

Anyone wishing to have their teams' spring youth sports results published in The Bee can be filled out at www.beenews.com. Summaries of individual games are limited to a maximum of 100 words each. The deadline for stories to run in Wednesday's paper is still 9 a.m. the Monday before that paper is published. If you wish to have forms mailed to you or have any other questions, contact Nagy at 204-4903.

Lipsitz helps Penn State win NCAA volleyball title

Williamsville North graduate named to all-tournament team

by **PATRICK J. NAGY**
Reporter

Max Lipsitz didn't like volleyball five years ago. Now he's a national champion.

The 2006 Williamsville North graduate helped the Penn State men's volleyball team rally to a 27-30, 33-31, 30-25, 30-23 victory over Pepperdine on May 3 in Irvine, Calif. to win its first NCAA volleyball championship in 14 years.

Lipsitz, a sophomore 6-foot-7 middle hitter for the Nittany Lions, recorded a career-high 17 kills on .500 hitting in the championship game.

"It's like a dream come true," said Lipsitz. "Being a national champion is pretty cool. It's starting to set in now."

Despite losing the first game to Pepperdine, Lipsitz knew his team was going to win the match.

"We knew they were weak in the middle so the plan was to run our middles down their throat," said Lipsitz. "They couldn't stop us. I got up in the air quick, (setter) Luke (Murray) gave me the target and I got the job done."

Lipsitz also tallied a career-high 12 blocks to help Penn State beat Ohio State, 30-21, 26-30, 30-22, 30-17, in a national semifinal on May 1.

"Going into to Ohio State match, we knew their hitters' tendencies," said Lipsitz. "I got out there and did what my coach-

es asked of me. I have to give a lot of credit to guys on the block next to me - Matt Anderson, Ryan Sweitzer, Jay Stauffer and Luke Murray."

Lipsitz was also named a second-team All-American and to the NCAA all-tournament team. All of these accomplishments are incredible considering he had to be coaxed by North volleyball coach

to the first tryout, he called and left a message on my parents' answering machine telling our mom, Ruth, to make us go to tryouts. She heard it and forced us to go."

As soon as Max and his brother Joe went tryouts, they loved it. Max, a sophomore at the time, would be named to the All-Western New York team as a junior and senior as an outside hitter. He later started playing middle hitter for Eden Volleyball Club. It was there Lipsitz befriended West Seneca West graduate and Penn State teammate Matt Anderson, who was selected as the NCAA tournament's most valuable player and national co-player of the year.

Lipsitz put on 20 pounds of muscle before he attended Penn State. After adjusting to the speed of the game and improving his technique, he really started to excel. In his first collegiate match, he recorded eight kills on eight swings.

He finished his freshman year by being named to the All-East first team. He averaged 2.21 kills per game on .477 hitting, which was eighth on the single-season list for Penn State.

Last summer, Lipsitz started at middle hitter for the United States Junior National team at the World Championships in Rabat, Morocco. He led the team in blocks (14), blocks per game (0.61) and kill efficiency (61 percent).

"Just watching how confident he is with jump serve is pretty un-

Paul O'Connor and his mother, Ruth, to come out for the North varsity team when he was a sophomore in high school.

"He was my JV boys basketball coach at the time and he told me and my older brother, Joe, to come out for volleyball tryouts," said Lipsitz. "I didn't know anything about volleyball, didn't like the idea. When we didn't show up



Williamsville North graduate Max Lipsitz celebrates with the NCAA championship following the Penn State University men's volleyball team win over Pepperdine in the NCAA final on May 3.



Max Lipsitz recorded a career-high 17 kills in the Nittany Lions' victory over Pepperdine. The Penn State sophomore blocked a career-high 12 shots against Ohio State in the NCAA semifinal.

believable," said O'Connor. "When he gets a set, he puts it down. Rarely does he get blocked."

With only two seniors on the roster, Penn State has all of the tools needed to win another na-

tional title. "That's definitely our No. 1 goal," said Lipsitz. "We'll see what happens from there."

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Amherst baseball controls their own destiny for division crown

by **PATRICK J. NAGY**
Reporter

Amherst Central hasn't won a division title in baseball since 1993 but it's looking more and more like the Tigers will accomplish one of their preseason goals.

Amherst moved into sole possession of first place in ECIC Division III after beating Maryvale, 9-1, last Friday at Amherst.

Both teams had two league losses heading into the game (Maryvale 7-2, Amherst 6-2).

If Amherst wins its last two home games against Pioneer and Starpoint at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday and Friday, respectively, then the Tigers are division champs.

"I asked (assistant coach) Chris Dolce, whose been here since 1997 or 1998, when was the last time Amherst was in first place and he couldn't remember," said Amherst coach Brian Davis. "The great thing is that we're not back dooring into wins. We're playing good baseball. We're not making errors. The pitchers are doing well. We're hitting the ball and winning the tight games."

After Amherst pitcher Andrew Hays put down Maryvale 1-2-3 in the top of the first inning, the Tigers' offense ignited in the bottom of the inning.

James Gould, Alex Dusenberry, Brandon Jeffords and Derek Duke all singled and Mike Gruttadauria doubled. Dusenberry drove in Gould and Duke singled in Dusenberry and Jeffords.

"I told them before the game that we deserved to be in

this position (play for first place) so let's go out and prove it," said Davis. "We came out in the first inning and really hit the ball. Three of the four singles were line drives up the middle. The way we started I thought we were going to score 20 runs in the first inning."

Amherst added three more runs in the third. Mike Yanity led off with a walk, stole second and D.J. Filer drove him in with a single.

After Ben Gaughan walked, Gould singled and brought in Filer. Gaughan scored on a passed ball.

Yanity singled in Duke in the fourth and Phil Cultrara plated Jeffords and Filer scored Duke in the sixth, each by singles.

Many players played well on offense for the Tigers. They were: Gould (2 for 3, run scored, RBI), Jeffords (2 for 4, run scored), Duke (2 for 2, two runs scored, two RBIs, two walks), Yanity (2 for 3, run scored, RBI, stolen base), Cultrara (1 for 4, RBI, stolen base) and Filer (2 for 4, two RBIs, run scored).

Hays was awesome on the mound, pitching a complete game two-hitter, striking out four and walking one. Maryvale's one run was unearned.

"He mixes up his pitches well and keeps guys off balance," said Davis. "He forces teams into ground outs and pop-ups. He lets the defense make plays behind him."

The win capped off one of the program's greatest weeks in years.

The Tigers beat Tonawanda, 12-4, on Monday, May 5, Williamsville East, 11-7, on May 6 and Depew, 2-1, on

Wednesday, all at Amherst.

Amherst pounded out 13 hits against Tonawanda, led by Dusenberry (3 for 4, triple, RBI, run scored), Duke (2 for 4, double, two runs scored), Gruttadauria (2 for 4, RBI), Yanity (1 for 3, three runs scored, two RBIs, two stolen bases) and Cultrara (2 for 3, two runs scored, RBI).

Amherst scored four times in the second, three more in the third, two in the fourth and another three in the sixth.

Hays tossed a complete game and allowed seven hits, struck out eight and walked one.

Amherst trailed East, 6-5, before the Tigers scored five runs in the bottom of the fifth.

Dusenberry (3 for 3, three runs scored, three RBIs, two stolen bases), Jeffords (3 for 4, two runs scored, two RBIs), Duke (3 for 4, triple, three RBIs) and Zach Willett (2 for 3, two runs scored) provided the Tigers' offense.

Jeffords got the win on the mound.

The Tigers scored one run against Depew in the third when Dusenberry scored on a hit and run play from a bloop single by Jeffords and once in the sixth when Gruttadauria doubled to score Duke.

A Depew runner was tagged out a step before touching home plate on a rundown to end the game.

Duke threw a complete game and allowed one run, six hits, one walk and struck out eight.

Amherst beat Cheektowaga, 8-3, on Monday, to improve to 8-2 in league, 10-4 overall.

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