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Fumerelle resigns as East football, wrestling coach

by **PATRICK J. NAGY**
Reporter

Henry Fumerelle resigned as head varsity football and wrestling coach at Williamsville East effective June 24.

Fumerelle was entering his 12th year with the football program with the last five years as head coach. He was the wrestling coach the past eight years.

"I hated to leave," said Fumerelle on Monday. "I feel bad for all of the kids. It was really a family atmosphere. I wish the best to (East Principal) Mr. (Neal) Miller for giving me the opportunity to be a football and wrestling coach at East for so long."

Fumerelle's reason for leaving is unclear, but he did say he was not comfortable with changes that were being made to the varsity coaching staff.

"I believe a program has to be built from the ground up. It needs

to have consistency," said Fumerelle. "When the policies change and I don't feel comfortable with them, it's time."

"I can't hire anybody (new East football coaches)," he said. "I make the recommendation to hire them. Every recommendation I've made, they've (the district) hired. Every recommendation where I wanted (a coach) to move on, they agreed with me and we moved on. That system wasn't in place anymore. (Williamsville Director of Athletics) Dr. (Jim) Rusin did what he thought was best. I'm firm in my belief."

Fumerelle said he met with Miller, Rusin and Athletics Director Chris Mucica on June 18.

After resigning on June 24, Fumerelle met the East football captains and six other key players for dinner and told them the news.

"I did it with a heavy heart," said



Henry Fumerelle

Fumerelle. "Each one of them gave me a hug."

All of Fumerelle's football assistant coaches have been asked to reapply for their positions.

Rusin hopes to fill the head coaching vacancy by next week.

"I think Hank Fumerelle did a real good job for us," said Rusin. "I wish him well. I'm grateful for the years he gave us."

A downfall of not having a head football coach is that the team could not compete in a summer camp, but Rusin is looking at creating a camp so the East football players don't miss out on one.

Rusin said Mucica, with the help of Canisius College Strength and Conditioning Coach Chuck Pelitera, has been able to continue the East weightlifting and speed training programs without missing a beat.

Under Fumerelle, the East football team qualified for the Consolation Bowl playoffs twice and appeared in the 2005 Section VI Class A Bowl final. With the help of the Booster Club, the team also

got new bleachers so the school could play home games (before that, all home games were at Williamsville South) as well as a new scoreboard and uniforms. Fumerelle said he also sent between three and four seniors every year to play college football.

The East wrestling team was ranked four out of the eight years Fumerelle was at the helm, including last year. In addition, four East wrestlers in eight years advanced to the New York State Championships with two placing.

Fumerelle won't be out of a high school coaching job for very long. He said he has a couple opportunities to coach football either as a coordinator or head coach in Section VI and has a few wrestling coaching possibilities for the winter.

e-mail: pnagy@beenews.com

Amherst residents gear up for Transplant Games

by **CRAIG KANALLEY**
Intern

Most major sporting events are all about winning, but not the U.S. Transplant Games. They're about celebrating the gift of life.

The 2008 edition of the games will be held July 11 through July 15 in Pittsburgh, Pa. Dozens of Western New Yorkers, including seven Amherst residents, will participate in the national event, held once every two years.

All athletes who take part in the games are survivors of life-saving organ transplant procedures.

"Our athletes brought home 20 medals two years ago from the Louisville Games," said Team Buffalo manager Ron Geddes, 58, of Clarence. "But we all brought home a lot more than that — friendships that will last a lifetime. (This year) we'll be sending our largest contingent from Western New York that we've ever sent to the games, over 60 people."

Geddes had a double lung transplant in December 2001. This will mark his third year at the Transplant Games.

Representing Amherst at this year's games will be Helen Boisaubin of Amherst, Cheryl Chambers of Amherst, Dr. Robert Kaprove of Williamsville, Scott Nichol of Williamsville, Joey Simonick of Williamsville, Michelle Tulett-Sosa of Amherst and Mingguang Zhu of East Amherst.

Simonick is one of the youngest competitors at 16 years old, though also one of the most experienced. This year he'll be participating in the Transplant Games for the eighth time.

"It's just a ton of fun," he said. "I enjoy participating."

Simonick had a heart transplant in February 1992 when he was six weeks old, but he hasn't let that put a damper on his life. He enjoys staying active and bowls frequently with his family. He'll be participating in the bowling and cycling events at this year's games.

"I've won bronze and silver medals before," he said. "But I just do it for the fun of it."

Tulett-Sosa, 47, is also a veteran to the games. She participated in the first ever such event, the inaugural

World Transplant Games in Amsterdam, Netherlands, in 1984.

"At that time, there was just a world games and that was it," she said. "The United States had three teams, a Team Buffalo, a Team Colorado I think, and some other one, and there were only about 200 participating athletes from around the world."

"Now, there's over 2,000 athletes in the United States games alone, so you can see how much it's grown," she said.

Tulett-Sosa underwent a successful kidney transplant in August of 1980. She's the longest surviving transplant member on the Team Buffalo roster.

She'll be participating in the cycling, shot put and 1,500-meter racewalk events at this year's games. She said that earning a medal will be the last thing on her mind.

"I don't really care if I get a medal," she said. "I like to go to socialize and meet other people and tell people the story of how long I've had the transplant, to give them

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WNY Sting Extreme wins Aunt Rosie's 16U Tournament

Three days of wind and rain were not enough to slow down the WNY Sting Extreme softball team at the Aunt Rosie's 16 and under Tournament held from June 27 to 29 at the Amherst Pepsi Center diamonds.

The Extreme outscored their opponents, 43-7, and went 8-0 to win the tournament.

Pitchers Chelsea Dustin (West Seneca) and Brittany Rung (Williamsville) teamed up with catcher Taylor Klun (Williamsville) to hold the opposition to no more than two runs in any game as the offense supplied the scoring to provide the weekend sweep.

Play began on Friday morning and continued all weekend with rain interrupting the Sunday schedule. The final three games on Sunday were played after a two-hour weather delay. The Sting battled a Canadian team, Pickering Heat 91, for the entire game, only to come from a two-run deficit in the final inning to tie the game and send it into tiebreaker extra innings.

The game-clinching hit was a triple by Val Nappo (Clarence) that scored Ashley Snider (Depew), who had just been walked, to give the WNY Sting a 3-2 victory.

The final began around 8 p.m. with the Sting team facing the newly formed La Nova all-stars.

The game was scoreless until Jen Kroboth (Elma) bunted and reached third base on a La Nova throwing error. Snider hit a long fly ball to the outfield fence that was caught but Kroboth tagged up and scored the only run of the game.

The entire weekend was a balance of outstanding offense and great

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The WNY Sting Extreme softball team won the Aunt Rosie's 16 and under Tournament held June 27-29 at the Amherst Pepsi Center diamonds. Pictured from left, are: first row — Brittany Rung (Williamsville), Chelsea Dustin (West Seneca); second row — Val Nappo (Clarence), Jenna Yates (West Seneca), Jen Kroboth (Elma); third row — Ashley Platek (Elma), Breanna Fenski (Cheektowaga), McKenzie Klun (Williamsville), Taylor Klun (Williamsville), Ashley Snider (Depew) and Tina Schwartzmeyer (West Seneca).