

SPORT SHORTS



St. Joseph's Villa to host Sept. 21 golf tournament

GREECE — The 11th annual St. Joseph's Villa Golf Tournament is scheduled for Monday, Sept. 21, at Ridgemont Country Club, 3717 Ridge Road W.

The tourney will feature a scramble format, with tee-off at 1 p.m. The \$175 package includes lunch, golf, cart, hors d'oeuvres, dinner, awards and prizes.

The tournament's proceeds will help pay for a new heating system in the residential cottage of St. Joseph's Villa, 3300 Dewey Ave.

Golfers, hole sponsors, raffle prizes and auction items are still needed. For more details, contact the Villa's development office at 716/865-1550, ext. 284.

Golf tourney planned for Arthritis Foundation

PENFIELD — The 14th annual Genesee Health Facilities Association Golf Tournament is scheduled for Monday, Aug. 17, at Midvale Country Club, 2387 Baird Road.

In addition to golf, the tournament will include a luncheon, dinner and several prizes. The Arthritis Foundation's Genesee Valley Chapter will be the event's chief beneficiary.

Call Jan Lyon at 716/426-0804 or Kevin Kane at 423-9490 for information.

Cross-country camp will be held Aug. 3-7

BRIGHTON — A cross-country camp for girls will take place at Our Lady of Mercy High School, 1437 Blossom Road, in August.

The camp is scheduled for Aug. 3-7, from 8 a.m. to noon each day. Cost is \$65.

Emphasis will be placed on training and racing techniques, nutrition, injury prevention and cross-training alternatives.

To obtain an application form, call 716/288-7120.



Mike Latona/Staff writer

Father Eugene Weis, pastor at Elmira's St. Casimir's Church and a right fielder for the softball team sponsored by Paragon Cable, returned to action July 22 after being sidelined for a few weeks by a leg injury.

Elmira pastor still goes strong on diamond

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

ELMIRA — After a 10-year hiatus from organized softball, Father Eugene Weis' body parts may have had mixed reactions to last year's attempted "comeback" — at the age of 55.

"I'd found out I'd gained 40 pounds, so now, only if I'm near the ball do I catch it," admitted Father Weis, pastor of St. Casimir's Church, 1004 Davis St.

"But I've still got some moves. There's still explosion in the bat," he added.

The Elmira pastor is playing in his second season as a member of a local 55-and-over team. The squad competes in a 10-team league against clubs from Elmira as well as other nearby cities and towns. Two games and one practice are scheduled each week, with home games held at Eldridge Park.

"We have 22 guys, and I believe that I'm the youngest on the team," said Father Weis, who normally plays right field or rover.

The priest's return to the sport marks another chapter in his lengthy athletic history, which began when the Rochester native played softball while attending Blessed Sacrament School

and St. Andrew's Seminary.

He then played catcher on a baseball team at St. Bernard's Seminary. Following his 1962 ordination, Father Weis returned to slow-pitch softball through the fire departments for which he volunteered.

"I wasn't a home run hitter, but I hit for a good average," he said.

Father Weis played for three different fire departments while serving as assistant pastor at Our Mother of Sorrows Church in Greece (1962-68), Holy Apostles Church in Rochester (1968-72), St. Salome's Church in Irondequoit (1972-74) and St. John the Evangelist Church in Greece (1974-77).

He continued his softball exploits during his stint as pastor of St. John the Evangelist Church in Newark Valley (1977-82). Father Weis, however, was forced to relinquish his firefighting duties in 1978 after answering more than 800 calls over a 15-year stretch — mostly as a driver.

"I started to get claustrophobia when I wore my air mask, and that's a fireman's best friend," he explained.

The priest stopped playing softball after becoming pastor of St. Anne's Church in Palmyra in 1982. After moving to St. Casimir's in 1987, he again

became interested in the sport when he found that an over-55 league was looking for players.

"I wanted a good exercise; I need to get away from my desk. I've got a treadmill, but it's getting rusty," he joked.

Playing ball gives him more satisfaction than watching it, Father Weis revealed.

"I don't follow it that closely. I used to watch the (New York) Mets with a casual interest, although I was more of (a Baltimore) Orioles fan because a lot of their players used to play in Rochester," the priest said.

A torn calf muscle temporarily sidelined him in early July, but Father Weis was back in action last week. With this season nearly completed, the Elmira priest already plans on returning in 1993.

"I'd like to play again. I'm looking forward to next year," he said.

In the meantime, he will spend the rest of his leisure time this summer on Seneca Lake enjoying his new boat.

Father Weis' other warm-weather activities formerly included tennis and golf, but "they don't make fairways wide enough for me," he quipped.

AQ grad paces Western soccer team to ESG bronze

ALBANY — Michael Compisi, an Aquinas Institute graduate, played a key role in helping the Western Region open men's soccer team capture an Empire State Games bronze medal.

The Games were held July 23-26.

Compisi, the starting goaltender for Western, recorded a shutout in a 2-0 triumph over the Adirondack Region on July 26. That victory clinched Western's bronze.

No medals were won in basketball, but Rochester-area Catholic high schools were well represented on each of the four Western teams: Jason McKinney (McQuaid Jesuit), open

men's; Amy Reynders (Aquinas), open women's; Jay Wandtke (McQuaid), scholastic men's; and Gina Montesano (Our Lady of Mercy), scholastic women's.

McKinney will be a sophomore at Division I Siena College, and Reynders will also play Division I college ball this upcoming season as a freshman at Rutgers University.

Yet it was Montesano and Wandtke, in particular, who turned in big ESG performances.

Montesano scored a team-high 23 points in a 93-54 loss to New York City, and added 11 points in the scho-

lastic girls' 76-66 loss to Adirondack.

Wandtke led his squad with 21 points during Western Scholastic's 85-82 victory over Long Island. He also had 12 points in the boys' 92-86 loss to Hudson Valley.

In track and field, Kris Weldon, a 1992 graduate of McQuaid, ran on a silver medal-winning relay in the open men's division.

Weldon ran a leg of the 1,600-meter relay, which finished with a time of 3 minutes, 15.37 seconds.

— Mike Latona

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