

# South baseball retires late coach's No. 7 jersey

by **PATRICK J. NAGY**  
 Reporter

Brian Hansen always played or coached baseball with grace so it was no surprise that the Williamsville South baseball program honored its late coach with a touching recognition.

Hansen, who died Jan. 9 after a two-year battle with cancer, had his No. 7 jersey retired in a ceremony last Tuesday in the South gym.

The ceremony was originally supposed to be held before the top of the seventh inning of that day's non-league game between South and Maryvale (Brian's son, Kurt coaches the Flyers) but it was moved inside after a down-pour rain turned to hail and ended the game after three innings. Maryvale was leading at the time, 4-2. As of press time, it is undetermined whether the game will be concluded.

Williamsville Director of Athletics Jim Rusin said no one will ever wear No. 7 at South again.

"We will not forget our friend and colleague," said Rusin.

South Athletics Director Kevin Lester said the framed jersey was originally going to be displayed in the South gym but instead be placed outside the South boys locker room.

With "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" playing in the background, every South baseball player, with No. 7 sewn on their hats in honor of their fallen leader, shook the hands of Hansen's sons, Keith, Kurt and Erik, and his widow, Elaine. The Maryvale



**The Williamsville South baseball program** retired the No. 7 jersey worn by late coach Brian Hansen after a halted non-league game between South and Maryvale last Tuesday at South. The ceremony was to take place before the beginning of the seventh inning but got moved to the South gym because of hail. The game ended with

Boosters gave the Hansen family flowers. The South players presented Elaine Hansen with the game ball.

South coach Dave Delisanti, who was Brian Hansen's JV coach for nine years, said when he walked into the locker room before the game, his players were painting No. 7 on their cheeks with eye black even though many of them never had him as a

coach.

Delisanti said senior Alex Walkowski told every South varsity player in pre-game warm-ups, to jog over and shake hands with Kurt Hansen.

Kurt Hansen said, unbeknownst to him, the Maryvale Boosters provided the Maryvale players with wristbands with No. 7.

"The guys are still wearing them

a week later," he said.

Kurt Hansen said the event meant a lot to him, his brothers, and his mother.

"There were a lot of classy gestures from a lot of classy guys from Jim Rusin to Dave Delisanti to Kevin Lester," said Kurt Hansen.

Kurt Hansen was his father's assistant for five years in the 1990s. He was Maryvale's JV

coach from 1999 until he became varsity coach in 2007. He coached against his father once last year.

Rusin said Hansen was a special person.

"Sometimes we're in a tough business - coaching and teaching - but I've never heard anyone in 38 years say a bad word about Brian Hansen," said Rusin. "His teams played the game the right way. There was no arguing with the umpires. His players hustled all of the time."

Rusin owes his first job in the Williamsville School District to Hansen. When Rusin graduated from college, Hansen left his job as a health and physical education teacher in the district to attend spring training for the Philadelphia Phillies' organization. Hansen, a seventh-round pick by the Phillies in the 1968 Major League Baseball draft, played minor league baseball for four years at the "A" and "AA" level.

Hansen worked as a health and physical education teacher at Maple West Elementary and Mill Middle School before moving to South High School from 1993 until he retired in June 2002.

"Brian always felt lucky to be in the Williamsville Central School district," said Rusin last Tuesday. "Ladies and gentleman, I have news for you. The Williamsville Central School District was very lucky he spent 33 years with us."

Born in Detroit, Mich., Hansen earned bachelor's and master's

(Please turn to page 20)

# South girls track breaks meet record at Wildcat Relays

Williamsville South's girls outdoor track team broke its own meet record and set a school record in the shuttle hurdle relay at Saturday's Wildcat Relays at John F. Kennedy High School.

Kailyn Arcury, Cassiana Hyppolite, Kristina Arcury and Allie VanBuren combined for a time of 1:02.31. The old record of 1:04.5 was set in 2003.

South finished tied for third with Lancaster and Starpoint with 30 points.

The same quartet minus Kailyn Arcury but with Amanda Breymer took second in the 4x200 relay in 1:50.3.

South also won the high jump relay with a combined leap of 9-10. Breymer and Kailyn Arcury cleared 5-0 and 4-10, respectively.

The two, along with Lindsey Porter came in fifth in the long jump/triple jump relay. Breymer and Kailyn Arcury long jumped 14-8 and 14-1, respectively. Porter triple jumped 30-9.

South was also close at scoring points in several other events. The top six finishers scored points.

The sprint medley relay of Kailyn Arcury, Kristina Arcury, Bethany Syracuse and Breymer placed seventh in 4:39.1.

The 4x400 relay of Syracuse, Hyppolite, Porter and Rachael DiVita took seventh.

The distance medley relay of Jenny Mooney, MC Aungst, Meagan Monroe and Erin Ballou finished eighth in 15:27.7.

The 4x800 relay of Mooney, Aungst, Monroe and Laura Johnston came in eighth in 11:27.6.

Mooney improved her time in the open

1500 by 4.5 seconds, running a 5:30.5.

Charlie Falletta, Alex Ciolko, Hyppolite and Porter ran the 4x100.

The Lady Billies improved to 2-0 in ECIC Division II after beating Iroquois, 74-62, last Tuesday.

South scored points in many events.

The Lady Billies swept the 100 hurdles led by Allie VanBuren (14.8), Kristina Arcury (15.0, personal best) and Hyppolite (17.0).

VanBuren also won the 100- (12.8) and 200-meter dash (26.1) and 400 hurdles (1:08.1).

Kristina Arcury took second in the 200 dash (personal best 27.1) and third in the 100 dash (13.0).

Breymer won four events - 400 (1:05.5), 800 (2:34), high jump (4-10), and long jump (14-11).

Jennifer Lopez won the discus in a school record 105-1 and the shot put in 32-4. Sara Buch took third in the discus with a throw of 63-4.

Colleen Hurtubise placed second in the 3000 in 12:18.2. Monroe, Johnston and Santana Coon ran strong 3000 legs.

Porter took second in the triple jump (30-1.5) and placed third in the 400 (1:09.1).

Mooney just missed a personal record in the 1500, finishing third in 5:35.6. Mooney also had a personal record in the 800 with a 2:41.

Coon also had a personal record in the 1500 with a 6:25.8.

Charlie Falletta hit a personal best in the 200 in 29.2. Syracuse hit and Ciolko had times

of 30.1. Syracuse just missed placing in the 400 with a time of 1:09.2.

In the 100 dash, Hyppolite took fourth. Ellie Falletta ran a 13.8.

Kailyn Arcury tied for second in the high jump with 4-6 but ended up fourth because she had more misses.

South ran at Amherst on Tuesday but the result was unavailable before The Bee went to press. They will compete on Saturday in the Holland Tulip Festival Invitational at Holland High School.

## South boys

The Billies scored in only two events but still took 11th out of 28 teams at Wildcat

Relays.

South's shuttle hurdle relay of Huron Hill, Nick Hoffman, Tim Krempe and Dan Polis finished third. The high jump relay of Krempe and Hill combined for a height of 10-4 for fourth.

John Stark improved his time in the open 1600 by seven seconds, finishing for the first time under five minutes in 4:59.9.

The 4x400 relay of Krempe, Hill, Nick Helnick and Alex Podvezko ran a season-best 3:47.2.

South lost to Iroquois, 81-51, last Tuesday at Iroquois.

(Please turn to page 20)

# Publish sports scores in The Bee

Anyone wishing to have their teams' baseball, softball, outdoor soccer or other spring sports results published in The Bee, whether it is a house, travel, town, recreational or other team, can submit articles in a variety of ways.

Forms for some of the sports can be filled out on our Web site, [www.beenews.com](http://www.beenews.com). This is the preferred method for sending reports to The Bee.

Articles can also be emailed directly to sports reporter Patrick J. Nagy at [pnagy@beenews.com](mailto:pnagy@beenews.com). However, anyone wishing to obtain forms to fill out manually can come to our office at 5564 Main Street in Williamsville and pick forms up there. Once filled out, they can be either faxed to our office at 633-8601 or mailed to P.O. Box 150, Buffalo NY, 14231-0150.

Summaries of individual games — *whether it is a season opener, a league/playoff championship or any other contest in between those extremes* — are limited to a maximum of 100 words each. For stories on tournaments that include multiple games, reports are limited to a total of 300 words.

The deadline for stories to be turned in to run in Wednesday's paper is still 9 a.m. the Monday before that paper is published.

The Bee will make every effort to publish youth sports results the week they are received, but makes no guarantee as to the publication date.

If you have any other questions, contact Nagy at 204-4903.