

A Year Of Champions

BY DAN WILLIAMS
Sports Editor

Editor's Note: The following is the second half of a look back at 1986: The Year in Sports.

When all the excitement from the winter sports successes died down in the spring of 1986, other athletes and teams were preparing to step into the sports spotlight. Three names which seemed to dominate the headlines all spring, summer, and into the fall were Leslie Revier, Steve McDonald, and Katie Tyler.

Revier, a track star at Norwood-Norfolk, re-wrote the record books last spring with absolutely mind-boggling ease. The lanky senior shattered the state triple jump mark with a leap of 38-8.5 at the Van Dusen Meet. That mark was eventually surpassed, but she extended her personal best to 39-8.75 at the state meet in Syracuse, which was good enough for her to place second in the state.

On the local scene, Revier won everything in sight, earning her the well-deserved women's track and field athlete of the year in Section 10. She went undefeated in both the triple and long jumps during the NAC season. At the Sectionals, she was named Outstanding Woman Athlete with wins in the 100 dash, long jump, triple jump, and an appearance in the winning relay team.

Last summer she and McDonald were invited to compete in an international Sports Exchange program over in China. Revier extended her personal best in the triple jump to a state record 40-11, third best for her age group in USA history. She now competes at the University of Minnesota.

McDonald, a teammate of Revier's at N-N, was also unstoppable last spring. He won the 400 hurdles, the 400 dash, and the long jump at the Sectionals. He set new Section 10 records in both the 400 and long jump (22-5.5) and was tabbed as Male Athlete of the Year in NAC track.

In China on the Sports Exchange, McDonald also made an international name for himself. The tall strider won the 400 hurdles race and placed third in the 110 high hurdles event.

Potsdam High's super sophomore Tyler won the 1500 race at the Section 10 meet with a new school record time of 4:54.1 and placed second in the 800. At the state meet, Tyler gained valuable experience, placing 17th in a record-setting field with a new school mark of 4:49.7.

Finishing up a fine spring track season, Potsdam's Tyler O'Brien won the 110 high hurdles, the Stoners' girls 400 relay squad placed first and N-N's Greg Hill took the two-mile run.

Softball and Baseball

The key name on the softball diamonds last spring was Kim Kelley, a fire-balling senior at Parishville-Hopkinton. Kelley dominated all year on the mound, leading P-H to the Class D title and an appearance in the Section 10 championship game.

In a regular season contest against Chateaugay, Kelley set a new Section 10 record by striking out a phenomenal 20 batters out of 21 as the Panthers rolled 21-3. The Panthers lost the Section 10 title to Massena as the Red Raiders' hurling ace, Heather LaDuke out-lasted Kelley 3-1.

Stoners Upend Heuvelton Five

A lackluster Potsdam High boys basketball squad played well enough to win Monday night as they defeated Division III opponent Heuvelton 53-33.

Basil Cheney and John Kmack led a four-man double figure parade for Potsdam with 12 points each while Bharat Patel added 11 and Kyle Matott poured in 10.

Kevin Ross scored 12 points to pace the Bulldogs. In the JV game, the Stoners edged Heuvelton 45-39, led by Chris Theis' 11 point, 15 rebound effort. Freshman point guard Tim Kmack added 10 points and several assists for Coach Rich Northrup's cagers.

Bears Icers Struggling

A slumping Potsdam College hockey team will try to rediscover the winning attitude they enjoyed earlier this season when they take on Division III powerhouse RIT Wednesday night at Maxcy Ice Arena.

On the baseball diamond, Potsdam's Jeff Bajza re-established himself as one of the premier baseball players to ever come out of Potsdam High. He was named to the first team All-NAC at shortstop for the second consecutive year. N-N's Rich Demo and Gary Gushlaw, both juniors, also were first team selections.

Empire State Games
This summer's Empire State Games, held in Buffalo the second week in August, were well represented by Potsdam area athletes.

Ten Potsdam athletes made the Adirondack Region team in several sports. In hockey, Rich Denicourt, Dan Carey, and Scott LaGrand played key roles in Adirondack's bronze medal efforts. John Kmack surprised all the experts and made the Albany-area dominated scholastic basketball team, Pat Rishe became the first Potsdam soccer player to make the scholastic soccer squad, Pam Keef earned another berth on the scholastic volleyball squad, Kelly Talcott and Chris Reichardt ran track for Adirondack, and pitchers Joe Stark and Chris Donah were impressive for the open baseball unit.

N-N had two athletes make the Games — Gushlaw in hockey and Hill in track. Colton-Pierrepoint's success placing superior female hockey players in the girls' scholastic team for the third consecutive time.

Fall Sports Excitement
Soccer is becoming one of the fastest growing sports in the North Country. With performances like those enjoyed at the local level last fall, it's easy to predict that this sport will gain in popularity and notoriety in the years to come.

Potsdam High's soccer team, laced with youth and inexperience, rode the talents of a tremendous goaltender, senior Fred Collins, and a stingy defensive unit, to the Section 10 Championship and an appearance in the New York State Class B tournament.

The Stoners finished their regular NAC Division I season with a fine 6-2-2 mark. But, they got hot in the post-season, defeating Massena 1-0 for the Class B title, N-N 1-0 for the Class B-C title, and P-H 1-0 in the overall Sectional championship.

In their fourth consecutive 1-0 games, Potsdam found itself on the losing end of a one-goal decision to powerful and talented Chittenango (Syracuse area) in the first round of the state tourney.

Collins was named to the first team All-NAC, joining teammates Pat Rishe and Collin Knapp on the soccer elite team.

The Flyers, meanwhile, finished as the Division I champs and defeated Canton 1-0 to take the Class C crown. They were led by goalie Demo, also one of the top netminders in the area. N-N lost to Mount Markham in the state tournament. Don Peterson, John Duncan, and Gushlaw were selected as first team All-Northerners.

Other local teams had banner seasons, too. P-H boys won the Class D title over Colton-Pierrepoint and finished 9-3 in league play. The Colts were the Division II regular season champs and the P-H girls were Division II titlists once again.

C-P's Ford was honored as the Division II Player of the Year and was tabbed as an all-State performer.

Grid Frustration Ends

The end of an era for Potsdam football was a pleasant sight to see. It was the end of the losing attitude in the program. With a 12-0 win over Canton on a slippery, sloppy day, the Stoners ended an 11-game losing streak under dynamic coach Mike Britton.

Potsdam ended the year with a 3-5 league mark, but won the games that counted. The Stoners were the Section 10 small school champions and earned the right to play Section 7 power Beekmantown in the Small School Super Bowl.

The Eagles came out on top with a convincing 33-0 win, but Potsdam's grid program was headed back in the right direction under Britton's experienced guidance. Junior tailback Rob Scott emerged as one of the North Country's top runners. Nine Stoners, including Scott, were named to the All-NAC

list. Thad Jeneault, Massena's Buffy Richards contributed an assist. Klendle stopped 28 shots, while two netminders combined for 31 saves on the Huskies.

In a disastrous road trip to Massachusetts last week, the Bears were crushed by mighty Merrimack 15-3 and lost a tough 5-4 overtime decision to Curry.

Against the Warriors last Tuesday, Henry, Vandermast, and Stone each scored once but it wasn't nearly enough to garner a win for the Bears. Klendle and Paul Carney combined for 33 saves in net for Potsdam.

The night before, at Curry, the hosts erupted to two goals in the final period to force an extra session. Potsdam held leads of 2-1 and 3-2 after the first two intermissions. Boileau, Furrington, Sean Provost, and Henry scored goals for Potsdam. Massena's Marc Derouche registered two assists.

Mike Ehrlich scored the game-winning just 32 seconds into overtime for Curry.

Football team.

Tyler, Again
Katie Tyler wasn't finished making headlines in the spring. She carried her success onto the cold and wet cross country courses where she established herself as one of the top harriers in the state.

The junior went undefeated in NAC dual meets and won the Inter-Divisionals. She was named Outstanding Runner in Section 10. At the state meet, she placed 10th in Class C, but came back with an impressive eighth place finish at the Federation Meet.

On Christmas Day, Tyler left for China where she competed in the International Sports Exchange program in Canton.

The N-N boys cross country team won the Section 10 title and placed eighth at the state meet.

In another championship story last fall, the last area title in 1986, the Potsdam High girls volleyball team took the Section 10 Class C championship, defeating Tupper Lake.

A year to remember indeed, 1986, sports fans will miss you and all the success you brought to us.

MAI Nips Stoners Behind Tougas

The dynamic scoring trio of Derocher, Lussier, and LeBonte outplayed the Stoners' defense and scored three goals in the first period. MAI's hockey team to a surprising 5-3 win over the struggling Potsdam Sandstomers Saturday afternoon at Potsdam College's Maxcy Ice Arena.

Derocher tallied two goals and one assist, Lussier added a goal and three assists, while LeBonte contributed a score and two set-ups. MAI's other tally was registered by Sean O'Connell. Steve Chase added two assists to the winning total.

In crucial action this week, Potsdam travels to Plattsburgh High Wednesday before returning home to host the annual Booster Club Tournament, which features Potsdam, Canton, St. Joseph's (Buffalo), and state power Shenendehowa (Saratoga County). Game times are 6 and 8 p.m. Friday, 1 and 3 p.m. Saturday.

The Mounties, on top of the NAC Division II race, have won four games in a row, running their record to 7-4 in league play. They are now ranked fourth in the New York State small school hockey poll.

Potsdam, meanwhile, dropped their third game in the last five outings and fell from ninth to 11th in the latest state large school poll.

The Stoners, now 7-3 overall, received two goals from junior Rich Denicourt and one from Kip Lebel as they were continually frustrated by MAI's outstanding goaltender Andre Tougas, who

Stoners Overcome Malone Upset Bid; Raiders Hand N-N First Loss 64-57

He came around when we really needed him. John did a great job. It was his best floor game of the year. He was directing everyone and running the offense. He was the key to our win," said Kmack.

Malone earned Kmack's praises also for their spirited play against a state-ranked team. He said, "Give Malone credit. They handled our pressure well at times and they made us run our offense well. Coach Rider had his kids prepared and playing hard."

N-N Loses First
Previously unbeaten Norwood-Norfolk fell from the perfect ranks when Massena upended them 64-57 last Friday night, avenging an earlier loss to N-N in the Can-Am Tournament finals.

Montross, one of Division I's outstanding players, poured in 20 points to lead the Red Raiders to

their big win. Macauley and Scott Griffin added 14 and 10 points, respectively.

Scott Henry, the NAC's leading scorer, continued his hot shooting, pumping in 24 points. Sophomore Jeff Wellings added 14 markers.

The Flyers edged Clifton-Fine 83-75 last Tuesday in a very physical game. Henry was again high scorer with 26 points, while Scott Collins contributed 24 points and Matt Morgan added 10.

Four players hit double figures for C-F. Jim Brown led the Indians with 17 points, followed by Tony Woods (13), Mike Terry (12), and Dave Myers (11).

Panthers Win In OT
Senior guard Chris Richards pumped in 20 points to lead Parishville-Hopkinton to an exciting 60-56 overtime win over St. Lawrence Central last Friday.



WHAT FOUL? — Jen Stoddard (22), a junior at Potsdam is Michelle MacGregor (5) and Belinda Potsdam High, is fouled by two different Malone Martin (14). (Dan Williams photo) players during last week's Stoner win. Looking on for

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Steve Hayes added 14 and Mike Snell poured in 12 points for the 3-1 Panthers. Joe Reome led SLC with 19 points and John Southwick added 10.

P-H led at the half but a strong Larrie second half knotted the score at 53 after regulation time.

C-P Splits
Colton-Pierrepoint improved their Division II record to 2-1 with a convincing 63-43 win over Madrid-Waddington last Friday.



FACE OFF — Potsdam High's Kip Lebel is ready to win the face-off in the Stoners' zone Saturday against MAI. Lebel had a goal but it wasn't enough as Potsdam lost 5-3. (Dan Williams photo)

Ski Trail Notes

BY JERRY LEEK
All of the statistics are not available about the very fine Christmas season that the ski areas had. At least among most alpine resorts, it was a record. The season in the east was not quite as good for cross country skiing because there was generally speaking more ice at the Nordic resorts. Nonetheless many of them also did quite well.

On the Saturday after New Year's, I went to Mad River and Sugarbush and could not get a decent place to park so I went home rather than ski. There were tremendous crowds in southern Vermont and at nearly all New York resorts.

Over the holidays, the wait at times at Whiteface was 45 minutes on the number two chair lift. Unfortunately, the number six lift was not yet finished. Many skiers at Whiteface thought that the number six lift was not opened because there was not enough snow. That just was not the case. There is now quite a bit of snow up there but the new lift simply was not finished. It is very difficult to finish constructing such a lift this time of year. I know it was a late decision to build the lift, and with all of the rain that we had last summer it comes as no surprise that the lift is not yet com-

pleted. I have no idea when the lift will be finished. When the lift is finally completed, it will make Whiteface once again the alpine resort with the greatest vertical drop in the east, a vertical drop of 3,250 or about 200 feet more than Killington in Vermont. It certainly will be impressive whenever it is in operation. Recreational skiers will be able to ski the olympic downhill on the same trails that the olympic competitors used during the 1980 games. Even more important is the fact that the ORDA intends to construct an intermediate trail from the top so that the beautiful view can be enjoyed by more skiers than just experts.

I know that it was a good thing that the ski season started off so well. The crowds came out because the weather was rather warm unlike the weather that frequently drives so many away during the holiday season. On the other hand, it is sometimes very difficult to contend with the long lines of traffic going to and coming from the ski area, the long lines while waiting to get something to eat, and the long line to go to the bathroom.

If you intend to ski during holiday periods, I suggest that you ski areas with slope-side accommodations. The best areas in the east for

slope-side accommodations are Okemo-Bolton Valley, and Smuggler's Notch. In recent years, the slope-side capability of Stratton, Killington, and Sugarbush have improved greatly. If you have the time to go for a ski week to one of these resorts, it is nice to have your own kitchen and bathroom if you are skiing during a holiday week.

I never ceased to be amazed at how many of the famous alpine resorts are getting into the cross country ski business. I guess the answer is that there is so many Nordic skiers these days that it pays to cater to them. Waterville Valley, New Hampshire, long well known as a Kennedy alpine ski area, now has quite a cross country facility. Waterville Valley is hosting the "Good and Plenty White Mountain Marathon" on Jan. 31. It is a 50-kilometer marathon.

Winter Park, Colorado which also started as an alpine ski area is hosting the "Colorado Marathon in the Rockies." This event is Jan. 17. Many other alpine resorts, while they are not hosting a marathon which is a part of the Great American Ski Chase, are nevertheless constructing and maintaining many miles of cross country ski trails. It is a good supplement to alpine skiing.