



# SPORTS



## A brand-new ballgame

On July 20, the 45th anniversary of the Special Olympics organization, another milestone in Special Olympics history was reached.

The first official Special Olympics baseball game was played in Montgomery, N.J., between North Jersey and Central Jersey. The teams were made up of New Jersey and Pennsylvania Special Olympic athletes. It was the first game in a series of three. Prior to the three games, softball had only been played by Special Olympic athletes.

The idea of Special Olympics adding baseball as a sport began in February and was the brainchild of Jeff Baldino, senior director of competition; Ryan Ceresani, unified sports manager; and New Hope-Solebury High baseball manager Tony Vlahovic. Initially, indoor clinics, open to all area Special Olympic athletes, were conducted for three months, teaching the athletes basic baseball skills.

The New Hope-Solebury baseball players were part of the initial phase, instructing and having fun teaching the athletes the game of

baseball. (This was part of the community service expected of the players in the New Hope-Solebury baseball program.) After the indoor clinics, the second phase was working with the athletes on a regulation baseball field. The general consensus of the athletes was the bases were too far apart. At the end of the two-month phase, two teams were selected and the games began.

The three games were played between July 20 and Aug. 3. The North team won two of the three. Vlahovic, who awarded both teams their medals, said, "These two teams were amazing to watch. Knowing where we started, from learning how to wear a glove to hitting balls in the gap and turning double plays, it gave me baseball goosebumps."

The USA Games for Special Olympics will be held in Princeton/Lawrenceville, N.J., next June 14 to 21. Vlahovic will manage the New Jersey team with hopes the national Special Olympics organization will follow suit and move baseball from a demonstration sport to a regular venue for the 2015 World Special Olympics in Los Angeles.



New Hope-Solebury manager Tony Vlahovic, left, is with Special Olympics baseball player and Council Rock North graduate Peter Brill.

## Bill Hahn: Motorsports News and Notes Johnson still the points leader

Even though Jimmie Johnson didn't have the race that he wanted, he still left Bristol Motor Speedway with the NASCAR Sprint Cup points lead heading into the season-ending Chase. He'll be joined by Matt Kenseth, who got into the hunt by winning the Irwin Tools 500 and holding off Kasey Kahne on the last lap for his fifth win of the season and the 29th of his career.

With a 14th-place finish, Clint Bowyer clinched a spot in the Chase and stayed in second place in the standings, 18 points behind Johnson. This season's Chase for the Cup should be interesting.

With Tony Stewart out of the seat of the No. 14 car, Mark Martin filled in well and gained some owner points. The other Stewart/Haas cars, driven by Ryan Newman and Danica Patrick, finished in the top 25. It was a nice run for Juan Pablo Montoya, too, with a third-place finish. He might be back in IndyCar racing next season. Joey Logano is making a late season charge for championship points.

Charging from the 15th starting spot, defending champion Duane Howard was able to hold off points

leader Craig VonDohren to win his ninth feature of the NASCAR Whelen Modified season at Grandview Speedway. Up at Big Diamond raceway, Tim Buckwalter picked up the \$4,000 winner's check for claiming the 358 Modified feature event.

Quakertown's Rick Laubach finished fourth and Frenchtown's Billy Pauch was fifth. Ryan Godown of Ringoes, N.J., won his seventh feature of the season at New Egypt Speedway in the 30-lap 358 Modified race. In the 20-lap Sportsman feature, local ace Bob Lineman of New Britain won his third event of the year and is the points leader. Riegelsville's Jim Housworth was in the top 6. Randy West won his first Rislone URC Sprint Series feature at the Port Royal speedway. Pipersville's Brian Carber was the early race leader until a mechanical problem forced him to pit.

The older "Fast" Freddy Rahmer gets, the better he runs, as he picked up another victory at Lincoln Speedway. Donny Schatz is another Sprint car ace who just gets better as the season progresses. He is looking for another championship in the World of Outlaws Sprint Series.

Support your local racers and their sponsors.

## NGA, St. John the Baptist schedule 5K runs

The Needlework Guild of America (NGA) will hold its first 5K Walk/Run on Saturday, Sept. 7, starting at 8:30 a.m. in Warminster Community Park.

Cost is \$25 for adults and \$15 for children 14 and under. Proceeds will help support NGA's mission of serving economically disadvantaged individuals throughout the United States.

Registration forms are available at nga-inc.org. For information, call 215-682-9183, e-mail

mrichbonn@nga-inc.org or visit the website.

The St. John the Baptist 5K Lake Run is Saturday, Sept. 14 at Lake Nockamixon. The race starts at 8:30 a.m., with a free kids' half-mile fun run scheduled to get under way at 8 a.m.

Cost is \$20 in advance at active.com. Race day registration is \$25. Local artist Linda Stauffer will make pottery mugs for the winners.

The 5K will benefit the children at St. John's.

## Penridge, West golf notes

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"We again find ourselves to be a well balanced team in terms of grade level representation," Rimmer said. "Our junior class is strong, and we have a few sophomores who are developing well. ... Based on the participation of our kids in junior events this year, I expect this to be one of our more competitive teams in terms of match scores as our kids will be more comfortable in the match environment."

Although CB West finished atop the pack at Monday's six-squad meet, the Bucks were officially in competition with only Penridge, head coach Bob Schilling reported.

Still, it was a superb day for CB West, which improved to 2-0 in the SOL Continental Conference. The Bucks have also downed Quakertown.

"We were thrilled," Schilling said of his club's performance on Aug. 26 at Indian Valley Country Club. "A little bit surprised, but very thrilled."

Tyler Sokolis had the low round (36) on the day.

"Tyler is a very experienced player," Schilling said. "He's a senior now, has a lot of maturity about him, he understands the game, plays in a lot of high level

competition. He's a very credible player. I expect that if he just relaxes, plays his game and understands he's not going to shoot even par every day, he's going to be a very strong competitor in the league as far as where he fits into the rankings. He'll certainly be in the top 5 players, maybe top 10."

With a round of 40 on Monday, junior Michayla Siemion, who played junior varsity in 2012, is quickly making a name for herself.

"We were pleasantly surprised when she started practicing in try-outs this year to see how strong she was playing," Schilling said. "She's obviously spent quite a bit of time and effort on improving her game."

Schilling also praised his small but distinguished senior class of Andrew Coleman (41 at Penridge), Jeff Strasburg (44) and Sokolis.

"Having been doing this for 18 years now, I can always look at the strength of our senior class as to just how strong a team we'll have," Schilling said. "And between Tyler, Andrew and Jeff, they really provide a lot of maturity and experience to the team, and they help out a great deal in setting the tone, helping the team relax and trying to do the best they can on any given day."

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