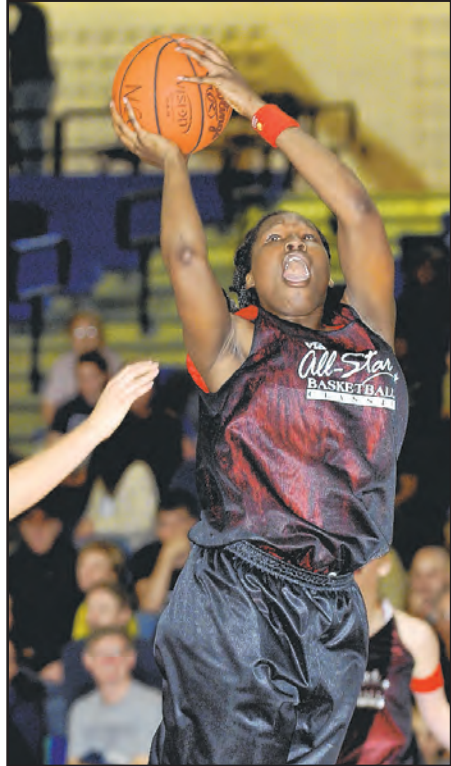


Via game brings rivals together for charity

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BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP - Basketball fans around the country might have been focused on the NCAA Tournament Saturday, but there were eight



STEVE SHINKO/THE PRESS

Sequeena Thomas led the LVC West with 13 points to help her team to a 59-45 win in the Via All-Star Basketball Classic.

teams playing at Northampton Community College that were pretty elite in their own right.

The annual Via All Star Basketball Classic's Super Saturday featured four boys teams and four girls teams with the top high school senior players from three leagues playing in four games.

The Via games give players one last chance to take the court as high school players. And a chance to play against rivals they've battled for the past few years.

"I was pretty excited to be playing with the best girls in the Lehigh Valley," said Parkland's Sequeena Thomas. "The girls are easy to get a long with. It was a lot of fun."

Northampton's Abby Silfies, who plays three high school sports, said she enjoyed getting to know players that have been rivals for the past few years.

"In the season it's really intense and you don't want to talk to them or associate with them," silfies said. "Getting together and playing and having fun in an all star game like this is just great."

The first game of this year's Super Saturday saw Colonial League girls take on the Lehigh Valley Conference West (Lehigh County) girls in the first game of the day. The LVC West prevailed, 59-45. Central Catholic's Jess Flamm scored 12 points in the win. Thomas scored 13 points in the game. Parkland teammate Morgan Taylor scored eight points and Kayla Hasler had one point.

In the second game of the event, the Colonial League boys were able to stay close to the LVC West before falling 104-101. The CL All Stars were ahead 95-91 with under five minutes to play. But the LVC West closed the game with a 13-6 run.

Parkland's Jaleel Clark had 22 points in the game, which saw several dunks on both sides. Fellow Trojans Matt Muhr (five points), Jon Ward (12 points) and MJ Miorelli also played in the game.

The Mountain Valley girls took on the LVC East team in the third game of Super Saturday. The LVC East, which included Northampton County schools and Phillipsburg, won 52-34 in a game that saw a lot more defense than a typical all star game.

The LVC East team, which had just seven players, was led by Phillipsburg's Allyson Scerbo with 15 points.

The MVC boys team was able to keep the LVC from sweeping the event. The Mountain Valley boys team beat the LVC East, 97-94. Pocono Mountain East's Kendall Harris led the MVC with 16 points.

The Via three-point contests, sponsored by Coordinated Health, were won by Freedom's Mike Ceron and East Stroudsburg South's Gina Steakin, with Steakin beating Ceron in the boy-vs-girl three-point shootout final.

Ceron didn't know about the final shootout against Steakin until minutes before he was called onto the court, but he didn't mind. He was just pleased to be part of Super Saturday.



STEVE SHINKO/THE PRESS

Jon Ward scored 12 points to help lead the LVC West to a comeback win over the Colonial League.

"It was a great thrill to be part of the three-point shootout with the best shooters in the Lehigh Valley," he said. "It was a great opportunity. It was a good experience. I just came out here to have fun, not to win, but to have

See **VIA** on Page A14

VIA

Continued from page A13
fun and meet new people. It was great."

BOYS COLONIAL LEAGUE

Huerta 2-0-0-6, Popovice 1-0-0-2, Hughes 5-0-0-12, Davidson 5-0-0-10, Dawson 6-2-3-14, Bonser 3-0-0-6, Grewal 2-3-5-8, Charles 6-0-0-12, Smith 2-1-1-6, Borst 3-0-0-7, Touhey 2-0-0-4, Schmidt 6-1-2-14. TOTALS: 43-7-11-101.

LVC WEST

McPherson 7-1-3-17, Gumbs 2-4-4-8, Muhr 2-0-0-5, Clark 8-6-14-22, Hartwell 0-0-3-0, Miorelli 0-0-1-0, Madouse 3-0-0-6, Ayala 6-3-4-15, Wiseley 1-0-0-2, Talib 4-2-4-10, Ward 6-0-1-12, Odom 3-0-2-7. TOTALS: 42-16-35-104.
Colonial League 44 57 - 101

LVC Wes 49 55 - 104
Three-pointers: CL - Huerta 2, Hughes 2, Grewal 1, Smith 1, Borst 1, Schmidt 1; LVE - McPherson 2, Muhr 1, Odom 1.

GIRLS COLONIAL LEAGUE

Gerchufsky 1-0-2-2, Follweiler 0-0-0-0, Demko 1-0-1-2, Sarah Colton 4-0-2-9, Muschlitz 4-1-2-10, Lacey 0-0-0-0, Parsons 0-0-0-0, Ellis 2-0-0-4, Mish 1-0-0-2, Zabrecky 4-1-2-10, Arndt 1-0-0-3, Dagenhart 1-0-0-3. TOTALS 19-2-11-45.

LVC WEST

Taylor 1-6-6-8, Heckman 0-0-0-0, Guman 1-2-2-5, Smith 4-0-2-8, Hoover 1-1-2-3, Flamm 5-2-2-12, Hassler 0-1-1-1, Koren 1-0-2-2, Jackson 1-0-0-2, Blake 0-0-0-0, VanNatten 2-1-5-5, Thomas 5-3-7-13. TOTALS: 21-16-29-59.

Colonial League 20 25 - 45
LVC West 29 30 - 59

Three-pointers: CL - Colton 1, Muschlitz 1, Zabrecky, Arndt 1, Dagenhart 1; LVW - Guman