



**Utterback pitching well for West Chester B3**

# SCHOOLS SPORTS HEALTH & BEAUTY

**Family reunites for the 121st time B5**



**SECTION B**

June 30, 2011



New Hope-Solebury baseball coach Tony Vlahovic gathers with fans at the Hope4Heroes Charity Baseball Game in Lakewood, N.J. Vlahovic's promising baseball career was cut short by a drunk driver.

## Finding life's calling

**NH-S' Vlahovic joins MLB stars in helping vets**

*Don Leyboldt*

New Hope-Solebury baseball coach Tony Vlahovic's background prepared him well for his life's calling.

A lefty standout pitcher out of Whitehall High School, Vlahovic still ranks third on Wilkes University's all-time saves list. After college, he pitched in Italy and earned his team's Rookie of the Year.

When he came back to the States, Vlahovic signed with the Red Sox and earned a spot on their 40-man roster.

Prior to taking the job at New Hope-Solebury, Vlahovic won a state title as an assistant coach at Princeton Day School.

Vlahovic's background prepared him well for his life's calling.

Except that Vlahovic will tell you that his life's calling has little to do with baseball.

"My parents were real influential about giving back and helping others. I didn't really know what that meant until I went through some pretty tough life experiences and came out through the other end,"

Vlahovic said.

Think of adversity as a nasty left-handed hitter. Think of Vlahovic as the lefty specialist called in to pitch to adversity.

Vlahovic survived cancer as a teenager. If that weren't enough of a medical malady, Vlahovic was hit by a drunk driver heading to Spring Training; his left leg and baseball career were instantly destroyed. It took him 18 months to fully physically recover.

"It took some work on myself. I was definitely depressed after the accident, the rehab and going back to graduate school. I felt like a fish out of water," he admitted. "It was a struggle. But I think the idea of I could still make a difference. I could still do something that means something in this world" pushed me on. It was definitely a process. It did not happen over night."

Life threw Tony Vlahovic two vicious curveballs before he was 26. Tony Vlahovic came out swinging ... and has dedicated himself to helping others come out swinging too. Vlahovic subsequently earned a master's degree in psychology.

He works as a strength trainer and a counselor at the wellness center he runs in Hopewell Township.

"When I was going through the rehab process, I didn't feel like I was being taken care of. I felt like I was just part of the system and I wanted to change that. A big part of (healing), besides the physical part of it, is mentally," he noted. "How to be more positive, think about how you want to progress and have some goals in your life that you want to obtain.

"The way you do that is to look at your life, look at where you want to go and look at what you can do as a person. Also, real importantly, is giving back and doing something for other people. That's how I was able to go as far as I did. Someone stepped back and helped me. I never forgot that."

On June 17, Vlahovic joined former Major League all-stars such as Dmitri Young, Steve Rogers and Bob Boone to give back at the Hope4Heroes Charity Baseball Game in Lakewood, N.J. Sponsored by the Phillies' single-A

*Continued on page B2*



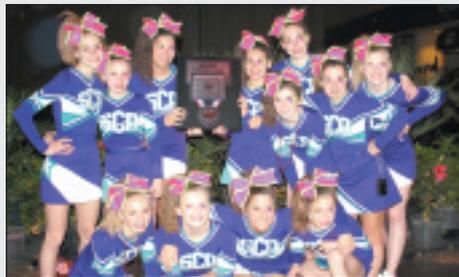
### First R.A.C.E.

St. Joseph/St. Robert School, Warrington, recently held its inaugural Run about Catholic Education. The event included 337 runners and walkers. The R.A.C.E. featured a 1K kids run, a two-mile walk and a 5K race. Here, the 1K kids run gets under way.



### Solebury stars

The Solebury girls' U12 all-star softball team, from left: Lexi Roemer, Emily Madara, Natalie Borys, Marissa McDermott, Rachel McMahon, Claudia Kolinchak, Nina Coughlin, Sarah Wilson, Alyssa Locke, Amanda Horak, Shaelyn Parker, Analiessa D'Alessio.



### Super Stars

The Super Stars from Stellar Cheer All-Stars competed at the American Open National Championship on March 26 and 27 in Orlando, Fla. The team was named the Silver Champions in the senior level 4.2 division. Team members are: Sarah Pubins, Brenna Connelly, Maddy Zezzo, Kate Toutkoushian, Rachel Pubins, Lauren Adelman, Erin Connors, Jessica Musitano, Jessica Czerwonka, Sam Luongo, Lauren Gannon and Sydney Gehring.

## Bader, 7, carries motocross torch for Quakertown

Quakertown's Cole Bader is on the final step of his dream come true.

The 7-year-old dirt bike racer has qualified for the largest amateur motocross race in the world, the 30th annual AMA Amateur National Motocross Championships at Loretta Lynn's Ranch.

Bader took on more than 20,000 hopefuls from across America to earn one of just 1,386 qualifying positions.

"The Amateur Nationals at Loretta Lynn's is the event every motocross racer in the country wants to compete in," event director Tim Cotter said. "A win at the Amateur Nationals gives a rider instant national notoriety and can serve as a springboard to a lucrative professional motocross career."

Most of America's top professional motocrossers, including James Stewart, Ricky Carmichael, Travis Pastrana and Jeremy

McGrath, have won AMA Amateur National Championships at Loretta Lynn's. The race is so prestigious that in years past, teenage stars Dean Wilson, from California, and Eli Tomac, from Colorado, were awarded premier professional contracts.

Bader, who attends Richland Elementary, has been riding since he was 5 years old. With the help of sponsors such as Barefoot Racing, Vortex and EVS, Bader has had the opportunity to pursue his dreams. He has won many races in the last two years and competes nearly every weekend at several local tracks.

Bader will make the long journey to Tennessee along with his family. The race runs Aug. 1-6.

The track is built on a section of Loretta Lynn's Ranch and Campground in Hurricane Mills, Tenn. The course contains a variety of jumps, corners and other obstacles designed to test the skills and stamina of the racers.



Cole Bader, 7, of Quakertown will travel to Tennessee in August for the National Motocross Championships.



### Team Electra

Team Electra from Stellar Cheer All-Stars competed at the ECDA National Competition on April 16 in Hershey. The team was named national champions out of eight teams in the small senior level 3 division. The team is coached by Alison McClure and Stephanie Schmitzer. Team members are: Kate Toutkoushian, Curran Hunter, Jessica Musitano, Lauren Gannon, Savannah Holderer, Devin O'Donnell, Shelby Mustich, Kara Hoke, Sarah Cullen, Lindsay Wallace, Tony Valentini, Erin Connors, Jenna Donnelly, Jessica Czerwonka, Bre Krzeminski, Sydney Gehring, Sam Luongo, Casey Skrove, Sara Jellinek and Jessica Berstler.

# HERALD SPORTS

## American Legion baseball: Quakertown blasts Plumstead

Vince Paravecchia

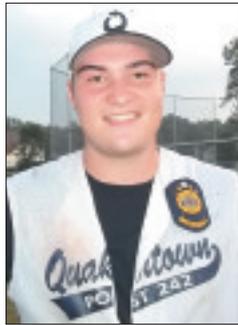
Things did not go well for Quakertown in the high school baseball season.

For one reason or another, though, those misfortunes have not carried over to the Post 242 Legion squad. Credit a new beginning or the addition of eligible college players back from last year's team, but Quakertown is rolling through the Bux-Mont American Legion Baseball League slate and is look-

ing primed for a run in the postseason next month.

"We got some key returning players, and we're a real solid, core group." Post 242's Jake Neiman said after Quakertown's 13-7 victory at Plumstead last Tuesday night.

After starting 2-2, Quakertown has been on a tear lately, winning eight league games in a row and averaging just under seven runs per game during that span. Its victims included Doylestown, Pennridge, Hatfield and Nor-Gwyn.



Quakertown's Jake Neiman.



Plumstead's Zach Steubing.

That said, Post 242's streak came to an end the following night at Pottstown, where they could not prevail in a 16-13 shootout. Pottstown has wrapped up a season sweep of Quakertown and is the only team to beat it twice, while the other setback came to Warrington earlier this month.

Still, Post 242 has positioned itself for the top spot in the Bux-Mont playoffs. Pottstown is 11-6 in league play, while Quakertown stands at 10-3 with 20 total points.

"We've got to show up to play every night," pitcher Joe Garlick said.

A recent Quakertown graduate, Garlick is in his first year of senior Legion play and will attempt to walk on at DeSales University next year. He gave up five hits while striking out three and yielding five runs in earning a win over Plumstead and is now 3-0 on the season.

"These guys, they keep us in line," he added about the coaching staff. "It's a different dynamic."

And it's paying dividends. While several of the runs were unearned, five Post 242 players, including Neiman, Phil Bain, Alex Dyer, Collin Utterback and Matt Roberts, had

multi-hit games against Plumstead and its starting pitcher, Seth Ehlo.

Neiman had the biggest night of all, though, as he drove in six runs on just two hits. One came in the second inning and opened the scoring. The other was in a game-changing sixth frame after Plumstead had cut the lead to 6-5 just moments earlier. With the bases loaded and two outs, Neiman stepped to the plate and blasted a deep shot to left field.

Plumstead's Tony Bingaman nearly pulled down an amazing over-the-shoulder catch, but just couldn't reach the ball. It would up bouncing off his glove and falling directly into the bushes that are in that section of the field instead of the fence in right.

After a conversation, umpires awarded Neiman a grand slam, which swelled the Post 242 lead to 10-6. They wound up scoring three more unearned runs in the inning, including a two-RBI double by Bain, to put the game away.

"Starting to feel better at the plate now, making better contact," said Neiman, a 2010 Quakertown graduate who played first base, his normal position, for Ursinus

College this year. "Our offense has been pretty solid this year. Our defense has been, too. We're looking pretty good."

It's a formula for a potential deep run in the playoffs, which nearly happened last year before Pennridge, an eventual national region qualifier, knocked them out.

For Plumstead, it's about making the postseason, and it's not totally out of the question yet given that four games still remain this week. Plumstead stood at 2-13. Yet, one of their wins came in 7-2 fashion over Warrington, a team currently tied for first place in points with 22. The other was at Lansdale.

A big week could get Plumstead out of last place.

"We have a young team," right fielder Zach Steubing said. A recent Palisades graduate, he, as well as fellow Pirate Logan Boone, were on last year's Silver Creek squad. They are the only two players to move over to Plumstead.

"We'll start a game off with four runs, and a team will answer us, and sometimes, we'll start getting out of the game, someone will lose focus," Steubing added. "We've just got to come together as a team, finish games."

Plumstead cut the Post 242 lead to one on two occasions, once in the bottom of the second and again in the bottom of the fifth. Steubing, who hopes to play for Bucks County Community College and is eligible for Legion again next year, belted four hits and the same number of RBI in the losing effort. All of the latter came on doubles, the second of which happened with the bases loaded after it just squeaked into the bushes to be called a ground-rule double. Otherwise, he, too, could have had a grand slam.

"I was seeing the ball real well at the plate," said Steubing, who, along with other teammates, believes next season's team will be much stronger. "When I saw it, I was taking a hack at it."



### Undefeated season

The undefeated Solebury Parks 10U Softball team won the LWAYBSA 2011 Interleague Softball Tournament, which took place at Ely Field in Lambertville, N.J., June 17 to 19. From left, back row, coaches Jim Herbert, Ed McDonnell, John Fasti; middle row, Gillian McCann, Tiara King, Sabrina Vlahovic, Abigail Rooney, Danielle Herbert; front row, Meghan Miller, Elizabeth Fasti, Gabrielle Fasti and Katie McDonnell.

**LONG LANE ACRES SPORTING ARMS**  
 South Park Rd., Ottsville • 610-847-2586  
<http://www.longlaneacressportingarms.com>  
**Now stocking dealers for Glock and Springfield Armory Pistols**  
**HOURS: Monday and Wednesday 10-6**  
**Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday 10-7, Saturday 9-4**

## New Hope's Vlahovic up to life's challenges

Continued from page B1

affiliate Lakewood BlueClaws, the Wounded Heroes Game billed a "Heroes versus Legends" format.

"The Heroes were members of the Armed Services and the Legends were the former Major League Baseball players. Everyone on the Heroes has done at least one tour in

Afghanistan or Iraq. They're an amazing bunch of guys; just as nice as can be," observed Vlahovic, who got involved in the game through his membership in the Major League Baseball Alumni Association. "They couldn't stop thanking us for taking the time to play against them and to be a part of this."

The game proceeds fund scholarships for combat veterans and their family members. Hope4Heroes supports veterans and their families through scholarships and job training programs.

"I had goose bumps multiple times during the night and I know

other players did too," Vlahovic stated. "I felt much, much closer to the (Middle East) situation then I had. The game had so much meaning. The Color Guard came out in the beginning of the game, and the place was just silent. In the fifth inning with us singing 'God Bless America'... it's one of those nights that I'll remember for the rest of my life as a person and as an athlete."

Vlahovic continued, "One of my closest friends is going back to Afghanistan this month for his sixth combat tour. I told him, 'My thoughts are with you. I know you're putting your life on the line and any way I can bring awareness or bring people to help you guys, I would do that.' It definitely had special meaning to me."

For the record, Vlahovic played outfield and first base due to a glut of Legends pitchers. The Heroes rallied from a 4-0 deficit to win 5-4 in the bottom of the seventh, and last inning.

"Bob Boone and I were standing in the dugout against the fence and people were asking for autographs going back and forth. It was a beautiful night," Vlahovic recalled, "and he turned to me and said, 'This is Americana at its best. Baseball and the Armed Services. It's like everybody's a winner.'"

For information, go to wounded-heroesbaseball.com.

**#1 SELLING BRAND of Handheld Outdoor Power Equipment in AMERICA**

"Number one selling brand" is based on syndicated Irwin Broth Research (commercial landscapers) as well as independent consumer research of 2010 U.S. sales and market share data for the gasoline-powered handheld outdoor power equipment category combined sales to consumers and commercial landscapers.

**FS 55 R TRIMMER** **\$199<sup>95</sup>**

Versatile, straight-shaft trimmer for occasional or light-duty professional use

**MS 290 STIHL FARM BOSS®** **\$359<sup>95</sup>**

Features adjustable automatic bar and chain oiler and side-access chain tensioner for ease of use

**DOUBLE YOUR WARRANTY** WHEN YOU PURCHASE A 6-PACK OF STIHL HP ULTRA OIL

Double warranty protection is limited to STIHL gasoline-powered products purchased for personal non-income producing, family and household purposes only. Other restrictions apply.

**New Hope**  
 Betts Equipment Inc.  
 3139 Windy Bush Road  
 215-598-7501  
 BettsEquipment.net

**Ottsville**  
 Wehrungs (Lumber)  
 Route 611, P.O. Box 550  
 610-847-2066  
 WehrungsLumber.com

**STIHLdealers.com**

All prices are NES-SRP. Available at participating dealers while supplies last. © 2011 STIHL NES11-641-95812-10

*Fairways*

Golf Course

**18 Hole Open to the Public**  
 Fully irrigated Bentgrass tees, greens, & fairways

**WEEKDAY RATES**  
 \$25 Regular to walk  
 \$20 Senior to walk  
**WEEKEND RATES**  
 \$31 Regular to walk  
 \$42 to ride

**TWILIGHT at 12:00 - 7 DAYS**  
 Weekdays - \$19 to walk - \$29 to ride  
 Weekends - \$21 to walk - \$32 to ride  
[www.fairwaysgolfclub.com](http://www.fairwaysgolfclub.com)

**GIFT CARDS AVAILABLE**

**750 Country Club Lane**  
 Warrington, PA  
 215-343-9979

**ILoveNewHope.com**

&

**ILoveLambertville.com**

Articles,  
 Free Monthly Drawing,  
 Monthly Newsletter