

Winter track
CB East's Brophy, Pennridge's
Chapman among those looking
for gold. **C3**

SPORTS



Turkey Day Massacre



The Eagles' Chris Polk fights for extra yardage as the Cowboys defense attempts to stop forward progress Thursday. **TONY GUTIERREZ / ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Eagles move into first alone in NFC East



Eagles coach Chip Kelly congratulates quarterback Mark Sanchez following a touchdown during the second half Thursday. **TIM SHARP / ASSOCIATED PRESS**

By ED KRACZ
STAFF WRITER

ARLINGTON, Texas — It was supposed to be a back-and-forth battle between two teams vying for control of the NFC East. A game for the ages.

Instead, it was the Eagles who came in and pushed around the Dallas Cowboys in their own backyard to capture a convincing 33-10 win before 91,379 fans at AT&T Stadium on Thanksgiving Day.

The victory pushed the Eagles into first place all by themselves in the NFC East at 9-3. The Cowboys are 8-4, but now have lost twice within the division while the Birds moved to 3-0 within the East.



Eagles 33, Cowboys 10

■ More coverage. **C5**

It also kept the Eagles perfect in games they have played on Thanksgiving, as they moved to 6-0.

They turned this one into a merry feast on quarterback Tony Romo, sacking the quarterback four times and hurrying him on five other occasions. Romo came

into the game having lost only once on Thanksgiving in seven games. He did not play well in this one in large part because the Eagles defense never let him get into a rhythm.

He threw a pair of interceptions, with Cary Williams getting one and Nate Allen the other. Allen also recovered a fumble at the end of the first half and returned it 22 yards to set up a 26-yard Cody Parkey field goal right before halftime, which ended with the visitors out in front 23-10.

"There are no excuses," Romo said. "They made things a little bit tougher. I missed some throws that I normally won't miss. I will be better at that the rest of the year."

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FOOTBALL: QUAKERTOWN 8, PENNRIDGE 7

Panthers capture wild one

By DREW MARKOL
STAFF WRITER



QUAKERTOWN — The difference was five total points but it might as well have been 500.

That was the sentiment of the jubilant Quakertown players after they knocked off rival Pennridge for the second time in less than three weeks with a thrilling 8-7 victory over the Rams at chilly Alumni Stadium.

And, if you don't think 8-7 can be thrilling, well, you weren't part of the jam-packed crowd that took in the 85th Thanksgiving morning matchup between the two neighboring schools.

"This is just awesome," Quakertown



Quakertown's Nick Bonomo rushes for more yardage as Pennridge's Riley Hager tries to tackle him Thursday. **RICK KINTZEL / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER**

standout senior linebacker Hunter Nice said. "To beat Pennridge twice, in two unbelievable games, is something you couldn't even imagine."

The Panthers (11-2) did it the first time 14-10 in the opening round of the PIAA District One Class AAAA playoffs (the first district playoff win for Quakertown in six tries) and they added win No. 2 Thursday. Two huge wins by a total of five points.

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FOOTBALL: SOUTH HUNTERDON (N.J.) 31, NEW HOPE-SOLEBURY 0

Lions suffer lopsided loss

By TOM PFAFF
CORRESPONDENT

WEST AMWELL, N.J. — New Hope-Solebury and South Hunterdon found themselves playing backup players on Thanksgiving Day, but for vastly different reasons.

With the host Eagles gearing for to their NJSIAA Central Jersey Group 1 championship game on Dec. 6, starting quarterback and leading rusher Todd Frazee got the day off to avoid any risk of injury on the muddy, snow-covered grass field at Samuel E. Jefferis Athletic Stadium.

The Eagles also rested senior Shane Carey in the second half, but only after he had rushed for a pair of first-half touchdowns in a 31-0 victory over the Lions in the fourth annual Battle of the Bridges.

By contrast, the Lions were without nine players, including eight starters, serving a one-game suspension that New Hope coach Jim DiTulio described as a "violation of the team's code of conduct" but declined to add specific details about the cause.

DiTulio said he

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CB EAST HALL OF FAME

Craig closes deal on Hall of Fame

By **STUART LONDON**
STAFF WRITER

As a successful real estate agent, Janique Craig is used to getting phone calls from all kinds of people.

However, a call she got a month ago caught her off guard.

“John Zaluki (a well-known Central Bucks East alumni) gave me a buzz and told me I had made the hall of fame,” said Craig, a 2000 CB East graduate. “I was so shocked. I was not expecting this. I am honored to be among those honored; such amazing athletes.”

Craig and five others will be the latest class of inductees to the Central Bucks East Athletic Hall of Fame on Saturday, 5 p.m., at the school.

Others honored include former girls tennis coach Bill Horan (1973-1978), Chuck Heiber (Class of 1983), Meredith Adgie-Williams (1989), Jeff Heath (1993) and Robin Zielinski Conrad (1995).

Craig was a three-sport athlete, playing field hockey, basketball and lacrosse. She earned nine varsity letters

and was named the CB East Female Athlete of the Year in 2000.

The sport she ended standing out in the most was the one she had the least experience in, lacrosse. She was ranked as the No. 1 player in Pennsylvania two years in a row and was a first-team all-America as a senior.

“We were very new at lacrosse back then. We had no youth program,” Craig said. “I didn’t start lacrosse until two weeks before freshman year.”

Craig went on to play lacrosse at Penn State, where she made Academic all-Big 10. After graduation, she came back to the Doylestown area and kept with lacrosse.

She currently does personal training for the Cutting Edge lacrosse club and has been the head girls lacrosse coach at Central Bucks High School South the past 10 years.

Not that she still does not like the other sports.

“They’ve asked me (at CB South) about coaching



INTELL FILE PHOTO
Janique Craig, a 2000 CB East graduate, will be inducted into the CB East Hall of Fame

field hockey and about assisting with basketball, but it was too much,” Craig said. “I still love basketball. I played in the alumni

basketball game. Now, I just watch and support it. Being in real estate is not as flexible as you might think.” While coaching lacrosse

since college has been fun, Craig’s main occupation is working as a real estate agent for Keller-Williams. Her business is successful now. She was named one of the Top 40 under 40 in Bucks County by U.S. Rep. Mike Fitzpatrick last year. But she has faced her own challenges in that field just as formidable as any opponent. The real estate market took a major downturn in 2009, leaving all agents scrambling for sales.

“I started in 2005,” she said. “It was amazing then but then the economy took a turn. I stayed in it and finally saw the rewards of hard work. Now, it’s been great, fantastic, especially past two years.”

Craig has been working on a speech for the ceremony, which has made her look back on her career at CB East.

“I sit down and think about my memories from my athletic career,” Craig said. “I loved every minute there. I have such amazing memories. I was lucky to have such wonderful coaches and supportive

CB East Hall of Fame inductees

The following are being inducted into the Central Bucks East Athletic Hall of Fame on Saturday:

Meredith Adgie-Williams (Class of 1989): Basketball and lacrosse.

Janique Craig (Class of 2000): Lacrosse, field hockey and basketball.

Jeff Heath (Class of 1993): Track and cross country.

Chuck Hieber (Class of 1983): Football, baseball and wrestling.

Bill Horan (coach): Tennis coach from 1973-78

Robin Zielinski Conrad (Class of 1995): Softball, basketball and field hockey.

parents. It’s going to be a special night.”

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COLLEGE FOOTBALL

DelVal laments sudden loss to season

By **TOM PFAFF**
CORRESPONDENT

Aaron Wilmer showed how much he and the Aggies had grown this year while fielding a question Saturday during the post-game press conference.

Delaware Valley’s senior quarterback was asked about becoming the 26th college player, at any level, to join the 10,000/1,000 club of quarterbacks — career passing yards and rushing yards, respectively — in the context of a season-ending 29-26 loss to Christopher Newport in the first round of the NCAA Division III playoffs.

“It’s a great accomplishment, only 25 (other) guys have done it,” Wilmer said. “But this loss is going to sit with me for a while, especially knowing we were up 19 points (midway through the third quarter), that’s ...”

Wilmer could only sigh.

Anyone who witnessed the Aggies this season can share a collective sigh: whether just to exhale or partially to lament the swift, unexpected ending — as time expired, a 38-yard field goal into a 20-mph wind at Robert A. Lipinski Field at James Work Memorial Stadium — of a season that was so unexpectedly entertaining while record-setting.

By the numbers, DelVal enjoyed a season worth remembering.

Duke Greco became the first DelVal football head coach to begin with nine straight wins. The Aggies didn’t lose until Nov. 15 at Widener 44-28, more than two months after Greco’s debut.

The Aggies scored 460 points, 10 more than the previous DelVal record from 2005 — in two fewer games. This included a team-record four straight games scoring at least 50 points, capped by a 52-42 victory Oct. 11 over Lycoming, the most points the Warriors had allowed to any regular-season opponent since 1949.

With 5,466 yards of total offense, DelVal averaged slightly more than 496 yards a game, five yards better than the 2005 squad (6,383 in 13 games).

Individually, senior receiver Rasheed Bailey set a DelVal single-season record for receptions (80)

and shattered the previous benchmarks for receiving yards (1,707, compared with 1,159) and receiving touchdowns (19, vs. 12).

Bailey finished his DelVal career first in receiving yards (3,138), tied for second in touchdown catches (29) and solely third in receptions (165), quite an accomplishment for a receiver who had 34 receptions for 454 yards and two touchdowns at the midpoint of his career.

Consistently finding Bailey down the field, the four-year starter Wilmer had the best season of his career, including the first DelVal quarterback to throw 30 touchdown passes, with only eight interceptions. Wilmer’s 3,228 passing yards were DelVal’s third-highest single-season total, again in two fewer games than Adam Knoblauch’s 2004 and 2005 totals (3,235 and 3,307, respectively).

For his career, Wilmer finished as the school’s all-time leader in passing efficiency, touchdown-to-interception ratio of any Top 10 quarterback (2.4 to 1) and rushing yards by a quarterback (1,638). Wilmer also finished second at DelVal in completions (692), attempts (1,194), passing yards (10,157) and touchdown passes (84).

Senior running back Chris Smallwood, an Upper Moreland graduate, became the Middle Atlantic Conference regular-season rushing champion by a single yard, with 1,295, and finished with 1,387 rushing yards, the second-highest DelVal single-season total. Smallwood also set DelVal records with 21 rushing touchdowns and 22 total touchdowns this year, including a single-game record of six rushing scores Sept. 20 vs. Wilkes.

With a pair of extra points against the Captains, senior kicker Brandon Snyder finished with 206 career points, a point ahead of Bill Miller as DelVal’s all-time leading kick-scorer.

If the Aggies had advanced to meet Widener this Saturday, or beyond, one must wonder how much more these numbers could have grown — sigh.



RICK KINTZEL / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Quakertown coach George Banas gets soaked by his team after defeating Pennridge during the annual Thanksgiving Day game.

Panthers

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“With the way it played out, facing them in districts and on Thanksgiving, and to win twice, I really can’t put it into words,” Quakertown coach George Banas, a Quakertown graduate, said. “We had a lot of doubters coming into this game, but to get the repeat just shows the Quakertown grit.”

The Thanksgiving win for the Panthers was just their second in the last 10 meetings against the Rams (their last victory was 34-29 in 2008) and moved the all-time series to 53-27-5 in favor of Pennridge (7-5).

“All I’ve known is us losing to Pennridge on Thanksgiving,” said Quakertown senior quarterback Alec Vera, who scored the game-winning touchdown on a 1-yard run over the right side with just over four minutes to play. “We lost to them when I was a sophomore and then last year, too. Both of the wins, the playoffs and now Thanksgiving, feel great. It gives us full bragging rights, which we wouldn’t have had if each team won one of the games.”

The Panthers scored first, late in the first quarter, when Nice brought down Pennridge quarterback Joe Unangst, who was shifted from tailback for this game, in the end zone for

a safety.

The 2-0 Quakertown lead held up until halftime, but not long after once Pennridge junior Matt Firuta returned the third-quarter kickoff 79 yards for a touchdown. Just like that, the Rams had a 7-2 lead that they held until Vera’s late score.

And boy did the Rams hold for nearly the whole game. Three times, the Panthers had a first-and-goal and three times they came away with nothing. It wasn’t until their fourth try when Vera scored to account for the final margin.

“Our defense kept us in it and their defense played great, too,” Vera said. “They kept stopping us on the goal line and really played well.”

The Rams managed just 10 yards of offense in the second half and could muster only one first down over the final 24 minutes.

“We just didn’t have enough firepower on offense against a really good defense,” Pennridge coach Jeff Hollenbach said. “And our defense was awesome today with three goal-line stands. We had two tough losses against a good team and that’s a credit to Quakertown.”

Notes: Pennridge won last year’s game 27-7. ... Unangst finished with a team-high 60 yards rushing to go over the 2,000-yard mark for the season (2,026). It was the first time all season he was held under 100 yards rushing.

Buck Up Bucks

The chance to help others in a time of need was the focus of Thursday’s Buck Up Bucks County campaign at the annual Pennridge/Quakertown football game on Thanksgiving morning.

And with Panther cheerleaders and students roaming through the large crowd, and with Buck Up Bucks County canisters at the concession stands, a total of \$276 was raised to help the homeless and those in need at the Bucks County Emergency Homeless Shelter.

“We all just want to try to help,” said Lisa, a Quakertown student who was helping out by collecting donations. “Especially on Thanksgiving, you want to try and do what you can.”

The goal of the campaign is to raise \$200,000 to buy a new bus for Advocates for Homeless and Those in Need and to renovate the bathrooms at the homeless shelter.

To donate online, go to: www.fsabc.org/buckupbucks.

... The Panthers ran nearly twice as many plays from scrimmage 68-37. ... The Quakertown maintenance staff and volunteers from the community were lauded before the game for removing the snow from the field.

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Lions

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found out before practice Monday about the suspensions.

“We had three practices to get ready for the game ... and I also felt this game is a reward for the players who’ve made the right decisions all year,” DiTulio said. “... This was an administrative decision, and we also thought of South Hunterdon, too: Why penalize their cheerleaders, band and their players for our players who made a mistake?”

Throughout the game,

the suspended players stood on the sidelines in above-freezing temperatures as a group wearing their street clothes and watching the Lions go through the entire contest without a first down and end up with minus-21 yards of total offense.

As freshman running back Jesse Capriotti was the lone Lion whose offensive statistics were in positive territory, the Lions’ highlights came on defense.

Junior outside linebacker Tommy Capriotti got a key third-and-three tackle for a four-yard loss, which forced South Hunterdon to punt on its first drive of the game.

With New Hope trailing 12-0 in the second quarter,

junior linebacker Matt Kolen recovered a fumble at the South Hunterdon 34 with 9:16 left. Of the eight South Hunterdon fumbles in the game, mostly from missed center-quarterback exchanges, it was the Lions’ only fumble recovery.

The Eagles later threatened just before halftime to stretch their 18-0 advantage, but New Hope sophomore cornerback Andrew Wheelan intercepted the ball just outside the goal line near the right pylon.

After the officials spotted the ball inside the New Hope 1-yard line with just 12.3 seconds left and the Eagles out of timeouts, New Hope freshman quarterback

Nick Garritano did the only thing he could to avoid a safety: Garritano took the snap and fell forward for a yard to end the half.

New Hope sophomore Matt Fest was named the team’s MVP for this game, partly for his play at defensive end and nose tackle, and also for his play at center in sloppy field conditions.

“This was the first time I’ve played in snow and mud, and it was a lot of fun,” Fest said. “This was the game I was waiting for all year, and ... everyone who made the right decisions was ready to play. It’s a Thanksgiving memory I’ll never forget.”