



TROJAN TIMES

1st Quarter
2008

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Scoring Higher

BY BARBARA PARKINS, SUPERINTENDENT

Welcome back everyone!

As we enter the 2008-09 school year, I want to congratulate this year's senior class on their outstanding performance on this past year's PSSA test.

In past issues of Trojan Times, I highlighted our plans to evaluate all elements of instruction at the high school as part of our School Improvement efforts related to No Child Left Behind requirements. Our focus was and continues to be our curriculum, instructional methods, assessment, student course scheduling, tutoring, and student improvement monitoring.

Well, the latest results show our efforts are working. This year's senior class achieved the highest level yet since the PSSA test was instituted. The last two years have resulted in the highest levels of student achievement ever at GJHS.

Math and Reading scores have increased significantly. As a result, we have exceeded the state requirements of Adequately Yearly Progress (A.Y.P.) the past two years.

Through our PSSA results, we have clearly demonstrated that we are continuing to take the necessary steps for continued academic improvement thus preparing our students for the next phase of their education and career goal attainment.

Students, teachers and parents have much to be proud of. Great teaching, strong leadership, student focus on academic improvement and the artful use of data to drive instruction are some of the main reasons for our success.

Thank you all for your commitment to our school, staff, and students at the Greater Johnstown High School.

I look forward to another great year.

East Side Stories

East Side Summer: Once again, East Side Elementary participated in the popular Summer In The City program for school age children attending the Greater Johnstown School District. The program, which began on June 16 and ran through August 8, is made possible through the collaborative efforts of GJSD, 21st Century Community Learning Center and many participating organizations dedicated to providing children with a safe, active and educational summer.

Approximately 200 students participated in Summer In The City. The program featured trips to Camp Allegheny, Lakemont Park, Yellow Creek Park and a visit to Downtown Johnstown's Atrium Manor, where the students assist and interact with the elderly residents.

Nina Licastro served as the East Side Elementary site coordinator.

Fitting Tribute: East Side continued a patriotic tradition by holding a Memorial Day Program on May 22. Members of the Conemaugh Valley Veterans Association attended the luncheon at the auditorium. East Side students Madison Gulish and Sadonia Critz recited the Pledge of Allegiance and sang the National Anthem, respectively.

In the salute to Armed Forces, Essence Gunby, Kassidi Kabler and Kyle DeFrehn served as narrators. Students recognized the four branches of the service: U.S. Army (Hannah Fleck and Joseph Critz); U.S. Navy (Jessica Kinley and Hunter Dryzal); U.S. Marines (Zoe Betts and Luke Samay); and U.S. Air Force (Kiera Lobo and Collin Foster). Shiann Malcolm recited a Memorial Day Remembrance.

Photo Courtesy of Pete Vizza



Alexis Barber (left) and Alexis Carr ride the Lakemont Park rollercoaster as part of the Summer In the City program.

provided an update. East Side Assistant Principal Amy Arcurio had the parent workshop.

Hard Work Rewarded: East Side Elementary made the PSSA assessment process a bit more interesting by providing

students with special incentives to prepare for and succeed at the test.

Students were offered those incentives for attending all six days and completing the reading and math PSSAs.

East Side students Dajaun Harris, Tiffany Tomkosky and Tyler Moore were rewarded for good attendance and completing the assessments. The three lucky students won bicycles.

ESL Workshop: Greater Johnstown School District hosted the second annual English as a Second Language (ESL) Parent and Staff Workshop on June 5 at the administrative building. The guest speaker was Mr. Leonard Shurin, ESL Curriculum and Staff Development/Coordinator Appalachian Intermediate Unit 8. Dr. John Jubas, Greater Johnstown School District's ESL Coordinator,

Photo Courtesy of Burns Photography by Roger Kerekes



East side students, board members and administrators participated in the Memorial Day Program at East Side on May 22.

West Side Stories

A Penny Saved: West Side held its fourth annual "Pennies for Pets" campaign as the school year wound down in May. More than \$1,200 was raised for the animals at the Humane Society. West Side organizers thanked West Hills Lawn Care for donating 3,600 penny wrappers, Tim McDevitt for donating penny wrappers for the collection and Galliker's Dairy for donating plastic milk containers that were distributed to each homeroom. West Side students earned high praise for their dedication while donating pennies for the animals at the shelter. The classroom that collected the most pennies received a pizza party. West Side's Mrs. Kegg organized the fundraiser four years ago. Mrs. Leckey's students count and wrap change. Mrs. Jaber, Mrs. Leiden and Mrs. Thompson also helped collect milk jugs and count money in what has developed into a group effort.

Welcome to West Side: West Side Elementary held an orientation for preschool (K4) and Kindergarten students on August 26 in the gymnasium. Mrs. Lynn Berkebile, a K4 teacher, welcomed the parents and students to West Side and presented an overall view of the K4 and Kindergarten programs. After an introduction to their classroom teachers, the parents and students were taken to each individual classroom by their child's teacher. The teachers presented parents with a packet that included district information.

Summer Program: West Side School played host to ACRP's Summer Treatment Program this year. This program provided treatment for children ages 5 to 12 with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder or similar disorders. It was tailored to each child's behavioral, emotional, and

Photo Courtesy of Kathy Legat



Pennies for Pets helped raise more than \$1,200 for the Humane Society at West Side Elementary.

learning needs. The ultimate goal is to build on a child's social and academic skills so he or she can return to school ready to succeed.

Each child received an individually designed treatment plan. These plans are carried out under the supervision of mental health professionals, specially trained staff, and a licensed psychologist.

Children are placed in groups of 18 and six staff members are present to supervise activities. The group stays together throughout the day so that children learn to work and cooperate in a group setting. Children spend two hours daily working in a therapeutic classroom setting to carry out behavior modification plans designed to address each child's specific needs in the classroom setting. For the remainder of the day, children participated in therapeutically-based recreational activities. Group time included age appropriate discussion, sports, and other recreational and community-based activities. Children also participated in group problem solving discussions, social skills training and other treatment strategies.

Science Center: West Side's Mrs. Tomak's fifth grade class made Room D25 into a scientific study. A Science Center was created in the back of the

classroom, providing a display of a wide variety of things found in nature. The class collection included bird nests, snake skins, including one of a Central American Boa, and various species of sea life, including the shell of a sea-horse crab. Plant fossils and skulls of different animals also were on display. The students also participated in dissecting different species and completed a creation of rainforest posters. Students also interact by displaying "class pets" such as Leo the desert gecko, salamanders, tadpoles and bull frogs.



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Barbara Parkins

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Thomas Kalinyak, *Business Manager*
Brian McDermott, *Director of Education*

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Don Cavis, *Assistant Principal*
Michael Vuckovich, *Assistant Principal*

Middle School
Darren Buchko, *Principal*
Frank Frontino, *Assistant Principal*

East Side
Doug Henry, *Principal*
Amy Arcurio, *Assistant Principal*

West Side
Robert Beatty, *Principal*
Raymond Arcurio, *Assistant Principal*
With Support from Federal Programs Title I

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Johnstown Middle School 814 533-5570
East Side Elementary 814 533-5550
West Side Elementary 814 533-5540
Athletic Department 814 533-5601, ext. 1022

MIDDLE SCHOOL MILESTONES

Photo Courtesy of Johnstown Middle School



Students Kenyetta Kinsey, Scott Shook and Jazmine Jones hold up one of the quilts assembled by JMS Students that were presented to individuals in nursing homes, veterans homes, hospitals or hospice care facilities.

All Sewn Up: Mrs. Crooks' grade 6 students have successfully assembled an impressive community service project. The Johnstown Middle School students sewed lap quilts that will be presented to individuals in nursing homes, veterans homes, hospitals or hospice care facilities.

The students were involved in all aspects of the quilt-making process as they measured, cut and pinned the fabric squares prior to the actual sewing of the quilts.

For many of the students, it was their first experience of using a sewing machine. The students worked cooperatively, using both mastered skills and newly acquired skills.

The hands-on activity fostered responsibility and encouraged the quilters to work with others as well as working independently. The middle school students completed approximately 10 quilts by the last day of school in 2007-08.

Capital Visit: Sixty-five members of the JMS Student Council visited our nation's capital in late-May. The three-day visit to Washington, D.C., included stops at some of our nation's most famous historical sites and government buildings and mon-

uments. Students also had an opportunity to tour the National Zoo. Student Council officers last school year included President Isabella Caciccia, Vice President Chelsey Meyers, Treasurer Teasha Thomas and Secretary Deanna Sanders.

Character Builder: Greater Johnstown Middle School will utilize a character education curriculum from WiseSkills Incorporated this academic year. The program is comprised of 32 interdisciplinary units that each focus on a positive character trait such as responsibility or honesty.

Through direct instruction and group activities, students will evaluate hypothetical scenarios, analyze famous quotes, and role play to synthesize the given topics.

The program will be taught in grades six through eight as part of a morning enrichment period that alternates between character education and PSSA test preparation in math and reading.

Research suggests that character education programs have two positive effects: Those programs lower discipline referrals and increase students' grades and test scores.

Additionally, advocates of character education also argue that the programs help to offset the impact of the media, a popu-

lar culture that has increasingly focused on negative behaviors in recent times.

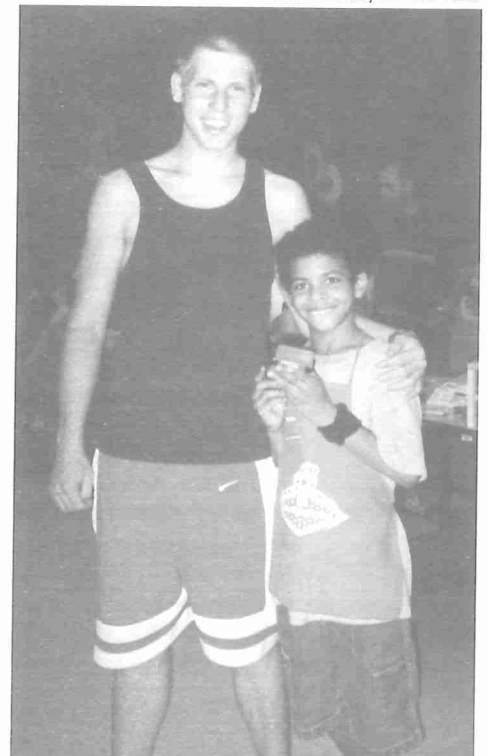
Sizzling Summer: Johnstown Middle School continues to play a big role in the Summer In The City program. JMS teamed with East Side Elementary to provide school age children in the district a safe, active and educational summer from June 16 to August 8.

The program is made possible through the collaborative efforts of GJSD, 21st Century Community Learning Center and many participating organizations dedicated to providing children with a safe, active and educational summer.

Trips to the Community Arts Center of Cambria County, Camp Allegheny, Lakemont Park, Yellow Creek Park and a visit to Downtown Johnstown's Atrium Manor, where the students assist and interact with the elderly residents, highlighted the program.

William Lohr served as the JMS site coordinator.

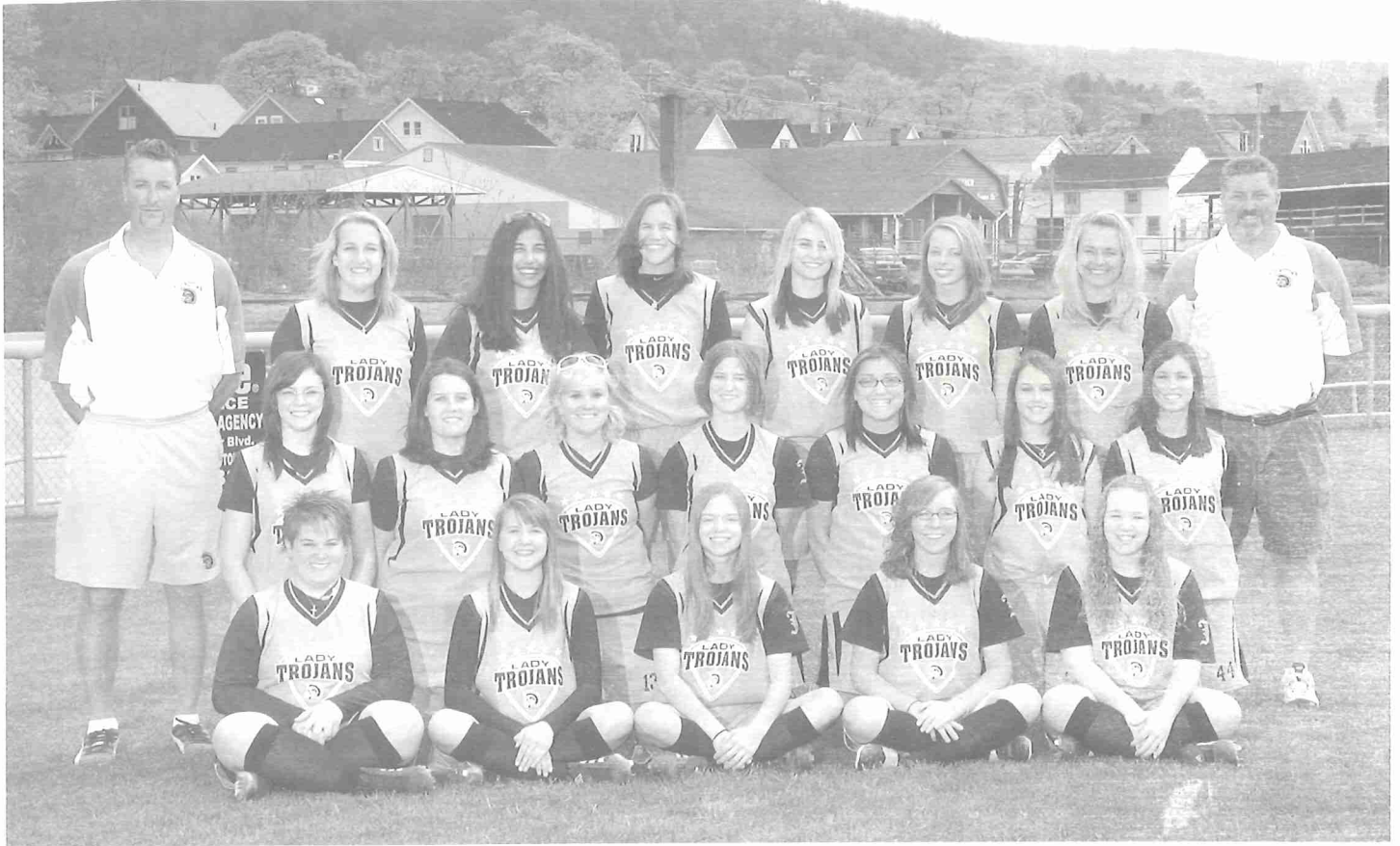
Photo Courtesy of Pete Vizza



Program counselor Tyler Sarlouis and Kobe March pose for a photograph.

IT'S GAME TIME

Photos Courtesy of Burns Photography by Roger Kerekes



The Lady Trojans softball team made history by capturing the District 6 Class AAA championship this spring.

Gold Medal Performance: The Lady Trojans softball team made history by capturing the District 6 Class AAA championship this spring. Coach Randy Romesberg's squad finished 17-4 including a 6-1 victory over Indian Valley in the district title contest.

Johnstown lost a 2-1 heartbreaker to defending state champion Susquehannock in the state playoffs but with only one graduating senior on the team, there appears to be more success on the horizon. The Trojans are 49-11 in the past three seasons.

Pitcher Megan McMillen has 550 career strikeouts, including 218 during her junior season. Members of the championship team included senior Lauren Carosi; juniors Katelyne Golby, Katelin Lindrose, Lindsay Lovrich, Kristin Mangus, McMillen,

Kaitlin Smith, Stephanie Szczur; sophomores Lindsay Rogers, Kassandra Sabo, Michael-Ann Tyrrell, Jenna Zucco; and freshmen Cassie Beck, Courtney Blank, Tabitha Custer, Tiffini Eckenrod, Kailee Hamer and Amber Mangus. Romesberg is assisted by Don Diamond.

Hall of Famer: Greater Johnstown High School's veteran baseball coach Dee Dee Osborne was inducted into the 15th AAABA Hall of Fame Class on Aug. 9 at the Pasquerilla Conference Center.

Coach Osborne, who enters this school year with 197 career wins at JHS, had a long and distinguished career as a manager and general manager in the local AAABA League.

His induction into the AAABA Hall of Fame was the result of Osborne's leading his teams to 541 regular-season

victories as either a manager or general manager -- including 267 regular-season wins as a field manager. He managed four teams in the prestigious AAABA Tournament and, including his tenure as a general manager, he was a part of nine tournament teams overall.

Many of coach Osborne's former players went on to success in college, the minor leagues and even the major leagues. Among those are former major leaguers Mike Holtz, Keith Williams, Joe Vitko and Mike Ryan.

Greater Johnstown graduate Tom Walter -- one of Osborne's former players and a former Johnstown Junior League MVP -- introduced coach Osborne during the AAABA Hall of Fame banquet. Walter currently is head coach of the University of New Orleans baseball program.

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TROJAN TRIUMPHS

Photos Courtesy of Burns Photography by Roger Kerekes

A Friend of Education: Greater Johnstown School District presented the annual John P. Murtha Friend of Education Award to George Arcurio Jr. prior to the dedication of the newly renovated baseball field at Johnstown Middle School on Aug. 11. Arcurio has served as president of the Johnstown Oldtimers Association that sponsors the AAABA Tournament. The Murtha Award recognizes an individual's commitment to the enhancement of education.

Building Blocks: A team from Greater Johnstown School District presented a session at the Title I Parent Conference on Aug. 18 at Seven Springs Resort. The session, titled "Solid Foundation of Parent Involvement," featured the team members sharing their experiences of Year 1 in the "Solid Foundation" process to enrich parent engagement within their school communities.

In the past year, each of the Greater Johnstown School District's communities implemented strategies of assessing and planning in "Solid Foundation." The teams from East Side, West Side, JMS and JHS developed action plans based on the data each received in their individual reports. The district is progressing in Year 2 of a three-year process, as the plans shall be implemented.

The district was represented by Mike Capriotti, parent, East Side Elementary; Heidi Rizzo, parent, West Side Elementary; Amy Arcurio, Assistant Principal East Side Elementary; Lynn Berkebile, teacher, West Side Elementary; and Dr. John Jubas, Administrator GJSD. Kathy Kurpeikis, Education Specialist, PA PIRC Solid Foundation, worked with Greater Johnstown School District at the conference.

"We Are...": Penn State will have a presence at Greater Johnstown School District when approximately 85 pre-service teachers visit on Sept. 23 and Sept. 25. The total number of students will be divided and groups will be assigned to each of the district's four school buildings.

Hello's and Good-bye's: GJSD welcomes new school psychologist Giannone Christian, high school English teacher Daniel Kiser, and band director Eric Pfeil. Recent district retirees includ-



Superintendent Barbara Parkins presents George Arcurio Jr. with the annual John P. Murtha Friend of Education award.

ed Francine Calpin, Barbara Gehosky, Joan Lantz, Joyce Schuster, Milan Gvozdoch and Christine Brown.

Graduation Day: Greater Johnstown seniors closed one chapter and looked to their future during a Commencement ceremony June 3 in the Cochran Auditorium. Student addresses were given by Anna Svirsko, Valedictorian; Emily Cernic, Salutatorian; and Senior Class President Victoria Hammer. National Honor Society Vice President James Baigmora-

di led the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance. Shawn Lehman and Tim Gosnell sang the National Anthem. Cassandra Gallaschun read the Robert Frost Poem "The Road Not Taken."

GJSD Superintendent Barbara Parkins addressed the crowd, and additional remarks were made by Principal Dan Resenic and Greater Johnstown School Board President Richard Unger.

Paris in Johnstown: "An Evening in Paris" was the theme of the Junior/Senior Prom held May 10 at the Pasquerilla Conference Center. Queen Lauren Carosi and King Tom Terek fronted a prom court that also included girls Mercedes Barnett, Vanessa Bolton, Samantha Bischof, Samantha Hanzek, Courtney Piro and Manaya Olivier and boys James Baigmoradi, Marc Cohen, Jared Jones, Rex Hoffman, Shawn Lehman and Mark Nash. Ashley Mine-myer and Marc Cohen received the Best Dressed Award. Best Accessories was won by Mercedes Barnett and Quadir Christian. Cutest Couple went to Sonya Livingston and Brenton Vatalie.

It's in the Blood: JHS students and staff donated 59 units of whole blood during the Greater Johnstown High School Spring Blood Drive on May 30. The district surpassed the previously set goal of 45 units by 14 units.

Photo Courtesy of Burns Photography by Roger Kerekes



Johnstown School Board President Richard Unger addresses the crowd at the class of '08 Graduation Ceremony.

Greater Johnstown School District's

1,000 POINTS OF LIGHT

This edition of The Trojan Times' 1,000 Points of Light spotlights the figurative rebirth of one of the Greater Johnstown School District's hidden gems. The athletic facility formerly known as Fichtner Field underwent major renovations in the past year and reopened in grand fashion on August 11.

Formerly a junior high football field, the facility was reconfigured and renovated into a first-class baseball field that will play host to Greater Johnstown varsity games.

The new field officially was dedicated during the opening day of the 64th annual AAABA Tournament. The Zanesville (Ohio) Junior Pioneers defeated J.L. Thomas of Cleveland 3-2 in the first game played on the newly renovated diamond.

"This is history in itself being made," Greater Johnstown School Board President Richard Unger said during the ceremony. "This was something that the kids were long waiting for. A couple years ago we got the idea to build the field and we kicked around the idea. When we finally saved enough money and made some good decisions financially, the money was there to do this and we said: 'Let's do it. Let's give our kids their own field.'"

Unger told The Tribune-Democrat in a pre-AAABA Tournament article that the field cost approximately \$100,000 in renovations that

Photos Courtesy of Burns Photography by Roger Kerekes



Johnstown Middle School's new baseball field officially opened on August 11th with a AAABA tournament game between Zanesville, Ohio and Cleveland.

included two new concrete block dugouts, a back-stop, home plate and mound as well as a redone infield and outfield. There are bullpens and new fencing. Johnstown School District maintenance staff performed the work, keeping costs down, Unger said.

"We redid the whole field," Unger said. "It is beautiful. Outstanding. For Johnstown High baseball, this has been a long time coming. This is a great field with minimal costs and no tax increase involved. We did everything we could do to enhance the lives of our students and to our community."

IT'S GAME TIME

Greater Johnstown
School District
1091 Broad Street
Johnstown, PA 15906

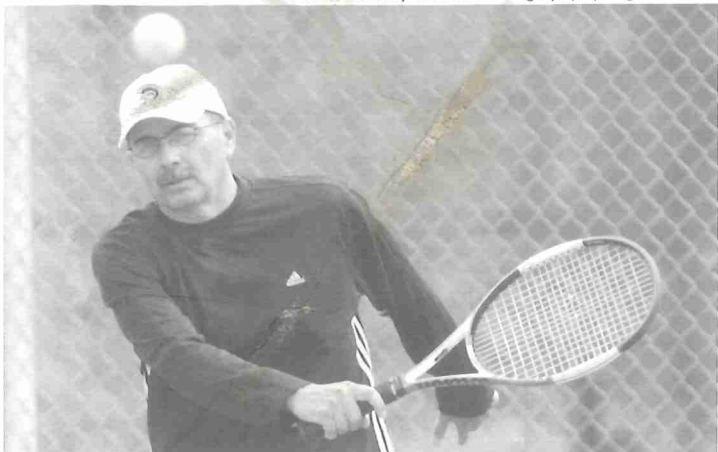
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Veteran Presence: Greater Johnstown tennis coach Joe Ramirez might be considered the dean of all current Trojans coaches. Ramirez began his 33rd season as head coach when the Trojans girls tennis team opened its season against Richland on August 25 at the newly renovated Roxbury Park courts.

Ramirez also coaches the Trojans boys squad in the spring.

Photo Courtesy of Burns Photography by Roger Kerekes



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RESIDENT
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JOHNSTOWN PA 15905

Greater Johnstown tennis coach Joe Ramirez

Second Generation: Greater Johnstown's new boys basketball coach Dave Roman Jr. is the son of former Trojans standout Dave Roman Sr., a member of the Cambria County Sports Hall of Fame.

In 10 seasons as head coach of the boys program at Westmont Hilltop, Roman Jr. led the Hilltoppers to four District 6 Class AA titles and two runner-up finishes while collecting 201 wins.

He will replace coach John Fuschino, who led Johnstown to an 80-32 record, two 6-AAA titles and an appearance in the 2005 PIAA Class AAA championship game in Hershey.

SPOTLIGHT ON...SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Our Greater Johnstown School Board of Directors provided support and guidance during the planning and building of the new Johnstown Middle School baseball field. The modern field is a center piece addition to the JMS facility and will bring pride and recognition to the district as was the case during a dedication ceremony during the opening day of the 64th annual AAABA Tournament on Aug. 11.

Photo Courtesy of Burns Photography by Roger Kerekes



Greater Johnstown School Board members participated in the ribbon cutting ceremony at Johnstown Middle School's new baseball field on August 11th. John P. Murtha Award winner George Arcurio Jr. (center) and his family also participated.