

NOBODY KEEPS A LOWER PROFILE THAN CLAIRTON COACH TOM NOLA, BUT HIS CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM KEEPS PUSHING HIM IN THE SPOTLIGHT

PAPA BEAR

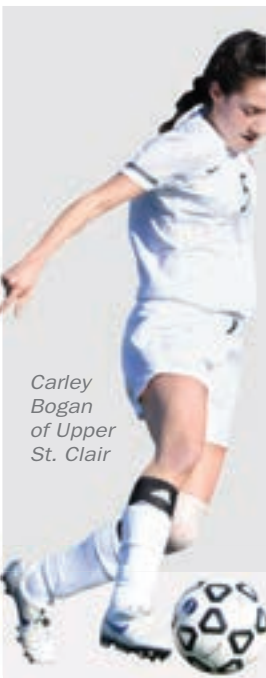
STORY INSIDE
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PIAA
CLASS A
TITLE
GAME

46

WINS IN A ROW

Lake Fong/Post-Gazette



Carley Bogan of Upper St. Clair

Kaylynn Waters

New Castle basketball

After missing most of last season with a knee injury, Waters quickly gets in the flow for New Castle. A senior guard, Waters scored 36 and 39 points in the Red Hurricanes' first two games of the season.

Godwin Nyama

Brashear wrestling

Nyama became the first City League wrestler to compete in the prestigious Ironman Wrestling Tournament last weekend at Walsh Jesuit in Ohio. Nyama, a Pitt recruit, placed fifth in the 120-pound weight class.

Shakim Alonzo

Woodland Hills basketball

Football is in his future as Alonzo has a scholarship to play receiver at the University of Cincinnati. But he's adept on the basketball court, too. A 6-5 forward, he had 20 points in the Wolverines' second game of the season.

Canon-McMillan

Hockey team

The Big Macs established themselves as the team to beat in Class AAA with a 3-2 victory against Peters Township Monday. Canon-McMillan was 9-0 before a game Thursday night against Bethel Park, outscoring opponents, 53-16.

ON THE
RADAR

TEAMS TO WATCH
& PEOPLE TO
LOOK FOR IN
DISTRICT HIGH
SCHOOL SPORTS

Greensburg CC principal sets tone

xtra points
MIKE WHITE

Greensburg Central Catholic has been a popular destination for student-athlete transfers in recent years, but the school's new principal appears ready to take a stand against students who transfer to her school for athletic purposes.

In what is a highly unusual move, Greensburg Central Catholic principal **Denise Myers** ruled **Marcus Malara** ineligible to compete in football and basketball for the school because she believes he transferred from Mount Pleasant for athletic reasons.

Myers made the determination

earlier this school year and now she wants the WPIAL to hear Malara's case to see if the league also feels the transfer was athletically motivated. The WPIAL will have a hearing Monday with Malara and other school officials. "Prior to the hearing, I can't comment too much," Myers said. "I just would like the [WPIAL Board of Control] to hear this case and get their take on it."

SEE **POINTS**, PAGE S-5

PG BOYS & GIRLS SOCCER ALL-STARS - PAGE S-3

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PIAA CLASS A CHAMPIONSHIP | CLAIRTON vs. SOUTHERN COLUMBIA

These
Tigers
loaded
for Bears

By Sam Werner
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Before there was Clairton, there was Southern Columbia.

The PIAA Class A championship game this afternoon between the Bears (15-0) and the Tigers (14-1) will be a showdown between two of the most dominant teams in Pennsylvania high school football of the past decade.

The Bears are the current Class A standard-bearers, with 46 consecutive wins and back-to-back state titles over the past two years.

Southern Columbia, though, put together an equally impressive run from 2002-06, winning five consecutive PIAA championships. Since that 2006 title, the Tigers haven't advanced past the state quarterfinals ... until this season.

"It's a unique situation," Southern Columbia coach Jim Roth said. "It's kind of like two of the most successful teams in the history of Class A are finally getting a chance to play."

This year's Tigers are led by quarterback/linebacker Brad Fegley. On offense, Fegley has been ruthlessly efficient, passing for 1,696 yards and 13 touchdowns with no interceptions, along with 435 yards and six scores on the ground. On the other side of the ball, he ranks third on the team with 67 tackles.

Southern Columbia also has two running backs with more than 1,000 yards each on the season. Tyler Levan has rushed for 1,860 yards and 28 scores, and Matt Moore has 1,194 yards and 19 touchdowns.

As for the challenge of facing Clairton, which is one win away from setting a WPIAL record with 47 wins in a row, Roth said he was more concerned with the Bears' talent than any historic winning streak.

"In terms of approaching a game, you basically just have to focus on what the team does and try and be prepared on both sides of the ball and special teams," Roth said. "When you're playing a team such as Clairton that's balanced, and does so many things well, you don't have a lot of time to dwell on [the winning streak.]"

In fact, Roth said his players were excited to return to the top of Class A, and what better way to do that than to end Clairton's run of dominance. Since their 2006 PIAA title, the Tigers have compiled a 38-13 overall record, but haven't been able to make much noise in the state playoffs.

"We have a strong tradition in the program, as they do," Roth said. "When you have that, and you've had success, your players normally have a level of confidence and they want to play the competition. They want to play the teams that are on top and I think that just goes hand in hand with a program that's had tradition and success."

Today

- **Game:** Clairton (15-0) vs. Southern Columbia (14-1), 1 p.m.
- **Where:** Hersheypark Stadium, Hershey, Pa.
- **TV:** PCN
- **The Skinny:** Clairton can set the WPIAL record for consecutive wins with a victory in the state title game.



Lake Fong/Post-Gazette

Clairton football coach Tom Nola has compiled an amazing 85-5 record over the past six seasons.

Clairton coach lets
record talk for him

By Mike White
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

If you want to see a fiery, animated coach on the sideline, don't watch Tom Nola.

If you want to hear a rah-rah, motivational pregame speech from a coach, don't listen to Nola.

But if you want a coach who wins championships with regularity, turn your attention to Nola.

He is the Papa Bear of the Clairton Bears football team, a man of few words, but many wins. Nola, 58, is on the brink of going where no coach in the history of the WPIAL has gone.

Clairton is riding a 46-game winning streak, which ties the longest in WPIAL history. Braddock also won 46 in a row in the 1950s. If Clairton beats Southern Columbia in the PIAA Class A title game today in Hershey, Clairton will set a WPIAL record for consecutive wins.

Just don't expect Nola to talk too much about it.

"I would say coach Nola would be the last guy to motivate your players with words," said Wayne Wade, Clairton's defensive coordinator. "But that's just the way he is. He pretty much is 'You guys know what the expectations are. Go and fulfill those expectations.'"

But Nola's laid-back style keeps moving Clairton forward. If Clairton wins today, the Bears become the first WPIAL team to win three PIAA titles in a row and only the fourth in the entire state. Central Bucks West won three in a row from 1997-99, Berwick four from 1994-97 and Southern

129-52			
Tom Nola's career coaching record speaks for itself, so do his five WPIAL titles and two PIAA championships.			
1994 Serra	5-5	2005 Clairton	4-5
1998 Serra	4-6	2006 Clairton	14-1
1999 Serra	3-6	2007 Clairton	10-2
2000 Serra	1-8	2008 Clairton	15-1
2001 Serra	2-7	2009 Clairton	15-1
2002 Clairton	5-5	2010 Clairton	16-0
2003 Clairton	9-3	2011 Clairton	15-0
2004 Clairton	11-2	TOTALS	129-52

Columbia five from 2002-06.

But there will be no pep talk from Nola before today's game. When asked if he has ever given a rah-rah pregame speech, he answered, "No." Nola answers many questions from the media with only a few words. He has never been much of a talker, even away from coaching.

"He talks calmly to us," said Clairton junior running back Tyler Boyd. "You know how coaches get excited sometimes? Not him. But that's just the way he is. He's been like that for a long time."

Nola's understated approach might make him one of the most misunderstood coaches in the WPIAL.

"We get a lot of 'They don't know what they're doing,' from Clairton people," said Wade, a former Clairton standout player. "They think we should be doing so much more. I think a lot of people give [Nola] a bad rap, saying he should win nine champion-

ships in a row. But it's not always easy to put a team together to win a championship year after year. I think he's done a great job."

Nola is mentioned these days in the same breath as legendary former Braddock coach Chuck Klausing. Klausing has been following Clairton's record-breaking run by reading newspapers and stories on the internet. He attended the WPIAL Class A title game at Heinz Field.

"But coach Nola doesn't ever talk to us about that streak," Boyd said. "He's just always on us about keep working hard."

Nola's record over the past six seasons is surreal. He is 85-5. But the track to success wasn't always easy for him. His past has a handful of losing seasons.

Nola played receiver at McKeesport High School before graduating in 1971 and moving on to play at Bethany College. After college, he spent a year as an assistant coach at Serra Catholic and one year as an assistant at McKeesport before moving to Martinsville, Va., for more than a decade.

He returned to the Pittsburgh area in 1994 and was Serra's coach for one season, going 5-5.

Pat Risha then offered him an assistant coach's job and a teaching job at Clairton. Nola took it and stayed at Clairton until becoming Serra's head coach again in 1998.

At Serra, Nola struggled, going 10-27 in four seasons. He said he wasn't forced to leave Serra, but when the

SEE **NOLA**, PAGE S-5

the fumbler

He'll try
to shake
it off

He was crestfallen, as expected, but The Fumbler insists that it wasn't merely because he had a miserable weekend.

"The WPIAL ... how could that have happened? Oh, the humanity."

Four teams from District 7 entered the PIAA semifinals last Friday and Saturday, and three were jettisoned. Uncharacteristic errors did in North Allegheny and Aliquippa, and Montour was blitzed in the second half. This WPIAL trio lost more games in one weekend than they had, collectively, over 14 weeks — they were 40-2 going into the semifinals.

Of the WPIAL brethren, only Clairton prevailed. The pursuit of a hallowed streak and another gold medal is a powerful motivator, especially for a team so talented.

The Fumbler forecast a WPIAL sweep last weekend, meaning he likewise compiled a 1-3 mark — and was almost as distraught as everyone associated with the Tigers, Spartans and Quips. His season record plummeted to 505-107 (.825), including 65-10 (.867) in the playoffs.

Here is his perspective on the final weekend of a compelling season. The PIAA championship games will be played today and Saturday at Hersheypark Stadium in Hershey, and following the bitter, he anticipates a sweet finish for one local squad.

Class A

Clairton (15-0) vs. Southern Columbia (14-1), 1 p.m. today — Southern Columbia is a distinguished name in Pennsylvania scholastic football. But so is Clairton, winner of 46 consecutive games and the past two PIAA titles, The Bears will "threepeat," break Braddock's record WPIAL winning streak, and start thinking of extending that run to infinity. They could very well return to this stadium — again — next December. **Winner: Clairton.**

Class AAAA

Central Dauphin (14-1) vs. North Penn (13-2), 6 p.m. Saturday — North Allegheny wasn't at its best against Central Dauphin, getting whistled for eight penalties for 102 yards, including five personal foul calls. Central Dauphin, however, showed skill and poise, withstanding a North Allegheny rally to tie it, then winning on a last-play field goal. The Rams may have won the state title there. **Winner: Central Dauphin.**

Class AAA

Archbishop Wood (13-1) vs. Bishop McDevitt (13-2), 7 p.m. today — McDevitt was convincing against Montour last week, especially in the second half. The Crusaders, with two Division I recruits, wore down a team that had been outstanding. Archbishop Wood was more than convincing, though, scoring 70 points against Allentown Central Catholic. **Winner: Archbishop Wood.**

Class AA

Tyrone (14-1) vs. Lancaster Catholic (15-0), noon Saturday — Tyrone played well, especially on defense and special teams, coming up with five turnovers in a surprising victory against Aliquippa. A Golden Eagles victory won't be as surprising this week. **Winner: Tyrone.**

THIS WEEK IN ...

2004

Central Catholic capped off one of the most impressive postseason runs by a WPIAL team when it defeated Neshaminy, 49-14, to win the PIAA Class AAAA championship. In three PIAA playoff games, Central Catholic outscored the opposition, 137-17, and outgained those three teams, 1,047-420. In seven postseason contests, counting the WPIAL playoffs, Central Catholic outscored opponents, 267-36. The Vikings finished with a 16-0 record.

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DATA WAY | A LOOK INSIDE THE NUMBERS

.846

Winning percentage of Southern Columbia football coach Jim Roth. Roth has been Southern Columbia's coach since 1984 and his record is 330-58-2.

2

Times in the past 11 years the WPIAL will not have a team in the PIAA Class AAAA football championship. Besides this year, the other time was 2009

2

Texas 4A state track championships Robert Griffin III won during his junior year at Copperas Cove High School. Griffin, Baylor's quarterback and Heisman Trophy winner, won the 110- and 300-meter hurdles titles.

2011 SOCCER ALL-STARS



Lake Fong/Post-Gazette

Beaver four-year starter Josh Turnley scored 101 career goals.

POST-GAZETTE BOYS PLAYER OF THE YEAR

JOSH TURNLEY

This is the second time Josh Turnley made the Post-Gazette All-Area Team. But he is more than just a player on this year's all-star squad. He is *the* player. Turnley, a senior at Beaver High School, is the Post-Gazette Player of the Year. The award takes into consideration all players in the WPIAL and City League. Turnley was a terrific goal scorer for the Bobcats, a four-year starter who finished his career with 101 goals. He was one of the leading scorers in the WPIAL this season with 29 goals, also had 11 assists and helped Beaver to the WPIAL Class AA playoffs. On top of being named the PG Player of the Year, he also was named the Pennsylvania Player of the Year by the Pennsylvania Soccer Coaches Association. The All-Area Team is picked by the Post-Gazette scholastic sports staff, with help from coaches around the district.

Nathan Dearth, Montour — Dearth, a junior defender, anchored a defense that had 10 shutouts and allowed only 17 goals. Also was football team's kicker and made three field goals.

Tyler Graziani, West Allegheny — A senior midfielder, Graziani led the Indians in goals this season with 23. He will play next season at Division I Xavier.

Zachary Johnson, Central Catholic — A senior forward, Johnson is one of the best all-around players in the WPIAL. He scored a team-high 26 goals.

Drew Klingenberg, Pine-Richland — Klingenberg is considered one of the top players in the state. He helped the Rams to the Class AAA quarterfinals and will play next season at Penn State.

Steve Machi, Upper St. Clair — Machi helped the Panthers win the WPIAL Class AAA championship. He had nine goals and 12 assists. He will play next season at Division I High Point.

Osas Malkin, Central Catholic — Born in Nigeria, Malkin excelled for the Vikings as a four-year starter. A senior midfielder and a creative playmaker, he helped Central Catholic to an 18-2 record.

Mike Pcholsinsky, South Park — A central figure in South Park's run to the WPIAL Class AA semifinals. Big things are expected of Pcholsinsky, a junior midfielder, next season.

Dante Piccolo, Quaker Valley — Piccolo played a leading role in Quaker Valley's march to the WPIAL Class AA playoffs. A junior midfielder, Piccolo is multi-talented and was one of the Quakers' leading scorers.

Dimitrije Slavkovic, Mt. Lebanon — Was the Class AAA Section 4 Player of the Year. A senior forward, he scored 21 goals this season.

Matt Venanzi, Peters Township — A senior midfielder, Venanzi is a talented, all-around player who helped Peters Township make it to the WPIAL Class AAA title game. He is a four-year starter who will play next season at Pitt.

Ryan Vilella, Seneca Valley — Vilella is an all-state player who helped Seneca Valley reach the WPIAL Class AAA semifinals. A junior forward, he was the Raiders' leading goal scorer with 10.



Peter Diana/Post-Gazette

Peters Township's Veronica Latsko has scored 78 goals in two seasons.

POST-GAZETTE GIRLS PLAYER OF THE YEAR

VERONICA LATSKO

Veronica Latsko had an impressive freshman season on the Peters Township soccer team a year ago. She took her game to a higher level this season. The super sophomore scored more and helped Peters Township win some more. For her efforts, Latsko is the Post-Gazette Player of the Year. The award takes into consideration all players in the WPIAL and City League. After scoring 33 goals as a freshman, Latsko found the net 45 times as a sophomore. At one point this season, she scored a hat trick in five consecutive games, practically unheard of at the Class AAA level. She was the WPIAL's second-leading scorer during the regular season. Latsko, a forward, came through in the clutch also. Although she has 78 career goals, her most memorable came this season when she scored the only goal in Peters Township's 1-0 victory against Pennridge in the PIAA Class AAA championship match. The goal allowed Peters Township to become the first team from the WPIAL to win back-to-back PIAA titles. Latsko is part of the Olympic Development Program and plays in national and international events. She is the leader of the Post-Gazette All-Area Team, which is picked by the PG scholastic sports staff, with help from area coaches. Latsko is one of three sophomores on the team. Here is a look at the other 11 players on the All-Area Team.

Carley Bogan, Upper St. Clair — The Panthers won the WPIAL Class AAA championship and Bogan was one of the driving forces. A junior forward, she led the team in scoring with 22 goals and 20 assists.

Mani Brueckner, Mars — Brueckner was adept at scoring goals, but also was excellent in setting up others for scores. She finished the season with 43 assists after having 41 last year. A senior midfielder, Brueckner had 37 goals this season for the WPIAL and PIAA Class AA champion Planets.

Christie Chiesa, South Park — A senior midfielder, Chiesa is an outstanding, all-around player. She had 15 goals and 10 assists for the WPIAL Class AA finalist Eagles.

Frannie Crouse, Greensburg Central Catholic — Crouse is a scoring machine for the Centurions. She is only a sophomore midfielder, but already has 87 goals. She led the WPIAL in goals this season with 55 after scoring 32 a year ago.

Sierra Davis, South Park — Davis often had a zero tolerance policy for the Eagles. A junior goalkeeper, Davis had 17 shutouts this season for the WPIAL Class AA runner-up. At one point, she had 10 shutouts in a row.

Malea Fabean, Greensburg Central Catholic — Combined with fellow sophomore Frannie Crouse to form the most potent one-two scoring punch in the WPIAL. Fabean had 45 goals for the WPIAL Class AA champs.

Antonia Grese, Moon — Moon had a successful 14-6 season and Grese was one of the main reasons. A junior forward, she was the team's leading scorer with 18 regular-season goals. The Tigers made it to the WPIAL quarterfinals before losing a tough, 3-2 game to Peters Township.

Liana Leja, South Fayette — Leja is a junior forward, but she already is the school's all-time leading goal scorer. She was the WPIAL's fifth-leading scorer during the regular season with 33 goals.

Olivia Roberson, Peters Township — A junior forward, Roberson and Latsko were a dandy one-two scoring punch. Roberson had 25 goals in the regular season and had the assist on the game-winning goal when Peters Township defeated WPIAL champion Upper St. Clair, 1-0, in the PIAA semifinals.

Carly Seneca, Gateway — A junior midfielder, Seneca is a versatile player who made all-state this season. She scored 19 goals and led the Gators to a WPIAL Class AAA playoff berth.

Hannah Zangara, Upper St. Clair — One of the unsung heroes for the Panthers. A multi-talented senior midfielder, Zangara scored two game-winning goals in the playoffs and Upper St. Clair went on to win the WPIAL Class AAA title.



Penn State recruits keep bailing out

The fallout from the Penn State child abuse sex scandal continues to affect the Nittany Lions' football recruiting. Earlier this week, one of the top players in Penn State's recruiting class of 2012 changed his mind and decided he will play next season at Ohio State. **Tommy Schutt**, a highly touted defensive lineman from Glenbard West High School in Illinois, is a four-star recruit, according to rivals.com. He also is the No. 1-ranked player in Illinois. "With everything that happened at Penn State, I really felt like I needed to look at my situation," Schutt told the Daily Herald newspaper in Morris, Ill. "I've always liked Ohio State and just felt comfortable there on my visit. I called them and told them I was ready to be a Buckeye." Schutt is the third high school player to back out of his commitment to Penn State since the **Jerry Sandusky** case became public. The other two were Shaler tight end-defensive end **J.P. Holtz** and offensive lineman **Joey O'Connor**. Also, a few other players who had committed to Penn State are looking elsewhere, including linebacker **Nyeem Wartman** of Valley View High School in eastern Pennsylvania. He still is considering Penn State, but also is looking at Pitt and Rutgers.

Recruiting notes

- Schutt wasn't the only top recruit who changed his mind recently and decided on Ohio State. New Ohio State coach Urban Meyer also got Canton McKinley defensive end **Se'von Pittman** to switch his commitment from Michigan State to Ohio State.
- Texas had a down year on the field, but things are still looking up for the Longhorns on the recruiting front. Although signing day is not until February, both rivals.com and scout.com rank Texas' recruiting class as the best in the country so far. Scout has Michigan second and Alabama third while rivals has Alabama second and Michigan third.
- Texas' recruiting class features running back **Johnathan Gray** of Aledo, Texas. Gray is a five-star recruit who last week tied the national record for career touchdowns with 204. Former University of Michigan star running back **Mike Hart** set the previous record during his days at Onondaga, N.Y.
- Gray also has more than 10,000 yards rushing in his career and has led his team to the Texas 4A state championship contest.

— By Mike White

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Matt Freed/Post-Gazette

Serra Catholic's Nick Vacsulka shoots the puck against Bishop McCort Dec. 1.

SOUTH SPOTLIGHT | SERRA CATHOLIC HOCKEY

Depth plays a key role in Eagles flight for Cup

By Chris Adamski
Tri-State Sports & News Service

Coming into the season, Serra Catholic hockey coach Brian Boehm felt comfortable with his experienced leaders, his top players.

The key, however, to the Eagles' success, Boehm said, is the performance and production they get from those players beyond their top six forwards and No. 1 defense pairing.

So far, those younger and less experienced players have come through.

"What I'm most happy about is how the bottom of our roster is shaping up," Boehm said. "We're really young on the back end with a lot of freshmen we were relying on to come in and learn the game quickly enough."

"We have some guys who are taking a lot of shifts for us as freshmen who really only have been skating for two years. But they've been earning their ice time, and we needed it."

Serra was 4-2-1 following a loss Tuesday against two-time defending state champion Mars Area, the only team to beat the Eagles so far this season. They were scheduled to play Thursday night against Quaker Valley.

Serra's top players — seniors Garner Kraemer, R.J. Kendi

and Zach Schindler and junior Tyler Speis — have delivered, as expected. Those four (from whom the three seniors are the team's captains) accounted for 27 goals and 25 assists through six games.

They will be the ones upon whom the offensive burden falls. But for the Eagles to make it back to Consol Energy Center — site of the Penguins Cup semifinals and finals last season for the first time — Boehm recognizes that the entire lineup must do its part.

Freshmen who have stood out most are Billy Purdue, Jesse Anzelone and John Henschel. Purdue has emerged as a reliable penalty killer, Anzelone is fifth on the team in goals (three) and points (seven) and Henschel has stepped into one of the Eagles' top two defensive pairings.

"A lot of the freshmen have stepped into their own," said Kendi, who lives in the Hempfield Area School District. "They've shown they can take on bigger roles."

"We're not always the biggest team out there — we usually have seven or eight guys coming back from previous years — so a lot of the freshmen had to know coming into it that they'd fill some big roles and play some key parts. A lot of them have

— but they are because they've earned it. They kind of stepped right in and done what we needed them to do."

Kraemer, Speis and Schindler often skate on the same line, displaying the same magic they have in previous seasons. Speis was the team's leading scorer last season with 42 points in 17 games. Heading into the week, he had a team-high 10 goals and was second to Kraemer with 15 points.

Kraemer had nine goals and eight assists heading into the Mars game, on pace to top last season's output of 37 points in 21 games. Kendi and Schindler each had four goals and six assists through Monday.

Kendi, Kraemer and Schindler are joined by goalie Travis Marzina in a small but talented senior class.

"We've all been here since freshman year, and we've known each other for a long time now," said Kendi, who wears the "C" as team captain. "We're a big part of the leadership of this team, and each and every game it falls upon our shoulders to lead everyone and make sure that everyone is prepared and ready to go for every game."

"A lot of these games come down to our play, and a lot of the other returning players also.

But how everything kind of goes, it's kind of dictated and it falls in our hands, so we know to take things seriously."

Marzina's story is an interesting one because he is a goalie by trade but patiently waited behind Garrett Hudson the past couple years. Marzina volunteered to play "out" for Serra, and he was the team's sixth-leading scorer last season with 10 goals and 10 assists.

He's finally gotten his chance to shine between the pipes and has responded with a 2.74 goals-against average heading into the week.

"He's a guy who's obviously willing to do whatever the team needs him to do," Boehm said. "He's competitive and he never gives up."

Those are qualities the Eagles as a whole hope they display up and down the roster.

"We want to finish the season strong and get a high seed in the playoffs," Kendi said. "The goal — just as every other [PIHL] team's goal is — is to win the Penguins Cup. We've just got to take it one game at a time and go slowly and not look too far ahead, make sure we have our goals in mind."

"If we focus on getting two points every time they are available, we'll be OK."

SWIMMING

Talent pool in district has deep bottom

By Nicholas Tolomeo
Tri-State Sports & News Service

The greatest boys' diver in state history, North Allegheny's Connor Kuremsky, has graduated.

A blossoming star, Oakland Catholic junior Leah Smith, has decided to take a year off from high school swimming to chase her Olympic dream.

The friendly rivalry between state champions, Mt. Lebanon's John Nappi and Upper St. Clair's Kyle Dudzinski has moved on to the collegiate ranks.

And the golden duo at Shady Side Academy, Brody Kelley and David Paulk, closed out their high school careers with a combined seven PIAA gold medals in March and also moved onto college.

Kuremsky is diving at Stanford, Smith is preparing for Olympic time trials in June, Nappi and Kelley are swimming at Notre Dame, Dudzinski at the University of Virginia and Paulk at Princeton.

Even with all that talent no longer competing in the WPIAL this season, the WPIAL talent pool is far from shallow. The departure of WPIAL and PIAA podium stalwarts mostly means that many individual races are up for grabs and section races and WPIAL overall team championships are wide open as well.

Right at this time last year, North Allegheny veteran swim coach Kirk "Corky" Semler sat back and predicted his boys' team's five-year WPIAL team title reign would end at the hands of Upper St. Clair.

The Panthers, under coach Tom Donati, proved him right. So this year it is worth listening when Semler predicts a tight three-team race for the WPIAL Class AAA boys team title between North Allegheny, Peters Township and Upper St. Clair.

Peters Township is loaded with depth on the boys and girls sides under first-year coach Tom Fletcher, a former swimmer and assistant to Donati.

"We woke up a sleeping giant last year," Donati said of finally beating North Allegheny. "I am sure they are coming in guns ablazing this year."

North Allegheny's "big guns" are the Buerger brothers, Matthew, a senior, and Zachary, a sophomore.

"Matthew is probably the preeminent swimmer in the WPIAL," Semler said.

Matthew Buerger has already committed to Notre Dame. Right behind him, Semler — and many other coaches in the WPIAL — think highly of Penn-Trafford senior distance freestyler Christian McCurdy, a two-time PIAA silver medalist last year.

The Upper St. Clair boys and girls will be involved in two big meets next week. On Tuesday the Panthers play host to arch-rival Mt. Lebanon and on Thursday Upper St. Clair will travel to the pool at Chatham University for dual meets against Central Catholic and Oakland Catholic.

Many of the WPIAL and PIAA gold medalists last season on the boys side were seniors while underclassmen won a majority of the hardware on the girls side.

Two of those returning WPIAL champions are Upper St. Clair senior Natalie Johnsen and junior Brittany Dudzinski, Kyle's sister. These teammates tied for first place at the district championship meet last year in the 100 butterfly.

"The boys last year were just unbelievable but a lot of them are gone now," Mt. Lebanon coach Dave Schraven said. "Right now in Pennsylvania there is just an unbelievable number of great girl swimmers."

Two of those great swimmers swim at North Allegheny. The Tigers remain the class of Class AAA with seniors Kally Vanderbilt and Allie Pennetti.

In Class AA boys, Indiana edged Shady Side Academy by one point in the team standings at the WPIAL championships. The talent margin between both teams could be just as narrow this year.

Even with Smith not competing in the WPIAL this year, there is plenty of star power on the girls' side.

Pine-Richland junior Kristen Murslack and Mars junior Maggie Gruber both won PIAA gold last year as sophomores. Murslack won in the 100-yard breaststroke and Gruber won in the 100 butterfly while also winning PIAA silver in the 100 backstroke.

After finally winning an elusive WPIAL Class AA girls team title last year, veteran West Allegheny coach Bob Miller welcomes back three-fourths of the PIAA silver medal-winning 400 freestyle relay team.

Indians seniors Emily Pia and Ashley Niznik and junior Kara Kaulius make up the nucleus of a team that finished second at the PIAA championships.

The other returning WPIAL individual champions are Quaker Valley senior Bobby Francis, Greater Latrobe senior Lucas Bureau, Bethel Park junior Erik Brinkhoff and Mt. Lebanon sophomore Katie Ford.

JUST ASKIN' | HIGH SCHOOL Q&A

The PG asks four players/coaches/officials from the WPIAL and City League four questions:

WPIAL or City League player/coach/official	The skinny	Tim Tebow is ...	Favorite Christmas song?	Ever had eggnog?	Todd Graham is ...
WAYNE WADE Clairton football	Clairton defensive coordinator and former Clairton player.	An athlete. That's it — and a winner.	"Silent Night" by The Temptations.	Yes, but I don't like it.	I don't want to call him a coward or weak. Just a coach.
GREG HUTCHERSON Ford City basketball	First-year coach and former player at Kiski Area.	Amazing. A great player. A winner.	"Silent Night" by The Temptations.	Yes, I hate it.	A con artist.
JON VALLINA Burgettstown athletics	Burgettstown AD and golf coach.	Solid. That's all I'll say, solid.	I hate Christmas songs.	Oh yeah, when I was younger.	My word would be unscrupulous.
BOB LOMBARDI PIAA athletics	Associate executive director of the PIAA.	Bronco fabulous.	"White Christmas."	Absolutely. I like it.	Leaving. I don't want to say anything else.

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S O U T H E D I T I O N



His record says a lot

NOLA, FROM PAGE S-2

Clairton job opened in 2002, he went after it and got it. He was 5-5 in his first season and 4-5 in 2005. He has won at least nine games in the other eight seasons. The Bears have won four WPIAL titles in a row.

Wade said the public has no idea what it's like to coach at Clairton and what Nola has to deal with on a regular basis. The school is in a Monongahela Valley town ravaged by the fall of the steel industry. Enrollment keeps dropping and facilities aren't good.

"People don't understand that we have to deal with things like having four or five kids who might be ineligible every week," Wade said. "We have to deal with other things. I think the people in Clairton are spoiled more than anything. They just expect us to win all the time."

On top of that, Nola, who has a wife, Eileen, and two daughters, has come back from a heart attack five years ago. Nola retired in June as a history teacher at Clairton. He is reputedly an excellent softball player and played in three leagues this past summer.

When asked if it was hard to coach at Clairton, Nola said, "That's a hard question to answer. It is easy in one way because you have good athletes. But there are other things to deal with."

Such as? "I don't want to say a whole lot," Nola said.

Typical Nola style. But don't get the idea that just because

Nola isn't a rah-rah type of coach, he doesn't run a tight ship.

"The players know where he stands," Wade said. "They know what line to cross and what line not to cross."

Nola said, "I don't use foul language like a lot of coaches do. I rarely yell at the players."

But in the WPIAL championship game a few weeks ago, Clairton quarterback Capri Thompson received an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty in the first quarter. When Thompson came to the sideline, Nola got in Thompson's face and was very animated.

"He doesn't mind if you make mistakes, but stupid penalties he can't stand," Wade said.

Nola said, "The kids are a representation of not only Clairton, but what I'm supposed to be, too. I don't want Clairton or myself portrayed in a bad light."

But with a win today, Nola will have one gigantic spotlight shining on him, as the only coach in WPIAL history to win 47 games in a row. The league dates all the way back to the early 1900s.

Nola met Chuck Klausing once, a number of years ago at a coaches clinic.

"I haven't had a chance to really let it sink in, about what this streak really means," Nola said. "Maybe I will next week. I know it's quite an honor to get all this recognition and have people saying congratulatory things to you."

"But Chuck Klausing is a legendary coach. I wouldn't think of myself as that."

Principal sets rules

POINTS, FROM PAGE S-1

Usually, the WPIAL is the one who rules a student-athlete ineligible for transferring for athletic intent. But rarely does the school principal rule a transfer ineligible.

"According to the PIAA by-laws, the principal is the ultimate authority to determine eligibility," Myers said.

WPIAL executive director **Tim O'Malley** said he's not sure how many principals have ever ruled someone ineligible who transferred to their school.

"We wouldn't even see the case if principals did that," O'Malley said. "It is very difficult today for people to stand up for what the transfer rule is intended to be. If this, in fact, is the case — that athletic intent was involved — it is refreshing that a principal is doing her duty to enforce the rule as it is intended to be enforced."

McDowell out of WPIAL?

McDowell's stay in WPIAL football apparently won't last long.

McDowell, located near Erie, played in the WPIAL for football only the past two seasons and qualified for the league's playoffs both times.

But McDowell plays in District 10 in all other sports, and District 10 recently passed a policy that says teams can play a schedule outside District 10, but must return to District 10 for playoffs.

From 2006-09, McDowell played a WPIAL regular-season schedule, but returned to District 10 for the playoffs. The WPIAL doesn't want that scenario again, so it appears McDowell will be leaving WPIAL football.

McDowell is appealing the new District 10 postseason ruling to the PIAA and the case is expected to be heard today at the PIAA Board of Control meetings.

All-conference female

If you look at the football all-conference selections for the Big Eight Conference of Class AAA, one player stands out.

A female.

Kristina Coyne of Chartiers Valley was named the first-team all-conference kicker. A 5-foot-9, 120-pound sophomore, Coyne made 23 extra points and one field goal this season.

Coyne is not the first female to make first-team all-conference in the WPIAL. Serra

BOYS BASKETBALL

CITY LEAGUE

League	Overall	Averages	PF	PA
Alderdice	0	1	57.5	55.5
Obama Academy	0	1	70.5	67.5
Langley	0	0	0	0
Brashear	0	0	2	58.0
Perry	0	0	2	55.0
Westinghouse	0	0	2	56.0
Carriak	0	0	3	50.0
Oliver	0	0	3	42.7

WPIAL CLASS AAAA

SECTION 1						
	Section		Overall		Averages	
	W	L	W	L	PF	PA
Connellsville	0	3	0	3	60.7	41.3
Hempfield	0	3	0	3	72.3	56.7
Penn-Trafford	0	2	1	1	54.7	55.0
Norwin	0	1	1	1	50.5	54.0
Kiski Area	0	1	2	2	49.7	54.7
Latrobe	0	1	2	2	50.0	55.0
Albert Gallatin	0	0	3	3	42.0	70.0
Laurel Highlands	0	0	4	4	50.0	61.0

SECTION 2

	Section		Overall		Averages	
	W	L	W	L	PF	PA
Fox Chapel.....	0	0	2	1	60.7	51.3
Plum.....	0	0	2	1	64.3	46.0
Woodland Hills.....	0	0	2	1	73.7	54.3
Penn Hills.....	0	0	1	2	59.7	65.7
Franklin Regional.....	0	0	1	3	50.8	67.8
Gateway.....	0	0	0	1	53.0	67.0
McKeesport.....	0	0	0	3	48.3	60.3

SECTION 3

	Section		Overall		Averages	
	W	L	W	L	PF	PA
North Allegheny.....	0	0	3	0	78.0	62.0
Shaler	0	0	3	0	77.0	38.0
Butler	0	0	2	1	56.3	55.0
North Hills	0	0	2	2	49.5	49.5
Seneca Valley	0	0	1	1	50.0	49.0
Pine-Richland	0	0	1	2	47.7	50.7
Central Catholic	0	0	1	3	54.3	54.0

SECTION 4

	Section		Overall		Averages	
	W	L	W	L	PF	PA
Canon-McMillan	0	0	3	0	58.7	38.0
Chartiers Valley	0	0	3	0	74.0	44.7
Peters Township	0	0	3	0	57.0	46.7
Bethel Park	0	0	2	0	55.0	35.5
Upper St. Clair	0	0	2	0	65.5	34.5
Baldwin	0	0	2	1	59.7	54.3
Mt. Lebanon	0	0	2	1	54.3	43.7
Moon	0	0	1	1	53.0	56.0

WPIAL CLASS AAA

SECTION 1						
	Section		Overall		Averages	
	W	L	W	L	PF	PA
Burrell	0	0	3	0	52.3	31.0
Hampton	0	0	2	1	63.3	57.7
Kittanning	0	0	2	2	53.8	50.0
Mars	0	0	1	1	73.0	68.5
Deer Lakes	0	0	1	2	40.3	50.0
Highlands	0	0	0	2	54.0	80.5
Knoch	0	0	0	2	39.0	50.0
Valley	0	0	0	2	34.5	69.5

SECTION 2

	Section		Overall		Averages	
	W	L	W	L	PF	PA
Central Valley.....	0	0	3	0	62.0	39.7
New Castle.....	0	0	3	0	79.0	51.7
Ambridge.....	0	0	2	1	44.0	55.0
Beaver.....	0	0	2	1	61.3	37.0
West Allegheny.....	0	0	2	1	58.0	58.7
Hopewell.....	0	0	1	2	38.7	53.0
Blackhawk.....	0	0	0	2	41.0	58.5

SECTION 3

	Section		Overall		Averages	
	W	L	W	L	PF	PA
Southmoreland	0	0	3	0	69.3	58.7
Derry	0	0	2	1	54.7	53.0
Uniontown	0	0	2	1	64.7	46.7
Yough	0	0	2	1	43.0	39.0
Greensburg Salem	0	0	2	2	52.3	53.0
Indiana	0	0	1	2	54.0	53.7
Mount Pleasant	0	0	0	3	42.7	50.3

SECTION 4

	Section		Overall		Averages	
	W	L	W	L	PF	PA
Keystone Oaks.....	0	0	3	0	74.3	56.7
Elizabeth Forward.....	0	0	2	1	53.3	44.7
South Park.....	0	0	1	2	51.3	57.0
East Allegheny	0	0	0	2	40.0	55.5
Belle Vernon.....	0	0	0	3	52.3	78.7
West Mifflin.....	0	0	0	3	44.0	52.0
Thomas Jefferson.....	0	0	0	5	47.8	68.8

SECTION 5

	Section		Overall		Averages	
	W	L	W	L	PF	PA
Trinity.....	0	0	3	1	62.0	52.5
McGuffey.....	0	0	2	1	64.0	46.7
South Fayette.....	0	0	2	1	54.7	38.3
Washington.....	0	0	2	2	53.3	58.0
Waynesburg.....	0	0	2	2	55.8	50.5
Montour.....	0	0	0	0	—	—
Ringold.....	0	0	0	3	45.7	57.7

WPIAL CLASS AA

SECTION 1					
	Section		Overall	Averages	
	W	L		PF	PA
Ford City	0	4	0	69.3	44.5
Freeport	0	3	0	57.7	51.3
Apollo-Ridge	0	2	2	56.8	43.8
Riverview	0	1	2	60.3	60.3
Shady Side Academy ..	0	1	2	53.0	49.3
Springdale	0	1	3	45.5	50.3
West Shamokin	0	1	3	45.8	44.5

SECTION 2

	Section		Overall		Averages	
	W	L	W	L	PF	PA
Riverside	0	0	3	1	54.8	47.0
Ellwood City	0	0	2	1	50.7	51.7
Shenango	0	0	2	1	55.3	49.0
Mohawk	0	0	1	2	45.7	52.3
Neshannock	0	0	1	2	61.0	62.3
Summit Academy	0	0	1	3	62.8	78.8
Laurel	0	0	0	3	49.0	64.0

SECTION 3

	W	L	W	L	PF	PA
Monessen	0	0	3	0	72.7	57.7
Wilksburg	0	0	2	0	49.5	39.0
Steel Valley	0	0	1	0	62.0	42.0
Seton-LaSalle	0	0	2	1	61.3	63.0
Brentwood	0	0	1	2	46.0	46.3
Bishop Canavin	0	0	0	0	—	—
South Allegheny	0	0	0	2	30.0	62.0

TV, RADIO

TODAY

BOYS BASKETBALL

7:30 p.m.: Kittanning at Knoch; Radio: WISR-AM (680)
7:30 p.m.: Latrobe at Laurel Highlands; Radio: WCNS-AM (1480)
7:30 p.m.: Penn-Trafford at Hempfield; Radio: WHBF-FM (107.1)
7:30 p.m.: Uniontown at Indiana; Radio: WMBS-AM (590)
8 p.m.: North Hills at Butler; Radio: WBUT-AM (1050)

GIRLS BASKETBALL

6:30 p.m.: North Hills at Butler; Radio: WBUT-AM (1050)

FOOTBALL

1 p.m.: PIAA Class A Championship: Clairton vs. Southern Columbia; TV: Pennsylvania Sports Network
7 p.m.: PIAA Class AAA Championship: Bishop McDevitt vs. Archbishop Wood; TV: Pennsylvania Sports Network

BASKETBALL STANDINGS

(Not including Thursday's games)

SECTION 4

	Section		Overall		Averages	
	W	L	W	L	PF	PA
Jeanette	0	0	3	0	71.0	49.0
Beth-Center	0	0	2	0	63.5	32.5
California	0	0	3	1	59.3	49.5
Brownsville	0	0	2	1	69.0	51.3
Frazier	0	0	2	1	75.7	43.7
Greensburg C.C.	0	0	2	1	64.3	55.3
Charleroi	0	0	1	2	59.0	65.0

SECTION 5

	Section		Overall		Averages	
	W	L	W	L	PF	PA
Sto-Rox.....	0	0	4	0	54.5	47.5
South Side Beaver	0	0	2	1	64.7	60.7
Chartiers-Houston	0	0	1	1	55.0	56.0
Burgettstown	0	0	1	3	50.5	52.8
Carlynton	0	0	0	2	41.0	70.5
Fort Cherry	0	0	0	3	39.7	68.3

SECTION 6

	W	L	W	L	PF	PA
Quaker Valley.....	0	0	3	0	78.0	56.3
Beaver Falls.....	0	0	1	1	60.0	48.5
Avonworth.....	0	0	1	2	49.3	52.7
New Brighton.....	0	0	1	3	38.0	57.5
Aliquippa.....	0	0	0	1	44.0	47.0
Northgate.....	0	0	0	2	55.5	62.0
Freedom.....	0	0	0	3	44.0	52.0

WPIAL CLASS A

SECTION 1

	Section		Overall		Averages	
	W	L	W	L	PF	PA
O.L. Sacred Heart.....	0	0	3	0	59.7	35.3
Cornell	0	0	3	1	60.5	59.5
Union	0	0	2	2	49.8	54.8
Lincoln Park	0	0	1	1	62.0	48.0
Western Beaver	0	0	1	2	59.0	63.7
Rochester.....	0	0	0	4	36.0	73.0

SECTION 2

	Section		Overall		Averages	
	W	L	W	L	PF	PA
Eden Christian	0	0	3	0	56.7	31.3
North Catholic.....	0	0	2	0	53.5	37.5
Vincentian	0	0	2	0	68.0	54.0
Trinity Christian	0	0	2	1	53.3	41.0
Quigley	0	0	2	2	52.8	52.0
Aquinas Academy.....	0	0	1	1	44.5	41.3
Sewickley Academy ...	0	0	0	2	45.0	57.5

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