

## Nazareth College names swim coach

PITTSFORD — Rick Aronberg, a former swimming star at Fairport High School and Clemson University, is the new men's and women's swim coach at Nazareth College of Rochester.

The 25-year-old Aronberg replaces Debbie Lawrence, who had coached the Nazareth women the past 15 years, and John Buckholtz, who had guided the Golden Flyer men the past five.

Aronberg was a two-time high school All-American at Fairport before he went on to become a four-time NCAA Division I All-American at Clemson. A specialist in the 500- and 1,650-yard freestyle events, Aronberg won six Atlantic Coast Conference championships and set two conference records while with the Tigers.

Aronberg had served as an assistant coach at Clemson for two seasons before recently accepting his new position at Nazareth.

## Triathlon fundraiser will help children's center

ROCHESTER — The Genesee River Challenge, a triathlon benefiting the Adam Walsh Center of New York, is scheduled for Sunday, July 18, at Genesee Valley Park.

This event comprises a 10-K run, 22.3-mile bicycle race and four-mile canoe race. In addition, bocce and in-line skating competitions will also be held.

Individuals and four-person teams may enter. Proceeds will benefit the local Adam Walsh Center, 249 Highland Ave., a branch of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

For information, call 716/244-8920.

## Benefit golf tournament will support college fund

GANANDA — Roberts Wesleyan College will hold a benefit golf tournament on Monday, July 19, at Blue Heron Hills Country Club.

Half of the \$100 entry fee will be used as a tax-deductible gift for the scholarship fund at the college, located at 2301 Westside Drive, Chili.

According to Diana Carlson, who serves as Roberts Wesleyan's director of special events, the tournament has already raised more than \$40,000 from players, sponsors and other contributors.

**They shall bear fruit even in old age; vigorous and sturdy shall they be.**

Psalm 92, 15



Members of the over-35 men's soccer team pose for a team picture in Agropoli, Italy. Comprising former professional and amateur stars, the Irondequoit team won the invitational held in Agropoli June 4-6.

# Championship cup fills with tears

## Soccer team sees dream come true

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

IRONDEQUOIT — It's not unusual to see an athlete shed tears immediately following a monumental win.

For a band of middle-aged soccer players from the Rochester area, however, there was so much emotion surrounding their recent tournament victory that they were still reaching for their handkerchiefs several hours later.

These athletes, who compete in the Irondequoit Fall Soccer League, recently joined forces to create an over-35 men's team that traveled to Agropoli, Italy.

The group of former professional and amateur stars captured the invitational, held June 4-6 — in a manner that came right from a movie script.

The Irondequoit contingent had been saddled with a tie and a loss in its first two games. At that point, last place in the round-robin tournament appeared much more likely than first place.

But Irondequoit, the only club from outside Italy to play in this six-team event, then reeled off three straight victories to rise all the way to the top.

According to Domenic Santilli, the Irondequoit team's player-coach, the championship was especially impressive since the average age on his team was approximately five years older than that of any players on opposing squads.



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer Sam Fantauzzo (left) and Domenic Santilli hold the championship trophy cup presented to them following their emotional victory.

"We had the endurance and the will," said Santilli, who was one of three 56-year-olds who played for Irondequoit.

"If I had to write a book for the way I wished things to happen, I would have written it like that. Everything worked out the best possible way you could imagine," added Santilli, a parishioner at St. Paul's Church in Webster.

Upon being presented the first-place trophy cup, the squad began a long evening of emotional celebrations.

Irondequoit Fall Soccer League commissioner Sam Fantauzzo, who served as player and assistant coach, explained that the victory was especially meaningful because many of the team members are of Italian heritage.

Fantauzzo added that the players were also affected by the death of Silvestre Giarrizzo, a close friend of the team who arranged the excursion. Giarrizzo, the owner of Gemini Travel in Irondequoit, died suddenly a few weeks prior to the trip. To honor his contributions, officials in Agropoli named the tournament after Giarrizzo.

"We were doing toasts, saying that this was a dream come true, and then we started thanking the people involved. Whenever we came to Silvestre, everybody just started crying," said Fantauzzo, a parishioner at Christ the King Church in Irondequoit.

Many of these athletes were competing on the same team for the first time. According to Fantauzzo, they play pickup games on Wednesdays and Sundays during the summer at Densmore Park in Irondequoit, and then participate in the 20-team fall league at Densmore from September through November.

Seven of the squad's 18 players were born in Italy. This contingent's international make-up also included natives of Hungary, Argentina, Ukraine, Israel, Brazil and Great Britain. Only five players were born in the United States.

The Irondequoit team is considering the possibility of returning to Agropoli next year to defend its championship. Yet Santilli acknowledged that, most likely, the passionate impact of last month's events will never be duplicated.

"We knew it was the experience of a lifetime," he said.

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