

# SPORTS

## North Star stumbles in play-in loss

SPRING MILLS — The North Star boys basketball season ended Tuesday with a disappointing 49-40 loss to Penns Valley in a PIAA Class AA play-in game.

North Star, the District 5 No. 2 seed, mustered just three points in the fourth quarter while District 6 No. 3 seed Penns Valley poured in 18 points.

"The shot more foul shots than us," head coach Jack Loya said. "We out-rebounded them. We outplayed them for the most part. We just couldn't get it done."

Loya credited Alijah Petrilla for

taking responsibility of the ball and Luke Zellem for good underneath play. Zellem led the Cougars, and all-scorers, with 28 points.

"Jacob Fleegle and Tyler Zborovancik had very good defensive games and the Zimmerman twins really hustled to the ball. We wish we were moving on to the first round but, I don't envy Penns Valley having to play the District 7 No. 1 seed now."

Three Penns Valley players finished in double-digits. Kyle Hockenberry and Kevin Montmine scored 12 points apiece and Brian Lee added 10 points.

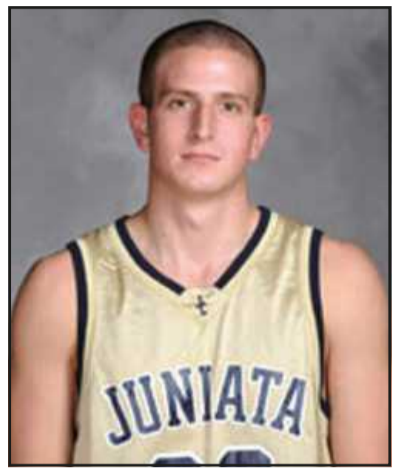
Loya also credited assistant coaches Kent Bass and Mike Dunlap for doing a tremendous job with the players this season.

The Cougars finished the season with a 17-8 record.

**North Star:** Petrilla 3 2 8, Zellem 9 3 28, Fleegle 4 0 9, Zborovancik 1 0 2, Joe Zimmerman 0 0 0, Jor. Zimmerman 0 0 0. Totals: 17 5-6 40.

**Three-pointers:** Fleegle 1  
**Penns Valley:** Lee 5 0 10, Kieffer 1 0 2, Montmine 1 9 12, Hockenberry 4 3 12, Zeren 2 0 5, Debot 2 4 8. Totals: 15 16-18 49.

**Three-pointers:** Zeren 1, Hockenberry 1, Montmine 1  
**North Star** 6 19 12 3 - 40  
**Penns Valley** 9 7 15 18 - 49



Submitted photo

Jeff Berkey

... Juniata College standout

## Berkey earns all-conference team honors

HUNTINGDON — Juniata College junior guard Jeff Berkey was the lone Juniata College representative on the All-Landmark Conference men's basketball teams, which were announced Tuesday.

Berkey, a former Shanksville-Stonycreek standout, was a second team all-conference selection after averaging 13.3 points and 2.3 rebounds this season.

He was tied for seventh in the league in scoring, and was second in the Landmark in free throw shooting with a .841 (58-69) percentage at the line. Berkey was also fourth in the conference in 3-point field goals made (2.20/g), and seventh in 3-point shooting percentage (.399).

Berkey recorded 17 double-digit scoring performances in 2008-09, including six 20-point games. He scored a career-high 29 points in Juniata's 79-75 overtime win over Drew University, a performance that earned Berkey Landmark Conference Player of the Week and ECAC Division III South Region Player of the Week honors.

Juniata finished the season with a 7-18 mark, 5-9 in the Landmark Conference, and was tied for fifth place in the league standings.

### Sports on TV

- Wednesday BASEBALL** 4:30 a.m.  
ESPN2 — World Baseball Classic, round 1, China vs. Japan, at Tokyo
- MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL** 10 p.m.  
WGN — Preseason, Chicago Cubs vs. Chicago White Sox, at Las Vegas
- MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL** 7 p.m.  
ESPN — North Carolina at Virginia Tech
- 7:30 p.m.  
ESPN2 — Marquette at Pittsburgh
- 9:30 p.m.  
ESPN2 — Kansas at Texas Tech
- NBA BASKETBALL** 9 p.m.  
ESPN — San Antonio at Dallas

- Transactions BASEBALL National League**
- MILWAUKEE BREWERS—Agreed to terms with RHP Yovani Gallardo on a one-year contract.
- American Association**
- FORT WORTH CATS—Signed LHP Ryan Fiddle and INF Pat O'Sullivan.
- ST. PAUL SAINTS—Sold the contract of RHP Dustin Cameron to Philadelphia (NL).
- Can-Am League**
- BROCKTON ROX—Signed C Lee Rubin.
- SUSSEX SKYHAWKS—Released RHP Rich Lawyer, RHP Khalid Affly, C Cliff Panzech and RHP Eric Thomas. Traded LHP Craig Snipp to Washington (Frontier) for RHP Mike Schellinger.

- FOOTBALL National Football League**
- DALLAS COWBOYS—Signed LB Matt Stewart to a one-year contract.
- KANSAS CITY CHIEFS—Named Ronnie Bradford defensive assistant coach and Nick Sirianni offensive quality control coach.
- MIAMI DOLPHINS—Signed C Jake Grove to a multiyear contract.
- SEATTLE SEAHAWKS—Signed WR T.J. Houshmandzadeh.
- TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS—Signed RB Derrick Ward to a four-year contract.

- HOCKEY National Hockey League**
- CALGARY FLAMES—Claimed D Lawrence Nycholat off waivers from Vancouver.
- CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS—Recalled C Tim Brent from Rockford (AHL). Assigned RW Jack Skille to Rockford.
- MINNESOTA WILD—Signed G Niklas Backstrom to a four-year contract.
- MONTREAL CANADIENS—Assigned F Kyle Chipchura to Hamilton (AHL).
- NEW YORK RANGERS—Claimed F Sean Avery off waivers from Dallas.
- PHILADELPHIA FLYERS—Recalled F Claude Giroux from Philadelphia (AHL). Assigned D Nate Guenin and F Jared Ross to Philadelphia.
- American Hockey League**
- ALBANY RIVER RATS—Announced Carolina (NHL) recalled C Dwight Helminen.
- ECHL**
- ECHL—Suspended Stockton F Igor Gongalsky for two games and fined him for his actions in a game at Idaho on March 1.

## Kunitz nets 2 goals in Penguins win

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Chris Kunitz had two goals to lead the Pittsburgh Penguins past the Tampa Bay Lightning 3-1 on Tuesday night.

Matt Cooke also scored for the Penguins, eighth in the Eastern Conference. Marc-Andre Fleury made his 14th consecutive start, posting a 9-4-1 record over that stretch.

Pittsburgh captain Sidney Crosby missed his fourth straight game — all Penguins victories — due to a groin injury. He did take part in Tuesday's morning skate, though.

Tampa Bay got a goal from Vinny Prospal. The Lightning have lost 12 of 16.

### Flyers 4, Bruins 2

BOSTON (AP) — Simon Gagne had two goals and an assist and Mike Knuble had a goal and two assists, leading the Philadelphia Flyers to a 4-2 victory over the Boston Bruins on Tuesday night.

Antero Nittymaki stopped 22 shots and Scottie Upshall also scored for Philadelphia, which stopped a two-game losing streak. The Flyers have won six of their last nine games to solidify their hold on fourth place in the Eastern Conference and a potential home-ice advantage in the first round of the playoffs.

### Panthers 4, Thrashers 3

ATLANTA (AP) — Rookie Michael Frolik scored two goals, Stephen Weiss had three assists and the Florida Panthers held off the Atlanta Thrashers 4-3 on Tuesday night.

Cory Stillman and Richard Zednik also scored as the Panthers moved into fifth place in the Eastern Conference, one point behind idle Montreal.

### Hurricanes 5, Capitals 2

WASHINGTON (AP) — Carolina's Patrick Eaves scored twice, and the Hurricanes produced goals every which way — penalty shot, short-handed, power play, even strength — in a 5-2 victory over the Capitals on Tuesday night, Washington's second consecutive lopsided loss at home.

Eaves entered with three goals in 57 games this season, but he nearly doubled that output in a 10½-minute span of the second period against rookie goalie Michal Neuvirth, who started for Washington because Jose Theodore had the flu.

Eric Staal scored on a penalty shot, Eaves and Matt Cullen put in short-handed goals less than 4 minutes apart, Chad LaRose tallied during a 5-on-5, and Eaves' power-play goal made it 5-0 with about 2 minutes left in the second period.

### NHL schedule

- Wednesday's Games**
- Montreal at Buffalo, 7:30 p.m.
- Detroit at Colorado, 9 p.m.



AP photo

Pittsburgh Penguins' Chris Kunitz, center, celebrates his goal against the Tampa Bay Lightning with teammates Jordan Staal (11) and Tyler Kennedy (48) during the first period of an NHL hockey game Tuesday in Tampa, Fla.

## Ponson using WBC as big league tryout

BRADENTON, Fla. (AP) — Sidney Ponson looks at the World Baseball Classic as one big job interview.

Ponson, a free-agent who has won just 14 games over the past three years, has not yet signed with a major league team for 2009. The right-hander hopes to attract attention by pitching for Netherlands in the WBC.

He got off to a rocky start Tuesday, giving up three runs and five hits over three innings of the Netherlands' 5-4 loss to the Pittsburgh Pirates on Tuesday.

"So far, nobody has called," Ponson said. "I definitely don't want to hang up the spikes just yet. I think I still have a lot of baseball in me."

Ponson threw 69 pitches — one less than the maximum pitch count for WBC starters in the first round of the tourney. Ponson walked four and struck out three.

"It's a matter of getting back in the groove, getting my arm strength back up, and going from there," Ponson said. "If you can throw three innings,

70 pitches, in early March and your arm doesn't hurt, it's always good."

The 33-year-old Ponson made 24 starts last year for the Texas Rangers and New York Yankees, and went 8-5 with a 5.04 ERA. He will start the Netherlands' WBC opener Saturday against the Dominican Republic.

"Arm strength and conditioning-wise, he's in great shape," Netherlands pitching coach Bert Blyleven said. "His fastball is in the low 90s. He's lost 20 pounds. He's looking for a job and this gives him an opportunity."

Ponson is not the only Netherlands player hoping to find work with a good tournament. First baseman Randall Simon hasn't played in the majors since 2006, when he appeared in 23 games for the Philadelphia Phillies.

"I hope I perform (well) and show I can still play at the major league level," Simon said. "It's great exposure for me. I'm in shape. I know I can still play."

Simon had a run-scoring single in the first inning off Pirates right-

hander Ross Ohlendorf. Ohlendorf pitched two innings and gave up one run on four hits.

### PIAA boys basketball

EDITOR'S NOTE — The Church Farm vs. Freeland MMI Prep game was suspended with 4:38 left in fourth quarter due to a leaky roof. Church Farm was leading 49-45 when the game was suspended.

- Class AAAA Play-In Round**
- Glen Mills 79, Hazleton Area 72
- North Hills 66, Schenley 50
- Pittsburgh Central Catholic 71, Hollidaysburg 66
- Seneca Valley 46, Erie McDowell 44
- Class AAA Play-In Round**
- Erie East 64, St. Marys 39
- Oliver 67, Valley 58
- Class AA Play-In Round**
- Penns Valley 49, North Star 40
- Prep Charter 75, Devon Prep 48
- Washington 61, Cranberry 29
- Class A Play-In Round**
- Camp Hill 66, Boys' Latin Charter 56
- Church Farm vs. Freeland MMI Prep, suspended.

## Four state champs at two weights in PIAA wrestling

HERSHEY (AP) — Two into one won't go, but that didn't discourage a pair of PIAA wrestling champions.

Dylan Alton of Central Mountain and Zac Bennett of Westmont Hilltop chose to move into weight classes already occupied by a PIAA champion. By doing so, they created the possibility that a pair of championship bouts on Saturday could feature a combined four state champions.

The three-day tournament begins Thursday at the Giant Center in Hershey.

North Star's Nick Roberts and Andy Darr are the only two state qualifiers from Somerset County. Roberts, a freshman, won the Southwest Regional Class AA title last week at 103 pounds while Darr, a senior, finished fifth at 152.

Alton (43-0), a junior, and Cumberland Valley senior Joey Napoli (42-0) are entered at 145 pounds in Triple-A. Napoli is the defending champion, while Alton won at 135 last season.

The predetermined pairings had Alton and Napoli in the same half of the bracket, but the PIAA shifts the brackets whenever that occurs to prevent two champions from meeting until the finals.

Bennett (36-1) is a two-time Class AA finalist who won at 189 pounds in 2007, but he was injured during the postseason last year. To win another title, he may have to defeat returning 189-pound champion Shady Side Academy senior Roman SanDoval (47-4).

Bennett couldn't do that in the Southwest regional on Saturday, losing to SanDoval 13-4.

Two returning champions are trying for to win for the third time, Penn-Trafford senior Shane Young (38-1) at Class AAA 119 pounds and Shady Side Academy senior Dane Johnson (49-2) at Class AA 140 pounds.

"I was hoping for a third consecutive unbeaten season," said Young, who had a 100-match win streak snapped by Bellefonte's Mitchell Port on Dec. 20. "The loss actually helped me a little. It made me work harder and allowed me to focus on the most important goal of winning another PIAA title."

Other returning Triple-A champions are Blue Mountain senior Cordland Choate, Central Dauphin junior Marshall Peppleman, Clearfield senior Sean Owen and Hempfield (Dist. 7) senior Jake

Kemerer.

Choate (47-6) has moved to 130 pounds after winning at 125 last season. Peppleman (42-0) is a two-time PIAA finalist who won at 140 last year and is now at 152. Owen (39-0) returns at heavy-weight, as does Kemerer (44-0) at 160.

"I need four more wins to claim another state title," said Kemerer, who remained unbeaten with a narrow 2-1 victory against West Mifflin's James Fleming in their regional 7 title match. "I just have to stay focused and avoid mistakes. And it wouldn't surprise me if James (Fleming) and I had a rematch in the state finals."

Fleming had a chance to win a fourth consecutive regional (WPIAL) championship, but moved up a weight class to take on Kemerer. To Fleming, it was more important to take on the best wrestler in his region than it was to stay at 152 pounds and win a title that wouldn't have meant as much to him.

The other Class AA champions entered are Keystone Oaks senior Anthony Zanetta, Montoursville sophomore Luke Frey, Shady Side Academy's Frank Martellotti, Sharon's Jordan Moss, and Couderdport's Dirk Cowburn.