

# Brennan wows banquet crowd

**VIA ALL-STAR BASKETBALL BANQUET.** ESPN analyst, P'burg Catholic grad is no joke as keynote speaker.

**BY BRUCE BURATTI**  
The Express-Times

**BETHLEHEM TWP.** | Tom Brennan is one of the most recognizable faces in Vermont and now that he's getting face time on ESPN as a men's basketball analyst, he's become more of a global entity.

Not a bad gig for a Phillipsburg Catholic graduate who uses humor to spread the Brennan gospel.

"My last year at the University of Vermont (as head coach), I was recruiting this kid from upstate New York and I wasn't sure if I wanted to visit the family," he said. "I had kidney stones, I was in pain and I was taking some pills, one of the side effects being frequent urination.

"But I went anyway and the kid

lived in a home that must have cost at least a million. I'm sitting on this couch that must have cost \$5,000 and the next thing I know I peed in my pants. I told the young man that I can't give him a car, I can't give him money but I can pee on his couch."

This is just one of several humorous tales Brennan spun before a crowd of 700 at the Via All-Star Basketball Classic banquet which honored four additional Lehigh Valley Basketball Hall of Fame inductees as well as the 80 seniors from the Lehigh Valley and Mountain Valley conferences, Colonial League and independent schools who will be taking part in the four games Saturday in the 33rd

| PLEASE SEE VIA, C6



EXPRESS-TIMES PHOTO | SUE BEYER

**Phillipsburg Catholic graduate Tom Brennan delivers the keynote speech.**

Continued from C1

## VIA: Brennan vows banquet crowd

annual Via Classic at Freedom.

The highlight of the induction ceremony was the addition of Jeff Dailey, Notre Dame of Green Pond's all-time leading scorer (1,742 points) and the No. 2 points producer all-time in Northampton County. (Mike Boyer, who played at Nazareth from 1978-82, is the leader with 1,812).

Dailey died in an apartment fire Nov. 8 just off the campus at East Stroudsburg University where he was a student.

Also inducted was another Notre Dame graduate, Julie Amato, who scored 2,136 from 1991-95. Amato, who is now a doctor of forensic psychology, was introduced by her coach, Tracy Cyr.

Those two were joined by Glenn Noack, a mainstay on Whitehall's 1982 PIAA state championship team and a two-time Pennsylvania Conference Player of the Year at Bloomsburg University; and Tiffany Bedics, who scored 1,807 points at Bethlehem Catholic from 1991-95.

Bedics later starred at Lafayette College where she



EXPRESS-TIMES PHOTO | SUE BEYER

**The 2008 inductees to the Lehigh Valley Hall of Fame are, from left, Dr. Julie Amato, Glenn Noack and Tiffany (Bedics) Gallis. Bobby and Jane Dailey (not pictured), father and mother of the late Jeff Dailey, accepted the honor for their son.**

scored 1,467 points as a four-year starter for coach Pat Fisher.

The most emotional moment occurred when Jane and Bobby Dailey, Jeff's mother and father, accepted the Hall of Fame award in their son's behalf.

"We were blessed to have

(Jeff) for 22 years," an emotional Jane Dailey said. "We had no idea he touched as many people in his short life. A thank-you is not adequate enough to express how much we appreciate what people have done for us."

Noack, who's now a principal at George D. Steckel El-

ementary School, was introduced by Dick Tracy, his high school coach at Whitehall. Mike Zambelli, sports director for Service Electric Cable TV, provided Bedics' introduction.

**Bruce Buratti can be reached at 800-360-3601 or by e-mail at [bburatti@express-times.com](mailto:bburatti@express-times.com).**