

"I just want to praise God for Coach Swanson. ... He had faith in us. He told us we could do it."

Sherman Native Puts Tennessee Kids On Right Track

Patrick Swanson will travel to Erie on Monday for his Law School Admission Test.

By September, he'll be working as a legal assistant for a law firm in Memphis, Tenn.

But the Sherman native will be excused if his thoughts occasionally wander from writing briefs and pouring over case law to a group of teen-age kids from Millington (Tenn.) High School.

For it is there where Swanson has left a part of his heart. It is there where his impact, even at the tender age of 26, has already made the difference to many of the kids he's coached and taught the past two years.

As the girls varsity basketball coach, as well as the cross country and track and field mentor, Swanson has taken the lessons he learned at Sherman High School and, later, at Wake Forest University, and made a difference in the lives of the kids in a poor school district, a 30-minute drive from downtown Memphis.



SCOTT KINDBERG

was very sprint heavy," said Swanson, a distance specialist in high school and college. "They hadn't had a two-mile relay team."

But Swanson, who moved to Tennessee with his wife, Natalie, two years ago, saw some potential. Now, all he had to do was convince the quartet that they, as a group, would make a dynamic 4x800-meter relay.

"These guys all had some talent," Swanson said. "As soon as you realize

Just ask Eric Bryant, Greg Askew, Josh Adkins and Jermaine Dailey.

Until two years ago, the foursome had never run track. Askew and Dailey are basketball players, Bryant is a football player and Adkins is a cross country runner.

"The track team

that, you want to try and convince them of that. If they believe they have talent, they're going to work a little harder."

So beginning in 2003, Swanson planted a seed and continued to cultivate it through that spring. By the end of that season, Bryant, Askew, Adkins and Dailey had qualified for the sectional meet with a time of 8 minutes, 28 seconds.

Even more determined this year, the team ran an 8:51 to start the season, dropped as low as 8:23 then clocked an 8:17 to take first place at the sectional championships despite dropping the baton in the final.

The missed handoff made them a fifth seed heading into the Tennessee state championships, but Swanson knew his kids had plenty left to give when they arrived in Eads, Tenn.

"We were kind of a sleeper," Swanson said. "Nobody was expecting us to be there, but our training had been there and I convinced them we were going to do it again." They did even better.

Led by Askew's two-minute leg, the Millington seniors posted a time of 8:07.62, second to Oak Ridge, the top seed, which finished in 8:02.16. It was the best showing by Millington in three decades.

"He gave us the training we needed, worked our bodies like they needed, gave us the rest when we needed it, and he fed us the way we needed," Askew told *The Millington Star*. "When a team wins, it's always good coaching. When a team loses, it's bad coaching. Apparently, it's good coaching."

The teen-agers who weren't even on the track team as sophomores, had made history as seniors.

"I was fortunate to have four guys who were athletic, who had a good work ethic and wanted to work with me," Swanson said.

Of course, Swanson knows a little bit about hard work. He also knows a little bit about overcoming obstacles, too.

He had to do both at Wake Forest. See **KINDBERG** on Page C-2



Patrick Swanson helped guide the Millington (Tenn.) High School 4x800 relay to a second place finish at the state meet.

ITALIAN-AMERICAN CHARITY GOLF TOURNEY

Wire-To-Wire Win

LaMancuso, Hartweg Claim 34th Annual Event By Four Shots

By JIM RIGGS

ELLCOTTVILLE — Sam LaMancuso and Matt Hartweg enjoy life at the top.

They were the overall co-leaders after each of the first two rounds of the 34th annual Italian-American Charity Golf Tournament and when the final round ended Saturday afternoon at Holiday Valley Resort they were still on top, but all alone as the overall champions.

After recording a net best-ball 4-under-par 31 on the back nine, which was their opening nine, they finished up with a 4-under 32 on the front for a 9-under 63. That combined with their opening-round 63 and second-round 65 gave LaMancuso and Hartweg a 191 total and the title by four shots over Matt Trusso and Jon Gronquist, who shot 195.

Hartweg, a Moon Brook Country Club member playing with a 2 handicap, noted that his team enjoyed being in the lead each day.

"You stay more focused when you're right there," he said about their wire-to-wire performance.

And LaMancuso, a member at Conewango Valley CC with a 15 handicap, noted playing in the final group of the day didn't bother them because they did it in 2001.

"This was our second time playing in the last group and it was a much different feeling," he said. "You feel like you've been there before and you know what to expect."

And in 2001 they had their best finish ever in seven years as a team when they were second in the First Flight.

They made sure they weren't going to stay in the First Flight on Saturday as they got off to a good start with back-to-back birdies by Hartweg at Nos. 10 and 11. They gave a stroke back with a bogey at No. 12, but that didn't concern Hartweg.

See **I-A** on Page C-2



Above, Sam LaMancuso is getting ready to celebrate as his putt for a natural birdie and a net eagle heads into the cup on the 18th green during the final round of the 34th annual Italian-American Charity Golf Tournament on Saturday at Holiday Valley Resort. At left, Matt Hartweg hits his second shot on the 18th hole. LaMancuso and Hartweg were the co-leaders for each of the first two rounds and Saturday they nailed down the overall title.

P-J photos by Jim Riggs

Marlins' Top Picks To Join Jammers

By JIM RIGGS

Players who will make up the Jamestown Jammers' roster for the 2004 New York-Penn League season will begin arriving today and among them will be the Florida Marlins' top two picks in the recent draft.

First-round pick Taylor Tankersley, a left-handed pitcher from the University of Alabama, is scheduled to be on the Jammers' pitching staff along with second-round pick Jason Vargas, a left-hander from Long Beach State.

Tankersley, a 6-foot-2, 225-pound junior, was 2-5 with 2.00 ERA and four saves for Alabama this season. Opponents hit .213 off Tankersley, who was a nominee for the 2004 Roger Clemens Award, presented to the top collegiate pitcher by the Rotary Club of Houston.

For his career at Alabama, Tankersley pitched in 65 games with 24 starts and was 17-15 with 11 saves and a 3.73 ERA.

Vargas was 7-6 with a 4.23 ERA at Long Beach State.

Joining Vargas will be his Long Beach State catcher, Brad Davis, who was selected in the fifth round by the Marlins and will be heading to Jamestown. Davis hit .321 with four home runs this season.

Florida's seventh through 14th draft selections will also be Jammers. They are, in order, pitcher Jared Gaston from Walters State Community College, pitcher Craig Molldrem from the University of Minnesota, outfielder Joe Pietro from the University of New Orleans, third baseman Brett Carroll from Middle Tennessee State University, pitcher Dan Barone from Sonoma State University, pitcher Jeff Gogal from Montclair State College, shortstop Steve Gendron from Mississippi State University and pitcher Pat Hogan from Clemson University.

Other draft picks scheduled to come to Jamestown are shortstop Brian Cleveland, a 16th round pick from the University of Tennessee; catcher Barry Gunther, a 17th-round pick from the University of Mississippi; pitcher Rhett James, a 20th-round pick from Florida State University; pitcher Chris Mobley, a 22nd-round pick from Middle Tennessee; and outfielder Ted Ledbetter, a 23rd-round pick from Oklahoma City University.

See **JAMMERS** on Page C-2



Pistons Try To Buck Lengthy Trend

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP) — Go ahead, try to remember an NBA champion that didn't have a Hall of Famer. Anyone younger than 40 will have a hard time with the answer.

The Detroit Pistons are not only trying to defeat the Los Angeles Lakers in the NBA Finals, they're attempting to undo a major trend.

For the past quarter-century, only teams with top-echelon superstars — Tim Duncan, Shaquille O'Neal, Kobe Bryant, Michael Jordan, Hakeem Olajuwon, Isiah Thomas, Magic Johnson, Larry Bird and Julius Erving — have won championships.

Not since the Seattle SuperSonics defeated the Washington Bullets in 1979 has a team bucked that trend.

"The similarities are certainly there," said Cleveland coach Paul Silas, winner of a title with the '78-79 SuperSonics, who did have a Hall of Fame coach — Lenny Wilkens. "They have a chance to be the one team to win without that dominant player."

The finals resume with Game 4 tonight and the Pistons ahead 2-1 in what so far has been one of the most surprising championship series. No one on the Lakers seems too upset yet, with the

exception of part-owner and vice president Magic Johnson.

"The Lakers had a mind-set that was disrespectful to the Pistons. They thought it was going to be easy," Johnson said Saturday. "Unless they come out and play very hard, with the same level of intensity as the Pistons, this series will be over."

Detroit has just one All-Star, Ben Wallace, who reached that plateau through a combination of defense, rebounding and the good fortune of representing a conference without many great centers. He certainly didn't make it for his offense.

Compare that to the Lakers, who have combined 40 All-Star appearances among Karl Malone (14), O'Neal (11), Gary Payton (nine) and Bryant (six), along with a coach, Phil Jackson, with a record-setting nine NBA titles.

Maybe it will all boil down to hunger.

"I don't know if there's anybody in the world that wants it any more than I do," Detroit coach Larry Brown said.

Maybe a Detroit team that has never doubted itself and has not been in awe of the Lakers will bring the title back to the East for the first time since 1998.



Detroit's Richard Hamilton hopes to lead the Pistons to a victory in Game 4 tonight.

AP photo

North Edges South, 6-4, In Exceptional Senior Game

By MATT SPIELMAN

With four different divisions in local high school baseball, every spring players, coaches and fans alike hear and read about certain teams and players, but never actually get to see them in person.

They can wake up in the morning and read about Rob Prinzi of Jamestown, Andrew Horton and Brian Espersen of Dunkirk, Ricky Carlson and Alex Miller at Frewsburg or Ryan Sweda and the Pine Valley Panthers, among many other local stars at different high schools.

But only on one night each year can they see all of these players team up to play against

each other and that night was Saturday night as Wendy's sponsored the Chautauqua County Exceptional Senior Baseball All-Star Game at Diethrick Park.

All of the players already mentioned excelled as did many others as the North County team, made up of seniors from Dunkirk, Fredonia, Pine Valley, Chautauqua Lake, Brocton, Cassadaga Valley and Clymer, narrowly defeated the South County team, made up of players from Jamestown, Southwestern, Falconer, Frewsburg, Maple Grove, Panama and Sherman, by the score of 6-4.

See **SENIOR** on Page C-4

SPORTS

I-A

Kindberg

From Page C-1
 "The backside I figure is a little tougher," he said. "To give away one bogey there is fine because there are plenty of birdie holes."
 They proved that because after two pars, Hartweg had a natural birdie 3 at No. 15 and LaMancuso picked up a net birdie 4 at No. 16.

But the best was yet to come at No. 18.
 LaMancuso's third shot was a sand wedge to within 6 feet and then he sunk the putt for a birdie 4 and net eagle 3.

"That was a big booster there," Hartweg said. "That just kind of picks you up."

And LaMancuso was up in the air with glee after the slippery, downhill putt changed directions three times before falling in the right edge.

But even after finishing their opening nine with a bang for a 5-under 31, the eventual winners knew there was still work to do.

"We figured we had to get to at least 8 or 9 (under par) to win," Hartweg said.

Their playing partners, Trusso and Gronquist, were who they came into the day tied with and a group in front of them, Sam Mason and Craig Glatz, were also staying close.

LaMancuso kept his team rolling with a net birdie 3 at No. 1, but then came the turning point of the round.

"I think the hole that really felt like it was our day was the par we made on two," Hartweg said about the par-4 second hole.

Hartweg's tee shot went right and LaMancuso said, "When he hit the ball, we thought it was out of bounds."

The ball wasn't out of bounds, but it was under a tree. Hartweg punched out and then hit a wedge from 110 yards to within 2 feet to save par.

"That was pretty spectacular," LaMancuso said.

So they left with a par instead of a possible bogey or double bogey. And that was important because, according to Hartweg, "We weren't really sure we were ahead. We heard there were guys that were nine under. We kept pressing and we figured we had to keep making shots."

And they did at the par-3 fifth when Hartweg had a natural birdie to move the team to 7 under.

"Even after No. 5, we figured we need a few more strokes," Hartweg said.

They knew their playing partners were slipping back and then they heard that Mason and Glatz

took a double bogey at No. 6.

In the final four holes, the winners picked up two more birdies, both net 3s by LaMancuso, to wrap up the victory.

LaMancuso noted the key to the title was their play through all three days.

"We never blew up," he said. "We never had a blow-up hole where we were both in serious trouble."

Then he gave his partner a lot of credit for the team shooting a 65 in the second round.

"On Friday I did not play well and my partner made a natural eagle on six and natural birdies on seven, eight, 10 and 18," he said. "To me that made the difference for us because we could have very easily, the way I played and if Matt played steady like he always does, we could have finished two or three under instead of seven under."

With the overall champion and runner-up coming out of the First Flight, Mason and Glatz won that flight with a 197 while George Panebianco and John O'Mara were one stroke back in second with a 198. Dave Munella and Dave Leathers took third with a 201.

In the Second Flight, Joe Sinatra and Mike Sard were the winners after defeating Chris Pappalardo and Alex Moore in a playoff. They had tied with 201s. Third place went to Mark Panebianco and Van Tane with a 202.

The Third Flight champions were Steve Cusimano and Tad Wright with a 198 while Sebby Baggiano and Gary Yager were second with a 200. Tied for third were Sam Galbato and John Young, and Pat DeMarco and Steve Loeb with 202s. Galbato and Young won the playoff.

The Fourth Flight winners were Joe Ribaudon and Scott Crist with a 203. Tied with 204s were Terry Peppy and Matt Radack, Gregg Pietrocario and Hans Auer, and Gabe Panebianco and Tom Michos. After play-offs, Peppy and Radack claimed second and Pietrocario and Auer took third.

More play-offs were required in the Fifth Flight. Tied for first with 305s were Jim Barlow Sr. and Paul Miller, and Mike Cappa and Peter Sullivan. Barlow and Miller won the playoff to take the title and Cappa and Sullivan settled for second place. In a playoff for third among teams tied with 208s, Jim Giunta and Mack Maguire defeated Frank Vassallo and Ed Szaicher.

Phil DeMarco and Jim Henderson won the Sixth Flight with

a 210 while Ted Pasquale and Paul Hedberg were second with a 212. Pete Cardinale and Roy Benson defeated Tom Brigiotta and Mike Goldman in the play-off for third place after they had tied with 215s.

Tony Calanni and Greg Bender easily won the Seventh Flight with a 203. Tony Vitello and John Deppas were second with a 208 and Ralph D'Angelo and Lanny Sheffield were third with a 216.

OVERALL	63-65-63-191
LaMancuso-Hartweg	64-64-67-195
FIRST FLIGHT	
Mason-Glatz	67-65-67-197
Panebianco-O'Mara	66-67-65-198
Munella-Leathers	64-72-65-201
Phillips-Totr	63-70-69-202
Morgan-Trout	65-69-68-202
Foti-Lundgren	66-70-68-204
Paterniti-Smith	66-69-71-206
Cammarata-Cole	66-66-74-206
Mole-Anderson	65-72-71-208
Pillitteri-Johnson	65-73-75-213
Volpe-Emerson	
SECOND FLIGHT	
*Sinatra-Sard	67-70-64-201
Pappalardo-Moore	68-67-66-201
Panebianco-Tane	67-69-69-202
Phillips-Totr	67-69-67-203
DeMarco-Yocum	67-66-71-204
Lisciandro-Eimiller	67-72-68-207
Cusimano-Bjork	67-71-69-207
Baggiano-Fulford	67-73-71-211
Peppy-Mars	67-73-73-213
Bellitto-Caldwell	67-70-77-214
Tuccio-Hocking	67-70-80-217
Munella-Curie	67-79-72-218
THIRD FLIGHT	
Cusimano-Wright	68-66-64-198
Baggiano-Yager	64-72-65-201
Galbato-Young	68-67-67-202
DeMarco-Loeb	69-67-66-202
Calamunci-Johnson	68-67-68-203
Ribaudon-Lefford	68-67-70-205
Ressivo-Jr.-Lockwood	69-66-70-205
Peppy-Mars	68-68-69-205
Certo-Dawson	68-70-67-205
D'Angelo-Allen	69-70-67-206
Pillitteri-Sandstrom	69-68-76-213
Siriano-Larson	69-70-76-215
FOURTH FLIGHT	
Ribaudon-Crist	69-69-65-203
*Peppy-Radack	70-67-67-204
*Pietrocario-Auer	69-67-68-204
Panebianco-Michos	70-66-68-204
Bianco-Shults	69-71-68-206
Giunta-Farrrell	69-69-69-207
Conti-Shults	70-66-71-207
Munella-Twinam	70-68-72-210
D'Angelo-Handzel	70-68-73-211
Delmonte-Erke	70-73-68-211
LaMancuso-Roberts	70-70-72-212
Cusimano-Melquist	70-75-67-212
FIFTH FLIGHT	
*Barlow Sr.-Miller	70-72-63-205
Cappa-Sullivan	72-68-65-205
*Giunta-Maguire	71-67-70-208
Vassallo-Szaicher	71-73-64-208
Calaloesa-Henderson	71-69-69-209
Frangione-Tarbrake	71-71-70-212
Scalise-Eimiller	71-72-70-213
Mole-Ames	71-70-72-213
Fashano-Connelly	71-65-78-214
Peppy-Hartweg	71-72-74-217
Panebianco-Johnson	71-75-74-220
Gueffri-Cross	71-78-72-221
SIXTH FLIGHT	
DeMarco-Henderson	72-68-70-210
Pasquale-Hedberg	73-77-68-212
*Cardinale-Benson	73-69-73-215
Brigiotta-Goldman	73-70-72-215
Schiaria-Gren	73-69-74-216
Lisciandro-Sotir	74-69-73-216
Paterniti-Mead	74-70-73-217
Lisciandro-Peterson	73-75-74-222
Barlow Jr.-Bacdayan	73-71-79-223
D'Angelo-Erickson	75-76-75-226
Triscari-Kaiser	73-76-74-223
Trussalo-Joslyn	74-71-NC-DNF
SEVENTH FLIGHT	
Calanni-Bender	75-66-62-203
Vitello-Deppas	75-69-64-208
D'Angelo-Sheffield	79-66-71-216
Schiaia-Whitemore	75-72-70-217
Barlow-Casler	76-69-73-218
D'Angelo-Johnson	80-67-76-223
Paladino-Sweet	81-70-72-223
Sgro-Johnson	76-76-71-223
Trippi-Dubois	81-74-73-228
Tarana-Weimberg	80-76-75-231
Paladino-Sheffield	77-77-82-236
Cusimano-Swanson	82-79-81-242

* won playoff

From Page C-1
 A heralded runner at Sherman, Swanson joined his brother, Nolan, at the Winston-Salem, N.C. school in the fall of 1996. But by the end of his freshman year he had to sit out the last two outdoor meets because of what was later diagnosed as a benign spinal tumor.

By the start of the second semester of his sophomore year, Swanson had to stop attending classes because of the pain.

"Mentally, I was a mess," he said. "I was 20 years old, an athlete and I'd never been hurt, not even for a day. Now I had all these back problems. It was like getting hit in the face with a bat."

Finally, Swanson saw a neurosurgeon in Winston-Salem, had a CAT scan done and found out that the tumor was indeed benign.

That was the good news. But in an effort to reduce the swelling near his spine, Swanson took medication that ultimately ate a hole in the lining of his stomach. Surgery followed to repair that condition, which prompted his tumor operation to be postponed for a month.

When the surgery was finally performed, the tumor cells were scraped off the spinal nerves, but in doing so Swanson lost feeling in his right leg.

Eventually, he regained most of the sensation, but he still has some numbness in his heel, calf and hamstring.

"I would walk across my apartment and it would tire me out," Swanson recalled. "This was two months after I'd been running 90 miles a week. I was in the best shape of my life and then I was n't."

His promising athletic career with the Demon Deacons was essentially over.

"After the surgery, the highlight of my running career, in my fourth year, was when I was in good enough shape to go for an eight-mile run with the team," Swanson said. "That was a big deal, because I was still having numbness."

But if you're thinking that he wallowed in self pity, think again.

"It gives you a unique perspective," Swanson said, "and you understand that you can't control everything. No matter how much work you do, everything doesn't go your way."

And, in the end, maybe the tumor, the numbness and the stomach ailment were all part of a greater plan.

"Everything pretty much happens for a reason," Swanson said. "If I didn't get the tumor, I wouldn't have come back (to Chautauqua County after graduating from Wake Forest in 2001) and I wouldn't have married my wife."

Swanson and the former Natalie Guiffreda of Lakewood tied the knot almost two years ago.

"I've enjoyed track so much and knowing that the kids appreciate me so much, it's enough to make me say that if I don't like what I'm doing I need to consider getting back into teaching."

— Patrick Swanson
 Sherman native

Ironically, Natalie is the reason Swanson ended up at Millington High School in the first place after she was accepted at Southern College of Optometry in Memphis in the fall of 2002.

That meant that Swanson, who was a physics and math teacher at Jamestown High School during 2001-2002 school year, picked up and headed south with his new bride.

As it turned out, Eric Bryant, Greg Askew, Josh Adkins and Jermaine Dailey were just four of the Millington High School kids who were the beneficiaries.

"It was a ride," said Swanson of the last few years. "It's just the ups and downs of everyday life. But I don't sweat the small stuff. I could write the book on that."

Swanson is applying to law school for the fall of 2005 and, come September, will juggle his legal assistant job with an assistant coaching position with the Memphis University High School cross country and track and field teams.

Balancing his love for teaching and coaching against pursuing a career in law is just another hurdle that Swanson will no doubt clear.

"I've enjoyed track so much and knowing that the kids appreciate me so much, it's enough to make me say that if I don't like what I'm doing (in the legal profession) I need to consider getting back into teaching (somewhere)."

It's nice to have options.

The young men in Millington's 4x800 relay knew it was nice to have a guy like Swanson in their corner, too, pushing them to heights they never dreamed possible two years ago.

"I just want to praise God for Coach Swanson," Askew told *The Millington Star*. "He is one of the best coaches in the tri-state area. He had faith in us. He told us we could do it."

Added Adkins, also in *The Millington Star*: "In two years, all five of us have done more than anybody else in the past 30 years. So, if we're leaving, we're leaving with a bang. I'm ecstatic about it."

So, too, was Swanson, who watched the relay team receive its second-place state medal with a smile on his face and tears in his eyes.

Jammers

From Page C-1

Returning from last season's Jammers team are pitcher David Humen and Jason Iehl, and outfielder Nick Ewen.

Other players on the roster played in Florida's minor-league system last season. They are pitchers Allen Baxter, Craig

Lybarger and Matt Yourkin, catcher Spencer Wyman, infielders J.T. Restko and Jon Fulton, and outfielder Juan Lindesay.

Also back is manager Benny Castillo with Matt Raleigh, a former Jamestown Expos, the new hitting coach and the

pitching coach will be Tom Signore, who was with the Jammers for a portion of the 2003 season.

Workouts will begin Monday and the team opens the NY-P League season at home Friday against the Batavia Muckdogs at 7:05 p.m.

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