



MEDIA LITTLE LEAGUE



P.O. Box 1752, Media, PA 19063

www.medialittleleague.org

Telephone Messages (610) 566-0702

United Way Donor Choice Code No. 04445

Volume 9, Issue 1

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2009

KEY DATES IN 2009

Player Evaluations – Springton Lake Middle School

| | | |
|------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| February 7 | 11:00 – 12:30pm | 8 year olds |
| (Saturday) | 12:30 – 2:00pm | 11 year olds |
| | 2:15 – 3:30pm | 12 year olds |
| | Late Registration accepted | |

| | | |
|-------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| February 21 | 11:00 – 12:30pm | 10 year olds |
| (Saturday) | 12:45 – 2:00pm | 9 year olds |
| Make-ups | 2:15 – 3:30pm | 10-12 year olds |
| | Late Registration accepted | |

| | | |
|-------------|---------------|-------------------|
| February 26 | 6:00 – 7:30pm | Make-ups All Ages |
| (Thursday) | | |

Players Selected to Teams for Each League

March 1st - Major & American
 March 3rd - National
 March 5th - Continental & T-Ball

Equipment Distribution & Practices Start (Majors; American; National)

March 7th (Saturday)

Field Days – Media Little League Complex

All Board members, Managers, Coaches and Parents expected to help clean up and prepare fields/complex

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------|---------|
| March 28 (Saturday) | 9:00am | |
| March 29 (Sunday) | No Practices | 10:00am |

Picture Days – Media Little League Complex

April 1st, 2nd and 4th Times to be announced

Season Begins – Major, American and Nat'l Leagues

April 13th (Saturday)

Opening Day Ceremonies/Media Little League Complex

| | |
|--|-------------------------|
| April 18 (Saturday) | Parade starts at 9:00am |
| Season Begins for T-Ball and Continental Leagues | |

Bat-A-Thon® – All Leagues except T-Ball

May 16th (Saturday)

Championship Day / Closing Ceremonies

June 20th (Saturday)

Volunteers Needed!

Media Little League is a 100% volunteer organization, and we are firmly committed to creating the safest and best environment possible for your child. In order to provide the best possible environment, we need your help. Please get involved by signing-up as a volunteer. We need:

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Team Parents | Snack bar openers and closers |
| Bat-A-Thon Volunteers | Fence and Ad Book ads |
| Umpires | Team sponsors |

President's Message

I don't know about you but it feels good to turn the page to 2009. With all of the economic craziness of this past year I am really looking forward to spring and all that comes with it, including Little League baseball. As we head into our 58th year our league is stronger than ever. We are coming off a record enrollment of 561 players, our complex is in terrific condition and we have a strong group of volunteer board members ready to get things done. All and all I foresee another fun and exciting season of youth baseball at Media Little League.

This past fall our complex was again abuzz with maintenance and improvement projects. The first thing we hope you notice this spring is the newly sodded American and National League infields. We've also extended our sprinkler system to include the National League field and planted a row of trees between the parking area and the American League field. Our other major offseason improvement involved moving the dugout openings on our American League field. This was changed to reduce the potential for injury should a foul ball shoot towards the dugouts.

Complex improvements and league operations are the direct result of your support. Only through your patronage of the snack bar, your investment in team sponsorships and fence advertisements and your effort and generosity at Bat-A-Thon®, are we able to invest in our complex and provide a "best in class" baseball experience for our children.

One of the things that differentiates youth baseball and especially Media Little League from many youth sports organizations is the volunteer participation level. It starts with the 34 of us on the Board of Directors, but that is only the foundation. We need coaches to lead our 46 teams, umpires to watch over the more than 300 games played and still more folks to flip hamburgers, organize team snacks, empty garbage cans and get our complex ready each spring (by the way, please mark your calendar for our March 28th Field Day). By the end of the season virtually every parent (and a fair number of grandparents) has volunteered their time. We think it's the right formula as it keeps our costs down, creates a sense of community and sets a great example for our kids.

In closing I want to again extend congratulations to our post season tournament teams who achieved new levels of success in 2008. For the 2nd year in a row our 9/10 Year Old District team made it to the Pennsylvania Little League state tournament finals. This year however, we won it all. In addition, our 11/12 Year Old District team won the District 19 Championship. This is a testament to the dedication of the players, coaches and parents.

I look forward to seeing and meeting you this year. Please come out and support the kids, support the league and let's Play Ball!

Respectfully,

Scott Bosco

2008/09 President, Media Little League

Stump The Ump

Situation A

One out, runners on second and third, batter hits a double and both runners come home. The runner from third missed the plate... the runner from second properly touched. Realizing he/she missed the plate the runner from third returns to touch it...before the catcher appeals. **DO BOTH RUNS COUNT???**

Situation B

In the late innings of a close game, the home team gets a runner to third base. To guard against a passed ball or wild pitch, the visiting manager brings in his/her right fielder to play behind the catcher and umpire. **IS THIS LEGAL???**

Situation C

The batter swings and hits a high bounding ball down the first base line. The first baseman comes in to the field the ball several feet in front of the bag...both of his/her feet are in fair territory as he/she reaches across the line to field the ball... **FAIR OR FOUL BALL?**



Media LL 12 year old - PA District 19 Champions. Players pictured from left to right are Kevin Bosco, Dan Furman, Bob leradi, Cadin Saltis, Conner Martin, Donovan Davis, Brian Gross, Dan Grandieri, Bryan Mizell and Phillip Kotcamp.

The Little League Pledge:

I trust in God
 I love my country
 And will respect it's laws
 I will play fair
 And strive to win
 But win or lose
 I will always
 Do my best

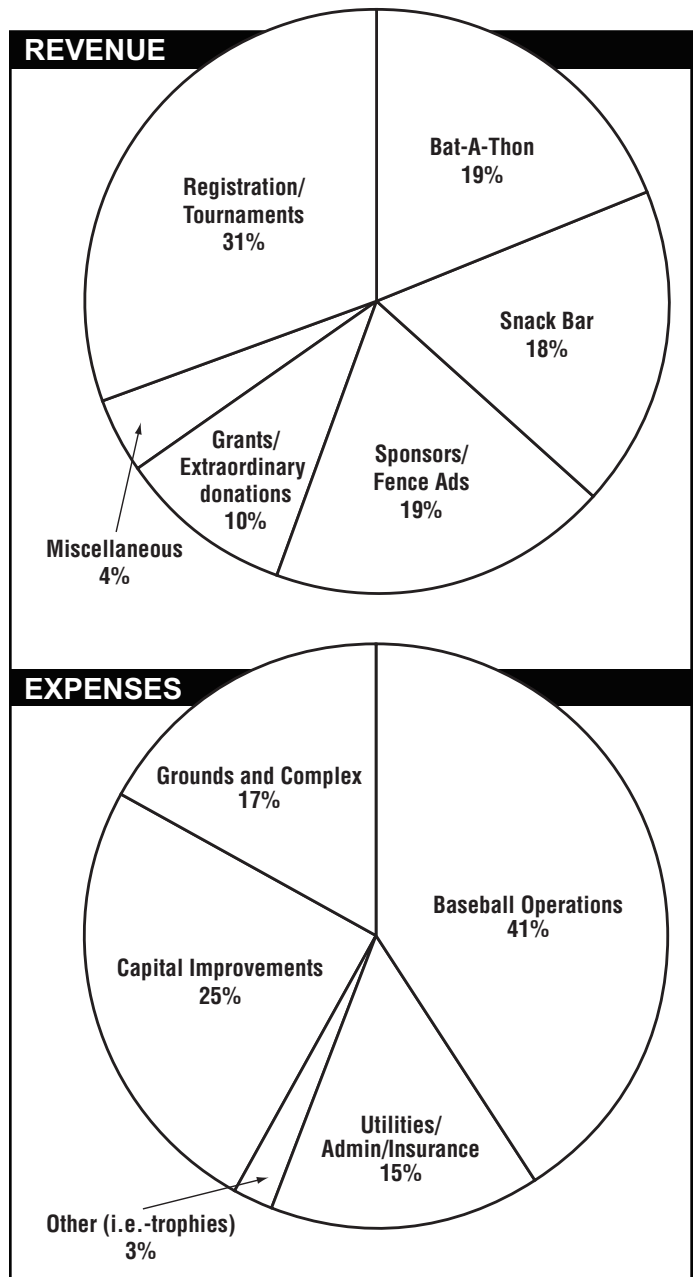


The Little League Parent / Volunteer Pledge:

I will teach all children
 to play fair and do their best
 I will positively support
 all managers, coaches
 and players
 I will respect the
 decisions of the umpires
 I will praise a good effort
 despite the outcome of the game

Situation A
 Answer A: 7.10(b) Only one run counts. He/she may not return after a following runner has scored.
Situation B
 Answer B: 4.03 All fielders except the catcher must be positioned in fair territory. This is not a legal maneuver.
Situation C
 Answer C: 2.00 It is a foul ball. Fair or foul is determined by the position of the ball in relation to the foul line...not the position of the fielder or his/her feet.

ANSWERS TO STUMP THE UMP



9 YO "B" Summer Tournament Team

MLL fielded a nine-year-old "B" tournament team over the summer. By the time our roster was filled, we were left only with the Drexel Hill Tournament to compete in. To stack the odds greater against this feisty group of Little Leaguers, we had to enroll in the 10-year-old and under bracket, which also included a MLL 10-year-old-team.

We started with a few scrimmages.



Players: Manny "BB" Ruffin, Seamus Scanlon, Richie Hess, Jack Kichula, Jack Borbee, Chris Cosenza, Matthew Kantner, Justin Heidig, Ari Feldman, Sitka DeLapp, Casey Calloway, Jake Buchanan, and Chris Betts.

Coaches: Rich Hess, Tom Scanlon and Darryl Ruffin.

First we traveled over to Springfield and recorded a 9-4 victory against a nine-year-old "A" team. Patience at the plate and some timely hitting allowed us to post our runs, but the excellent pitching from Jack Kichula and Jack Borbee stymied the Springfield squad for most of the game.

We then tested our mettle against the MLL 10-year-olds that we were due to square off against in the upcoming DH tournament. Played on the American League field, the rain-shortened result was a pretty good thumping at the hands of our older, skillful peers.

We closed our scrimmage schedule with a close-game-loss to Aston Middleton 9-year-old select team, under the lights at their home venue.

Our tournament started with a first-game-rematch against a similar Aston-Middletown team. The result, a big victory with lots of hitting from everyone on the team, and more great pitching from Jack Kichula. Our final games, all losses, were all hard-fought battles. Some were very close, and down to the wire, and some were a little more one-sided. Our final game was a loss against Drexel Hill, the sponsor team, which saw lead changes throughout the game, until DH finally broke through with a late inning rally to clinch victory.

Throughout the summer this group of seven, eight and nine-year-olds battled hard and never gave up. They came to play everyday!

Media Little League Post Season Baseball – A Bit about the Process

Successful post-season teams have been a source of great pride to MLL. These post-season teams give our most skilled players an opportunity to play additional baseball against peers from other towns and/or leagues. Coaching and playing on these post-season teams requires significant commitment and a willingness to sacrifice a large portion of summer vacation time. MLL sponsors multiple post-season teams from age 7 up to age 12. Post-season tournament play becomes more competitive each year eventually culminating in District team play. District teams are selected specifically to compete in the official Little League International annual tournament. The 9/10 year old and 10/11 year old District teams compete to an eventual state champion. The 11/12 District team competes to an eventual national and world champion. For the U.S. six teams talented and lucky enough to make it, this tournament culminates with a trip to Williamsport, PA to compete in the Little League World Series.

The District Team selection process takes place in early June with the official announcement of our District Teams on June 15th per Little League International rules. District team managers are selected early in the season by a vote process of select members of the MLL Board of Directors. District Team players are decided by a nomination and vote process involving the regular season managers of the league from which a majority of the players will be selected (i.e. Major League managers for the 10/11 and 11/12 District teams and American League managers for the 9/10 District team). This vote process determines the first 10 players selected to each team. The District team manager then decides if additional players are desired and who those players are.

Non-District team managers are selected by early June by the league Commissioner of the league from which the majority of the players participated during the regular season. Non-District team players are decided using the same process as used for the District teams though there is a stronger focus on giving at least 12 players an opportunity to participate on each team.

All post season players are required to fund a portion of the cost associated with post season play. The 2008 fees were \$50 for 1 player families, \$80 for families with 2 players and \$100 for families with 3 or more players. However, no selected player will be excluded due to financial hardship.



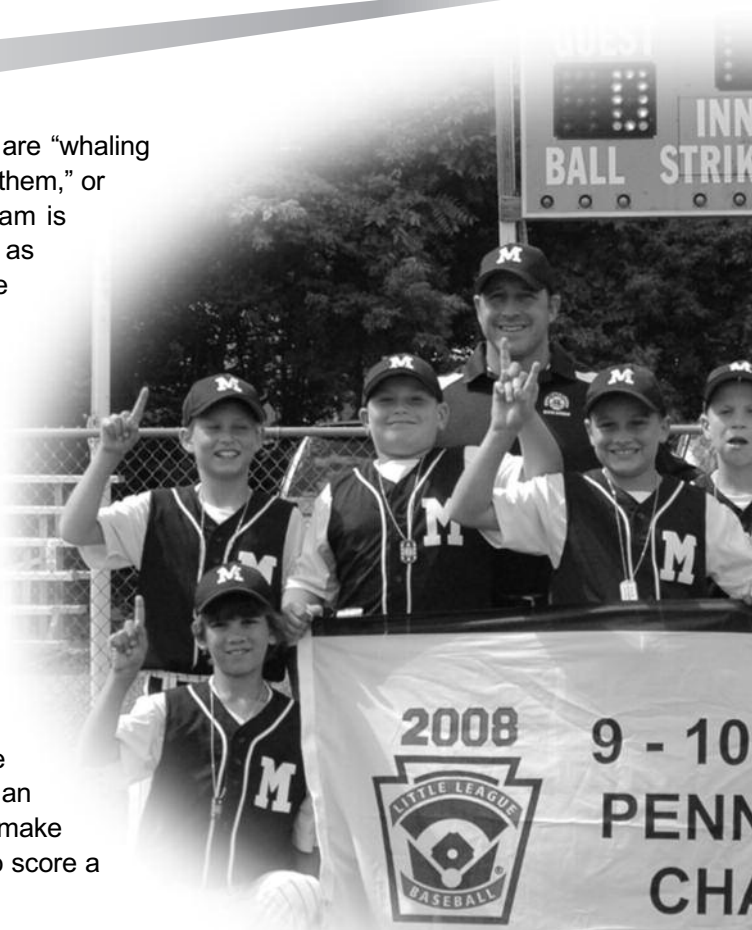
Kings of the



When coaches comment on how players on the opposing team are “whaling the ball” against them or how “they hit everything that we threw at them,” or that “they hit better than anyone we’ve seen,” you know that team is special. This is how the team representing Media was described as they hit their way to the 2008 Pennsylvania State 9-10 year old Little League Championship in Franklin, PA.

The team’s play at the State Championship Tournament in Franklin was typical of that which brought them there. In the tournament opener against Keystone, Alex Burman set the tone for Media hitters belting two singles and a double with his powerful swing. Kyle Virbitsky added to the team’s hit total with a single and displayed strong defense in center field. Anthony Martinelli anchored the far left side of the infield on defense, and rapped out two hits and two RBI’s. Hits by eight of the ten Media players made pitcher Stephen Furman’s job easier as he struck out eight and walked no one in the 11-1 victory.

In the second game Chase Luffey mixed his pitches to keep the hitters from Moon Township on the ground where shortstop Brian Snow and second baseman James “Mac” McConnon combined to make 12 putouts. Danny Crawford used his speed on the base paths to score a



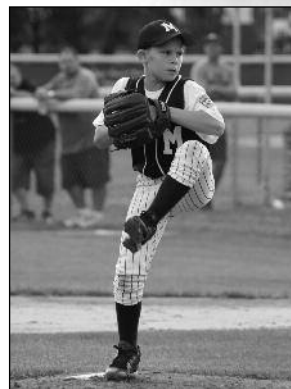
Alex “Allie-B” Burman



Danny “D.C.” Crawford



Stephen “Stevie” Furman

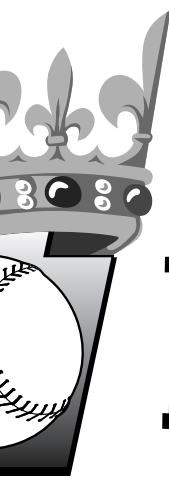


Chase “Dark Knight” Luffey



James “Mac” McConnon

Coaches: Tom Furman and Anthony Martinelli



Keystone State



critical run on a single by Martinelli. Using his bat instead of his arm, Furman sealed the victory when he drove a ball over the center field fence in the fifth inning and Luffey delivered it in the sixth, shutting down the Moon batters, pitching a complete four-hit game.

In a rematch with Moon for the state championship Media players displayed the patience in the batter's box and the aggressive base running that Manager Tom Furman and Coach Anthony Martinelli emphasized all season. RBI singles from Cory Ziring and Steve Moppert jumpstarted the offense while both displayed steadiness in the outfield that kept Moon's few hits from becoming runs. In the third inning Brian Snow took his bat and put a big swing on a ball that sailed over the center field fence. By the time Burman and Mac swatted singles that led to insurance runs and Stevie Furman threw over to Burman at first for the final out of his 5-0, three hit gem, it was already apparent who was the best team in Pennsylvania.

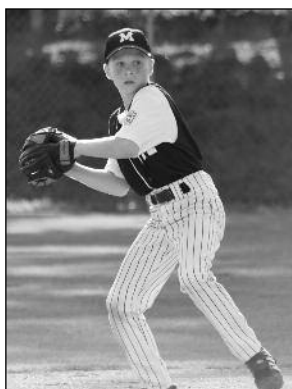
With an offensive attack that scored 143 runs against its opponents combined with pitching and defense that let up only 29 runs during the Pennsylvania State Tournament, the players left little doubt that the first Media Little League team to capture a state title in half a century was indeed special.



Anthony "A-Mart" Martinelli



Stephen "Mopp" Moppert



Brian "B Snow" Snow



Kyle "Man Child" Virbitsky



Corey "Core" Ziring

Media Little League 11 Year-Olds Have Impressive Run in District Play

The post-season got off to an exhilarating start when the team went undefeated (5-0) in the Aston Middletown 'Ryan Ferris Memorial Tournament', ultimately emerging as the tournament champions. The tournament started out with a bang in the opening game with a dramatic come-from-behind win over the host team, Aston-Middletown. With their backs to the wall, down 5-4 with two outs and two strikes on in the top of the 6th, Michael Solomon's HR blast over the right centerfield fence gave way to a 2-out rally that launched the team to a dramatic 7-5 win.

In subsequent games, the team scored lopsided victories over Nether Providence (with HR's by Danny Healey, Timmy Quinn and Kevin McGowan), BYC A team (with back to back to back HR's by Kevin Mohollen, Kevin McGowan and Timmy Quinn), Drexel Hill, and ultimately seized the championship in an All-Media LL game against Rose Tree II.

The team played admirably in the District 19 tournament. They started out with a crushing 8-7 defeat in the opening game against Aston Middletown (the team they beat in the opening game of the Ryan Ferris Tournament). This game featured a 2-run homer by Kevin McGowan and a late-game grand slam blast off the bat of Kevin Mohollen. Despite this spectacular late inning comeback, the team was sent to the 'losing' bracket.

In subsequent games, the team had 5 straight victories over Delaware Valley, Newtown Edgemont, Media B, Haverford Township, and Drexel Hill. They again met Aston Middletown in the winner's/loser's bracket final for the District 19 Championship and won an exciting nail-biter (1-0) for their 6th straight

win and a stellar shutout pitching performance by Russell Rhoades. Sadly, though, they lost a heartbreaker to Aston Middletown the next day in the final District 19 title match. Overall the Media 11's finished District play with a 6-2 record, scoring 71 runs and allowing 37, with two shutouts.

Despite the disappointing loss to Aston Middletown, who went on to win the 11yo State tournament, the boys have a lot to be proud of. Including their pre-season games, they had an impressive winning record of 16-2 and tallied a total of 150 runs scored, giving up less than 60. But even more admirable is the way they played with determination, never giving up and always rising to pressure. After losing the opening game in District play, these boys faced elimination in every game thereafter, yet rose to the occasion, even forcing two games to determine the ultimate champion. Although they did not come away with the 11yo District title in 2008, these boys played like champions and have every reason to hold their heads high and be optimistic for the future.

The 2009 season should be an exciting one for the team!



2009 Commissioner's Corner

The Media Little League Continental division represents the largest group of young athletes within our organization. Eligibility includes players seven and eight years of age. The league can serve as a player's first introduction to competitive baseball or a transition into their second or third year of play.

The goals of the league emphasize baseball fundamentals while developing a young athletes' love for the game. Teams compete in six inning games throughout the season while hitting against a pitching machine. The league is designed to allow every player to hit, play all appropriate defensive positions, and begin to understand

the principles of the game. Our spectacular MLL complex creates an effective and safe environment for our players to develop their skills. Fielding practice and batting cage time is mandatory for each team in order to optimize each child's potential.

All teams are eligible for the playoffs as we compete to crown our divisional champion at the closing ceremonies. Remember, our past players have become District 19 and Pennsylvania State champions.

Scott Rushton

Commissioner - Continental League

Calling all Umpires!

By: Anthony Martinelli,

Director of Umpires – Major League

Often an overlooked aspect of the Little League program, umpiring is one of the most important. The volunteer umpire is as much a part of Little League as the volunteer manager, coach or concession stand worker.

Media Little League continues to advocate volunteer umpires for several reasons.

First and foremost, it is a fallacy to believe that paid umpires are better than volunteers. For the most part, in Media Little League umpiring duties are handled by managers and coaches who have a high level of knowledge of Little League baseball and the extensive set of rules that govern it. Most umpiring associations (those that would assign paid umpires) have some type of rules training and several meetings, however they do not know Little League rules and very few offer clinics specifically focused on Little League training.

Secondly, the cost of having paid umpires is typically passed on to the families during registration time. While they may not seem significant when spread out over several hundred families, the total cost in a league our size including regular season and playoffs would almost certainly be in the range of \$15,000. Instead, we have been able to put that money towards improvements in our facilities and equipment. Having the good fortune to travel across the state last year with our 10 year old "State Championship Team" and see other Little League facilities, I can honestly

say that we have a tremendous complex for our children and their families to enjoy.

Lastly, volunteer umpires result in far less disputes during the course of the game. I think most would agree that to see a fan and/or parent verbally attack an umpire (more inclined when the umpire is being paid) sends the wrong message to our children and compromises the spirit of Little League.

Media Little League wishes to continue its long-standing tradition of volunteer umpires. In fact, we hope to get greater participation from the community. Although our current volunteers are certainly ready, willing and able to continue their part in volunteering, their duties as coaches are very time consuming. With practices, games and family responsibilities to negotiate, time constraints can become an issue.

We welcome all parents, grandparents, siblings, friends, etc. of Media Little League families past and present, to register as a volunteer umpire. Media Little League will provide all equipment, basic training, rule books and moral support necessary for you to become a successful umpire. There is nothing more gratifying than volunteering, especially when it benefits our children.

Come talk with us at during the 2009 Media Little League registration dates when you can learn more about this great opportunity to give back to the kids.

2009 Commissioner's Corner

It's hard to believe the 2008 baseball season is almost here. Last season brought about a few changes for the National League. Every team was afforded an indoor practice venue, much like the kids in the big leagues. The pitching machine was added for the first three weeks of the season to ease the transition from Continental to National. Finally, the rules were brought more in line with Little League International, to teach the kids the correct way the game is supposed to be played.

This season will have some more changes as well. As you soon will see, the National infield is completely redone. Old bumpy turf...GONE. The old infield was torn up and replaced with new sod. Brown, dry spots...GONE. An underground sprinkler system was installed to keep the grass growing. Bare spots in the outfield...GONE(hopefully). The outfield was aerated and over-seeded.

In addition to the physical improvements of the National League field, steps are being taken to improve the instruction of the game for the kids. More effort will be employed in the manager selection, team drafts, and skill development. All of these things would not be possible without the funds generated through our Bat-A-Thon® fundraiser. What a huge asset for our league!

And finally, all of these things would be pointless without the wonderful volunteers that are our kids' parents...YOU! The success of this league is not measured in titles or trophies, but all of us, as a community, coming together for the good of our kids. I wish you all a Happy New Year, and look forward to seeing you on the field.

Tim Broadhurst

National League Commissioner

2008 - Media Little League Champions

| MAJOR LEAGUE | AMERICAN LEAGUE | NATIONAL LEAGUE | CONTINENTAL LEAGUE |
|--|--|--|--|
| CARMAN INSURANCE Mgr – Edward Snow Coach – Tom Furman Coach – Rick Kron Coach – John Mohollen Coach – Leo McGowan Timothy Aman Daniel Furman Stephen Furman Alex Kron Nicholas Ladd TJ Loper Kevin McGowan Alex McLaughlin Kevin Mohollen Caedon Saltis Christopher Smith | WILLIAM YOUNG CARPENTRY Mgr – Bill Young Coach – Terry McCarthy David Bettenhausen Griffin Colvin Cameron Dougherty Angelo Locketto Billy McCarthy Cameron Ricciardi Jordan Siegal Teddy Silva Brian Snow Robert Swanson Devlin Ward Nick Young | LANKENAU SPINE CENTER Mgr – Scott Rushton Coach – John Mohollen Coach – Pete O’Kane Coach – Vince Sposato Christopher Bogardus Michael Chang Jack Ferrie Harrison Hotham Jack Kichula Eric McLaughlin Colin Mohollen Patrick O’Kane Christopher Rushton Charlie Simpson Peter Solomon Vincent Sposato | NEW SPRING CAPITAL Mgr – Andrew Panzo Coach – Mike Hussey Coach – Bill Virbitsky Tommy Bradley Maxwell Brown Samuel Brown Leo Burman Aidan Carroll Nathan Furman Ryan Gill Michael Hussey Samuel Kelk Michael Matteo Jamie Simpson Brian Virbitsky |



NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 736
MEDIA, PA 19063