



WELCOME!

WHS

HALL OF FAME

2011 INDUCTION

The Wellsville Athletic Hall of Fame honors the many outstanding athletes, coaches, and others who have had a significant impact on the success of athletic programs at Wellsville High School and beyond.





REMEMBER

WHS HALL OF FAME



WHS HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE

Jim Insley

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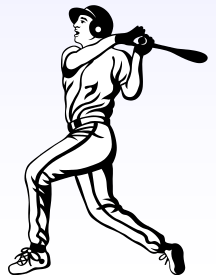
Brian Gray

John Baldwin

Rolly Miles

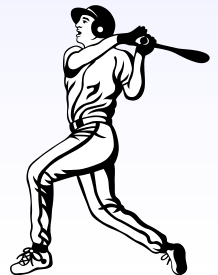
Michelle Alvord

Shelly Chaffee



2011 INDUCTEES

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Dennis Wood | 1947 |
| 2. Kelly Golish Vossler | 1995 |
| 3. Brady Miles | 2005 |
| 4. Jason Szabo | 2005 |
| 5. Rick Whitwood | 2005 |





Dennis Wood

Years in Wellsville: 1943-1947

Sports:

Football 3 years

Basketball 3 years

Baseball 3 years

Track 3 years





Dennis Wood

Recognized by many that had the pleasure to see him play as the best athlete of his era.

Was a starter on four sports teams for three years (football, basketball, baseball, and track).

In 1947 he was chosen by the School Faculty Council to be inducted into the Sportsmanship Brotherhood Club. A tremendous honor for an athlete at that time.

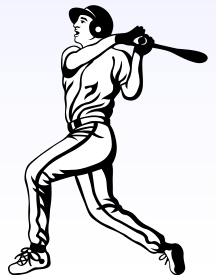




Dennis Wood

He was chosen for several Allegany County all star teams in the sports he played, and was a member of 880 yard relay team that broke the county record in 1946. This record had stood since 1934.

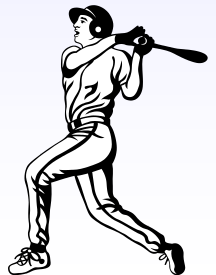
In the military he was the star running back on his football team while stationed in Japan. This team featured several pro players.

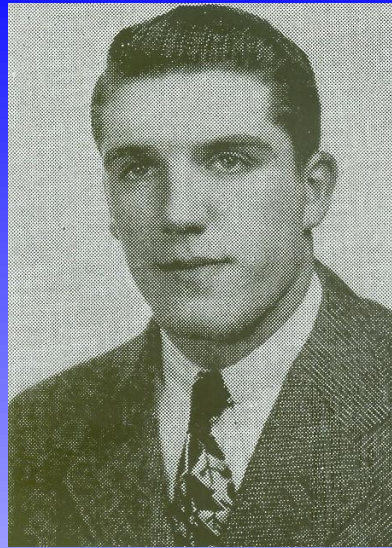




Dennis Wood

A great athlete that was admired by those that had the pleasure to call him a teammate.

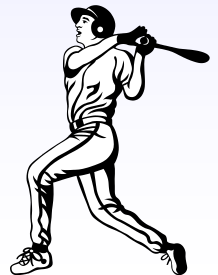




Dennis Wood
Wellsville High School
2011 Hall of Fame



Member



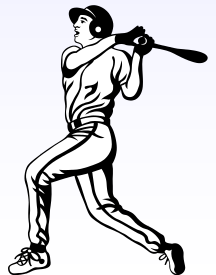


Kelly Golish Vossler

Years in Wellsville: 1990-1995

Sports Played:

Volleyball 5 Years



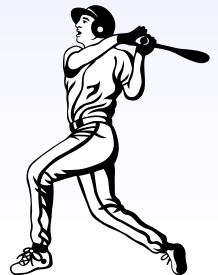


Kelly Golish Vossler

Colleges:

Genesee Community College

Alfred University

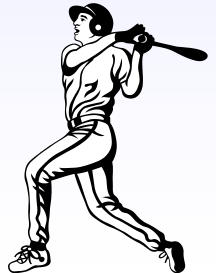




Kelly Golish Vossler

Anchored the 1993 Wellsville Girls Volleyball New York State championship team where she was chosen M.V.P. of the tournament.

Currently holds the career record for Wellsville High School in kills with 373.





Kelly Golish Vossler

While in high school she was a star player for the Junior Olympics Club Volleyball Team out of Rochester.

She was chosen captain and co-captain of her high school volleyball teams her junior and senior years.





Kelly Golish Vossler

In 1996 while at Genesee Community College she was chosen Division I Player of the Year in Volleyball in Region 3.

In 1996 and 1997 she was chosen as a Junior College All American in girls volleyball at Genesee Community College.











November 23, 1990



Steuben League All-Stars

Wellsville girls' volleyball players selected to the Steuben League all-star team for 1990 include, from left, eighth-grader Kelly Golish, Sophomore Karena Yager, senior Kate Hetzel, and junior Crystal Hall.

November 17, 1993

**The Steuben County
Volleyball Class B,
C, and CC First
Team All-Stars
include:**

**Becky Geyer
& Stacie Bates
of Campbell-Savona**

**Melanie Nichols
of Addison**

**Jenn Smith, Tracie
Richardson, and
MVP Kelly Golish**



Championship form



Wellsville girls win state title!

Wellsville's Kelly Golish unleashes a spike Friday during the Lady Lions' state Class C semi-final match against Lake George High School. Wellsville defeated Lake George, then moved on to sweep Buffalo City Honors 3-0 to earn the Class C volleyball championship.



JOHN ANDERSON/Times Herald

Kelly Golish (far left) celebrates the final point of the match with teammates (from left) Jennifer Smith, Sara Synakowski (12), Traci Richardson (9) and Jessica Regan as Wellsville swept Buffalo City Honors in the New York State Class C girls' volleyball championship match Saturday outside of Albany.

Lady Lions roar to title

By **CHUCK POLLOCK**

□ The Times Herald

NISKAYUNA — As the celebration subsided around him, Wellsville Central girls' volleyball coach Bob Kozlowski took in the scene at Niskayuna High School.

Moments earlier his Lady Lions had won the New York State Class C title via a 15-7, 16-14, 16-14 triumph over Buffalo City Honors, the four-time defending champion.

"**WHAT WILL** be the real test," Kozlowski mused, "is if we can come back and win it again and again like City Honors and Sweet Home.

"We were lucky enough to have some excellent players and win it this year ... but can we do it again?"

Kozlowski didn't take a lot of time to savor the triumph.

Yet, no matter what, Wellsville, which finished 25-0 in dual matches this season, will always have this one.

"It was a great match to watch," admitted City Honors coach Drake Francescone.

"We can't feel badly ... you always play 'what if' when you lose (two) two-point games. But we didn't lose because we didn't hit ... or didn't dig ... or didn't focus in practice.

"We lost because they beat us ... and that makes it easier to take."

And though Kozlowski was "surprised to win in three games", it wasn't without tension.

After breezing in the first game where the Wellsville coach thought "they were a little more nervous than we were", the Lady Lions rallied twice.

In game No. 2, they were down 13-10 before coming back and, in game No. 3, they trailed 6-0.

After taking the lead in the finale, Wellsville failed twice on match point, only to be tied at 14-14 before winning.

"**WE'VE COME** from behind so many times this year," Kozlowski said, "it's almost like we're used to it. We sure weren't thinking, 'this game's over'."

For the Lady lions, senior Kelly Golish had 13 blocks and served for seven points while Jennifer

Smith added five kills and eight service points and Traci Richards served for 13 points.

It was Wellsville's first season as a 'C' school after many years as a 'B'.

"We came in with 384 students (grades 10-12) ... just under what it takes to be a 'B'," Kozkowski said.

And if the Lady lions had been a 'B' this year?

"We'd have been competitive," he said, "but I'd don't know if we'd have gotten to this point (state title) or even to the Final Four.

"In general, the bigger the school, the more kids to choose from and the better the volleyball. For instance, we've never had to cut (players) because we've never had enough come out to do it."

THOUGH Wellsville was playing down a class, it's significant to beat a four-time defending state champion.

"I've known Bob for awhile and respect what he's done with the program," said Francescone, whose own success is virtually unrivaled.

Kelly Golish celebrates the final point of the match with teammates Jennifer smith, Sara Synakowski, Traci Richardson, and Jessica Regan as Wellsville swept Buffalo City Honors in the New York State Class C girls volleyball championship match Saturday outside of Albany.





New York State Class C Volleyball Champions



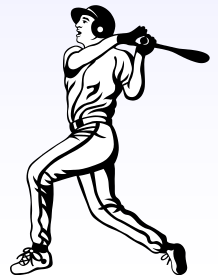
We are the champions...25 – 0!



**Kelly Golish Vossler
Wellsville High School
2011 Hall of Fame**



Member





Brady Miles

Years in Wellsville: 2001-2005

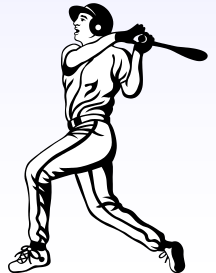
Sports Played:

Soccer

5 Years

Baseball

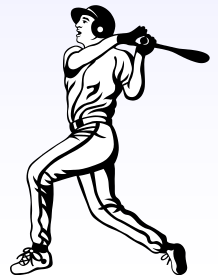
4 Years





Brady Miles

College:
**SUNY @
Brockport**





Brady Miles

Currently holds the career scoring record in soccer with 142 points (56 goals, 30 assists).

Set a single game scoring record in soccer by scoring six goals on September 19, 2004.





Brady Miles

Played first base on the gold medal baseball team at the New York State Empire State Games during the summer of 2004.

Was selected to play in the Greater Rochester Select Senior Game in soccer in the Fall of 2004.

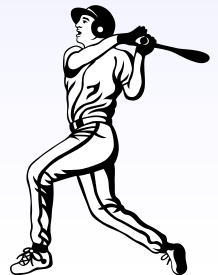




Brady Miles

Started at second base on the High School Sectional Baseball Championship Team in 2005 when he had a .383 batting average.

Made the Expressway All Star Team in baseball and soccer for two straight years.







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WELLSVILLE LITTLE LEAGUE



Brady Miles

Little League District 2 Champions



Rare but perfect, Wellsville wins District II championship

WELLSVILLE — Perfectly played Little League games with 1-0 scores are rare.

So what do two in a row make?

The Wellsville 11-12-year-olds beat Dunkirk for the second straight night Tuesday by a 1-0 score to win the District II Championship.

Wellsville now plays Batavia at 3:30 p.m. Saturday at Forness Park in Olean. The other game in the four-team regional will pit Fairport against Orchard Park.

Wellsville's lone run came in the second when Eric Burton led off with a walk, was sacrificed to second by Jason Szabo and scored on a Chad Copenhaver single.

Copenhaver was 2-for-2 for Wellsville while Rick Whitwood Jr. was 2-for-3.

Wellsville's Brady Miles (3-hitter, six strikeouts) won a pitching duel against Dunkirk's Gregg Orcutt (nine strikeouts).

Little League playoffs

In the bottom of the sixth, Frank Jaguda led off with a walk but Orcutt bounced into a double play.

"A 6-4-3 double play at that level with the short bases is very hard to do," said Wellsville coach Rick Whitwood. "Brady pitched a great game. He stayed ahead of the hitters most of the game and kept his walks down.

On Monday, Burton tossed a 1-hitter with nine strikeouts in Dunkirk to lead Wellsville to a 1-0 win.

The only one other Wellsville team to reach this level in the postseason was the 1992 team which lost to Grand Island.

at Wellsville

	R	H	E
Wellsville	010	000	— 1 4 2
Dunkirk	000	000	— 0 3 0
Brady Miles (6K, 3BB) and Rick Whitwood			
Gregg Orcutt (9K, 4BB) and Andrew Horton			

**Wellsville's
Brady Miles
(3-hitter, six
strikeouts)
won a
pitching duel
against
Dunkirk's
Gregg Orcutt.
Brady pitched
a great game.**

It's been quit a busy week for a group of Wellsville youngsters, but they wouldn't trade it for anything.

The Wellsville Little League 11-and-12-year-old All-Stars entered the District 2 Championships with one loss, so they had to beat Dunkirk twice to advance, starting Monday in Dunkirk. A 1-0 victory that night brought the series to Wellsville for the deciding game, and Wellsville came up with another big 1-0 win. After getting honored with a recognition ceremony before Wednesday's Wellsville Nitros' home game, the All-Stars have been preparing for their next game on Saturday in the New York Sub-Regionals. Wellsville will take on Batavia in Olean at 3:30, with Fairport and Orchard Park meeting in the other game.

The Daily Reporter congratulates the team, and wishes them Good Luck this weekend!

Pee Wee Soccer





Wellsville – 3rd Place

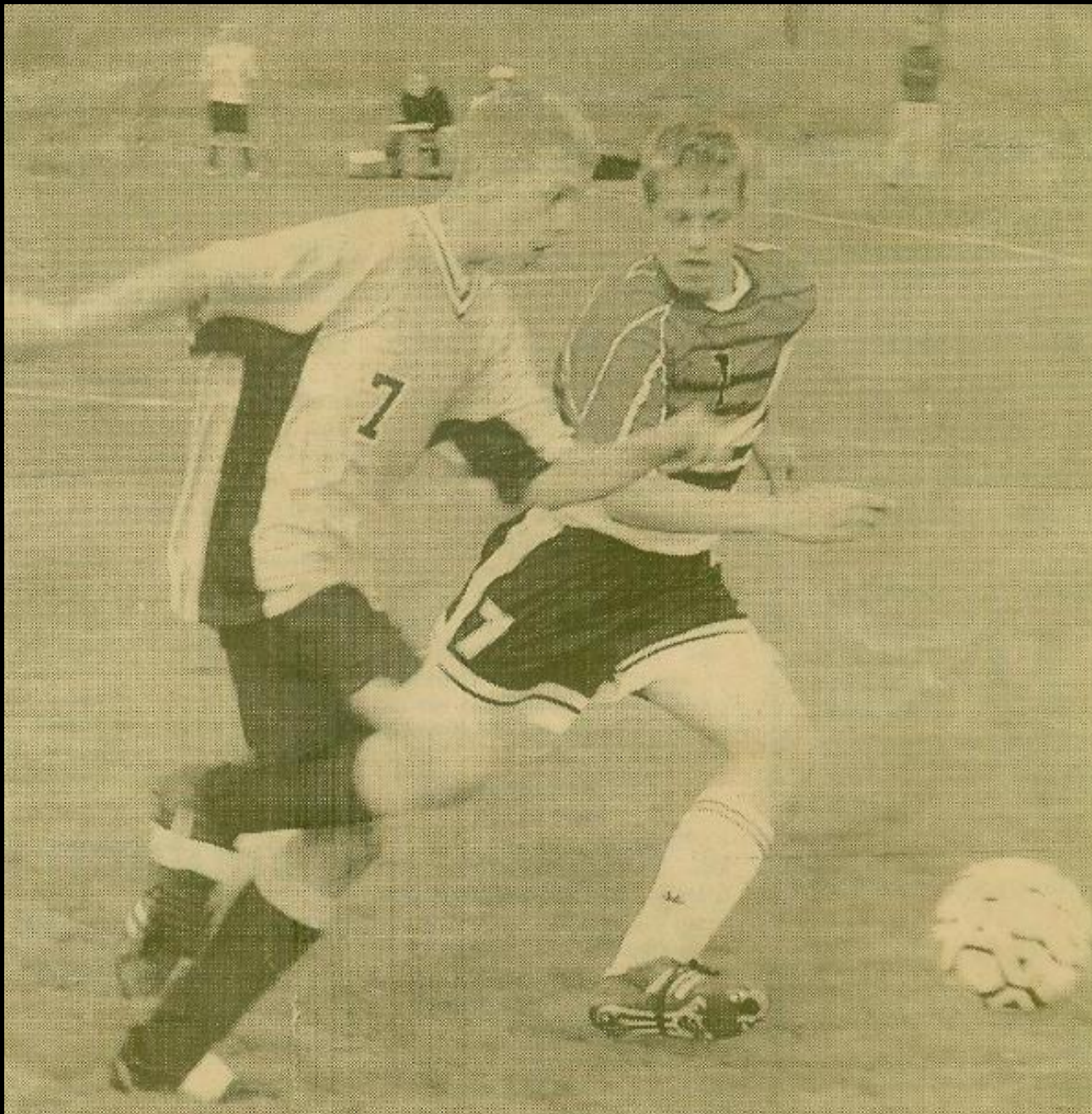
Wellsville's team took third place in the Alfred-Almond Fall Cup, and the team is pictured here. Front from left: Kyle Lester and Ryan Phillips. Middle row: Andrew McArdle, Jon Comstock, Katie Pease, Ryan Lester, Mallory LaForge. Back Row: Arielle Szabo, Brady Miles, Jason Szabo, and Ben Catino.

Record: 7 - Brady Miles had 8 Goals!



Wellsville High School Soccer





**It's a race to
the ball!**

**Brady Miles of
Wellsville gets
past a
Franklinville
defender during
the Lions 4-0
victory
Wednesday
night as they
improved to
12-2.**









Miles hands Rebels first loss

Lions even record with 8-2 win

WELLSVILLE — After working on the field for four hours, Wellsville coach Dennis Miles had concerns going into Wednesday afternoon's game with Cuba-Rushford.

The Rebels were coming in undefeated after winning the tough Ellicottville Tournament, and jumped out to a quick 1-0 lead on Wellsville starter Brady Miles.

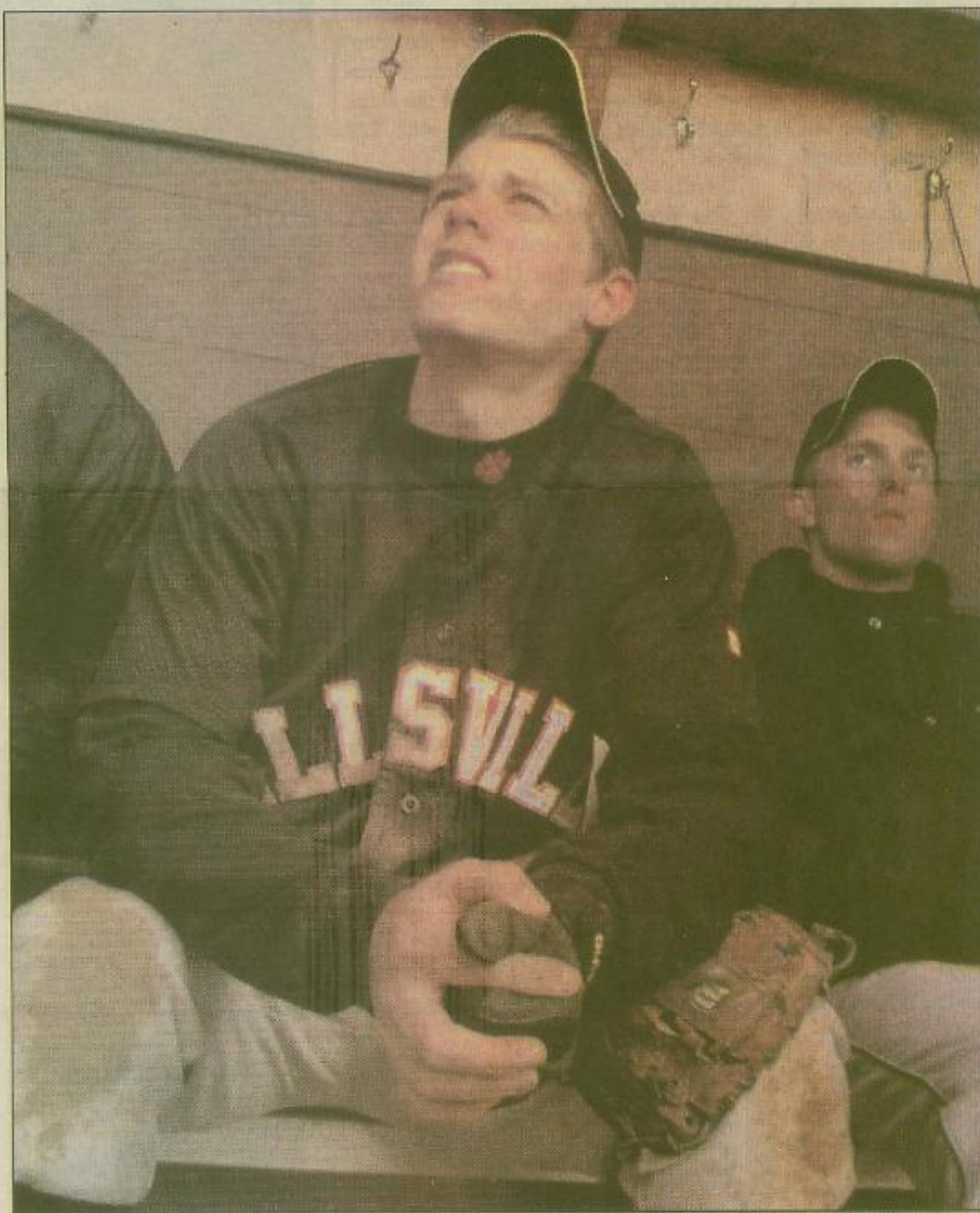
Through the cold and mud, Miles settled down, striking out 12 in six innings as the Lions improved to 3-3 with an 8-2 win.

"Brady threw harder today than he has all season and he didn't have any pain which is a good sign," Dennis Miles said of the junior righty who had some shoulder discomfort. "He pitched out of a shaky first inning and labored through the fifth and six, but he's on his way back."

Brady Miles had a strong second, third and fourth inning, as catcher Ryan Phillips did a nice job stopping the sharp-breaking curveballs and threw out a base stealer. Miles also struck out two in the sixth.

In the seventh, junior lefty Steve Kear gave up a walk and two singles before strik-

See MILES on page 12



JOHN ANDERSON/Daily Reporter

Brady Miles (left) looks to the scoreboard as he leaves the game after striking out 12 in six innings. Miles gave way to Steve Kear (right) who struck out three in the seventh during an 8-2 Wellsville win.

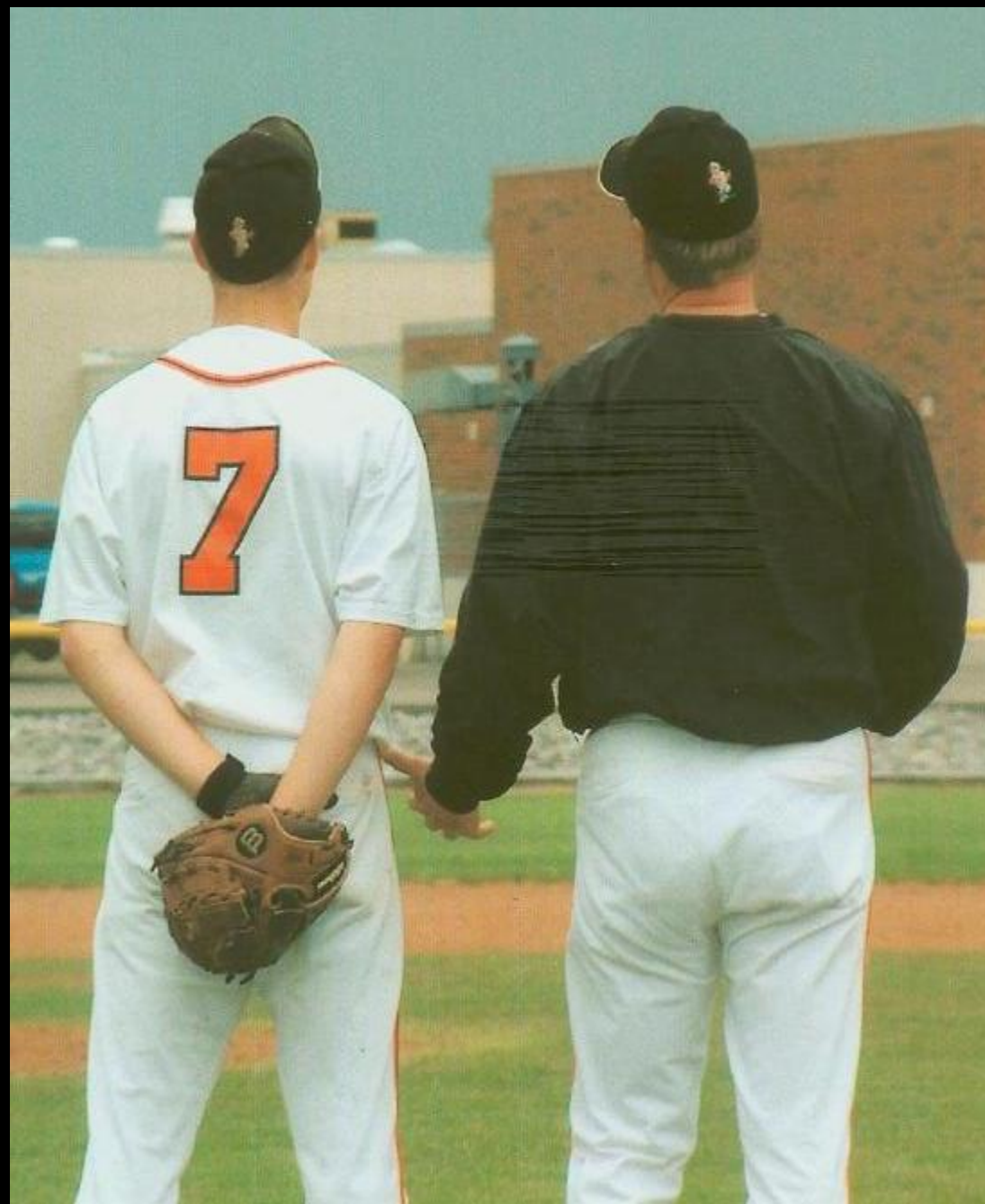
Miles struck out 12 batters in six innings as the Lions improved to 3-3 with a 8 -2 win over Cuba-Rushford.











After losing to Olean in the first game of a double-header, Wellsville coach Denny Miles knew his chance at winning 500 games would rest on the shoulders of his son Brady, who only threw one game all season, but was needed in the long week. One inning and one unlucky slide into second base later, Brady's season and career was over when he broke his leg in two places during a nightcap victory.

Miles wins 500th game

By JOHN ANDERSON
Daily Reporter

PORTVILLE — After losing to Olean in the first game of a double-header, Wellsville coach Dennis Miles knew his chance at winning 500 games would rest on the shoulder of his son Brady, who only threw one game all season but was needed in the long week.

One inning and one unlucky slide into second base later, Brady's season and career was over when he broke his leg in two places during a nightcap victory.

Going into Portville on Friday, Miles pulled up two junior varsity pitchers and was contemplating throwing shortstop Damon Arnold, who has thrown two innings in his career.

But someone else had other ideas.

Senior pitcher A.J. Fay.

Fay, who quit playing winter sports to concentrate on baseball and developing more pitches, was on one day rest after throwing seven innings against Olean on Wednesday. He wasn't taking "no" for an answer. He wanted the ball and wanted to win 500 for Miles.

In one of the greatest performances you will ever see from a high school baseball player, Fay went nine innings on the mound in a 7-3 win over Portville, giving Miles 500 wins against 157 losses in 30 years.

"To come right back and throw nine tonight was incredible," said Miles. "And he seemed to get stronger as the game went on."

The game had all the feel of a sectional final, and the Lions, winners of nine titles, would know. Every at bat was tense and runs



The coaches and team celebrate after the 500th win in Portville, a thrilling 7-3 victory in extra innings.

Cory Wright grounded out to second, but Fay was held at third. With one out, Ryan Lester grounded out to shortstop and Fay went home on the throw. The catcher dropped the ball when Fay came sliding in to tie the game, 2-2.

"It was like the movie, 'A League of Their Own,' the bang-bang play where the ball rolled out of the catcher's hand," said Miles.

The game went into the bottom of the seventh, and suddenly, Fay got stronger. Portville put a runner on third with one out. Fay then struck out the next two batters. In the eighth, Portville had runners on second and third with two outs and Fay struck out the final batter.

They played a whale of a game and their pitcher was sneaky-quick. Our bats were slow until the ninth.

"But that's the secret to beating our team, you have to win the battle from the first out to the last out," he added.

As for win 500, Miles said, "It's hard to believe it's been that many. I'm happy to get it over with before sectionals."

"It takes a total community effort. These kids don't just turn into ballplayers once they get to varsity," Miles continued. "All the coaches, from Little League on up, are very instrumental in their development. There's just so many people who've been a part of this."

went 6-9. That was the only time a team of his has finished under .500. Friday's was his 31st win over Portville (31-7). The Panthers rank 7th on the beat list, behind Canisteo (46), A-L and Olean (41), Addison and Walsh (38) and Bath (33).

After the game, Fay needed help getting his cleats off, as he had two large cuts on his knees from different slides.

"It hurt enough to come out. But I told myself I was not going to look at it until the game was over with," said Fay. "I knew what type of situation we were in with Brady gone. I knew what I had to do. It was best for the team."

came up to him and said he wanted Fay to get the 500th win for him. Brady came up on crutches and said the same thing. Fay said that also meant a lot to him.

"It felt nice to be able to do that for coach," said Fay. "He expects perfection. I can tell from pitching, if I throw a bad pitch with an 0-2 count and get the guy out, he'll still tell me it's a bad pitch. Some players may take it as destructive criticism, but I know if I mess up and get lucky, he'll tell me I got lucky."

"We have not seen a coach as smart as Mr. Miles. We bunt at the perfect time. We'll bunt three or four times to start a game to get runs."

Dennis Miles and Rolly Miles show off the 500th win ball after Wellsville defeated Portville in 9 innings on Friday. It was a bitter sweet week for Coach Miles, as he expected his son Brady to pitch in the game he would be going for win 500. Brady broke his leg and didn't pitch, but made the game.



May 6, 2005





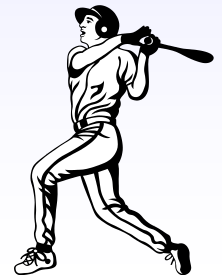
Brady Miles

Wellsville High School

2011 Hall of Fame



Member





Jason Szabo

Years in Wellsville: 2001-2005

Sports Played:

Soccer

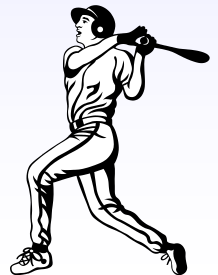
5 Years

Basketball

4 Years

Baseball

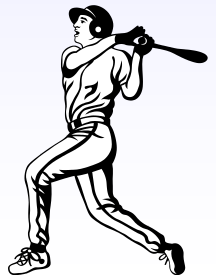
3 Years

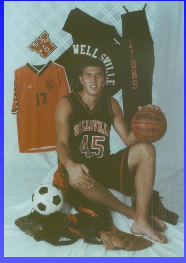




Jason Szabo

**Colleges:
R.I.T. & Daemen College**

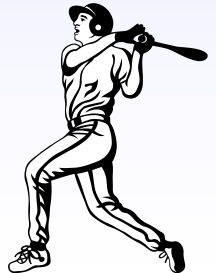




Jason Szabo

Named to the Spectator Great 8 First Team for basketball his junior and senior years.

In high school basketball he scored over 900 points and accumulated over 1000 rebounds.

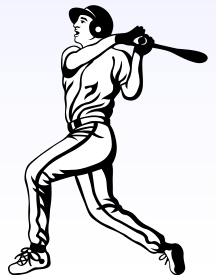




Jason Szabo

He was selected to the Section V All Tournament Team for basketball for three consecutive years (2003, 2004, & 2005).

By many he is recognized as the best sweeper to ever play the game of soccer at Wellsville High School. (Current school record of fewer goals allowed, 8 in 2004).





Jason Szabo

In 2005 he led his high school baseball team in the post season by batting .500 as they won the Section V championship.

He was truly a three sport star in soccer, basketball, and baseball during his high school career.





JIM SWEET/Daily Reporter

Wellsville's Eduardo Sanchez gets just enough foot on this attempted clearing pass by Olean's Andy Malpiedi to deflect it to a teammate.

Unselfish Szabo leads Lions to 5-0 shutout of Olean

WELLSVILLE — Brady Miles netted a pair of first half goals and Jason Szabo had three assists as the Lions improved to 2-1 on the season with a 5-0 blanking of visiting Olean yesterday afternoon.

Pat Lynch opened the scoring for Wellsville, forcing a ball past a sprawling Dustin Sprague in the eighth minute, and Miles followed with two in a span of just over two minutes some 20 minutes later.

Szabo, a senior who has moved up to center midfield after three years as the team's starting sweeper, assisted on all three.

"Jason is such a great sweeper that I really hated to move him," said Lions coach Denny Miles, "but we've been lacking a dominant force in the middle ever since Jimmy Edmonston graduated. If Jason can continue to control play and create opportunities

See LIONS on page 13



JIM SWEET/Daily Reporter

With Husky striker Alex Nenno coming on, Lion fullback Ian Cannon heads this ball back up to the midfield in yesterday's 5-0 Wellsville win.

Jason Szabo had three assists as the Lions improved to 2-1 on the season with a 5-0 blanking of visiting Olean yesterday afternoon.

Lions roll over Wayland-Cohocton,

Cudney sets shutout records

By JIM SWEET
Daily Reporter

WELLSVILLE — When a team that's scored a total of eight goals in 15 games faces a team that's only allowed seven all season, well, you've picked the right opponent for Senior Night.

Starting a lineup of 11 seniors against an Eagle club they'd beaten 5-0 a month ago and that's been wracked by injuries since, Coach Denny Miles' Wellsville Lions had no problems in last night's final regular season home game, posting their school record-tying 13th shutout in a 7-0 blanking of Wayland-Cohocton.

A pair of those seniors continued to get the Lions on the board in the 11th minute, when sweeper Jason Szabo found Brady Miles in the middle of the field and Miles blasted a 25-yarder past Eagle keeper Randy Weitenbacher.

Wellsville made it 2-0 just two minutes later, when sophomore Pat Lynch lined a perfect corner kick into a crowd in front. Weitenbacher blocked senior Brian Lester's header attempt, but the rebound went right to exchange student Eddie



JIM SWEET/Daily Reporter

Kevin Cudney posted his school record-tying 13th shutout in a 7-0 blanking of Wayland-Cohocton Tuesday night. His 13 shutouts this season ties the mark set four years ago by Matt Campbell, and the 29 for his career breaks Campbell's mark. Wellsville is now 12-2-3 on the season.

Sanchez, who put the ball into the upper near corner from 10 yards out.

Junior Doug Graham made it 4-0 by the half, first banging home a Cory Wright rebound from 12 yards out on the left side, and then with another rebound goal off a beautiful length-of-the-field passing sequence that started back with Szabo, moved up to Wright and

then Sanchez and finally to Miles.

Any Eagle ideas of a comeback — and after being outshot 23-0 in the first half, they had to be slim — were squashed in the first eight minutes of the second, when the Lions put three more on the board. Lynch had two of them, both thanks to Graham, and Lester got the other on a Wright assist.

"It really was Doug and Pat breaking Coach Miles. "The a five or six goal slump, so hopeful the monkey off the tie bit heading into

Another Lion tender Kevin Cudney night despite a real work. With two save Eagle attempts, Cudney etched his name in record books. His this season ties the years ago by Matt and the 29 for his Campbell's mark.

"It was nice to see the record," said Miles. "It was nice to see the play a lot. I was everybody's Wayland-Cohocton and we know they're a bunch of guys banged up still happy with the

"We had two starters injured," said Wellsville coach Jay Didas, whose team finished the regular season a couple of minutes too. "We've got four starting for us. It's a rebuilding year."

Wellsville, now just a rematch tomorrow, a team 5-0 early last month. Regionals start next week.

October 20, 2004
"Senior Night"



The Lions had no problem in last night's final regular season home game, posting their school record-tying 13th shutout in a 7-0 blanking of Wayland-Cohocton.

This is a photo taken after the Lion's 2-0 road win at Olean to finish the regular season at 13 wins, 2 losses and 3 ties. This shutout was the record setting 14th for Goalie Kevin Cudney and his fellow senior defenders (l to r) Ian Cannon, Ryan Lester, Cudney, Dan Stebbins and Jason Szabo. The shutout was also the 30th of this group's past 3 varsity seasons which was also a WHS school record.



Wellsville vs. Bath in Semi-Finals in 2004



Lions roar in season opener at Letchworth

Letchworth's Derek Buttles can only look on in awe as Lion senior Jason Szabo, who also collected over 20 rebounds, slams down two of his 15 points in last night's 56-36 Wellsville win.

Big Three scores 51 in 56-36 win

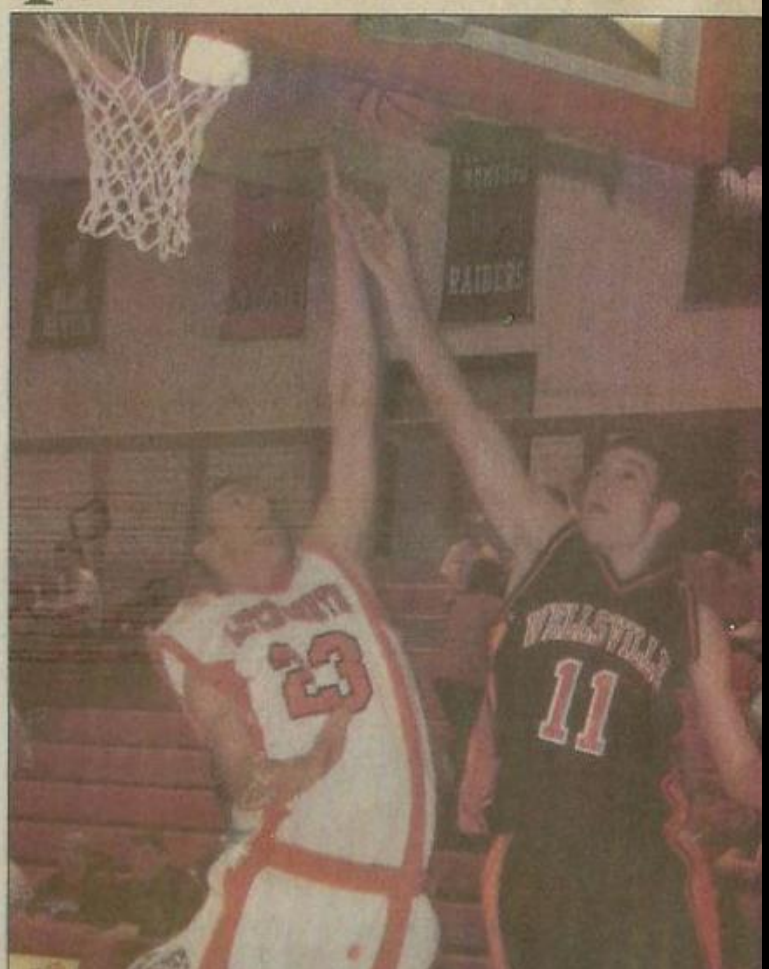
By JIM SWEET
Daily Reporter

GAINESVILLE — OK, first the bad news. In their first game of the season, Wellsville's boys hit only two of 12 3-pointers, made fewer than half of their free throws and, if you had a dollar for every one-footer they missed, you could probably make some serious money on lottery tickets.

The good news is, ah heck, all the rest is good news.

Against a Letchworth team that had blown out Lima Christian by almost 60 points and then dumped Class B power Penn Yan to win their season-opening tournament last weekend, the Lions backed a 14-0 second quarter run with a 17-2 rip to start the third, and then coasted to an easy 56-36 victory over the Indians.

Wellsville coach Jim Insley, who'd been worried about this



Szabo scores 21 in possible Class B preview

Lions survive scare, top Red Raiders 55-48

Szabo scores 21
in possible Class
B preview

By JIM SWEET
Daily Reporter

WELLSVILLE — It almost looked too easy.

With 17 first half points from senior center Jason Szabo and both Kevin Cudney and Rick Whitwood flashing hot hands well into the third quarter, Wellsville led visiting Hornell 46-33 with just over 10 minutes left in last night's non-league showcase game on a floor where the Lions hadn't lost since Szabo was a freshman.

But then Hornell coach Charlie Young switched to a zone, his shooters got hot, the Lions went cold and, when Scott Young hit from inside with 3:40 left, the one-time blowout was suddenly a brand new game, 48-48.

The Red Raiders, winners of three in a row since dropping their opener at Avon, had two chances to take the lead over the next minute and a half — but didn't. In fact, they never scored again.

Wellsville sophomore Cory Wright sank his second 3-point-er of the half with 2:25 left, Cudney knocked down a 15-foot pull-up jumper, Whitwood canned both halves of a one-and-one and Adam Braunscheidel turned in a couple of sparkling defensive plays



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Whitwood pops 27 in 68-39 Lion win

By JIM SWEET
SPECTATOR SPORTS

WELLSVILLE — Senior guard Rick Whitwood continued his hot shooting, hitting five threes and scoring 27 points in a little under three quarters as the Lions ran their winning streak to eight with a 68-39 decision over Expressway Conference rival Bolivar-Richburg Friday night.

BOYS' hoops

Whitwood, who'd already had a pair of 20-point games earlier in the week, went 3-for-3 from outside the arc in the second quarter, when Wellsville broke open what had been a close game with a 12-0 run to claim a 30-16 lead.

"We tried a lot of different defenses," said B-R coach Dave Kottwitz, "but when Rick's shooting the ball like that, it's kind of tough. We tried man-to-man, we tried two different zones, we tried a box and one. Nothing really slowed him down."

Bolivar-Richburg had it down to a two-point game after Gordon Gayton's short pull-up jumper made it 18-16 early in the second, but then Whitwood swished treys on back-to-back possessions, Cory Wright drained one on the next trip and Jason Szabo topped that the next time down.

"I thought the diamond and one we tried then might do it," continued Kottwitz, "but then Wright and Szabo came out and hit those threes, too, and that ended that."

"Rick caught fire and knocked down some shots," nodded Wellsville coach Jim Insley, "and that kind of opened everybody up. You could see the look in the eyes of the B-R kids."

three before the half ended, and then poured in 13 more points in the third quarter before Insley brought him to the bench.

Szabo finished with 16, but missed a double-double for only the second time all year when his fourth quarter absence left him two boards short. Whitwood's 11 led the Lions in that department.

For Bolivar-Richburg, Wells was high with 14 points, Morrison added nine and Gayton and Cody Pinney split 12.

Insley was a little critical of his team's early defense, but generally liked the performance of a team playing its fifth game in seven days.

"We didn't step up and contest as well as I wanted in the first quarter," he said, "but after Pinney hit his second three, I don't think he got another shot off all night, let alone made another shot. We were on our heels a little bit at the beginning, but then we got up on the balls of our feet and moved pretty well. Everyone started playing better."

"It was nice. We got a lot of kids in the game, and they all played pretty well. I was very happy with their performance. They practice against one of the better teams around every day, and that pays off for them in game situations. They're all smart ball players. They run our stuff and they take good care of the ball."

After a Saturday return engagement at Bath, Wellsville, 14-3 overall and a perfect 8-0 in Expressway play, gets a day off before hosting Genesee Valley Tuesday and then finishing at Cuba-Rushford Thursday.

B-R, 4-14 and 1-8, hosts Scio tomorrow and closes out at Portville Thursday.

Bolivar-Richburg	14	9	8	5	— 39
Wellsville	18	17	10	15	— 68

BOLIVAR-RICHBURG: Cody Pinney 2 0-0 6, Dom

Wellsville Defeats Bolivar-Richburg



Szabo finished with 16, but missed a double-double for only the second time all year when his fourth quarter absence left him two boards short.

Whitwood's double-double paces Wellsville

Lions complete
Expressway
Conference 10-0,
Season 17-3

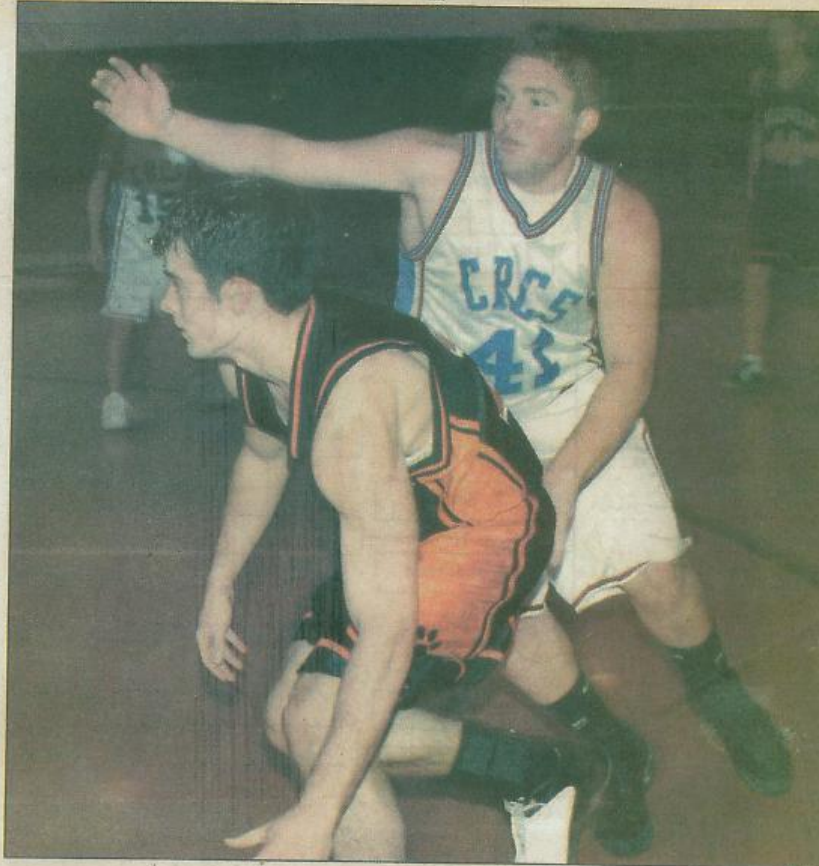
By JIM SWEET
Daily Reporter

CUBA — Rick Whitwood recorded another double-double, pulling down 14 rebounds and going with a game-high 28 points, and fellow senior Jason Szabo added 18 points and eight boards as visiting Wellsville closed out a perfect Expressway Conference season with a 76-44 win over a game that overmatched bunch of Rebels Thursday night.

Except for a few worrisome minutes in the first quarter when, with the score already 15-5 Wellsville, Szabo had to be helped off the court after twisting an ankle coming down for a rebound, everything went pretty much the Lions' way. Szabo had one of his best shooting nights of the season, sinking almost everything he saw up from 15 feet on in, and Whitwood shot even better. Whitwood, a 6-foot-2 guard, was 5-for-6 from outside the arc and 6-for-9 when he went to the key, giving him a 73 percent shooting percentage for a night that ended early in the fourth quarter.

Kevin Cudney contributed the usual quiet 10 points and Drew McArdle came off the bench to score eight points — more of them on offensive rebounds.

For Cuba-Rushford, Andy White led a balanced attack with 11, followed by Aaron White's 10 and nine from Brett



JOHN ANDERSON/Daily Reporter

Wellsville's Ryan Lester drives the baseline past Cuba-Rushford's Derek Morris Thursday in Cuba. The Lions won 76-44 to complete a perfect 10-0 Expressway Conference season.

Botens.

"I really didn't think our kids played all that poorly, especially in that first half," said Cuba-Rushford coach Gary Wight. "The thing is, Wellsville's just got too many guns. Whitwood's on some kind of a roll, and Szabo had a real good shooting night, too. We tried to stop one of them, but it didn't happen."

After narrowing the gap to

28-20 on a long jumper by White midway through the second quarter, the Rebels were outscored 12-6 the rest of the way to the break thanks to a pair of treys by Whitwood, two buckets from Szabo and an inside move by Cudney.

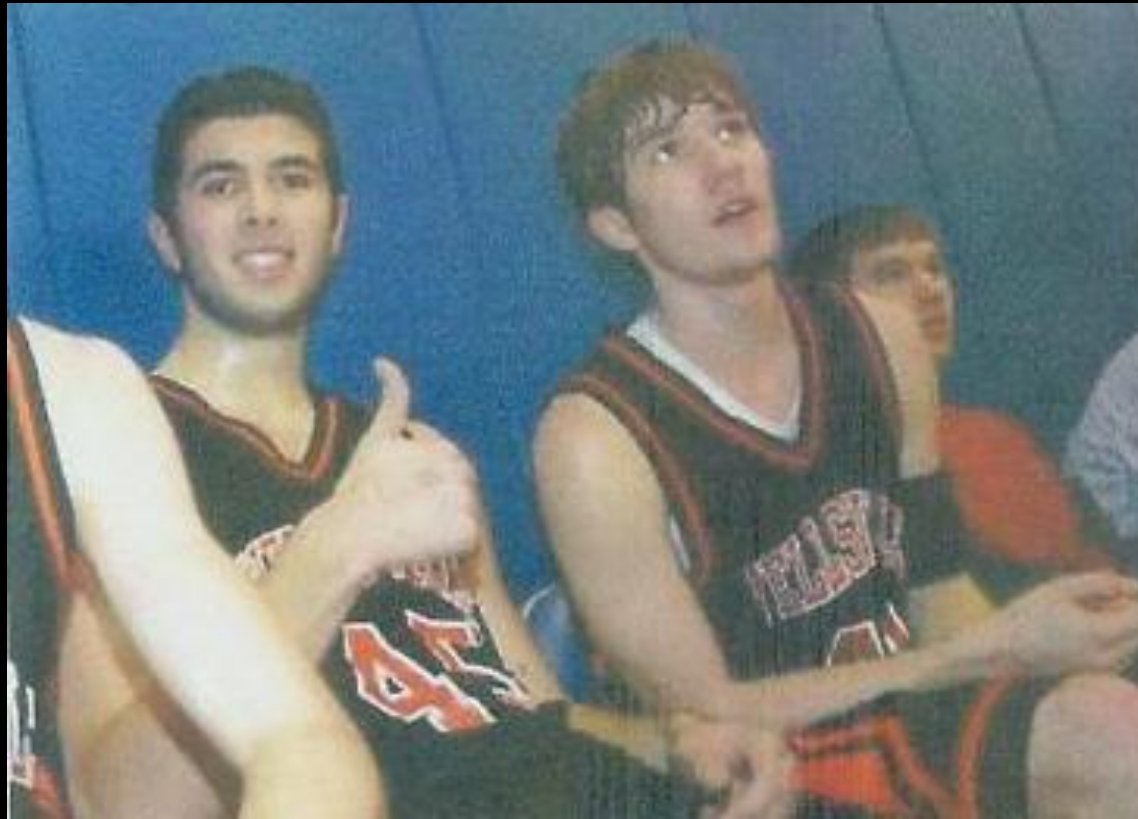
Two baskets apiece from Szabo and Cudney, balanced against just one by White, had the Lions sitting on a 20-point

have to go to a neutral site to face No. 14 North Rose-Wolcott in a first round game Wednesday night. They could still have a second round home game next Saturday.

At 9-11 overall (and 3-7 in conference play), Cuba-Rushford has earned the No. 7 seed in Class C, and should be home against No. 10 Bolivar-Richburg Wednesday. Tip-off

Jason Szabo had 18 points in one of his best shooting nights of the season.

Jason Szabo gives a thumbs up to say he is fine after hurting his ankle during a Wellsville win over Cuba-Rushford Thursday night. Szabo and fellow senior Kevin Cudney deserve the break as the Lions finished this season 17-3 and a perfect 10-0 in the Expressway Conference.





Lions blow out North-Rose Wolcott

By **JOHN ANDERSON**
Daily Reporter

RUSHVILLE — North Rose-Wolcott coach Bob Crumb only had to look at one stat at the end of Wellsville's 67-36 win Wednesday night to see how his team lost so badly in the Section V Class B playoffs.

His team had a total of nine rebounds, not one of them offensive.

No. 3 Wellsville (18-3) will host No. 6 Marcus Whitman (13-8) on Saturday at 7 p.m. in Wellsville in the quarterfinals as Marcus Whitman downed No. 11 Pembroke, 61-37, in the second game of the doubleheader.

"Their defense was good, but man they rebound and want the ball," said Crumb. "We had three or four names of scorers, but the rest of their kids played exceptional and they shot over 50 percent from the field."

Jason Szabo, the 6-foot-5 center, pulled down 16 rebounds to go along with his 13 points and six assists while 6-foot-2 senior Rick Whitwood had 18 points and six boards. Kevin Cudney had nine points and five boards while Ryan Lester had a solid all-around game with eight rebounds, six points and six assists. The four seniors played under three quarters.

"Ryan knocked down a big jumper and he really stepped up and played with confidence tonight," said Wellsville coach Jim Insley. The whole starting five is



BRYAN INSLEY/Special to the Reporter

Wellsville's Rick Whitwood stares down North Rose-Wolcott's Terri Parker Wednesday in Rushville. Whitwood scored 18 points and grabbed six rebounds, leading the Lions to a first-round 67-36 win.

like that. They are so enjoyable to coach. It's fun to just go out and watch them play."

And that's the way it was for most of the game. While Wellsville started relatively slow, up 14-6 after the first quarter, the Lions went on an 11-0 run in the second quarter to put it away, holding North Rose-Wolcott to just 12 points by the half.

"We shut them down with defense in the first half and we only let them get off one shot each trip," said Cudney. "We scored a lot of points as a team, it seemed everyone was involved in the offense."

With 12 straight wins, Cudney feels this is a better team than the Lion team that started the season 6-3.

"We were in a funk during the beginning of the year (and lost three times to two teams with 20 wins), but now we're playing the best we have played all season," he said.

Crumb thinks that could bode well for the Lions, a team that has lost in the sectional finals the last two seasons.

"Their defense helps them and you're not going to beat a team like that easily," he said. "They have a good ball club

and I hope they go all the way, I really do.

"To win sectionals, it doesn't take luck, it takes skill and it takes heart," Crumb continued. "And they have it. They came out and wanted every rebound. They played scrappy and for them to hold us to nine rebounds, that's terrible for us."

Insley said, "I agree, while our defense didn't give them many looks, they didn't get any offensive rebounds. They were unable to get their offense going and when Jason started scoring for us inside, it

See LIONS on page 11

**Jason Szabo,
the 6-foot-5
center, pulled
down 16
rebounds to
go along with
his 13 points
and six
assists....**

Wellsville hoops: As good as it gets

It almost seems like old hat here in Wellsville. Our boys' basketball team is in the sectionals, and tomorrow afternoon in Rochester, they'll be playing for the Class B title.

Oh, to be 15 years old again! That's about how old our JV players would be now. And that's about how young you'd have to be to believe that it's not really that big a deal that our Lions will be going for the Section V championship tomorrow afternoon when they face off against No. 1 Pal-Mac at Blue Cross Arena.

A column by Jim Sweet

I grew up here, and before graduating in 1968, I saw some mighty fine basketball players come through this town. Rich Hetzel, one of our stars of the early '60s, wound up playing for the University at Buffalo. There were only three channels on our TVs back then, but I still remember seeing him score 21 points one night against — OK, I don't remember who it was against, but he had a whale of a game on the television that night, and the Bulls won it.

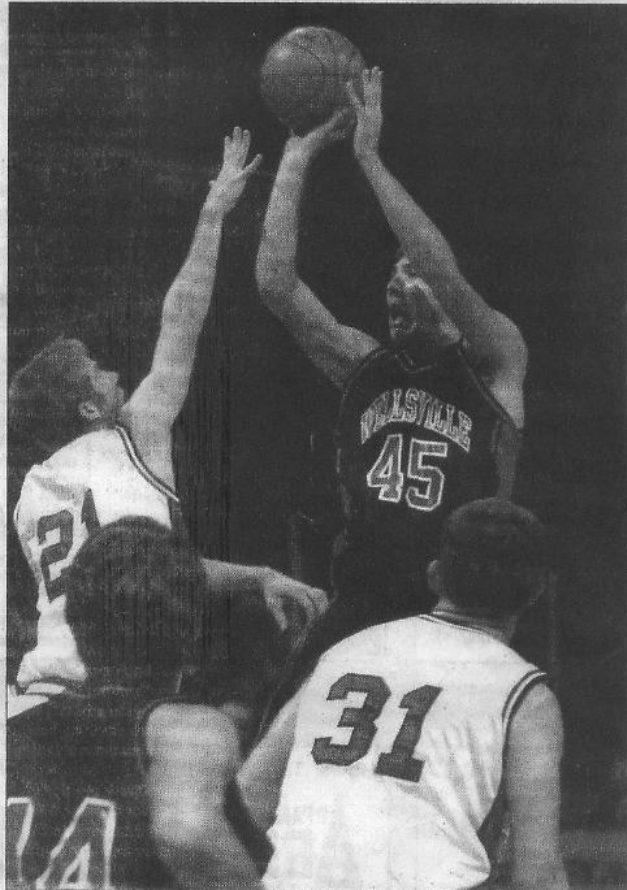
Greg Dunham, all 6 feet 9 inches of him, was another great player of my high school era, as were Mike Forhan, Pete Lauzze, Hank Sinkey Jr., Jerry Camarata — I could, and probably should, go on, since I know I'm leaving out a ton of names who deserve the kind of recognition that goes with all those other Wellsville basketball players who never once got a chance to play at the site that's now called Blue Cross Arena.

And then there's Jason Szabo, a kid who was 10 years old when I picked him for my Little League team. (Yes, we won it all that year.)

Tomorrow night, the Lion senior will be playing his seventh game on that hallowed floor. As he told me yesterday when I stopped down to check out the Lions' final practice, "Blue Cross Arena's a beautiful court, and really a special place to play. Except for my home court, I've played more games there than anyplace else. I'm definitely going to miss it."

Those guys of my era — and of the 20 years before and 30 years since — must be going nuts!

When I asked him if coach Jim Insley and the team had any special plan for victory tomorrow, he thought a while and said "We're just going to try and do what we've done all season. We've tried to stay focused all week, and we want to



JAMES LATHROP/Section V

Jason Szabo pulls up for a jumper against Homell. Szabo is one of many players who will go down in history no matter what happens in the finals on Saturday at 3 p.m. against Pal-Mac.

but so far, it hasn't gone our way. Pal-Mac's Anthony Hall, he's a real all-around strong player, especially for a junior. They've got some good size inside too and they get a lot of rebounds. We watched the entire first half (of Tuesday's Palmyra-Macedon win over Bishop Kearney), and then saw the whole game on tape. And we've gotten reports from other coaches. It'll be a good challenge for us, but hopefully, Saturday will be our day."

I talked to some of the team's other

players, which sort of makes everything quiet. It's just not the same as in our gym, where you've got the fans right next to you."

Two other Lion seniors saw it as a different experience too. Don Joyce didn't get into either of last year's games, but played a few minutes Tuesday.

"You can't really describe what it feels like to get out there in front of everyone on that floor," he said. "It's just unbelievable. Saturday's going to be a

Tomorrow night,
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JIM SWEET/Daily Reporter

named to the All Tournament team after yesterday's Class B championship game at Blue Cross Arena here, from left, Bishop Kearney's Caleb McClary, A.J. White and MVP Jamar Gray, and Wellsville's Mike Tripodi, Rick Whitwood and Jason Szabo.

Wellsville gains respect from Kings

by JOHN ANDERSON
Daily Reporter

ROCHESTER — Next year, there is a good chance the Wellsville Lions who played on the court Sunday with Bishop

Kearney will be watching two of the Kings starters playing Division I basketball on television.

After BK downed the game-Lions, 65-55, a group of respected Division III basketball coaches talked to several of the Lions and a few of the Kings. However, 6-foot-3 seniors Jamar Gray and A.J. White were left alone. They are still sifting through the DI offers.

And they are focused on the present, winning a Section V Class B title and going after a state title. They were not about to let college talk or overconfidence get in the way of a championship.

Sitting in the stands during Wellsville's semi-final win over Penn Yan, Gray started to get worried.

He watched a Wellsville team fall behind to a hot-shooting Penn Yan club. But he noticed the Wellsville kids making the extra pass. The Wellsville starters committed just 11 turnovers the entire game and started hitting the 3-pointers.

To the naked eye, Wellsville was struggling. Gray said he heard his teammates joking how easy they would win.

team-oriented team, they are hard to beat."

At this point, the television cameras dimmed. The anchors had their clip of Gray talking about his team and his legendary coach, Ed Nietopski.

With a net around his neck and the MVP trophy in hand, Gray pointed to the court and said "that Wellsville team we played works together. And it is difficult to beat a team that not only works together, but knocks down the 3-ball like they do."

Wellsville did hit 45 percent from the 3-point arc in the second half and 57.7 percent of its shots from the field overall.

White was also impressed following the game.

"I thought they were good — they could shoot, they could box out and they rebounded," White said. "Then, they started hitting 3-pointers and handled our pressure."

That was the difference between being down by two possessions with two minutes left or down by 25 at the end of the game like most teams felt this season. When reminded of how tough a schedule his team played this season against teams more than twice the size of Wellsville, White quickly cut

Wellsville's Mike Tripodi, Rick Whitwood, and Jason Szabo were named to the All Tournament team after yesterday's Class B championship game at Blue Cross Arena.

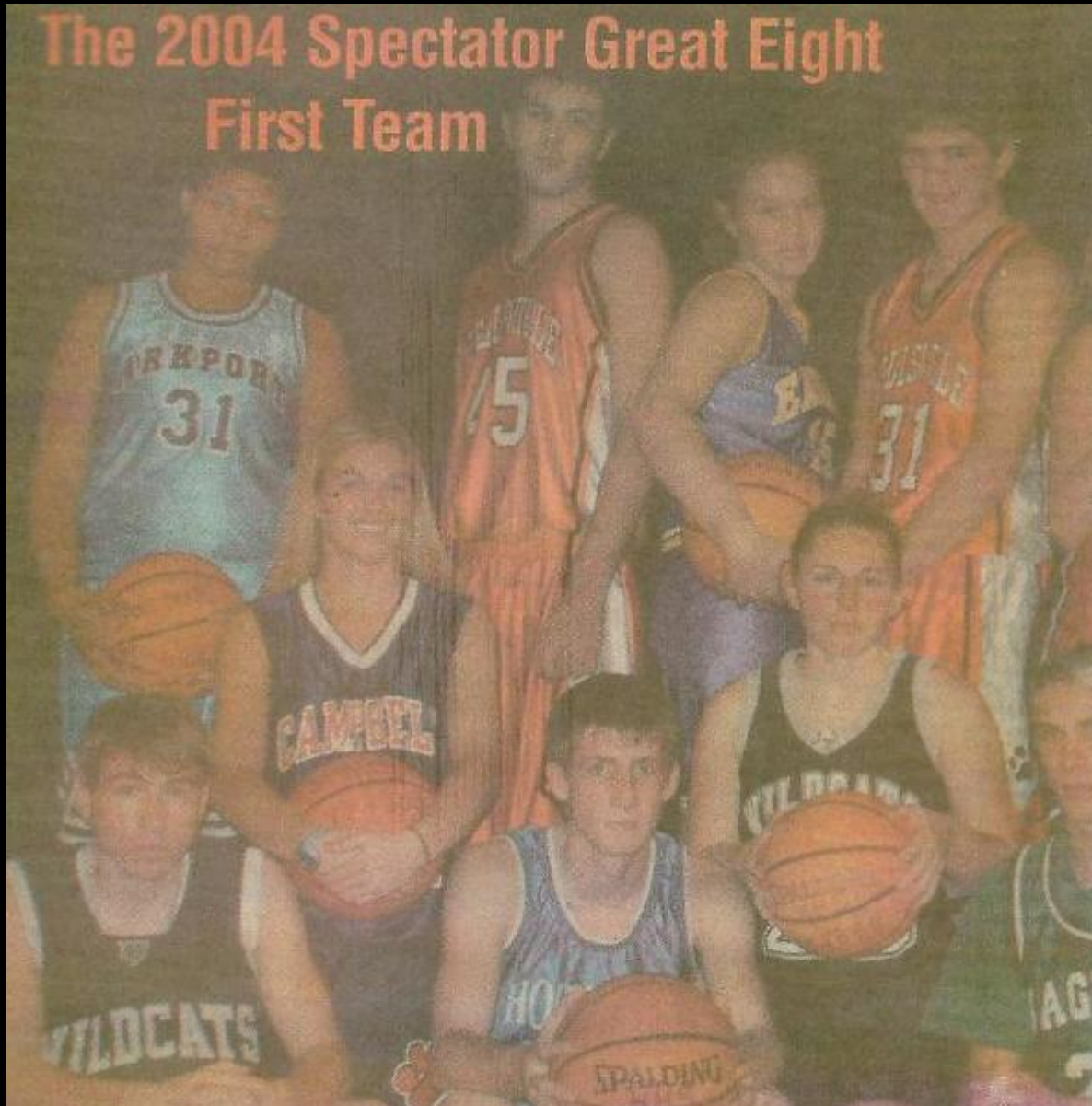


What made Saturday so special was the little surprise ceremony Coach Jim Insley arrange at the conclusion of the Lions' 67-41 dusting of the 6th seeded Marcus Whitman.

Insley spent Saturday afternoon shopping. He wanted just the right basketball to present to his senior stalwart in recognition of a couple of rather remarkable, individual-type things. First, there was the little matter of the 1,000th rebound Jason collected sometime back in the middle of the season. No lion had ever come closer to that number.

The second was in honor of the fact that, even if the Lions hadn't come out on top in that night's game, his 74 previous appearances in Wellsville's victories have already made him the all-time winningest boys' basketball player in school history.

**The 2004 Spectator Great Eight
First Team**



**The
2004
Spectator
Great
Eight
First
Team**

February 22, 2004

Jason Szabo

A second team selection last year as a sophomore, Jason has made the natural move. When you average 13 points and 14 rebounds on a team that's gone 51-12 since calling you up as a freshman, what you get is a First Team selection.

WELLSVILLE

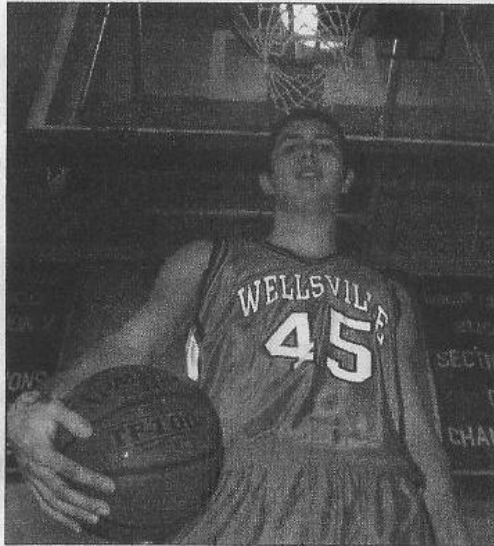
The son of Zoltan and Brenda, younger brother of another Great Eighter, Istvan, and twin of Arielle, whose bio appears elsewhere in this issue, Jason is a 6'5" junior forward who can shoot from any range, thread passes to open teammates with the best guard, and jump like there's no tomorrow.

"Jason is just extremely athletic," says Lion coach Jim Insley. "He's a sweeper on the soccer team, leading their defense, and that transitions over onto the basketball court, where he has the ability to see things that are going to happen before they do, to step in front of passes and take charges. And of course, he's a great leaper.

"He has the ability to go up and get rebounds that I don't think anybody else in the gym could get. He goes up with two hands and really secures the ball," Insley continued. "He seems to get every big rebound and every big loose ball. One guy isn't going to box him out. He forces you to put two or three guys on him, and that opens things up for the rest of our team."

It's the rest of the team that Jason works hardest for, since winning is what Wellsville basketball is all about these days. That's also why he isn't scoring 20 or 30 a game.

"Jason has a lot of tools," Insley continues. "Unfortunately for him, maybe, we have a great supporting cast here. His role right now on our basketball team is to play great defense, block



some shots, get some rebounds, start our offense and help us against the press. He even plays a little point sometimes. We all know he could do a lot more. He could be a big time scorer, but that's not what we need. He fits his role, and is a real leader as a junior."

When called upon to be the big scorer, as he was in Portville, for example, when he put up 23 points, or at Franklinville, where he went for 21 and a dozen rebounds, he can, but generally, as Insley says, the big guy plays his role. Of course, that's still been enough to get him recognized as a Birds Eye Foods Player of the Week, and as an All-Tourney selection at both last year's Class CCC tournament in Rochester's Blue Cross Arena and at December's IAABO gathering in the Reilly Center at St. Bonaventure.

"Playing on those big courts is fun," says Jason, although he still lists his favorite memory from this year as sweeping Genesee Valley when the schools finally resumed their much-antic-

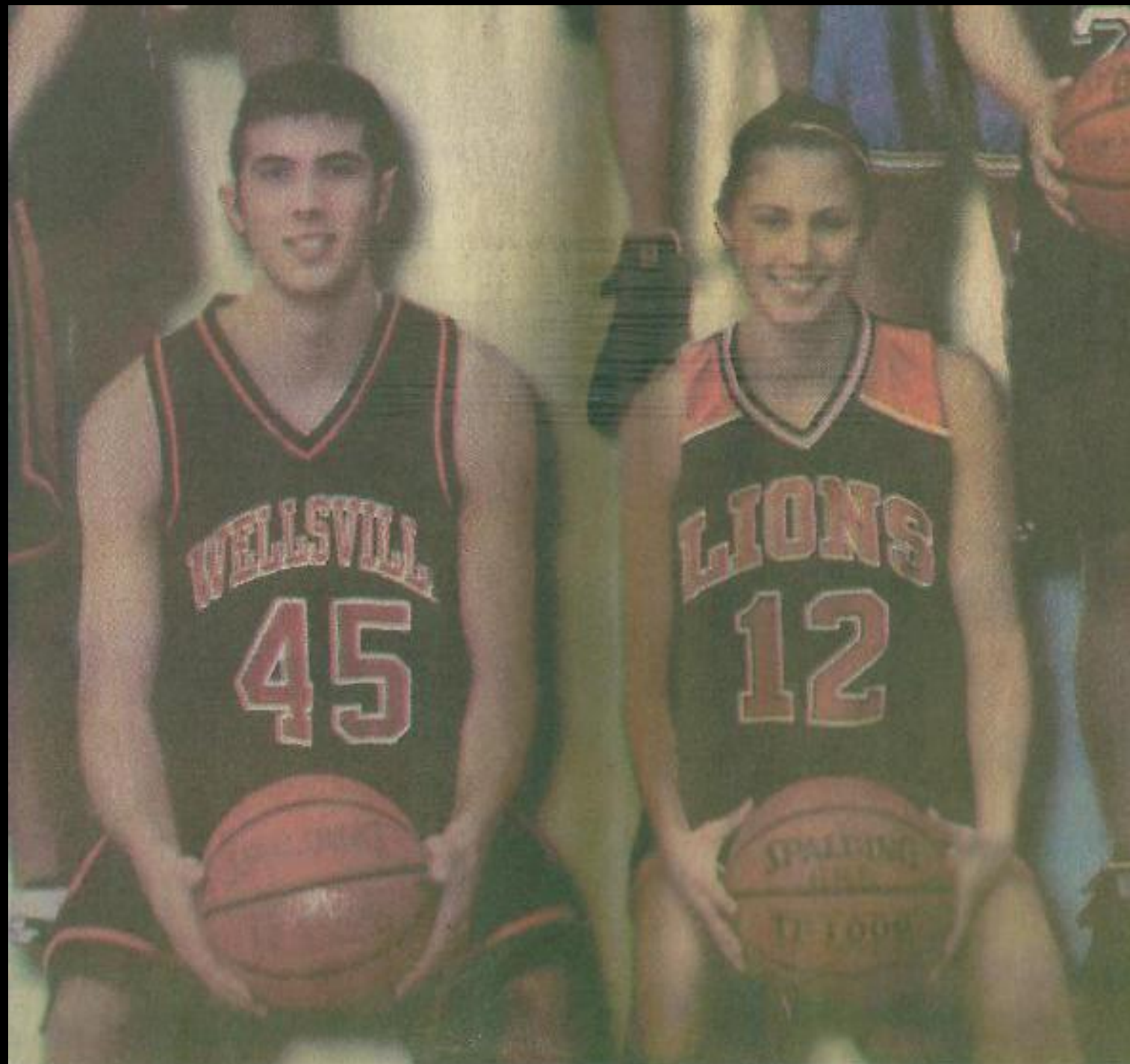
ipated home-and-home rivalry. "Jake Presutti works very hard, though," he adds, "and when he's on, he's really tough to stop."

A three sport letterman — he moved up to the varsity soccer team as an eighth grader and, except for last spring, when he took a season off to concentrate on AAU hoops, is a fixture on the baseball field as well — Jason is also active in DECA and Leo's Club, and carries a 91 average in the classroom, where he claims his best subject is chemistry. While college is still a year away, he's leaning toward Alfred University, where he thinks he'd like to pursue a career in ceramic engineering.

On his basketball mentor since they both joined the varsity together, he says, "Coach Insley is one of my favorite coaches and role models ever. He and Coach Redman are such good guys, and they know so much about the game of basketball. And not only are they well respected coaches, they're all of our friends."

When you average 13 points and 14 rebounds on a team that's gone 51-12 since calling you up as a freshman, what you get is a First Team selection.

He has the ability to go up and get rebounds that I don't think anybody else in the gym could get.



Wellsville ruins Redskins' day early

Whitwood hurls two-hitter as Szabo hits slam

By BRYAN SICK
Daily Reporter

WELLSVILLE — In his first varsity outing, Rick Whitwood had the win wrapped up almost as soon as he took the mound, getting a six-run cushion in the first inning and proceeding to toss a two-hitter, beating Canisteo-Greenwood Thursday, 11-1.

"I've been telling coach for three years now that I can pitch," said Whitwood. "Finally he gave me a chance to pitch and we had good defense behind us and the bats gave us the big lead. It was a great all-around outing. Bryan Hennessy did a great job behind the plate and everything just kind of fell into place."

Wellsville head coach Denny Miles is quickly realizing that he maybe should have thrown Whitwood prior to this year too.

"That's his first varsity start too, ever. He's never pitched before. He's pitched a couple times in summer league but it was real good coaching," Miles joked. "I should have been throwing him last year."

Whitwood struck out five while walking just one in his debut outing.

"He mixed it up really well," said Canisteo-Greenwood head coach Heath Falzarano. "He did a great job of mixing his pitches up. He kept his composure on the mound, which I really like. The strike zone was a little tight and it didn't seem to affect him."



BRYAN SICK/Daily Reporter

Wellsville head coach Denny Miles (9) congratulates first baseman Jason Szabo on his first-inning grand slam as he rounds third base Thursday in Wellsville. Szabo's shot gave the Lions the early 6-0 lead and with a two-hitter from Rick Whitwood, making his varsity pitching debut, the Lions beat Canisteo-Greenwood, 11-1.

get three outs.

With two outs and two runs already in, Delany had the count full on Szabo but then threw exactly what Szabo was looking for.

"I was just looking for something pretty to hit and Rick Whitwood picked up the sign so I knew that a curveball or slider was coming," said Szabo. "It just happened to hook right into the zone and I was just trying to, with three runners on, all I was trying to do was make contact and not strike out or anything. I just happened to get really good contact, it got up there in the sky and then the wind just seemed to carry it right over."

Szabo seemed to know from the moment the ball cleared the left-center field

"It's always good when you've got that big of a cushion early," said Whitwood. "Then you can just settle back and do your thing. You don't even have to worry about it."

Wellsville plated three more runs in the second inning on a single hit off the bat of A.J. Fay, four walks and a Delany error.

One more came in an inning later when Brady Miles came in from third on a passed ball, upping the lead to 10-0.

The Redskins finally got on the board in the top of the fifth after Lyle Ellis walked, stole second and scored when Whitwood overthrew first on a Jeff Acor bunt.

Wellsville, however, pushed the lead right back to 10 in the bottom of the inning

three games a year ago and have won those games in impressive fashion, allowing a total of four hits.

"It's always good to jump out early but obviously we'll take it one game at a time and next up's Franklinville on Saturday," said Whitwood. "It looks good right now."

CANISTEO GREENWOOD				
	ab	r	h	bi
Baker lf	3	0	0	0
Delany p	2	0	0	0
Kirkendale ss	2	0	1	0
Holt 1b	2	0	0	0
Thompson 3b	2	0	1	0
Carns rf	2	0	0	0
Sills cf	1	0	0	0
Ellis c	1	0	0	0
Acor 2b	2	0	0	0
Totals	18	1	2	0

WELLSVILLE				
	ab	r	h	bi
Lester lf	3	1	1	0
Arnold ss	1	2	0	1
Miles 2b	4	1	2	1
Hesse dh	3	1	0	0
Hennessy c	0	0	0	0
Whitwood p	2	2	0	0
Morris 1b	0	0	0	0

Wellsville head coach Denny Miles congratulates first baseman Jason Szabo on his first inning grand slam as he rounds third base....Szabo's shot gave the Lions the early 6-0 lead...

Nine-run first carries Lions over Dansville

Arnold shines as streak runs to eight

By JIM SWEET
Daily Reporter

WELLSVILLE — How's this for a first inning welcome to Wellsville?

Ryan Lester singles up the middle. Damon Arnold beats out a bunt. Brady Miles rips a one-hopper through the third baseman's legs, scoring Lester. Dustin Hess plates two more with a double over the center fielder's head. Rick Whitwood beats out an infield single. Cory Wright hits one back to pitcher Aaron Jaeger, who gets Hess at third. One out.

Jason Szabo scores Whitwood with a single to left. A.J. Fay loads the bases with an infield hit. George Lynch, the No. 9 hitter, hits one to the fence in left-center, scoring two more. Lester bunts, advancing both runners, and comes within an eyelash of beating the throw for a hit. Two outs.

Arnold collects his second hit of the inning, a two-run double to left. Miles scores Arnold with a double to left center. Hess hits one even farther than the last time, but Dansville center fielder Jeremy Dugo has learned his lesson, and pulls it down just short of the fence.

Three outs, but by now, Jaeger and his Mustangs are in a 9-0 hole and the Lions are on their way to a 13-2 victory, their eighth straight to open the season. A.J. Fay earned the win, striking out eight, walking two and scattering five hits over six innings.

"Certainly the big train is rolling," said Wellsville coach Denny Miles, whose club has averaged over 10 runs a game since an opening day 2-1 win over Bolivar-Richburg. "The bats are coming on strong. There's no question about that. The two guys at the top, Ryan and Damon, are getting on base a lot, Brady and Dustin are starting to come on and the bot-



JIM SWEET/Daily Report

Ryan Lester rounds third and heads for home with the first of Wellsville's nine first-inning runs. The Lions went on to win 13-2, raising their record to 8-0 with only one game left before next week's trip to Virginia.

his best stuff tonight, but he was coming back on two day's rest."

Mustang coach Tom Hobert, who probably felt like he was run over by a big train, tried to put a positive spin on things, but still had trouble finding the silver lining for his now 1-5 team.

"After that first inning the kids battled, but I don't think we came off the bus ready to play," he said. "You can't boot balls against a team like Wellsville. You can't give them more than

If the pressure was off, it wasn't thanks to Arnold, who doubled and singled in his next two trips before finally flying out to end the home sixth, and then got his feet wet on the mound when he came on in relief of Fay in the seventh. The junior didn't look bad either. He struck out one, and would have had a perfect inning if not for a one-hopper off the bat of Billy Mark that ricocheted off his bare hand.

"Did you give him a hit on

Miles had one more bit of praise to hand out before tomorrow's home game with Ellicottville.

"I'm really pleased with our catching situation," he said. "It's been a big plus for us so far having both Jake Gardner and Brian Hennessy behind the plate. I've never platooned the before, but they've both worked extremely hard and it's paying dividends. I think they've thrown out five runners as second so far. That's good for our

Their streak runs to eight as the Lions defeat Dansville.

Dustin Hess opened the inning with a double. Whitwood sacrificed him to third, Cory Wright walked and stole second, and Szabo delivered a base-clearing double to the base of the fence in left center.

Lions top Ellicottville with sixth inning rally

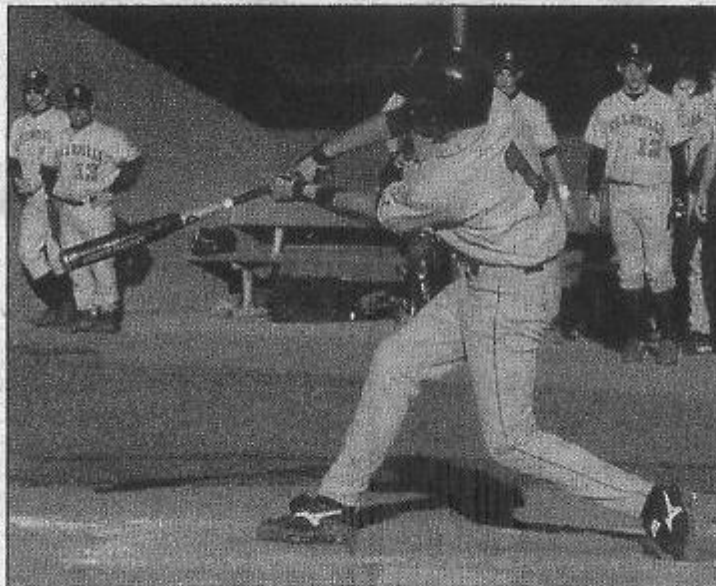
Team will head south at 9-0

WELLSVILLE — For the third time all season, the Lions were tested, but for the ninth time in nine games, they came out on top. This time, thanks to some clutch hitting and sparkling defense, it was an 8-6 win over Ellicottville.

With ace righthander Kyle Mendell on the mound, the visitors were playing solid baseball, and had tied the game with a pair of runs in the top of the sixth off Wellsville starter Rick Whitwood.

The bottom of the inning didn't start promisingly, as Mendell retired the first two Lions in order, but then senior George Lynch, a late-game defensive replacement, kept the inning alive with a single. Cousin Pat Lynch walked, and then Ryan Lester singled in the go-ahead run.

Damon Arnold, who'd made a pair of spectacular plays at short earlier in the game, followed with another



JIM SWEET/Daily Reporter

With his bench looking on intently, Lion shortstop Damon Arnold singles home a run in the sixth inning as Wellsville kept its slate clean with an 8-6 win over Ellicottville Thursday.

single to make it 6-4, and Brady Miles capped the rally with a two-run double down the right field line.

The Eagles still didn't go quietly, though. They had two runs in and two in scoring position before second baseman Miles gobbled up a bad-hop grounder and fired to

Jason Szabo for the final out.

"It was a nail biter," said coach Denny Miles. "That seventh inning might even have been worse if George Lynch hadn't made a diving catch out in right on the first batter. He had that huge hit for us, too."

After spotting the visitors a

two-run lead in the first, Wellsville came back with four in the second. Dustin Hess, who had two hits in the game, opened the inning with a double. Whitwood sacrificed him to third, Cory Wright walked and stole second, and Szabo delivered a bases-clearing double to the base of the fence in left center.

A.J. Fay then scored Szabo with a single up the middle, and after an error and a single by Lester loaded the bases, Arnold made it 4-2 with a grounder to short.

"Being 9-0 is going to make that 11 hour trip to Virginia a little shorter," said Coach Miles, "but so's the camaraderie of this team. The guys all get along great. That's a big reason they're playing so well."

Wellsville will meet Covington, Va., Monday in the first of three scheduled games next week.

Ellicottville 200 002 2 — 6 6 2
Wellsville 040 004 X — 8 8 1
Mendell (5 K, 4 BB) and Earley; Whitwood (7 K, 9 BB) and Gardner. W - Whitwood, 3-0. L - Mendell.

After the Lions defeated Hornell, 10-9 to win the Section V title Friday night, the players asked the bus driver to make one stop - not at McDonald's, but the Little League field. The players ran a victory lap with both Little League teams like they did as 11-12 All-Stars then enjoyed ball park hot dogs.

A new tradition on an old field

WELLSVILLE — Dana Harris closed the door to the Wellsville Central School bus and asked where do the kids want to stop, McDonald's or Burger King.

The Wellsville Lions had just captured the Section V Class B title with a 10-9 win over Hornell, their 10th since 1984.

So stopping at a fast-food restaurant after a big win has become commonplace.

However, on Friday night, to a man, the group of high school teenagers said "the Little League field."

With that, the bus rolled past two towns with plenty of eateries and into Wellsville, where the Moose Lodge and the Elks Club were in the middle of a 4-3 game for the Wellsville Little League first half championship.

Harris pulled into Island Park and unloaded the players at Hank Sinkey Field. Leading the charge were seniors Rick Whitwood and Ryan Lester along with Brady Miles, keeping up on crutches.

Under dark skies lit for miles by the light poles, the game halted as the team was introduced and took the field.

The kids waved to the younger kids and held their championship trophy high.

But they were there for one thing to run a victory lap with their sec-

A column by John Anderson

later with his own child.

But not this group of Wellsville baseball players.

They cherished their time in Little League, and they cherished this time together as champions.

Miles broke his leg and his high school career ended. But his love for the game never wavered. He did not miss one team meeting or one practice despite a lengthy cast and two crutches. He missed just one game, and that's because he had major surgery on the leg, which he broke while sliding into second.

As Jason Szabo ran the victory lap, he did it without his twin who was on that Little League team. No, he doesn't have a brother who switched to another sport, rather his sister, Arielle, who led the team in home runs.

For Glenn Hall it was a fun lap. Foul balls hit at Hank Sinkey landed in the Genesee River. Hall has walked from the river to practice ever since.

A.J. Fay circled the field and looked up at the trees and smiled. Many of his swings resulted in balls landing in those branches. Fellow senior Dustin Hess must have laughed as well because his younger brother Chris is doing the same this season. Pat Lynch

was skipping. It wasn't too long ago he was hitting one-hoppers off the Pizza King sign.

As the team started the victory lap, the benches cleared. The kids wanted to be a part of it. And so did the older players. A sea of red, blue, black and orange circled that Little League field like pesky summertime gnats.

As Whitwood and Cory Wright circled left field and headed for home, two men were clapping, and a little emotional. Their parents, Randy and Rick, coached these men when they were boys on the same field. In fact, Randy was in the same position, in the third base coaching box, volunteering his time. He saw the last out of the sectional championship that night and made it back in time to coach Little League.

Almost on cue, the kids returned to their dugouts and the players made their way to home plate for a team photo one last time. George Lynch was beaming. The senior never made big headlines on the field like his teammates, but he was the glue that kept the 2005 Lions together.

Sitting the bench game-after-game, Lynch made sure there was never a dull moment in the dugout, and had his team yelling encouragement from the first to last out. His reward from coach Dennis Miles? A start in right field in the sectional title game.



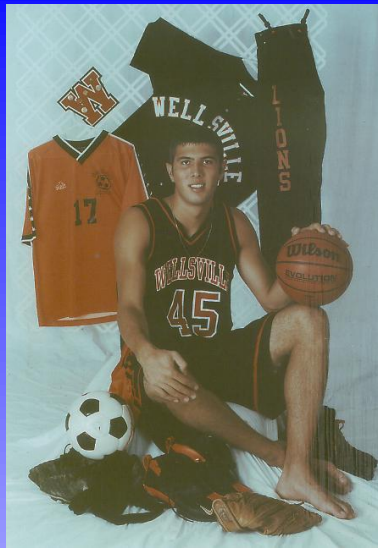
The Wellsville Lions show off their Section V title after running Sinkey Little League Field in Wellsville Friday night. Below, George Lynch with the plaque after the victory and far below, the Little League final lap around the field in what may become a new tradition.

Chris play on that field, admitted he teared up when he saw it. Mickey Beal, who moved down south but had two boys come through the program, saw the photo and quickly called Dean.

As for the team, it had practice the next







Jason Szabo Wellsville High School 2011 Hall of Fame



Member





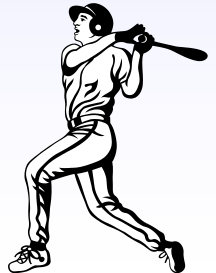
Rick Whitwood

Years in Wellsville: 2001-2005

Sports Played:

Basketball 3 Years

Baseball 3 Years





Rick Whitwood

**College:
R.I.T.**





Rick Whitwood

In his senior year he was chosen as the Big 30 Player of the Year in basketball. The only Wellsville player to ever receive the award.

In 2005 he was chosen as the Spectator Great 8 and Class B Birdseye Player of the Year in basketball.





Rick Whitwood

Went on to play college basketball for 3 years with an outstanding career at R.I.T.

In baseball his senior year he was selected to the New York State 1st Team while hitting .424, with 22 R.B.I.'S and 26 stolen bases.

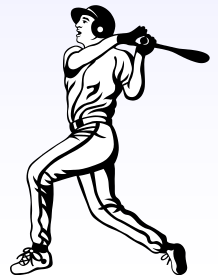




Rick Whitwood

Starting center fielder on the 2005 Section V Baseball Championship Team when he was chosen MVP of the tournament.

In 2005 he was presented the Sid Miles Award as the top male athlete in the Wellsville High School.



WELLSVILLE LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL

CHAMPS !

Photo by RODNEY STEBBINS

The Wellsville Little League 11-and-12-year-old All-Stars celebrate after winning the New York District 2 Championship Tuesday with a 1-0 win at home over Dunkirk, the same score by which they defeated the same team on the road on Monday. Wellsville advances to the Sub-Regionals on Saturday in Olean where they will take on Batavia, with Orchard Park and Fairport in the other match-up. Due to technical difficulties, pictures from Tuesday's game could not be printed in Wednesday's paper. Along with a picture on today's page 12, look for more pictures involving the Wellsville Little League All-Stars on Friday.







All Star



TRADING CARD



Lions roar in season opener at Letchworth

Big Three scores 51 in 56-36 win

By JIM SWEET
Daily Reporter

GAINESVILLE — OK, first the bad news. In their first game of the season, Wellsville's boys hit only two of 12 3-pointers, made fewer than half of their free throws and, if you had a dollar for every one-footer they missed, you could probably make some serious money on lottery tickets.

The good news is, ah heck, all the rest is good news.

Against a Letchworth team that had blown out Lima Christian by almost 60 points and then dumped Class B power Penn Yan to win their season-opening tournament last weekend, the Lions backed a 14-0 second quarter run with a 17-2 rip to start the third, and then coasted to an easy 56-36 victory over the Indians.

Wellsville coach Jim Insley, who'd been worried about this Letchworth club after scouting them last weekend, gave the credit to his defense.

"Defensively, I thought we did a real good job," he said. "I tell these kids that, when we leave the gym, I want the other kids to be saying, 'Boy, those kids from Wellsville play hard.' And that's what I've been hearing from their kids walking out tonight. I thought the effort was



JIM SWEET/Daily Reporter

Letchworth's Derek Butties can only look on in awe as Lion senior Jason Szabo, who also collected over 20 rebounds, slams down two of his 15 points in last night's 56-36 Wellsville win.

bined with Cudney for 16 more. The halftime score was 30-15, and those three had the lead up to 28 points before a Whitwood steal and dish helped Cory Wright break into the scoring column with a layup to make it

had him down for 21 rebounds, but Coach Redman said he thought we might have missed a couple. It got to the point where they weren't even sending guys to the boards anymore. He got a lot of hands on the boards and taking



Whitwood, Szabo record triple doubles in 70-38 Wellsville win

FRANKLINVILLE — Wellsville ran its record to 11-3 overall and 7-0 in Expressway play with a surprisingly easy 70-38 road win over Franklinville last night.

"I was nervous about this one," said Lion coach Jim Insley, "because they're such a dangerous outside shooting team. But just like has been the case in our last few games, our half court defense was good, and we had pretty much total control of the boards."

Rick Whitwood took a turn at leading the Lions in scoring. Working mostly on the inside — nine of his 13 total rebounds came at the offensive end — the junior scored 18 points to top four Lions in double figures.

Jason Szabo had 15 points, 12 rebounds and six assists. Jon Comstock came off the bench to hit four threes and a total of 13 points, and Mike Tripodi, who set a school record for steals in the team's last game, finished with ten points.

Dave Gardner, the team's leading scorer coming in, hit a pair of threes in the first half, but then suffered an ankle injury that kept

him on the bench the rest of the way.

"That was just a precautionary thing on our part," said Insley, referring to the resting of Gardner. "He wanted to go back in, but the game was pretty well in

hand. And that gave Rick a chance to take advantage of the way they were trying to box Jason out. There'd be three guys keeping Jason away from the basket, and Rick would just step in and tap the ball in."

Whitwood had a good night on the defensive end, too, limiting the Panthers' leading scorer, Ben Kopp, to just nine points — under half his season average.

Wellsville's JVs won handily, raising their season mark to 12-0.

The Lions are off until Tuesday when they host Portville. Franklinville falls to 9-6 and out of contention for the conference title.

Wellsville 16 23 22 9 — 70
Franklinville 9 11 11 7 — 38
Wellsville: Tripodi 5 0-0 10, Whitwood 7 3-4 18, Ryan Lester 1 0-0 2, Comstock 4 1-2 13, Gardner 2 2-2 8, Brian Kania 0 0-2 0, Kevin Gudney 2 0-0 4, Szabo 6 3-4 15. Team: 28 9-14 70. Threes: Whitwood, Comstock 4, Gardner 2.

Franklinville: Kyle Stanbro 1 0-0 2, Pat Kirkland 2 0-0 4, John Brela 1 0-0 2, John Atwater 1 0-0 3, Justin Belmont 1 0-0 2, Kopp 3 2-2 9, Brandon Cole 2 0-0 4, Joe Stafford 1 4-6 6, A.J. Warner 2 0-0 6. Team: 14 6-8 38. Threes: Atwater, Kopp, Warner 2.



Mike Tripodi had another solid outing for the Lions.

Rick Whitwood took a turn at leading the Lions in scoring. Working mostly on the inside — nine of his 13 total rebounds came at the offensive end — the junior scored 18 points to top four Lions in double figures.

Whitwood pops 27 in 68-39 Lion win

By **JIM SWEET**
SPECTATOR SPORTS

WELLSVILLE — Senior guard Rick Whitwood continued his hot shooting, hitting five threes and scoring 27 points in a little under three quarters as the Lions ran their winning streak to eight with a 68-39 decision over Expressway Conference rival Bolivar-Richburg Friday night.

BOYS' hoops

Whitwood, who'd already had a pair of 20-point games earlier in the week, went 3-for-3 from outside the arc in the second quarter, when Wellsville broke open what had been a close game with a 12-0 run to claim a 30-16 lead.

"We tried a lot of different defenses," said B-R coach Dave Kottwitz, "but when Rick's shooting the ball like that, it's kind of tough. We tried man-to-man, we tried two different zones, we tried a box and one. Nothing really slowed him down."

Bolivar-Richburg had it down to a two-point game after Gordon Gayton's short pull-up jumper made it 18-16 early in the second, but then

three before the half ended, and then poured in 13 more points in the third quarter before Insley brought him to the bench.

Szabo finished with 16, but missed a double-double for only the second time all year when his fourth quarter absence left him two boards short. Whitwood's 11 led the Lions in that department.

For Bolivar-Richburg, Wells was high with 14 points, Morrison added nine and Gayton and Cody Pinney split 12.

Insley was a little critical of his team's early defense, but generally liked the performance of a team playing its fifth game in seven days.

"We didn't step up and contest as well as I wanted in the first quarter," he said, "but after Pinney hit his second three, I don't think he got another shot off all night, let alone made another shot. We were on our heels a little bit at the beginning, but then we got up on the balls of our feet and moved pretty well. Everyone started playing better."

"It was nice. We got a lot of kids in the game, and they all played pretty well. I was very happy with their performance. They practice against one of the better teams around every

Whitwood, who'd already had a pair of 20 point games earlier in the week, went 3-for-3 from outside the arc in the second quarter, when Wellsville broke open what had been a close game with a 12-0 run to claim a 30-16 lead.

January 31, 2005

Lions get their revenge with 48-36 crowning of Kings

By JIM SWEET
Daily Reporter

WELLSVILLE — It was almost 11 months ago that coach Jim Insley's Lions had their Class B sectional hopes derailed in the finals at the Blue Cross Arena by the defending champions from Bishop Kearney.

And it's been almost four months since this year's schedule — announcing the Kings' late-season visit — was released, meaning it's been that long that the local fans have been looking forward to seeing their Lions get another shot at the team that dashed their dream of a first-ever Section V title.

Frankly, the game never lived up to the hype. Sure, the final result — a 48-36 Lion victory before a near-capacity crowd Saturday night — was satisfying enough. But except for a brief spurt late in the fourth quarter when Steve Strauss came off the bench to hit three straight 3-pointers, cutting what had been as much as a 20-point Lion margin to six, the crowd had nothing to get excited about.

Granted, this wasn't the



The Lions jumped out to a quick 21-12 lead as senior Rick Whitwood hit the first three 3-pointers he attempted en route to a game-high 21 points.

Lions upset Class A Victor in Erie McDowell opener

Whitwood's five 3-pointers leads Lions, 54-42

By JOHN ANDERSON
Daily Reporter

ERIE, Pa. — The Wellsville Lions boys basketball team is easily the smallest team in the Erie McDowell Roadhouse Tournament Tuesday, and also had to contend with playing a game without a shot clock.

However, the Lions used the lack of the shot clock to their advantage as they downed Class A Victor, 54-42 to advance to the finals of the tournament.

Wellsville (6-1) will face the host school, Erie McDowell (1,200 students in grades 9-12) tonight at 8 p.m. in the finals. Erie knocked off a larger Riverside team out of Cleveland, Ohio in the second game of the night.

The Lions jumped out to a quick 21-12 lead as senior Rick Whitwood hit the first three 3-pointers he attempted en route to a game-high 21 points.

Victor not only made a run, but Whitwood and Jason Szabo got into early



JOHN ANDERSON/Daily Reporter

Wellsville's Rick Whitwood directs the offense in front of Victor's David Ahonen in yesterday's 54-42 win for the Lions in the first round of the Erie McDowell Tournament in Erie, Pa.

foul trouble. As a result, little-used sophomore Vince Antonioli not only had to provide a spark, but guard Victor's top scorer, Nick Bozzelli for the rest of the game.

Antonioli held Bozzelli to 12 points and Whitwood was able to play the entire second half up top on defense against smaller guards.

"With Victor's size and

our foul trouble, I was quite nervous," admitted Wellsville coach Jim Insley. "But Vince Antonioli came in and guarded Bozzelli. Vince is going to be a sore kid, but he enabled Rick to come out and guard a shooter."

The result? Whitwood blocked three shots in the last two minutes of the game, all 3-pointers by

Victor guards.

"Rick blocked those shots, Jason cleaned up the boards and we were in good shape."

But it wasn't that easy. Szabo completed a 3-point play in the third quarter when Victor got within one, then put back a big offensive rebound on an acrobatic play for a 39-35 Wellsville lead with 5:50 left in the game.

Lions use lack of shot clock to advantage

By JOHN ANDERSON
Daily Reporter

ERIE, Pa. — While the fans attending the Erie McDowell Roadhouse Tournament may have been surprised to see there was not a shot clock, the Wellsville Lions were not.

During the last few practices, the Lions had to run the offense without a shot clock. Several times, they thought the second-team offense took over a minute off the clock when in reality, a motion play took just 20 seconds. In a regular game, the shot clock would have expired.

"After practicing that, we knew we had to take our time and in the end, used the clock to our advantage," said senior guard Ryan Lester after Wellsville's 54-42 win Tuesday night over Victor. "We didn't make mistakes and we didn't throw the ball around."

Rick Whitwood, who had 21 points and was the recipient of some nice passes from Lester, agreed.

"We just had to be patient and didn't force anything," said Whitwood. "We worked it around for a wide open shot."

Whitwood's double-double paces Wellsville

Lions complete
Expressway
Conference 10-0,
season 17-3

By JIM SWEET
Daily Reporter

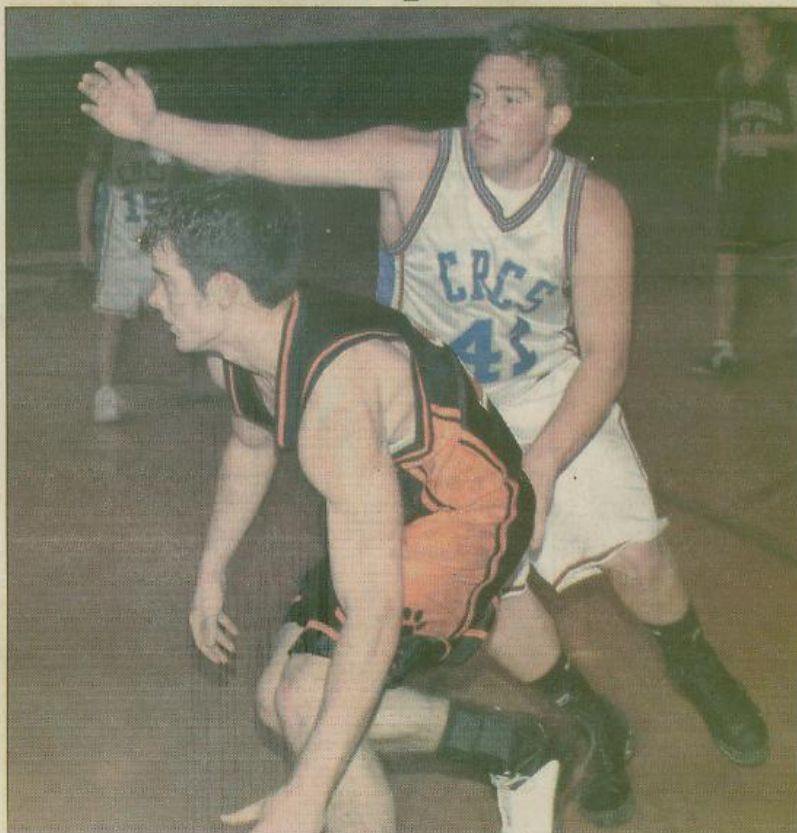
CUBA — Rick Whitwood recorded another double-double, pulling down 14 rebounds to go with a game-high 28 points, and fellow senior Jason Szabo added 18 points and eight boards as visiting Wellsville closed out a perfect Expressway Conference season with a 76-44 win over a game but overmatched bunch of Rebels Thursday night.

Except for a few worrisome minutes in the first quarter when, with the score already 18-5 Wellsville, Szabo had to be helped off the court after twisting an ankle coming down with a rebound, everything went pretty much the Lions' way.

Szabo had one of his best shooting nights of the season, making almost everything he threw up from 15 feet on in, and Whitwood shot even better. Whitwood, a 6-foot-2 guard, was 5-for-6 from outside the arc and 6-for-9 when he went to the basket, giving him a 73 percent shooting percentage for a night that ended early in the fourth quarter.

Kevin Cudney contributed his usual quiet 10 points and Andrew McArdle came off the bench to score eight points — four of them on offensive rebounds.

For Cuba-Rushford, Andy White led a balanced attack with 11, followed by Aaron Wight's 10 and nine from Brett



JOHN ANDERSON/Daily Reporter

Wellsville's Ryan Lester drives the baseline past Cuba-Rushford's Derek Morris Thursday in Cuba. The Lions won 76-44 to complete a perfect 10-0 Expressway Conference season.

Botens.

"I really didn't think our kids played all that poorly, especially in that first half," said Cuba-Rushford coach Gary Wight. "The thing is, Wellsville's just got too many guns. Whitwood's on some kind of a roll, and Szabo had a real good shooting night, too. We tried to stop one of them, but it didn't happen."

After narrowing the gap to

28-20 on a long jumper by White midway through the second quarter, the Rebels were outscored 12-6 the rest of the way to the break thanks to a pair of treys by Whitwood, two buckets from Szabo and an inside move by Cudney.

Two baskets apiece from Szabo and Cudney, balanced against just one by White, had the Lions sitting on a 20-point bulge less than three minutes into the third, at which point Whitwood took over, outscoring everybody else on the floor the rest of the period.

"I thought they executed pretty well on offense against us," said Wellsville's Jim Insley,

have to go to a neutral site to face No. 14 North Rose-Wolcott in a first round game Wednesday night. They could still have a second round home game next Saturday.

At 9-11 overall (and 3-7 in conference play), Cuba-Rushford has earned the No. 7 seed in Class C, and should be home against No. 10 Bolivar-Richburg Wednesday. Tip-off times for sectional weeknight games have not yet been released.

In the night's JV game, the junior Lions also completed a perfect 10-0 sweep through the Expressway schedule, finishing 14-6 overall after a 74-45 victo-

**Rick Whitwood
recorded another
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with a game high
28 points...as
Wellsville closed
out a perfect
season with a 76-44
win over a game
but overmatched
bunch of Rebels
Thursday night.**



Lions rally to beat Penn Yan

Whitwood keys second-half comeback

By JIM SWEET

Daily Reporter

ROCHESTER — Rick Whitwood scored 16 of his game-high 18 points in the second half — including eight in a row to open the fourth quarter — as Wellsville's Lions clawed their way back from three quarters worth of deficits to blow away seventh-seeded Penn Yan, 67-51, and advance to the Section V finals for the second straight year.

Early on, especially, it was looking like the move up to Class B might finally have caught up to the Lions, who'd dropped a heartbreaker

to LeRoy in last year's Class CCC finals here. Penn Yan, a surprise winner four nights ago over number two and pre-

playing with a lot of confidence," observed Penn Yan coach Chuck Roach of his team's hot start, "especially the last three weeks of the season. You always want to peak at this time of the year, and I think we did that.

Before the game in the locker room they were really, really loose, and they came right out and played that way."

"We had a hand up in their faces," said Insley, "but they were shooting the ball pretty

well from the perimeter. And inside, they were doing a good job of taking us to the dribble and hitting the big guy (Nolan). We went to a zone, and that didn't work, so we went back to the man-to-man, but switched up our match-ups a little bit. That certainly seemed to help us out."

The big match-up switch was

moving Whitwood, who'd started out on John Michael Ramsey, the Mustangs' leading scorer against Attica to

Insley on Bishop Kearney and the finals:

"They're very quick and athletic. They're not number three in the state because they're a pushover. But we've played a tough schedule. Grover Cleveland plays a very similar game to Bishop Kearney, and we did that for a reason. When we get on the court, we want it to be just another basketball game. Anything can happen in a winner-take-all. Our kids have played together and they know each other. They play for the name on the front of the jersey, and sometimes, that means a lot.



JAMES LATHROP/Special to the Reporter

Wellsville's Rick Whitwood gladly takes the piggy-back ride from Penn Yan's Adam Griffin in grabbing the rebound during the Lion 67-51 win over the seventh-seeded Mustangs to advance to the Class B finals against Bishop Kearney Sunday.

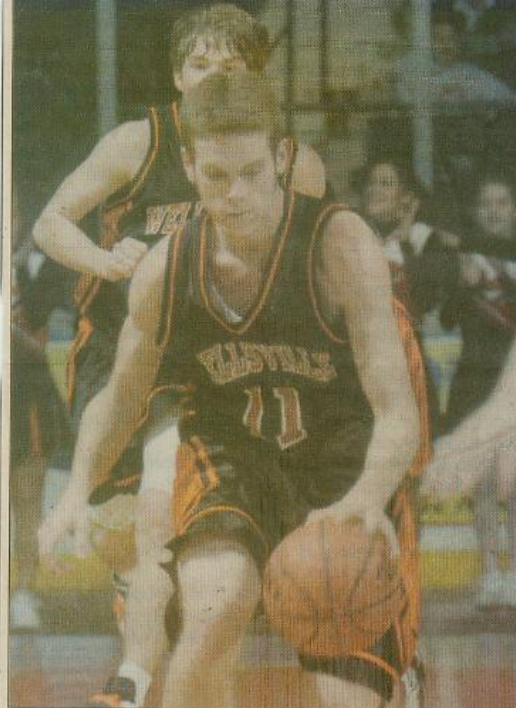
Rick Whitwood scored 16 of his game-high 18 points in the second half — including eight in a row to open the 4th quarter...

Wellsville will advance to the finals for the 2nd straight year.









JAMES LATHROP/ Special to the Reporter

Wellsville's Rick Whitwood dribbles down the court in Saturday's Class B final against Palmyra-Macedon. Whitwood was named Section V Birdseye Player of the Year for independent schools Tuesday.

Whitwood honored

WELLSVILLE — The postseason honors are starting to roll in for Wellsville senior Rick Whitwood.

Tuesday, Whitwood was named the Birdseye Player of the Year for Section V's independent schools, which includes Class A Aquinas and Class B's Bishop Kearney.

Whitwood, the Spectator Great 8 MVP, was also named to the All-Greater Rochester Ronald McDonald House All-Star game. A press conference will be held to announce the entire team on Saturday.

The Ronald McDonald House All-Star Game will be held March 26 at 3 p.m. at Rochester Institute of Technology.

"It was not a surprise at all," said Wellsville coach Jim Insley. "I am very happy and I

press conference when he makes a visit to Division I University at Buffalo Saturday to see the Bulls play. While Whitwood is being recruited heavily among the Division III ranks, Insley thinks Whitwood could play anywhere.

"It's hard to gauge that type of talent because we don't see it — I know if (Erie McDowell's and UB recruit) Sean Smiley is a Division I basketball player, Rick can play Division I," said Insley. Then, referring to the December game when the two went head-to-head, said, "There are a lot of parts of Sean's game that were stronger than Rick's and there are parts of the game Rick has over Sean."

During the recruiting season, Insley has sold

Rick Whitwood was named the Birdseye Player of the Year for Section V's independent schools.

Whitwood, the Spectator Great 8 MVP, was also named to the All-Greater Rochester Ronald McDonald House All Star game.

Players of the Year: Whitwood and Furman

■ Charles M. Ward Award goes to Wellsville senior; Coudersport junior takes home Martha Altmire honor

By VINNY PEZZIMENTI

THE TIMES HERALD

When the Big 30 selection committee was faced with naming a boys' and girls' basketball player of the year, a natural dilemma arose.

Who is more deserving, the best and most talented or the most crucial to team success? Naturally, the panel of coaches, officials and media members opted for the latter.

Truly, there were those who compiled better statistics and captured more headlines and glory but none was more imperative to the team concept and overall team accomplishment than Wellsville's Rick Whitwood and Coudersport's Danielle Furman.

To the committee, in terms of making those around them better, there was no equal.

Therefore, Whitwood is honored with the Charles M. Ward Award and Furman with the Martha Altmire Award.

"THIS HAS BEEN a great year," Whitwood said. "It's been a great honor with every award I received. A lot goes to my teammates and coaches, but it's great to get individual recognition too."

As great a year as it was for

guard Mike Tripodi. With Tripodi's departure coach Jim Insley looked to Whitwood to trigger the Lions' offense.

"The adjusting period was kind of difficult," Whitwood said, "but once I got into it, it worked out pretty well for our team."

Indeed, Wellsville advanced to its third sectional title contest in Whitwood's three years as a starter and the point guard recorded fabulous numbers.

His 19 points a game were sixth best in the Big 30, his 42 3-pointers were eighth best, and he also averaged eight rebounds and five assists. Not bad, when you also consider Whitwood's defensive effort was rivaled by few.

"I have always been defensive oriented but this year the offense came along," the Expressway Conference MVP said.

The Lions' rode Whitwood to Blue Cross Arena in Rochester and the Section 5, Class B title game. But the journey ended with a 61-42 loss to eventual state champ Palmyra-Macedon.

Even though Wellsville earned three straight berths in the sectional title game with Whitwood in the lineup, it was also the third straight season the Lions' season concluded at

"some one who looked out for everybody else and made everybody better."

As much of a difficult transition Whitwood undertook, Furman's may have been even more daunting.

In her previous two years on the varsity roster, Furman was a role player for a Coudy lineup littered with Big 30 and North Tier League all-stars.

The Falcons went a combined 56-4 in those two seasons, advancing deep into the state playoffs via key contributions from the diminutive Furman off the bench, but mostly because of six seniors who graduated last year.

No one expected the young Falcons to win 20 games let alone 15 this year. But they did just that, going 20-9, dropping a first round state playoff contest.

Furman led Coudy in scoring and was third in the Big 30 at 17 points per game, even more amazing considering the Falcons rarely registered 50 points in most games.

Still, the junior was surprised with the honor

"I wasn't expecting it at all," she said. "I'm really excited."

It was easy for opponents to overlook Furman, who dented the starting lineup for the first



Rick Whitwood
Wellsville



Danielle Furman
Coudersport

Furman is a dead-eye shooter — her 24 regular season 3-pointers were among the Big 30 leaders — and she's not afraid to take the big shot when the game is on the line.

That mindset comes from her endless workouts with her father — taking thousands and thousands of shots over the summer — and invaluable time on the AAU circuit.

In a sense, she is a basketball junkie, a gym rat.

"I really work on my shooting," Furman said, "and try to do as much work as I can."

Meet the 2005 Big 30 Basketball All-Stars

■ Wellsville's Whitwood, Coudersport's Furman are Players of the Year

By JIM MELARO
THE TIMES HERALD

The Big 30 proudly presents the Top 30.

How else would you describe the players selected to the 2004-05 Big 30 Boys' and Girls' Basketball All-Star Teams?

They range in height from 5-2 (Coudersport junior Danielle Furman) to 6-5 (Coudersport's Ryan Jones, Whitesville's Zach Coleman and Wellsville's Jason Szabo).

There are players who know how to distribute the ball — Samantha Clarke of Archbishop Walsh averaged a Big 30-best eight assists a game.

And there are some strong rebounders — Genesee Valley's Andy Evans, Pioneer's Joelle Connelly, Coleman, Jones, Kiley Hadzicki of Portville, Bolivar-Richburg's Alicia Gordon and the brother and sister act of Jason and Arielle Szabo of Wellsville all averaged more than 10 rebounds a game this season.

And, of course, there are players who can flat-out find the net.

Connelly, Pioneer's 6-2 freshmen center, and her cousin, Ben Kopp (Franklinville) topped the Big 30's girls' and boys' regular season scoring chart this season.

Connelly, who averaged 20 points a game, is the recipient of the Laura Hughes Kopp Award.

Yes, it's named after Ben's mom, the first Section 6 female basketball player to score over 2,000 points in her career (at Franklinville) before attending Penn State.

Kopp, who averaged nearly 27 points, receives the Gary Grassi Memorial Award.



JOE KELLY/The Times Herald

Smethport High School junior Alexandra Alfieri (front row, far right) has been named the recipient of the 2005 Big 30 Basketball Randy Stebbins Memorial Award. Shown are, front row (from left): Joelle Connelly (Pioneer, Laura Hughes Kopp Award, Big 30 girls' scoring champion), Danielle Furman (Coudersport, Martha Altmire Award, Big 30 Player of the Year) and Alfieri. Back row: Ben Kopp (Franklinville, Gary Grassi Memorial Award, Big 30 boys' scoring champion) and Rich Whitwood (Charles M. Ward Award, Big 30 Player of the Year).

The Big 30 Boys' and Girls' Player of the Year nods go to Wellsville's Rick Whitwood (Charles M. Ward Award) and Coudersport's Danielle Furman (Martha Altmire Award).

Here's a capsule look at the 30 players — 15 boys and 15 girls — named to the Big 30's First-, Second- and Third-Team units:

First-Team ALL-STARs: G...

Big 30 All-Star Team for 2004-2005



JOE KELLY/The Times Herald

The Big 30 All-Star squad for the 2004-05 season is announced today. Shown above are the First-Team boys' and girls' selections, front row (from left): Danielle Furman (Coudersport), Alicia Gordon (Bolivar-Richburg), Brittany Martin (Allegany-Limestone), Tracy Wangelin (Olean High), Joelle Connelly (Pioneer) and Brian Green (Northern Potter, Margie Holland Award Coach of the Year). In the back row is the boys' First-Team: Chris Fink (Coudersport, Thomas K. Oakley Memorial Coach of the Year), Ryan Jones (Coudersport), Craig Flint (Port Allegany), Zach Moore (Olean High), Rick Whitwood (Wellsville) and Zach Coleman (Whitesville). Other photos, story, C-4.

FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS

Whitwood carries on a tradition of greatness

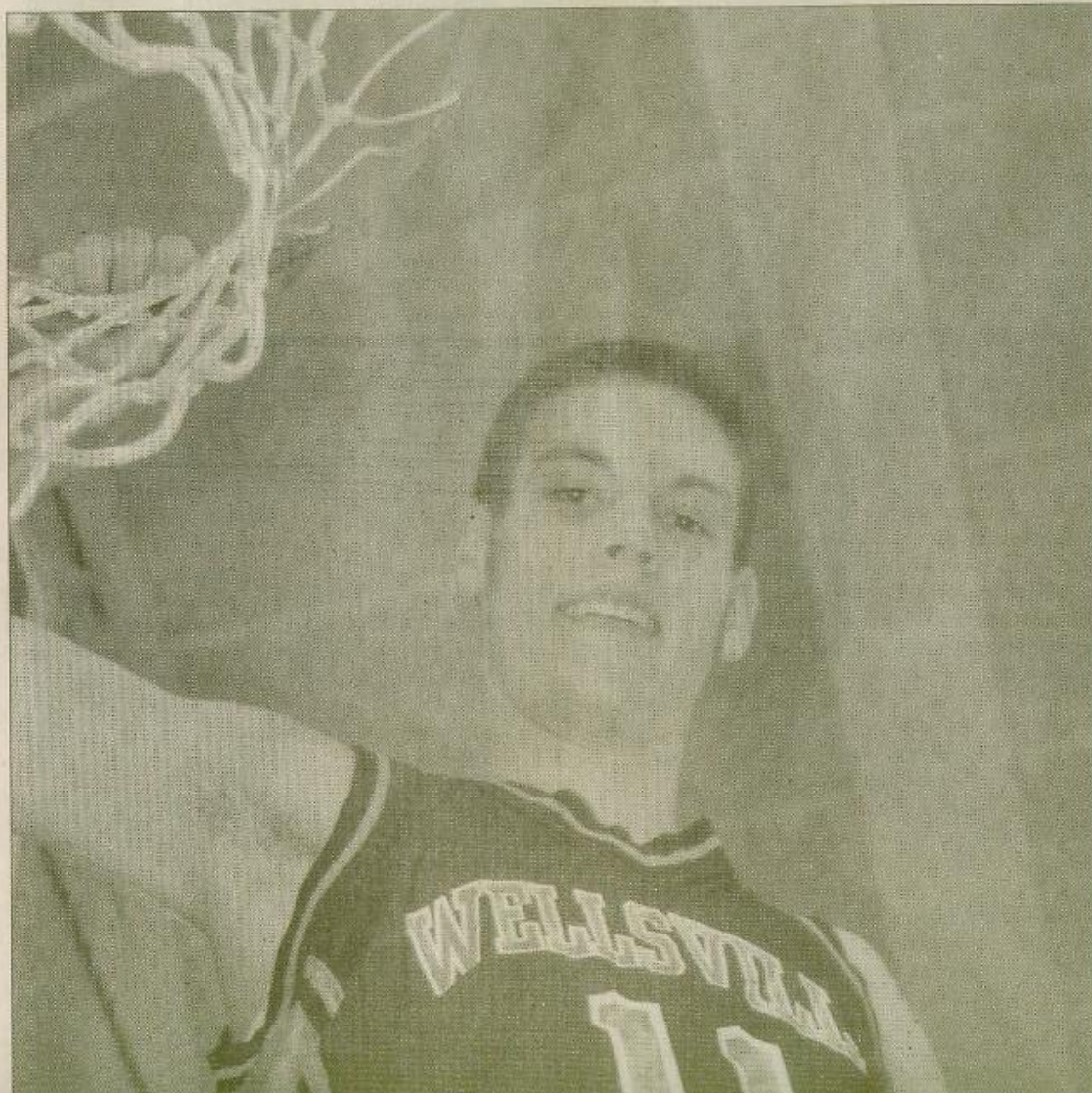
By **JIM SWEET**
SPECTATOR SPORTS

Named after probably the best pure shooter in Wellsville history, this year's Great Eight Player of the Year had to have known from early on that he had some big shoes to fill.

WELLSVILLE

Well, he filled them. And now his dad, an original WHS Sports Hall of Famer, is just going to have to get used to the idea that, from now on and for years to come, when people around Wellsville talk about what a great basketball player Rick Whitwood was, they'll be talking about his only son.

A three year starter on a team that's gone, as of this writing, 58-10; Rick's first two years in Coach Jim Insley's system saw him sacrificing his offensive potential to be the team's defensive specialist. Insley goes almost



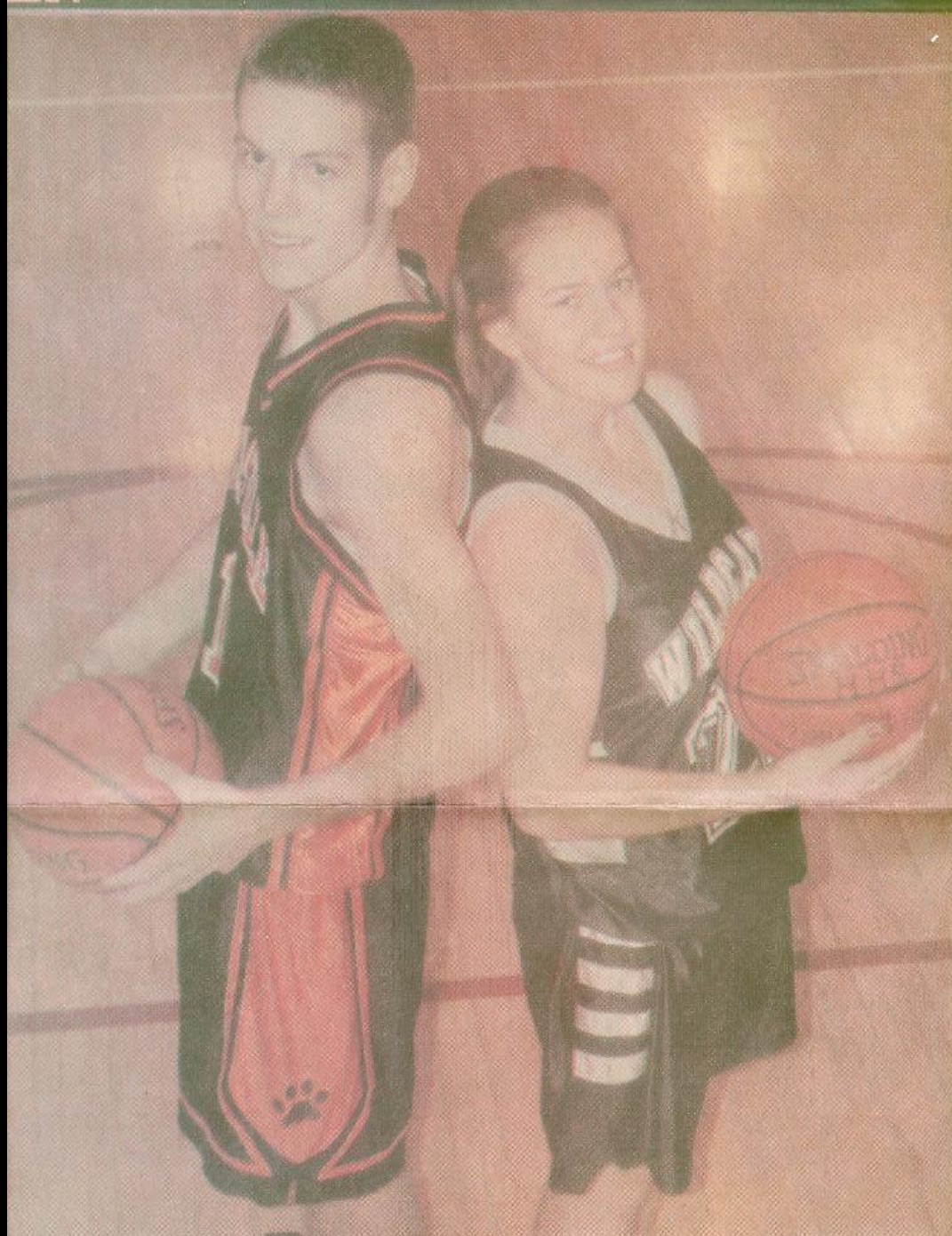
It's kind of nice, then, that Rick's basketball offense has finally been allowed to catch up with his defense. Even if he weren't, as McArdle marveled last weekend after watching him hold Phil Scott, Marcus Whitman's 24-point scorer, to just one basket, "absolutely the best defensive player in this area, bar none," Rick's senior season numbers would rank him at the top of the region's elite.

He's scored 28 points in a game three different times, and he doesn't shoot just to fatten his stats. Playing only as much as Insley needs him, he's averaged 18.5 points while dishing out four assists and pulling down over eight rebounds a game. And through last weekend, his 46 three-point baskets was a WHS single-season record that just continues to grow.

When it comes to favorite basketball memories, Rick cites the team's many trips to Blue Cross Arena which, thanks to his killer defense (and 22 points) in last weekend's demolition of Marcus Whitman, they're revisiting again this year, and, of course, the recent comeback at Hornell.

About that Hornell game, the one where Wellsville trailed by over 20 points in the third quarter before Whitwood ignited the comeback of the year, scoring 20 of his 24 points in the second half as the Lions won, 52-47, Insley still remembers like it was yesterday. "That was just a special performance," he says. "Coach Redman and I just sat there kind of in awe.

"In the third quarter, Rick hit one tough shot in the lane, and I mean he



Rick Whitwood

Senior, Wellsville

“Absolutely the best defensive player in this area, bar none.”

Most Valuable Players

“Rick will not fold under pressure.” said Wellsville coach Dennis Miles. “He was in a jam with the bases loaded and came out in the fourth when he picked a runner off first then coaxed a weak fly ball to end the inning.”

Whitwood's mound work keeps Lions perfect in Va.

COVINGTON, Va. — After nine straight wins, it looked like the Wellsville Lions win streak may finally end down south.

After going down 1-2-3 in the top of the first, Class C Covington, (Va.), touched Wellsville pitcher Rick Whitwood for two singles in the bottom of the first.

However, Whitwood struck out the No. 3 and 4 batters in the lineup and set the stage for a 3-1 victory.

“Rick just will not fold under pressure,” said

Wellsville coach Dennis Miles. “He was in a jam with the bases loaded and one out in the fourth when he picked a runner off first then coaxed a weak fly ball to end the inning.”

Wellsville improved to 10-0 on the season with the win and will face Perry McClure tonight at 8 p.m.

In the third, A.J. Fay broke up a no-hitter with a single, stole second and scored on a Ryan Lester single.

In the top of the seventh, the Lions received timely hit-

ting again. Fay was hit by a pitch, stole second and went to third when George Lynch hit a ball deep in the hole at short for an infield single.

With two outs and two strikes on him, Brady Miles smacked a triple giving Wellsville a 3-0 lead.

“That was a huge hit for us,” said Miles. “And George Lynch came through again.”

In the bottom of the seventh, Whitwood hit a batter and walked a batter before Covington singled a man home. Glenn Hall, who started

in right and made an outstanding diving catch earlier in the game, saved the win.

With two outs, a ball was hit to the fence but Hall made an amazing running catch to end the game with the tying run crossing the plate.

“Rick had a gutsy performance and we continue to play perfect defense,” Miles noted. “It was just a well-played game on both sides as both teams made one error. We were able to steal six bases.

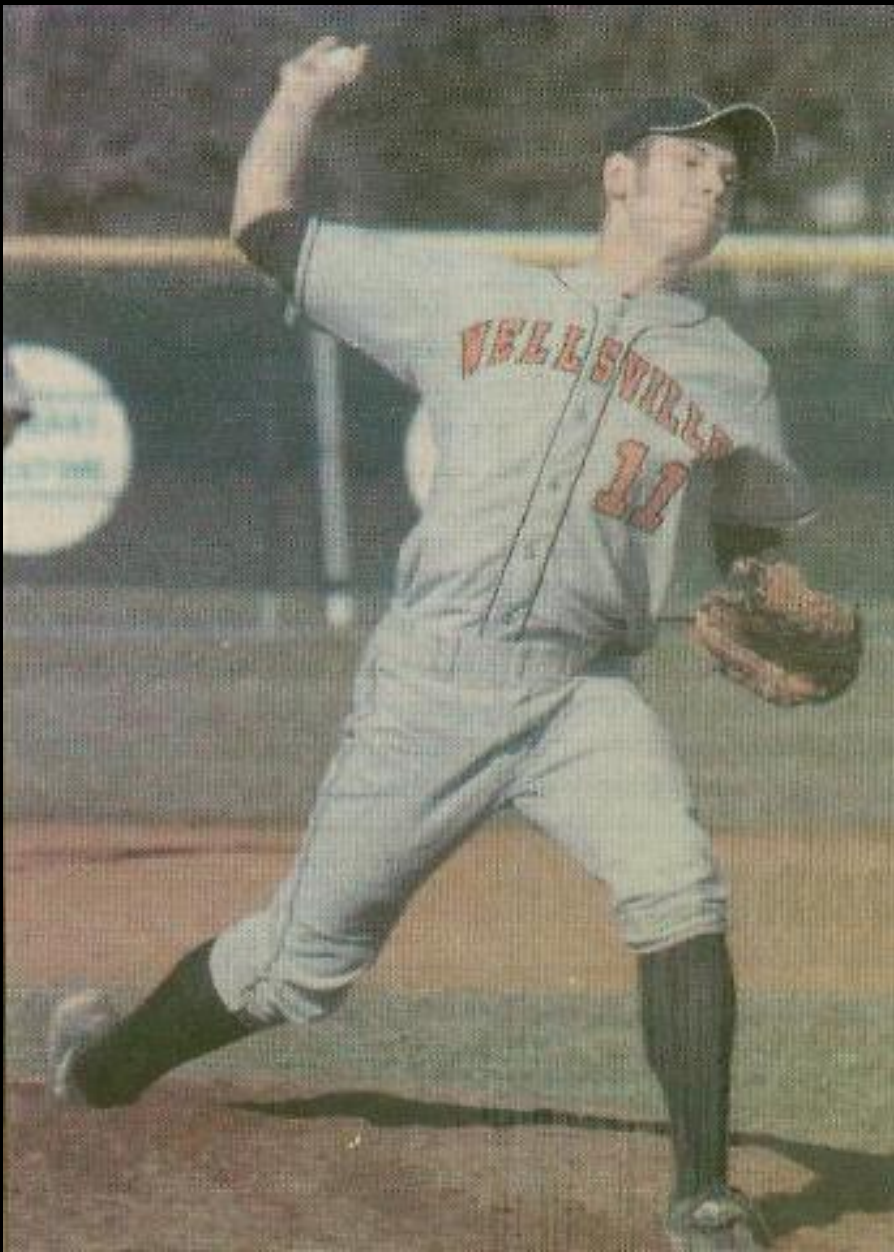
“Covington was up for us,” Miles added. “They wanted to

beat the undefeated team from New York.”

Brady Miles was 2-for-4 with a stolen base and two RBIs while Fay was 2-for-2. Whitwood and Hall also had singles.

A.J. Fay will get the ball tonight while Cory Wright is expected to pitch the final game of the road trip on Wednesday against Green Briar West.

Wellsville 001 000 2 — 3 8 0
Covington, Va. 000 000 1 — 1 7 1
Whitwood (5 K, 2 BB) and Gardner; Crawford (9 K, 2 BB) and Williams. W - Whitwood, 5-0. L - Crawford.



Wellsville's Rick Whitwood throws a pitch in the Lion's 5-4 win over Wayland-Cohocton on April 5th. Whitwood's Lions have earned the top seed in Class B with their 20-3 record.



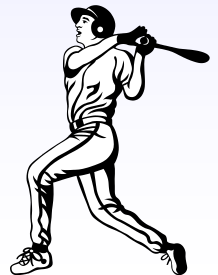




Rick Whitwood
Wellsville High School
2011 Hall of Fame



Member



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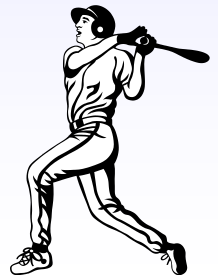
Dennis Wood

Kelly Golish Vossler

Brady Miles

Jason Szabo

Rick Whitwood



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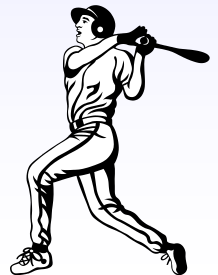
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Wellsville High School Athletic Hall of Fame



Five individuals were inducted into the Wellsville High School Hall of Fame on May 28th. The individuals included: Dennis Wood, Kelly Golish Vossler, Brady Miles, Jason Szabo, and Rick Whitwood. Select our **2011 Hall of Fame Members** link in the navigation bar for more pictures on these latest inductees. Click on the [Hall of Fame](#) link for their plaque information.



Select the [Hall of Fame](#) link in the navigation bar or click on the picture above to view the listing of members.

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Jason Szabo

Class: 2001-2005

Sports Played:

Soccer 5 Years

Basketball 4 Years

Baseball 3 Years

Colleges:

R.I.T. & Daemen College basketball his junior and senior years.



In high school basketball he scored over 900 points and accumulated over 1000 rebounds.

He was selected to the Section V All Tournament Team. For basketball for three consecutive years (2003, 2004, & 2005).

By many he is recognized as the best sweeper to ever play the game of soccer at Wellsville High School. (Current school record of fewer goals allowed, 8 in 2004).

In 2005 he led his high school baseball team in the post season by batting .500 as they won the Section V championship.

He was truly a three sport star in soccer, basketball, and baseball during his high school career.

Named to the Spectator Great 8 First Team for

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2011 Hall of Fame Induction

May 28, 2011

@ L'Italia



INDUCTEES

Dennis Wood - Class of 1947

Kelly Golish Vossler - Class of 1995

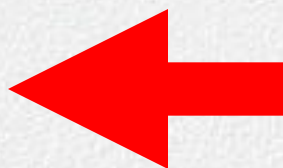
Brady Miles - Class of 2005

Jason Szabo - Class of 2005

Rick Whitwood - Class of 2005

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