

Via Classic returns

The Via All-Star Basketball Classic returns for its 33rd year to raise funds for Via of the Lehigh Valley's programs for adults and children with disabilities. Keystone Nazareth Bank & Trust, a division of National Penn Bank, returns as the lead sponsor for the Via All-Star Basketball Classic that showcases the basketball talents of local area student athletes.

The Via All-Star Classic Banquet is Thursday, March 27, 2008 at 6 pm at Freedom High School and Via Super Saturday is March 29, 2008, also at Freedom. Games begin at 10:30 am.

This year, the Via All-Star Classic moves to conference versus conference play at the urging of conference basketball coaches and the media. The Via All-Star Classic features the 80 best male and female high school basketball players in the greater Lehigh Valley, selected from the Lehigh Valley, Colonial League and Mountain Valley Conferences and several independent schools (Faith Christian, Notre Dame of East Stroudsburg, Moravian Academy, Pius X and Phillipsburg).

"After last year's event, we heard from coaches and the media that they wanted to capitalize on the natural rivalries that exist between conferences and move toward conference versus conference play," said Gerry Yasso, Via Events vice president. "This year, the Lehigh Valley conference will be split into the Lehigh Valley East and West and will play against the Colonial and Mountain Valley Conferences. It should make for some exciting games that showcase this year's great senior basketball class."

"It will definitely increase the incentives for players to compete at the top of their sport and boost the competitiveness of the games," said Pat Boyle, boys head basketball coach, Notre Dame Green Pond High School. "Players are going to play for the pride of their conference - they want to prove which league is the most formidable."

All proceeds benefit Via of the Lehigh Valley, a non-profit human service agency that provides services for children and adults with disabilities. Via's staff help individuals and families from birth through retirement focusing in: Children's Services, Community Connections and Employment Services.

Via works with children up to age three in their homes and daycares to address disabilities and delays. Via trains daycare center staff so children with disabilities can go to school and learn with their peers. Via finds jobs in the community for adults and provides coaching and training for successful employment. And Via helps people volunteer in the community, participate in leisure activities, and find or purchase affordable, accessible housing. Via believes that personal satisfaction and dignity are achieved through individual success and independence and is committed to helping people live full and productive lives.

Tickets for the Via All-Star Banquet and Via Super Saturday are on sale now at ViaNet.org.

Sponsor information is also available online at ViaNet.org or by calling 484-893-5389. Doors open on Via Super Saturday at 9:30 am and one ticket allows you to see all four games.

Tom Brennan to Speak at Via All-Star Basketball Classic

The Via All-Star Basketball Classic announced that Tom Brennan will be the keynote speaker for the Via All-Star Banquet on March 27, 2008 at Freedom High School.

Radio and television sportscaster, Brennan is the former men's basketball head coach at the University of Vermont from 1986 to 2005. Brennan, an ESPN analyst, delivers Saturday Night Live-style sports reports and weighs in on basketball, politics, entertainment, local news and psychology. Raised in Phillipsburg, NJ, Brennan graduated as the all-time leading scorer at Phillipsburg Catholic High School and graduated from the University of Georgia. Brennan is often said to be Vermont's most famous personality.

Lehigh Valley High School Basketball Hall of Fame Announces Inductees

The Lehigh Valley Basketball Hall of Fame announced the 2008 Inductees to be honored at the Via All-Star Banquet. The Hall of Fame was established in 1978 and honors individuals who have made outstanding contributions to high school basketball in the Lehigh Valley.

The 2008 Inductees are:

Jeff Dailey (Notre Dame Green Pond High School) 2000 - 2004

Julie Amato (Notre Dame Green Pond High School) 1991 - 1995

Tiffany Bedics Gallis (Bethlehem Catholic High School) 1991 - 1995

Glenn Noack (Whitehall High School) 1978 - 1982

GIRLS

Lehigh Valley East

Hannah Ally (Phillipsburg, guard), Ally Blair (Bethlehem Catholic, center), Rebecca Dalton (Freedom, forward), Steph DeVito (Nazareth, forward), Lindsey Gyulai (Nazareth, guard), Lakresha Johnson (Easton, guard), Kayleigh Kalamar (Freedom, guard), Meghan Lafaw (Northampton, guard), Ashley Santee (Northampton, guard)

Head coach: Jeff Jacksits (Northampton)

Lehigh Valley West

Christina Carpenter (Emmaus, forward), Megan Derkits (Central Catholic, guard), Kristy George (Whitehall, guard), Lindsey Cosse (Allen, center), Courtney Harmon (Dieruff, guard), Julie Heimbach (Central Catholic, forward), Brit Kholi (Dieruff, guard), Ashley Slater (Allen, guard), Lauren Tang (Central Catholic, forward), Alaura Workman (Allen, guard)

Head coach: Tom Gallagher (Allen)

Mountain Valley

Monae Baker (East Stroudsburg North, forward), Kirsten Caiazza (Pius X, forward), Paige Carlin (Pocono Mountain East, guard), Steph Cason (East Stroudsburg South, forward), Kelsey Gallagher (East Stroudsburg Stouh, guard), Nadira Johnson (East Stroudsburg North, guard), Lauren Keating (Pleasant Valley, center), Angela Lockard (Pocono Mountain West, forward), Amanda Riley (Pocono Mountain East, guard), Christina Smith (Pocono Mountain East, forward)



Left, Megan Lafaw and, above, Ashley Santee will represent the girls at the Via All-Star Classic

Head coach: Jim Taylor (Pleasant Valley)

Colonial League

Jenna Bartholomew (Palmerton, forward), Haley Ellis (Bangor, guard), Amanda Gerhard (Catasauqua, guard), Emma Lacey (Catasauqua, forward), Katie Miller (Pen Argyl, center), Emily Mullen (Notre Dame of East Stroudsburg, guard), Adrienne RaHS (Saucon Valley, guard), Caitlyn Rockle (Southern Lehigh, guard), Krista Ruhle (Notre Dame of Green Pond, guard), Kelly Sauerzopf (Saucon Valley, forward)

Head coach: Don Cardinal (Wilson)

BOYS

Lehigh Valley East

Jack Buckley (Phillipsburg, guard), Sergio Camacho (Liberty, guard), Daniel Cenchtiz (Northampton, guard), Derek Hall (Northampton, center), Joseph Herman (Easton, center), Andrew Miller (Easton, guard), Jameel Seymour (Northampton, guard), Datarous Sledge (Easton, forward), Andy Stein (Freedom, center), Trevor VanAckeren (Liberty, guard)

Head coach: Todd Rothrock (Liberty)

Lehigh Valley West

Ricardo Bailey (Allen, forward), Matt Hamscher (Whitehall, guard), Nate Martin (Central Catholic, guard), Kevin McKeegan (Emmaus, guard), Steve Neikam (Parkland, forward), Carlos Pujols (Central Catholic, center), Corey Steltz (Emmaus, forward), Travis Stoudt (Dieruff, guard), Paul Tarr (Dieruff, center), Jordan Wenner (Allen, center)

Head coach: Tom Stoudt (Dieruff)

Mountain Valley

Neil Baskerville (Stroudsburg, forward), Isiah Gerhart (Faith Christian, guard), Justin Grotevant (Pocono Mountain East, forward), Anthony Hargrove (Pius X, forward), Matt Lepri (Pocono Mountain East, guard), Phil Leyro (Pocono Mountain West, forward), Jon Mangual (Pocono Mountain West, guard), Will Purtil (Pius X, guard), Martrell Terrell (Stroudsburg, guard), Brandon Williams (Lehigh, guard)

Head coach: Brad Pensyl (Pocono Mountain West)

Colonial League

Trevor Behler (Northern Lehigh, guard), Jamey Bercier (Notre Dame of East Stroudsburg, center), Doug Case (Catasauqua, center), Jimmy Hoffman (Northwestern, forward), Alex Kahan (Moravian, guard), Phil McEachron (Northern Lehigh, forward), Mike Schmersahl (Southern Lehigh, forward), Dan Silver (Saucon Valley, forward), Joe Wagner (Southern Lehigh, guard), Jake Waylen (Northern Lehigh, guard)

Head coach: Rich Oertner (Northern Lehigh)

Three-point contestants

Paige Carlin (Pocono Mountain East), Lindsey Gyulai (Nazareth), Derek Hall (Northampton), Alex Kahan (Moravian), Kayleigh Kalamar (Freedom), Nate Martin (Central Catholic), Andrew Miller (Easton), Emily Mullen (Notre Dame of East Stroudsburg), Will Purtil (Pius X), Donna Weil (Northern Lehigh)

Schedule of events

Freedom High School Gymnasium, Bethlehem, PA

Saturday, March 29, 2008

10:30 a.m. - Lehigh Valley West vs Colonial League - Girls

12 p.m. - Lehigh Valley West vs Colonial League - Boys

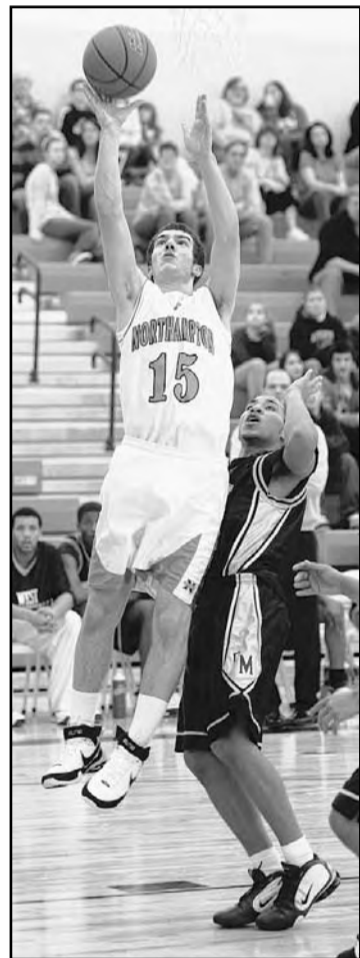
1:30 p.m. - Coordinated Health 3-Point Shooting Contest

2 p.m. - Lehigh Valley East vs Mountain Valley - Girls

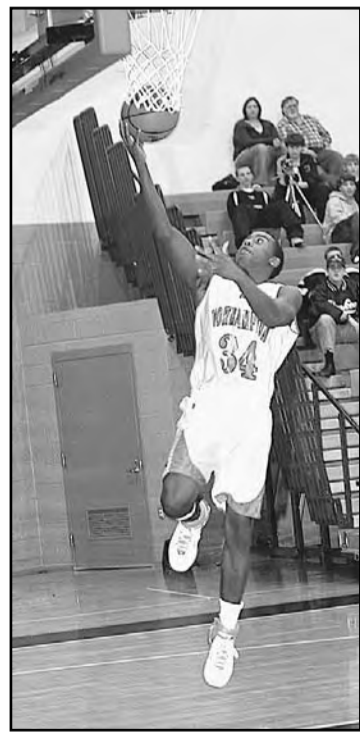
3:30 p.m. - Lehigh Valley East vs Mountain Valley - Boys



Derek Hall



Dan Cenchtiz



Jameel Seymour

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