



HAWK TALK

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BPFC CHAIR CHAT

This has certainly been a year of change for our club! Our high school team found itself without a conference and we effectively lost our entire coaching staff in one fell swoop.

After 13 years, we have finally said good-bye to Coach Tobias. Coach Tobias was in a tough spot. As his son grows older and gets involved in more activities of his own, Chris was faced with the dilemma of continuing his dedication to the team and losing these years with his son or stepping down. As parents, we all understand his decision to focus more time on his family and we wish him, Richelle and Logan the best. I'm sure within the next year, Chris will be coaching one of Logan's teams!

In addition to Coach Tobias, we have had to say good-bye to Coach Shannon as well. Coach Shannon graduated from Pitt last year and successfully landed a job in Ohio. I know it was tough for Shannon to leave the team but her professional life is just beginning! We all wish Shannon the best in her future career.

In addition to losing our team coaches, we have also had to say good-bye to our Rec coach, Brandon Botzer. Brandon left for Penn State this fall where he will pursue a degree in astrophysics. We have no doubt that Brandon, with his drive and ambition, will be successful in his academic endeavors. With any luck, we will get him back for our summer classes!

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BPFC Chair Chat (Continued from page 1)

As fall approached, we were lucky to get a new team coach onboard. Colin Dewey, formerly of FIA, has signed on as our new Head Coach for both team and Rec. Colin has been a competitive fencer for over 18 years. He was the 1999 Junior Section Champion, the 1996-1999 Pittsburgh Circuit Champion, fenced at Penn State and spent 6 years competing on a national level. For the last 8 years Colin has been coaching all age groups at The Fencing Institute of America in Westview, PA. Colin has attended Coaches College at the USFA's training facility in Colorado Springs and has earned a Level 1 Foil certification. He is also a certified referee in both foil and sabre. To round out his qualifications, Colin has ARC/USOC Sport Safety Training. We are lucky to have hired Colin and look forward to growing as a club with him at the helm.

We are also lucky to now have one of our Board members, Mark Eytcheson, directly involved with the high school team. Mark fenced in college and renewed his interest in the sport last year when he and his two daughters, Morgan and Lexi, joined the Rec program. While Colin is taking the lead in fencing technique, Mark will take the lead in conditioning training. Mark has previous experience as a conditioning trainer for a martial arts studio. Professionally, Mark is a contract software developer currently working with a firm in Los Angeles, CA. He travels to L.A. one week a month so will miss some practices but will be there when he is in town. We are truly grateful to have Mark onboard with the team and appreciate his dedication to our success.

Brandon Rauch, a former BPHS fencer, has stepped up alongside Colin to help teach our youth and adult Rec programs. Due to a shoulder injury, Brandon withdrew from the HS team last year and has been noticeably absent from the competitive fencing scene for a while. Brandon has fenced nationally and will hopefully be back in form soon. Brandon is currently a senior at BPHS and is planning to attend a local college next year so we are hoping he is with us for the long haul!

Along with a new coaching staff, we will also have a new HS league this year. We will now be joining the existing PIFA league (Pittsburgh Interscholastic Fencing Association).

The following teams/coaches will be in our conference this year:

Bethel Park	Colin Dewey/Mark Eytcheson
Mt. Lebanon	Annie Jackson
Peters Township	Elmira Ioultchieva
Seton-LaSalle	Sabrina Murphy
Upper St. Clair	Walter Ullrich/Gio Facco
Taylor-Allerdice	Vince & Brendon Beatty
Winchester-Thurston	Iana Dakova
Pine Richland	Brad Cellier
Oakland/Central Catholic	Charles Murphy
Fox Chapel	Mark Hirsch

BPFC Chair Chat (Continued from page 2)

On October 21, all of the HS coaches in the league held a meeting to discuss the conference, but we have not yet finalized the details. For now, I can tell you all that we will be starting the regular season the first week of February and the league match format will be a nine bout round robin. It looks like we will be splitting the league into two divisions, based on geography. Once we have a finalized schedule, it will be posted on our website as well as distributed at practice.

Although change is sometimes scary and hard to accept, we on the Board are excited for this new direction our HS team is taking this year. We hope you are too!!

Ginny Craven
BPFC Chair

NEW HIGH SCHOOL TEAM ANNOUNCED!

Following two weeks of training camp, the members of the 2009-2010 Bethel Park High School Fencing Team were announced at the close of practice on October 1st. Congratulations to the following students:

Seniors: Brittany Garber, Nikki Klingler, Emma Killmeyer**, Jake Lampenfield, RJ Lampenfield, Kelsey Lauritzen, Leon Schlotfledt* , Jeff Scott, Devon Verner
Juniors: Conor Miller*, Mitch Spiroff, Shelby Welsh
Sophomores: Alex Curtis, Randi Fedela, Sam Wojnarowski
Freshmen: Amanda Goldberg*
8th Grade: Jarrod Cingel*

The team started their regular practice schedule the following Tuesday.

(*denotes rookie season; **returned to squad after hiatus)

USFA MEMBERSHIP - *REQUIRED!*

Club members who intend to compete during the upcoming season and all high school team members are reminded to renew/obtain their USFA membership. This can be done online (www.usfencing.org), through the mail or by fax (an application is attached to this newsletter), or at a USFA event. The membership year runs from August 1, 2009 through July 31, 2010. Please remember to list the BETHEL PARK FENCING CLUB, WESTERN PA DIVISION as your competition club. Currently, the Junior Competitive membership is \$60/year. There are various other memberships available.

Your membership includes a quarterly subscription to *American Fencing Magazine*, secondary medical/accident insurance which covers USFA sanctioned events, voting privileges for those 18 and over, discounts on travel and equipment through the USFA website, and a membership card that recognizes you as a member of US Fencing. Your dues also support the sport of fencing at all levels.

The club will need to have a record of your number on file. Please email your name and USFA number to Ginny Craven (gcraven@bpfencing.org) as soon as possible. For additional information, please refer to the USFA website.

REFEREE CLINIC NOVEMBER 14th

Iana Dakova, of the Fencing Officials Commission, will be holding a Referee's Clinic on November 14th from 9AM-4PM at Three Rivers Fencing Center. She will also be conducting written and practical referee's exams during this time. The cost is \$50 per person. Pre-registration is required by November 11th. If you are interested in becoming a referee or have taken at least one FOC clinic in the past year and wish to take the exam, please see the additional information listed under the Division News tab of the Western PA Division of the USFA website (www.westernpafencing.com). A link to pre-register or to contact Iana with any questions you might have can also be found on that page.

BPFC - E & UNDER

Mark your calendars! The BPFC will be hosting an E & Under event on Saturday, November 21st at the Community Center beginning at 9:30. Both mixed foil and mixed epee are scheduled. The entrance fee is \$20 per event if pre-registered, or \$30 at the door. Preregistration closes on 11/18/09 (www.askfred.net). All team/club members are encouraged to attend. Fencers new to the Rec program are encouraged to come and watch our more experienced fencers in action. The club will also need parent volunteers to help make the event run smoothly. Our infamous concession stand will be available that day, too. Let's make this year's event even more fun and successful than last year's!

North American Cup Comes to Pittsburgh!

The David L. Lawrence Convention Center will be the venue for the NAC-Division I/Veterans/Wheelchair tournament scheduled for December 4-6, 2009. Hosted by the United States Fencing Association, this national level event gives fencers from across the country and around the world the opportunity to fence other athletes of similar ability and age. Division I fencers must have an A, B, or C rating and be born in 1996 or before. Events for veteran fencers (over the age of 40) will include combined, 50-59, 60+, and 70 and older age groups. There will also be competitions in each weapon for wheelchair fencers.

The following chart gives the events scheduled for each day; however times are not currently available:

Date	M. Epée	M. Foil	M. Sabre	W. Epée	W. Foil	W. Sabre
Friday, Dec 4	Veteran	Vet 50-9	Division I	Division I	Vet 50-9	Veteran
	Wheelchair	Vet 60+	Vet 70+	Vet 70+	Vet 60+	Wheelchair
Saturday, Dec 5	Division I	Veteran	Vet 50-9	Veteran	Division I	Vet 50-9
	Vet 70+	Wheelchair	Vet 60+	Wheelchair	Vet 70+	Vet 60+
Sunday, Dec 6	Vet 50-9	Division I	Veteran	Vet 50-9	Veteran	Division I
	Vet 60+	Vet 70+	Wheelchair	Vet 60+	Wheelchair	Vet 70+

This would be a great opportunity to see fencing at its finest! Check the US Fencing website for additional information on this event (www.usfencing.org). Also, if you're looking for equipment of any kind, the following vendors will be at the convention center: Absolute Fencing, Blue Gauntlet, Leon Paul, Marx Enterprises, SG Fencing, Sword Masters, Team IP and The Fencing Post.

BPFC FIRST PENGUIN VISITS STANLEY CUP



This summer, the BPFC First Penguin got a chance to hang out with the Pittsburgh Penguins and Penguin management! Current guardian, Alex Curtis, attended a Pen's party and took a picture of him with the Stanley Cup. They both enjoyed the once in a lifetime opportunity immensely.

THANK YOU, CHRIS WILLIAMS!

While on leave from the military, former Bethel Park fencer, Chris Williams (2003 – 2006) shared his fencing expertise with the high school team during practices at the Community Center. Chris will be stationed in California for the remainder of his enlistment. The club would like to thank him for his dedication and help, and we look forward to his assistance in the future when he returns to the area.

BPFC PIZZA PARTY

The BPFC hosted a pizza party at Ginny Craven's house for all high school team members and their parents on October 10th. This was a great chance for the parents and team to get better acquainted with each other in a non-fencing atmosphere. The team had a chance to practice their DDR and karaoke skills, and the adults watched the 2009 World Fencing Championships and conversed. Everyone seemed to enjoy the evening and the club hopes to continue the tradition in the future.

OPEN GYM

Open Gym is currently being held on the 1st Wednesday of every month from 6:30 – 9:00 PM. This is a great opportunity to come and practice your bouting skills. Everyone is welcome to attend. All BPFC class participants and high school team members are free. A floor fee of \$5.00 is charged to Bethel Park residents (\$7.00 for non-residents) if you are not currently enrolled in our program.

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE BPFC

The holidays are right around the corner and if you're looking for a unique gift for that hard-to-buy-for someone in your family, why not consider some team attire from **N'Sew On** (www.nsewon.com).

N'Sew On has over 300 different apparel items, bags and accessories to choose from. Just look through all of the Spirit Wear items they offer, and when you find what you're looking for, choose **Bethel Park** as the group, and **Bethel Park Fencing** under the design selection to choose your design option.

You can customize your order with personalized text, too. Fencers and fencing parents alike love these items! And a percentage of your purchase will be donated to the club!





NOVEMBER 2009

website: www.bpfencing.org email: info@bpfencing.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 IUP "Spooktacular" (D and Under)	2 Youth Class 5:45 - 6:45 PM Rec Class 7:00 - 8:30	3 Team Practice 7:00 - 9:00 PM	4 OPEN GYM 6:30 - 9:00 pm	5 Team Practice 7:00 - 9:00 PM	6	7
8	9 Youth Class 5:45 - 6:45 PM Rec Class 7:00 - 8:30	10 Team Practice 7:00 - 9:00 PM	11	12 Team Practice 7:00 - 9:00 PM	13	14
15	16 Youth Class 5:45 - 6:45 PM Rec Class 7:00 - 8:30	17 Team Practice 7:00 - 9:00 PM	18	19 Team Practice 7:00 - 9:00 PM	20	21 BPFC E & Under 9:00 AM
22	23 Youth Class 5:45 - 6:45 PM Rec Class 7:00 - 8:30	24 Team Practice 7:00 - 9:00 PM	25	26 HAPPY THANKSGIVING!	27	28
29	30 Youth Class 5:45 - 6:45 PM Rec Class 7:00 - 8:30 LAST WEEK!					



BPFC COACHING STAFF

BPFC Head Coach:	Colin Dewey	dewey-colin@comcast.net 412-638-9390
BPFC Asst Coaches:	Mark Eytcheson Brandon Rauch	meytcheson@bpfencing.org bpfencer518@yahoo.com

BPFC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairperson:	Ginny Craven	gcraven@bpfencing.org
Vice Chair:	Mark Eytcheson	meytcheson@bpfencing.org
Treasurer:	Linda Botzer	lbotzer@bpfencing.org
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Secretary:	Mary Killmeyer	mkillmeyer@bpfencing.org