

Math stars capture crown again

VALLEY STUDENTS defeat teams from around the country.

BY DOUGLAS B. BRILL
The Express-Times

A Lehigh Valley-based youth mathematics team won a nationwide tournament Saturday for the second consecutive year.

A team of 60 students from the Lehigh Valley and neighboring areas bested 121 other teams to win the 35th annual American Regions Mathe-

matics League competition held at Penn State University.

Coach Don Davis, a mathematics professor at Lehigh University, credited teamwork for the win. He said the team fared poorly on individual questions, which are a quarter of the competition, but “dominated” team questions.

“We practice a lot and we have a very talented and enthusiastic team,” said Davis, 65, who coached the team for

a 30th year. “They come to practices regularly ... and we developed a great amount of team chemistry, I’d guess you’d say.”

Liberty High School juniors Ben Kraft and Shonak Patel were two of 15 members on the title-winning “A” team. The Lehigh Valley team is comprised of four groups of 15 competitors each.

“I think we do it with teamwork,” Kraft said. “We have smart people, not necessarily the smartest people in

the country, but we work well as a team. And I think we have fun with it.”

A Lehigh Valley team also took first in 2005 in addition to 2009 and this year.

Penn State University was one of four venues used for the event. It accumulated 204 points to finish well ahead of two teams from California.

Other competition sites were the University of Georgia, the University of Iowa and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

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MURDER: Woman is found strangled

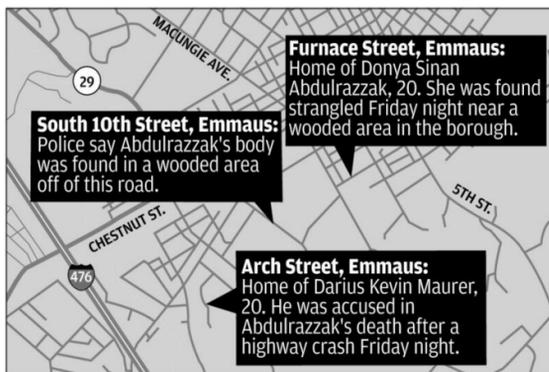
four hours later.

Abdulrazzak died early Friday afternoon, Martin said.

Asked what led police to the body, Martin said without specifying that it was findings of an ongoing investigation.

The 20-year-olds worked together at Weis Markets in the 1200 block of Chestnut Street and lived about a mile from one another in the borough's southwest end. The woods where Abdulrazzak was found are roughly midway between their homes.

Jeff Dolan, a manager at the supermarket, said the Emmaus High School graduates had appeared to be “an item” in recent weeks. He said Maurer, a clerk of two years, had recently begun to pick up Abdulrazzak, a



EXPRESS-TIMES GRAPHIC | JOHNATHAN HARDICK

cashier of a year and a half, after work on Friday nights.

“They were the easiest going people. We couldn’t believe what we heard,” said Dolan, who described both as good workers. He said he had no indication of a feud between the two.

Family members at Abdulrazzak’s half-twin home on a

narrow dead-end street declined to comment.

Abdulrazzak’s Facebook page lists her hometown as Baghdad. WFMZ-TV 69 reported she moved to Emmaus from Iraq a little more than a year ago and was a nursing student at Cedar Crest College.

A note at a row home listed for Maurer directed questions

to Allentown attorney John Waldron. He did not immediately return a message left at his office Saturday night seeking comment.

The district attorney said Emmaus police, Pennsylvania State Police and the Lehigh County Homicide Task Force are investigating.

Attempts to reach borough police and Pennsylvania State Police at Fogelsville for more information were not successful. No one answered Saturday at the Whitehall Township office of District Judge Robert C. Halal, where Maurer was arraigned.

Maurer was to be committed to Lehigh County Prison pending discharge from Lehigh Valley Hospital-Cedar Crest, where he was taken with non-life threatening injuries following the crash, Martin said.

The hospital did not provide Maurer’s condition.

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SOCCKER: America has World of motivation for Cup

and the U.S. in 1994 — and he’ll watch as many of the 64 matches as he can squeeze in between the opening game Friday and the final a month later.

“It’s so much fun,” said Bilous, the former head coach of Major Indoor Soccer League teams in Cincinnati, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. “It’s difficult not to get caught up in it.”

Bilous watches as a coach, an analyst and a fan. He said no matter how illogical it seems, it is hard to set aside his professional interest and general love of the game to root for his home team, Italy.

For instance, Italy won the last World Cup, stunning France in 2006 and sending French superstar Zinedine Zidane into retirement with a defeat. The glory of Italian players hoisting the 11-pound World Cup trophy wasn’t much to celebrate for Bilous.

“I was pissed!” Bilous said, noting that he wanted to see Zidane, who guided France to a championship in 1998, take home another Cup.

But most fans, unlike Bilous, will cheer for a single team, and Americans watching the games will see a zeal for one of the world’s most uncomplicated

sports that nothing here rivals.

Soccer fans across the globe would make Philadelphia’s vilest, Santa Claus-booming bums blush. People have been killed in stampedes at many stadiums, and tens of thousands shout chants in which no topic regarding opposing players is off limits.

“No sport in this country will ever compare to the passion of the soccer fan,” Bilous said as he described a game in Italy he went to where fans for each side were divided in the stands by a chain link fence to avoid serious violence.

Local coach optimistic about U.S. team’s chances

Lehigh Valley soccer fans joining the crush of global viewers have reason to be excited, according to Lehigh Valley United Coach Ashley Kozicki, who played for Pleasant Valley High School in Monroe County.

Although a poll on the social networking website Facebook, where fans can vote for their pick to win the Cup, had the Americans as the 12th most popular, there’s room for optimism, Kozicki wrote in an e-mail. Spain topped the Federation Internationale de Football Association, or FIFA, list.

“The Americans, on paper, got a pretty favorable draw,” Kozicki wrote. “We are more than capable of moving through

to the knockout stage.”

The knockout stage is the opening round of group play, which begins Saturday with a tilt against England. Braveheart Highland Pub in Hellertown is hosting a watch party from 1 to 4 p.m. for interested locals, and they expect quite a crowd.

“St. Paddy’s day is our biggest day,” said general manager Erik Sheetz. “And this may come pretty close to that.”

Sheetz said people have been calling the bar and asking if the pub plans to open for early matches broadcast here in the morning — some start as early as 7:30 a.m. Sheetz said the pub opened its doors in past years and should this time as well.

“In past years we had people draped in Portuguese flags standing outside at 9 a.m.,” Sheetz said.

The watch party may bring fans of both teams together as well. Sheetz said a handful of English fans called asking about the event.

Match against England steeped in rivalry

Bilous said the match with England is steeped in ancient rivalries far beyond sport that reach back to the Revolutionary War, the waning of the English empire and, according to Bilous, the 1950 World Cup.

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DEPARTMENT: Valley health agency plans look in doubt

County Executive John Stoffa said it doesn’t matter when council votes on the proposal — waiting is postponing the inevitable rejection.

Stoffa said in his opinion, the proposal doesn’t have the five votes needed to get it off the ground.

“Someday there will be a health department, but it won’t be for a considerable amount of time,” Stoffa said.

Money, money, money

The biggest question mark is money, and more recently a letter from the Pennsylvania Department of Health that took contributions from local hospitals off the table.

The state said counties cannot use in-kind services from area hospitals to help the proposed health department qualify for state grants.

The plan was to have Lehigh Valley Health Network and St. Luke’s Hospital & Health Network donate a fixed amount of money to the health department, according to the May 18 letter from the Department of

Health. The Lehigh Valley health bureau would then contract with the hospitals to provide services and pay the hospitals back.

The state’s letter went on to say contributions of money or services from any hospitals would be considered “gifts,” and cannot be used toward the department’s local funding necessary to match state funding.

State health officials also said any funding from nonprofit organizations, including grants from Two Rivers Health & Wellness Foundation and the Dorothy Rider Pool Health Care Trust, are also gifts and cannot be counted.

“This decision was wholly unanticipated and requires an extensive reanalysis of all funding projections and a complete reworking of the initial five-year financial plan,” Lehigh Valley Board of Health Chairman Dr. David Lyon said in a letter to Lehigh County Commissioner Percy H. Dougherty.

Dougherty is chairman of the Lehigh Valley Health Commission, which comprises Northampton County Council and Lehigh County Commissioners.

Now Lehigh and Northampton counties would need to come up with the

ONLINE POLL

What should happen to the planned bi-county health department now that Lehigh Valley officials know local hospitals’ contributions cannot be used to qualify for state grants? Vote online at lehighvalleylive.com/news.

matching funds themselves. Stoffa estimated Northampton County’s contribution could be \$750,000 a year.

Stoffa said he would like to use gambling revenue from table games to fund the project, but council members, including Councilwoman Ann McHale, said they would like to use that money for property tax relief — its original intended use.

‘We ... need a bi-county health department’

The health board is working on a business plan for the department, which is expected to be presented to county officials in July.

Cusick said health board officials promised to present a way to account for the funding.

“We’ll see what they come up with,” Cusick said, calling

the state’s news a “serious setback,” but acknowledging he’d give the board an opportunity.

Dougherty said news about the hospitals’ contributions is not the death knell for the bi-county department, and those dollars don’t compromise as much of the funding as officials thought.

Even if Northampton County bows out, Lehigh County may move forward with its own department, Dougherty said.

“It has been our intent all along to proceed with this even if Northampton County isn’t on board,” Dougherty said. “We think it’s so important for the residents (of Lehigh County).”

Dougherty said there are six solid votes for the department among the nine-member commissioner board.

“I’m still optimistic about this,” he said. “We have to look at do we need it or don’t we need it? We definitely need a bi-county health department.”

Reporter Sarah Cassi can be reached at 610-258-7171 or scassi@express-times.com. Talk about issues in your town at lehighvalleylive.com/forums.

WHAT YOU’RE SAYING ON LEHIGHVALLEYLIVE.COM

Visitors to The Express-Times website posted these unedited comments in response to news about Easton studying how people use metered parking spots in the city. Join the conversation at lehighvalleylive.com.

I just want to know why it is that almost no one is driving into Easton to shop, and much of the downtown housing has been torn down, but yet almost all of the on-street parking is taken on any given day? I mean, each day I drive through the shell of what USED TO BE the downtown shopping district, and even though no one is there shopping all of the street parking is taken up??? — **Hofbraukeller**

With the amount of cars you see downtown anymore this study should take about half an hour — **Easton411**

Great to see the city being proactive in researching this matter. Everyday and in every way Easton gets better! — **eagleboyrox**

The smartest and coolest trend I have seen in parking meters across the USA is a the 5 minute “free” time. In other words, these meters have a button that you push and you get 5 minutes for free. This is just enough time to get change so that you can stay longer, or if you are running in and out of a store (i.e. pizza pick-up) to get out before the eager beaver parking enforcement agents (I swear they are “incentivized”!) nail you. I also like the system where you can swipe your credit card and buy “x” number of minutes. — **tothcarp**

Continued from A1

DAVIS: Killer’s motive remains mystery

Davis’ head. I can’t guess what he was thinking,” Mulqueen said.

Davis’ attorney Brian Monahan didn’t want to discuss Davis as a person, saying he didn’t want to jeopardize Davis’ appeal.

Asked if Davis could be interviewed, Monahan said he would advise him not to speak to the media because his appeal is pending.

Davis never took the witness stand and, besides Wednesday’s guilty plea, never gave one hint as to his feelings or reactions to testimony or the accusations against him.

Two common descriptions of what Davis was like before the murders were worlds apart: Davis as a Liberty High School basketball player from Freemansburg and Davis as a member of the Bloods gang.

Mulqueen readily admits Davis came from a good home and had talent and abilities.

But Mulqueen said it’s hard to know if the gang life sucked Davis in and turned him into the person he is today, or if he was like that before and the gang life just fit his personality.

“He really is a mystery. I don’t know that anyone can fig-

ure him out,” Mulqueen said.

Even Davis’ grandfather, Dana Davis, testified in January that Davis’ role in the three murders speaks “of someone who is alien to me and to my heart. They speak of someone I don’t know.”

And then there were two

Looking back over the last three years from when Mobley was shot to Davis going to state prison, Easton police Inspector Matt Gerould said “getting two trials behind us, it’s a lot of work.”

Easton police have little time to waste on thinking about Davis, because they have two other suspects they would like to talk to: previously identified in court as Glaynola “T-Bone” Hollist and Damar “G-Red” Edwards. The two men are still at large.

“The investigation is still moving forward to this day, to this hour,” Gerould said Friday. “The ultimate goal is to solve the crime and ultimately anyone involved is charged and brought to justice.”

The cops are still taking tips and information related to the triple homicide.

As part of co-defendant Lewis “Monster” Gray’s plea deal, he agreed to cooperate with Easton’s investigation.

Gerould wouldn’t comment if he had spoken with Gray since the guilty plea.

LOTTERIES

Saturday, June 5, 2010

PENNSYLVANIA

MIDDAY:

Daily Number: 086

Big 4: 6403

Quinto: 2, 7, 7, 6, 0

Treasure Hunt: 1, 15, 16, 20, 27

EVENING:

Daily Number: 740

Big 4: 7946

Quinto: 5, 0, 9, 6, 4

Cash 5: 5, 17, 23, 42, 43

Payoffs: 5 of 5, \$580,234.50 to 1; 4 of 5, \$278 to 135; 3 of 5, \$12.50 to 5,086; 2 of 5, \$1 to 64,205

Today’s Cash 5 jackpot is worth at least \$125,000.

POWERBALL: 18, 34, 40, 48, 59

Powerball: 25

Power Play: 4

NEW JERSEY

MIDDAY:

Pick 3: 739

Payoffs: Straight, \$379; Box, \$63; Pairs, \$37.50

Pick 4: 0993

Payoffs: Straight, \$3,967.50; Box, \$330.50

EVENING:

Pick 3: 219

Payoffs: Straight, \$186; Box, \$31; Pairs, \$18.50

Pick 4: 1571

Payoffs: Straight, \$2,353; Box, \$196

Cash 5: 4, 8, 9, 14, 34

Payoffs: 5 of 5, \$291,462; 4 of 5, \$433; 3 of 5, \$9

Readers should check with their point of purchase to confirm winning numbers.

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