

SOCCER

FROM PAGE E11

competitive, and trying the best you can,” offered Caso.

Each day of camp zeroed in on a specific skill. Monday was dribbling, Tuesday was passing as well as receiving and possession drills, Wednesday was shooting, and Thursday was defending and combinations play. Friday was camp competition, where campers scrimmaged and played small sided games.

There were also soccer uniform themed days. On Tuesday, players could wear a jersey for the team they play for, Wednesday was their favorite professional team, then Thursday they could wear a jersey of their favorite national team.

Friday, however, was reserved for their Keystone College camp t-shirt.

“We started each morning with a fun group game with all of the campers such as ‘Hero’ or ‘Jailbreak.’ After the group game the campers split up into their groups with their coaches for the morning and worked on the specific skill of the day,” said Cross. “Before lunch we would have a fun camper challenge and at noon, we take a break for lunch. After lunch, we had the campers go back into their small groups and scrimmage or play a fun shooting game until camp was over for the day.”

Players of all skill levels represented northeast Pennsylvania with pride, as Tunkhannock, Factoryville, Scranton, Dunmore, Clarks Summit, Scott Township, Moscow, Olyphant, Dickson City, and Archbald all converged on the LaPlume campus.

Cross said of the demographic, “I think youth soccer is on the rise in our area. We are continuing to bring in great coaches who know the game well and have eager kids who are willing to learn the game.”

“Initially, groups are broken into a coed 6-8 year old group, boys 9/10, girls 9/10, then 11 and older boys and girls groups,” said Caso. “But groups fluctuate throughout the week, as some campers want to be with their sibling or a friend, and we make those accommodations so everyone is comfortable. A couple of players want to be challenged and moved up an age group and we allow them too.”

On Thursday, the youngest set of players used the Bohem Field, situated below the turf field, to space out the activities. Throughout the week, all groups cycled through the grass and Turf Felds.

“(The younger group) play a lot of small-sided games, duck duck goose, relay races



Coach Hector Camaja's team celebrates after a round of Jailbreak, a game designed to help with ball control. Camaja, a junior, is a goalie for the Giants.

with and without the ball, dribble and shoot competition,” explained Caso.

Cross added, “We had a wide variety of skill levels at camp. We had kids that have never played on an organized team before and just play for fun, to kids that play on recreational teams, to kids that play for travel teams of various competitive levels. Some are on Olympic Development teams, as well as kids that play for their school teams.”

The current rostered Giants are a big draw for the camp as well, as it offers the players a chance to give back to the community that supports them in the fall.

“I would love to coach someday and this helps me get familiar with the kids in the tournaments I officiate,” said Collin Cowles, a senior who attended Northeast Bradford. “This is an excellent way to get the kids together, athletically and socially. It gives the parents the chance to offer something fun for the kids to do too.”

He added, “The fact that it is coached by our coaches is great.”

According to Cross, “Clint started communication with our coaching staff via email in the beginning of June. We met the morning before camp started to explain roles and expectations to the coaches. We also had some returning coaches from previous years who already knew what was expected from them at camp.”

“We have in depth discussions about expectations for the week prior to camp. Coaches have worked other camps in the past so they understand how to manage the players,” said Caso.

Any KC player that shows an interest in helping is welcome to help out.

Kelly Irwin, a senior from Broadheadsville, feels she is “lucky to be able to help kids do what I love, and help them get better.”

When she sees the little players smiling, laughing, and most importantly learning, Irwin said, “It means I am doing my job



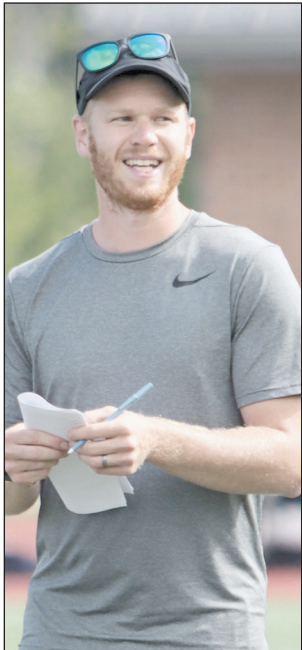
South Abington's Gabe offered a smirk to the shooter after stopping a blast in net.



TYSA player Autum, from Meshoppen, proudly wore her organization jersey to camp.



Jacob controlled the ball during a game of Jailbreak at KC's youth soccer camp last week.



Men's soccer coach Clint Caso keeps the campers laughing while learning.



Dunmore's Claire and Scranton's Leland show their allegiance to Team USA on the camp's “favorite National Team” jersey day.

correctly, and the players are learning from me.”

Cross explained, “This is my first time working a Keystone soccer camp, so I was just excited to be a part of it and interact with the coaches, and especially the campers. I will always cherish the opportunity to teach young kids in the community about soccer.”

“Keystone soccer camp provides a balanced opportunity for kids who love the game of soccer and who want to have fun but also want a challenge,” said Caso. “It is great seeing the kids' enjoyment when they realize they can do something they didn't think they could with a soccer ball.”

He continued, “The pride that we take trying to be the best that we can be on and

off the field is the best part of our program. We want to continue to build relationships within the community to grow the program and the school's reputation in the area.”

The second week of the program is currently underway, with the same amount of players anticipated. To follow along with Keystone soccer's schedule and game results, as well as advance notice of next year's camp, visit gokcgiants.com.

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Cercone in running for WOY award

Taylor Cercone, Dallas resident and graduate of Lake-Lehman High School, has been selected as Keystone College's NCAA Division III Woman of the Year Nominee, as announced on July 12.

Cercone was the 2021 CSAC Defensive Player of the Year for the Giants' field hockey team, and was also a first team all-CSAC selection and National Field Hockey Coaches Association (NFHCA) second team all-region IV.

She helped lead Keystone to the program's first-ever CSAC title in 2018 and guided the team to 44 wins- 23 in the CSAC- over her four years with the squad.

In 2021, Cercone led the CSAC with 13 defensive saves, the second most all-time in single-season program history. In addition, she was named to the Fall 2021 CSAC All-Academic team and the 2021 NFHCA Division III National Academic Squad.

On campus, Cercone was hired as an area coordinator

and intramural director, where she has helped revive on-campus activities for current students. Cercone boasts a 3.64 accounting graduate GPA and earned a 3.143 GPA as an undergraduate.

There are 577 nominees from member schools for the NCAA Woman of the Year and this marks the 32nd year of the program.

NCAA Division I has 248 nominees, D-II has 127, and D-III, where Keystone is classified, has 202. Of those nominees, 125 are multi-sport student-athletes, including 78 two-sport student-athletes, 46 three-sport student-athletes and 1 four-sport student-athlete. The average GPA of the nominee pool is 3.8.

There are four pillars considered for the Woman of the Year award, including academics, athletics, service, and leadership.

Each conference nomi-



TAYLOR CERCONI

nee will be notified by the NCAA, and all conference-round nominees will be announced on ncaa.org in August.

Conference nominations are forwarded to the NCAA Woman of the Year Selection Committee, which identifies the top 10 honorees in each of the three NCAA divisions. From those 30 honorees, the selection committee then determines the three finalists in each division for a total of nine finalists. The Committee on Women's Athletics will select the 2022 NCAA Woman of the Year from the nine finalists.

For the first time in the award's history, the award ceremony will take place during the NCAA Convention in January, giving the Top 30 honorees a chance to celebrate their achievements alongside their families, coaches, and administrators attending the 2023 NCAA Convention.

To learn more about the award program, next steps, and previous winners visit ncaa.org/woty.

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