter of Intent last Friday morning in the high school faculty cafeteria. Hurley is going to play lacrosse at Canisius College; Monahan is headed to play lacrosse at the University at

Albany. Also pictured is back row, Amherst girls lacrosse coach Janet Battaglia, Mary Ellen Hurley (Meagan's mother), Mary Monahan (Tim's mother), and Amherst boys lacrosse coach Stefan Henn.

Photo by Amy Krakowiak
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Battaglia called "a speedy, physical and vocal defender who does a good job of interrupting the other team's offense," is a four-year starter on defense for the Lady Tigers.

Last year, she had a goal, assist, 40 ground balls and caused 27 turnovers en route to earning All-WNY First Team and

ECIC First Team honors. She also helped the Lady Tigers win Section VI Class C and advance to the Far West Regional where they fell 9-8 to East Rochester, the closest a Western New York team has come to winning a regional game.

Hurley was also a New York State Public High School Athletic Association Schol-

ar-Athlete in her freshman and junior years. In 2006, she was an ECIC Division III Second Team selection. Her record as a member with Amherst girls lacrosse is 33-1 in league matches, 51-8 overall.

The University at Albany finished a school-record best 15-3 last year and lost, 12-11, in overtime to top-ranked Cornell in the NCAA quarterfinals. They have won four of the last five America East championships.

The Great Dane coaching staff has told Monahan he will make a great fit to the program.

"They will be graduating a senior so they want me to come in and take his spot," said Monahan, who was also looking at Sacred Heart University and Stony Brook University.

Monahan, who Amherst coach Stefan Henn called "a tenacious, relentless competitor with phenomenal stick skills and terrific in transition," had five goals, six assists and 218 ground balls in his career so far with the Tigers, a section finalist last year.

Monahan's efforts on the field as a junior earned him a selection to the All-Western New York Second Team, All-ECIC First Team and was the team's most valuable defenseman.

Monahan and Hurley are each honor roll students at Amherst and undecided on what major they will be pursuing in college. Each will be attending on partial athletic scholarships; Hurley said she also has a partial academic scholarship.

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Playoffs set in Buffalo In-Line Hockey Group

The fall 2007 regular season in Buffalo In-line Hockey League Group concluded this past Saturday.

Major division

Blues 13, Lightning 3

The Blues have been on top of this division all season and nothing changed here as Pat Smith (Amherst), Josh Grant (Kenmore) and Ben Szabo (Amherst) led the way.

Vikings 7, Tornadoes 0

David Campuzano, Mike Heberline and Doug Smith (Cheektowaga) led an outstanding defensive presence in front of goaltender Nick Shearer (Kenmore).

Killer Pandas 13, Snipers 5

Rob Russell's (Tonawanda) four-goal effort wasn't enough to offset the Pandas' Zac Carslisle (Tonawanda), Taylor Setlock (Tonawanda) and Evan Dressel (Amherst), who got it done again, keeping the Pandas in second place.

Blackhawks 9, Warriors 6

Justin Swan (Tonawanda) led the offensive side and Adam Rainey (Tonawanda) the defensive side as the Hawks locked up third place.

Junior division

Junior Blues 8, Ghosts 2

Nick Antoniadis (Amherst)

combined with Vicram and Sunniel Goel (Amherst) for seven of the eight tallies for the Blue. These same two teams meet in the first round of the playoffs.

Cougars 7, Capitals 5

Two late goals by Ben Speyer (Amherst) paved the way for this victory. Evan Dressell (Amherst) had four goals and two assists in the win. Jed Bass scored four times for the Capitals.

Storm 12, Knights 9

The wildest game of the day went to a shootout with Tyler Arnot (Amherst) scoring the game winner. Kevin Eberth (Cheektowaga) continued his goal-scoring

explosion for the Knights with Christian Curtola and Adam Terragnolli countering.

As the regular season concludes, the Major Blues and Cougars win their respective divisions. Playoff match-ups can be found at mysportsite.com/bihg.

Buffalo In-line Hockey Group is

the premier not-for-profit youth in-line hockey organization in Western New York playing out of the EPIC Center on Wehrle Dr. in Lancaster.

For more information, including information about the upcoming winter season, call Rich at 689-4090 or 773-1188.

South cross country honored

The Williamsville South cross country team held its annual season-end and awards ceremony on Sunday, Dec. 9 at Sorrentino's.

Boys team awards went to Mike Herr (rookie of the year), John Stark (most improved) and Bruce Hibler (coaches' award). Girls team awards went to M.C. Aungst (rookie of the year), Laura Johnston and Jenny Mooney (most improved), Colleen Hurtubise (coaches' award) and Amanda Breyemeier (MVP).

With the two teams losing a total of only three seniors, coaches Sam Hasan and Chuck Godfrey feel that the teams should continue to build on their improvement from this year.

"With First Team All-Amherst and Second Team ECIC III All-Star and Second Team All-WNY, Amanda Breyemeier, along with Second Team All-Amherst members M.C. Aungst, Jenny Mooney, and John Stark, and last year's MVP Maxine Meyerhofer to lead the charge, both teams should be able to compete with anyone next year," said Godfrey.

East girls bowling rebuilds

by PATRICK J. NAGY
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With several new faces on the "A" team and an entirely new "B" team, it will probably be hard for Williamsville East girls bowling to duplicate its 5-6 record from last year.

Lady Flames coach Kate Zgoda graduated Jenna Dots, Alyssa Murphy, and Natalie Sydoriak. Senior Lindsay Rizzo would have been on this year's team but has a prior commitment and can't bowl. All four saw time in the "A" or "B" starting lineup last year.

This year's Lady Flames' "A" team will feature juniors Lindsay Sutherland and Cari Cardinale, freshman Jessica Dipaolo and seniors Ashley Saccomando and Danielle Wiegel.

Sutherland averaged 161 last year and was the only East bowler to qualify for the Section VI Championships. Zgoda likes Sutherland's consistency.

Dipaolo averaged 143 as an eighth-grader and has bowled in the 150s so far in practice. Cardinale and Saccomando will rotate on the "A" team.

The "B" team is all sophomores who are all beginner bowlers. They are Samantha Garson, Kristen Alcazaren, Kathleen McCarthy and Erin Giangreco.

Zgoda said her team has to keep improving on fundamentals in practice to be competitive.

"It will be very interesting but I'm looking forward to the season," said Zgoda. "They're all willing to learn."

East opened its season on Monday at Wimbledon Lanes against West Seneca East. They bowl at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday at Lancaster Lanes against Iroquois.

East 2007-08 Schedule

12-12 at Iroquois (Lancaster Lanes)..... 4:30 p.m.
12-13 South..... 4:30 p.m.
12-17 Sweet Home 4:30 p.m.
1-3 at South (Transit Lanes)..... 4:30 p.m.
1-7 W.S. East 4 p.m.
1-9 Iroquois..... 4:30 p.m.
1-14 at Sweet Home (Manor II Lanes) ... 4:30 p.m.
1-15 at Hamburg (Legion Lanes) 4:30 p.m.
1-16 Hamburg..... 4:30 p.m.
1-31 at Williamsville Cup (Transit Lanes) 3:30 p.m.
2-12 at ECIC Rolloffs (Thruway Lanes)..... 3 p.m.
2-15 at Section VI Championships (Thruway Lanes) 8:30 a.m.

* All home matches are at Transit Lanes.

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