

SPORTS PAGE

MCQUISTON HAS BIG DEBUT AS CATS EARN SPLIT IN TIP OFF TOURNAMENT



Preston Schry drives the lane against an OLSH defender during last season's finale

Player Profile: Dalton Peters

CRE CALABRIA
DECEMBER 20, 2020

This week's first player profile is on junior Dalton Peters. Dalton's favorite sport is basketball, where he is currently a starting forward for the Wildcats. Dalton has had an impressive career thus far winning a ninth-grade championship as well as being the leading scorer for the junior varsity basketball team last season averaging almost 18 points per game. Dalton enjoys basketball because he "loves being able to interact with his friends and loves the game." If Dalton has one player that he admires it would be Gordon Hayward from the Charlotte Hornets. Dalton says that he "admires how he is so hardworking and always acts like a leader." Dalton's favorite memory in his basketball career is winning the ninth-grade championship his freshman year. The game went into overtime and they won in the final seconds. Hopefully this experience helps Dalton in his first year as a varsity starter this upcoming season.

J. STEPHENSON, T. VALENTI, & K. RUBIN

DECEMBER 20, 2020

The varsity boys basketball team officially started off the season in their opening tip-off tournament at Neshannock this past Friday. The teams they battled against were Mercyhurst Prep and Moniteau. Down two starters, Ryan Lenhart and Reis Watkins, the boys showed immense heart, earning a split during the shutdown adapted back to back contests. Ryan hurt his back and could not participate in the games. Reis is recovering from a high ankle sprain and hopes to be back soon.

The boys faced off against Mercyhurst Prep in their first game of the evening where despite a solid second quarter run to keep the game close, they lost a tough one 74 to 50. Turnovers plagued the Cats as they let too many possessions slip away during this one. Silver linings in this loss included valuable experience for first time starters Dalton Peters and Zach Herb, quality minutes from Vince Sibeto and Preston Schry, and 31-point scoring effort by freshman Brody McQuiston.

The Cats corrected many of their earlier game flaws against their second opponent of the evening, the Moniteau Warriors. Brody McQuiston led the way again, dropping a game high 25 points, but Dalton Peters 14-point effort along with Zach Herb's 12 were essential in putting the game away for the Wildcats. The three boys provided two thirds of the Cats points en route to a 75- 51 victory. The defense was much stronger in this one as well. Happy about a win but still critical of the first games performance freshman Zach Herb offered, "Going 1-1 was not the result we wanted, but ending off with a win before break was important." The boys hope to get back to playing in January. They are currently on hiatus due to the Governor's temporary shutdown order until January the fourth. For now, all we can say is that Shenango fought hard during their season openers. Great job Cats!

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THROWBACK

Is that Artemis... Nope it's Mrs. Butchy

CHRIS VECENIE

DECEMBER 20, 2020



Mrs. Butchy takes aim at a target at her local shooting range

Our first throwback article of the week is on seventh grade English teacher Heather Butchy. Mrs. Butchy has been shooting since her father got her involved in archery when she was 13 years old. "I covet those early hours with him every Sunday morning, tromping through the woods from one 3D pin to the next. We'd finish our morning shoot with a power breakfast of hot dogs and RC Cola. "Just don't tell your mother I'm feeding you this stuff," he'd say." She says that she loves the intense focus required every time she draws, the dozens of muscle groups that she should (and should not) engage for a good shot, the muscle memory she works to build up, then break down, then build up again to eliminate those bad habits and strengthen the good ones.

When asked about some of favorite memories related to archery she offered, "I've participated in recreational and competitive archery since I was 13. I often tell my students that this sport helped me get through the toughest parts of junior high. I competed in junior 3D shoots throughout junior high, then moved to regional competitive target shoots. I brought home various medals and trophies over the years, but my favorite moment was in 2001 when Mr. Butchy asked me to shoot a deer target in the eye at 30 yards. I nailed that eyeball on the first shot, and I've been the boss ever since. He knows not to mess with me."

PLAYER PROFILE

Kylee Rubin

ANDREW BOVO

DECEMBER 20, 2020



This week's second player profile is on sophomore Kylee Rubin. She is currently on the girls varsity basketball team where she plays forward. She is a two-sport athlete that plays volleyball and basketball. During the volleyball season, Kylee earned first team all-section and second team all-WPIAL honors as an outside hitter. As part of the girls basketball team, Kylee lettered in her freshman year and earned second team all-section honors. She loves playing basketball because of its "high pace" and that it is a "team sport." An athlete that Kylee admires is WNBA star Sue Bird because of the "dedication and hard work that she puts towards her sport." Some of her favorite times during the basketball season are the huddles before games and all of the time spent with her teammates.

Player Profile:
Colton Ferrucci

CHRIS VECENIE

DECEMBER 20, 2020



Our third player profile this week is on Junior Colton Ferrucci. Colton is a two-sport athlete that competes in both football and track and field. During the winter season, Colton dedicates his time toward increasing his abilities in both the shot put and the weight throw. Last season, Colton advanced to the conference championships in the shot put and was ranked in the top ten in the state of Pennsylvania in the weight throw. He is a three-year letterman in football as well as indoor and outdoor track and field. He currently holds the school record in the weight throw with an impressive heave of 47'3". A goal this year will undoubtedly be to throw fifty feet in the shot put and make it to the medal stand at the state track meet.

LADY CATS PLAY STRONG, BUT LOSE A NAILBITER IN SEASON OPENER



Emilee Fedrizzi crosses up a New Castle defender during their opening game of the 2020 campaign

MADISON IWANEJKO, TYLER KAMERER & CONNOR JEFFCOAT

DECEMBER 20, 2020

The girls varsity basketball team faced off against the Newcastle Hurricanes last week. This game was a part of the “New Castle tip-off”.

The Lady Cats came out strong dropping eight points in the first quarter, but a sluggish second stanza had the girls down 20-12 heading into the half. Coach Zona must have inspired the ladies at half because the Lady Cats answered with a monster third quarter tying it up at the end of three. A valiant fourth quarter wasn’t enough to topple New Castle as the Hurricanes beat the Lady Cats by a score of 43-39.

Leading the Lady Cats in scoring was sophomore Kylee Rubin with 18 points along with 18 rebounds. Other notable scorers included sophomore Janie Natale with 11, and sophomore Emilee Fedrizzi with six. Fedrizzi also added four assists and six rebounds to go along with Cassidy Peters six rebounds. The lead scorer on the side of the New Castle Hurricanes was Neena Flora with a total of 14 points.

The Lady Wildcats will more than likely miss four to five non-section games this season because it is being postponed until January fourth. Junior Cassidy Peters said “Although we may have lost our first game, I am really looking forward to this year. We have a lot of talent and can’t wait to see what we can accomplish when we get everyone back”. The Lady Cats are very confident that they will bounce back from this loss and have a very successful season. Keep your chins high, Lady Cats, and we wish you the best of luck in your next games to come, whenever they may be. Go Lady Cats!



Mrs. Othites in her majorette uniform while at New Castle High

The fire twirler herself: Mrs. O

TYLER MOROSKY & TYLER COLICH

Shenango's guidance counselor and majorette coach, Mrs. Othites, has a history with majorettes and twirling herself. A majorette is a baton twirler whose twirling performance is often accompanied by dance, movement, or gymnastics. When asked about her majorette career and her awards, she said this: "I have twirled since I was 4 years old. Kindergarten through 6th grade. I was in our school's talent show every year. I was a co-captain on the junior high majorette squad, a feature twirler in high school, and then on my college squad where I was captain my senior year. "As I got older, I realized that twirling was my passion. It is something that I never wanted to stop doing. I liked being a part of a group and also being able to do something that not everyone else can do. Twirling is not just keeping a baton in your hands. It's also dancing, gymnastics, perfect posture, smiling, remembering lots of routines and being graceful. You get burned when twirling fire and hit with the batons and knives a lot."

There are many inspiring professional twirlers, and when asked to pick one that influenced her the most Mrs. Othites said "Annette Lucero. She was born with medical conditions including three missing vertebrae, lupus and epilepsy and didn't let that stop her. She became the youngest woman to win the world championship at age 16 and the oldest winner upon returning after ten years of retirement at age 31. Along with all of her titles, she also holds two Guinness Book World Records. She is an inspiration and an amazing person." Mrs. O's favorite memories still come on a yearly basis. "All of the young women that I've had the pleasure of sharing my passion for twirling with. The best part is that at my age, I am still twirling (not many athletes get to say that) and I am still getting to teach young girls to love the art of baton twirling."

THROWBACK

Playing football without the pads: Mr. Flood and his Rugby life

COLTON FERRUCCI & CHRISTIAN MAXWELL
DECEMBER 20, 2020

Mr. Nate Flood, a seventh-grade science teacher here at Shenango, used to play rugby back in his day. This is very unheard of around here considering most schools don't have rugby programs and even if they do it is most likely a club sport. However, that didn't stop Mr. Flood from pursuing his passion as he became a member of the Washington and Jefferson College Rugby Football Club before playing for the Pittsburgh Harlequins. The Harlequins Rugby Football Club was formed in 1973 and currently competes in Division one Men's Club Rugby- the highest competitive level in the country.

While at W&J, Mr. Flood was a two-time Midwest Select Side player and also won a Midwest Select Side Championship. He was also the team's captain for two years. When asked why he liked participating in rugby Mr. Flood offered, "Having been from a soccer family and playing football at Seneca Valley, rugby was the best of both worlds. There was a position on the field for every type of athlete and the game had a camaraderie that I had never experienced before."

When asked about his favorite memories and a player that he admired Mr. Flood suggested, Brian O'Driscoll. He was a center for the Irish National Side that had amazing vision and power carrying the ball across the field. "Winning the division three championship as a sophomore starting prop, playing the Bahamas National team in the Bahamas as a junior, road trips to Potomac League Schools, and traveling to Iowa with the crew are memories I wouldn't ever trade away"



Mr. Flood reaches for a ball during his playing days at W & J

CHOIR, MUSICAL & BAND

The multi-talented, multifaceted career of Mrs. Leali

PATRICK CIONNI & MORGAN PISULA

DECEMBER 20, 2020

One of this week's throwback articles is on high school choir teacher Samantha Leali. Mrs. L had an illustrious music career while a Hickory Hornet. She was a member of the choir, chamber singers, concert band, and jazz band where she played French horn, clarinet, and piano respectively. Furthermore, she was also the drum major in the marching band and had a lead in the school's spring musical, Anything Goes. In addition to that, she also participated in multiple PMEA festivals at both the district and regional level.

Undoubtedly a lifetime full of memories, Mrs. Leali's favorite part of these activities was that everyone at her school participated in the music program. She loved spending time with not only her closest friends, but with people who had other interests such as athletes and artists.



During Mrs. Leali's senior year, she was selected to participate in a group called "America Sings" where she sang and danced in the opening of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City. This is one of her most cherished memories because to get ready for this performance, they rehearsed on the court of Madison Square Garden and then opened the parade. After they performed, they rode the subway to the end of the line and walked the whole parade route in front of Santa Claus. She said that this experience was definitely "once in a lifetime" and she will never forget it



CHOIR AND MUSICAL

Ah! Music. A magic far beyond what we do here: Albus Dumbledore

DALTON PETERS & TINO CAMPOLI

DECEMBER 20, 2020

Mr. Vecenie is our high school Chemistry teacher and track coach, but few know that he had a successful music career while he was a student at Shaler Area High School. He was active in the choir and also participated in the musical three out of his four years. While a tenor in the choir, he made the district choir festival twice, regional festival once, and state festival once during his junior year. As mentioned before, Mr. Vecenie did the musical three out of his four years of high school. These musicals included Oklahoma, Bye Bye Birdie, and Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat where he was the lead. Mr. Vecenie said he always liked singing because he "wasn't bad at it and that it made his grandmother happy."

He also liked it because he got to meet new and different types of people that didn't play sports or have other classes with him. One performer that he admired throughout his high school years was Colm Wilkinson. Colm Wilkinson played the role of Jean Valjean in Mr. V's favorite musical Les Misérables. Mr. Vecenie had many memories lifelong memories from the many music endeavors, but some of his favorites were singing with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra during a concert, singing at the Roberto Clemente Statue at PNC Park, singing holiday music at the Allegheny county courthouse every Christmas, and seeing Phantom of the Opera in Toronto.