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Wagner's Kelly stops Columbia for 4-3 victory

By JACK MINOGUE
ADVANCE STAFF WRITER

Wagner College's baseball players found out how the other half lives yesterday — and did they ever love it.

The Seahawks got a solid routegoing performance from Dan Kelly and their first clutch hits of the season as they ended a five-game losing streak with a 4-3 come-from-behind victory over a good Columbia University team at Willetts Field, Grymes Hill.

Kelly evened his 1987 record at 1-1 with a six-hit effort, but that kind of performance is almost expected from the only winner (4-1) on last year's 11-17 team.

What wasn't expected was his teammates getting enough hits with runners in scoring position to make Kelly a winner: Freshman Dom LeMorta drove in Wagner's first three runs, one with his first home run, and Dave Plonski scored the winner with a pinch single.

LeMorta, a lanky 6-2 righty swinger, got Kelly even at 1-1 in the second inning by going the other way with a Chris Kutes fastball and driving the ball over the friendly barrier in right-centerfield.

In the sixth, he brought Wagner to within one, 3-2, with a ground ball that scored Len Cancelleri from third.

In the eighth, just when it appeared Kelly's performance would be wasted, LeMorta got Wagner even.

Lefty fastballer Mario Ciacca retired the first two batters after he had replaced Kutes at the start of the inning, but then plunked Billy Curatolo with a fastball and put the tying run at second by throwing away an attempt to pick off Curatolo.

LeMorta immediately delivered Curatolo by lining a tailing fastball over right-fielder Ed Quinn's head for a double.

One of Wagner coach Tom Hahne's kids may have gotten Wagner even, but it was one of his long-suffering seniors who made the Seahawks winners.

The switch-hitting Plonski was a forgotten man, what with a slow start and Wagner's youth movement. Now, Hahne hit him for lefty-swinging freshman Chris Baggio, and Plonski chased LeMorta home by lining a 1-0 fastball over third.

Kelly was better than his figures: Six hits, seven strikeouts and six walks.

The sophomore right-hander had been in Hahne's doghouse for 10 days — he missed a St. Patrick's Day practice — and started slowly yesterday.

He gave up a leadoff double and three walks for a run in the first inning, then yielded a two-run homer to No. 8 hitter, Carmine Esposito, in the fourth.

But after that home run and through the eighth inning, Kelly was in control.

"Sure, I got stronger as the game went on," he said afterward. "I wanted to win."

To do so, though, he had to finish with a flourish.

Kelly retired Esposito on a grounder to open the Columbia ninth, but No. 9 hitter, Gary Comstock lashed a line shot to short. The ball skipped, hit Ken Arnold in the arm, and bounced into centerfield.

Leadoff hitter John Stanatis followed with a solid single to left, and Kelly faced left-handed Ed Quinn, never a pleasant prospect with Willetts' short fence in right.

"I said to myself, 'What's going to happen now?' " Hahne admitted afterward. "I was waiting for the base hit to left to take a bad hop on Todd (Rutman).

"But, this kid Kelly really has guts."

Kelly went right after Quinn, jamming him twice with fastballs and getting in on the corner for a strike. Quinn missed a change on the outside, then Kelly came right back inside again — ball two. And again — fly ball to center.

No. 3 hitter Mike Raemore took two low fastballs to get ahead on the count. Then, Kelly threw a straight change and Raemore pulled a grounder into the Wagner dugout. Another straight change and another grounder into the dugout.

On 2-2, Kelly came with a forkball, and Raemore went after it just as the bottom dropped out.

* * *

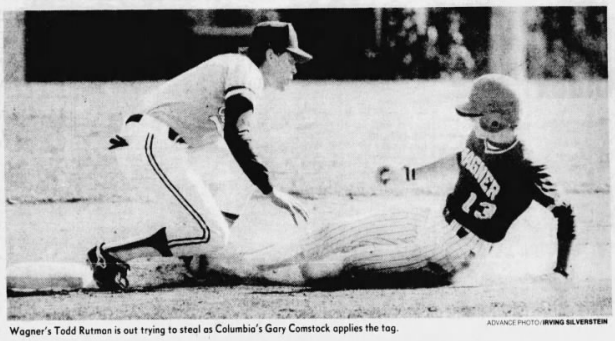
NOTES: Wagner is 2-12-1 after the win, and Columbia is 9-6 ... The Seahawks travel to Fordham today with Tom Hennig expected to start, then return home tomorrow to face highly regarded Rutgers. Earl Jewett is the probable starter in a game which will be taped and shown at a later date by S.I. Cable.

COLUMBIA — 3	ab	r	h	WAGNER — 4	ab	r	h
Stanatis,cf	5	1	3	Rutman,lf	3	0	2
Quinn,rf	5	0	0	Hennig,2b	4	0	0
Raemore,1b	4	0	0	Skala,cf	3	0	0
Rieger,3b	2	0	0	Cancelleri,dh	4	1	1
Rosamilia,lf	3	0	0	Curatolo,3b	3	1	0
DePose,dh	3	0	0	LeMorta,rf	3	2	2
Casey,2b	4	1	0	Baggio,1b	2	0	0
Esposito,c	4	1	1	Plonski,ph,1b	1	0	1
Comstock,ss	4	0	2	Arnold,ss	4	0	0
				Feldman,c	2	0	1
Totals	34	3	6	Totals	29	4	7

Columbia	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	— 3
Wagner	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	x	— 4

E—Rosamilia, Arnold, 2B—Stanatis, LeMorta. HR—Esposito, LeMorta. DP—Hennig to Arnold to Baggio.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Columbia						
Kutes	7	5	2	2	5	3
Ciacca, L 1-1	1	2	2	2	0	2
Wagner						
Kelly, W 1-1	9	6	3	2	6	7



ADVANCE PHOTO/IRVING SILVERSTEIN

Wagner's Todd Rutman is out trying to steal as Columbia's Gary Comstock applies the tag.

Philpott 'strikes out' all the odds

Captures first SIWBA all-events championship

By MARY COPP-LEE
ADVANCE STAFF WRITER

At the outset, it appeared as if Murphy's Law was going to take effect and ruin any chance Nazareth Philpott had of succeeding in the 40th annual Staten Island Women's Bowling Association's Tournament at Bowling on the Green.

Philpott wasn't about to give up so easily, however, and she overcame her initial misfortunes to capture her first all-events championship on the final weekend of competition with a total pinfall of 1,845 in the nine-game event.

"I was at work last Saturday when I realized I had forgotten my bowling clothes for the tournament," said Philpott, the manager of Country Lanes. "I knew I wouldn't feel comfortable without my skirt, so I decided to go home to get it beforehand."

After leaving her Stapleton residence, Philpott headed straight for the Green to bowl in the doubles and singles events with what she thought was plenty of time to make the 1 p.m. start. As fate would have it, however, Philpott was involved in a car accident around 12:30 and, although no one was seriously injured, it did prevent the 29-year-old kegler from getting to the New Dorp bowling center on time.

"I called Pat Schnur (SIWBA secretary and tournament director) from the scene of the accident to let her know I'd be late," said Philpott. "She told me not to worry and that she'd let my partner (Janet Keeler) start her singles series first instead of the doubles.

"Bowling the events in reverse order would prevent Janet from being penalized. When I got there, I'd have to start my own singles at whatever frame Janet was in at the time."

According to Schnur, the Association provides for lateness in its rules and the proper course of action was taken.

"I didn't even look at the telescore when I got there," said Philpott. "I just threw on my clothes and went out and opened on my first ball.

"I had banged my head in the accident and it was pounding by this time. I was also a little nauseous and nervous and just couldn't wait to get through the first game."

After throwing about three frames, Philpott finally found the courage to look at the score sheet. It seemed as if her bad luck was finally turning good.

"It turned out that they started a little late," said Philpott. "I was really surprised that the only zero I had received was for missing the first frame."

After Philpott's 155 in the opener, the hard-throwing righty finally started to relax and was able to finish out the singles with a 208 and a 181 en route to a 544 series. She saved her best performance for the doubles event, however, and threw her seventh career 700 series, hitting a 704 for the tourney's high series net.

Part of the reason for Philpott's latter success may have been the result of an adjustment she made midway through her third singles game.

"The ball didn't seem to be reacting on the inside lanes," said Philpott. "My hook became much more effective when I finally moved way outside by the gutter."

In the doubles, Philpott's games of 246, 234 and 224, combined with Keeler's 509 series gave the duo first place in the net category with a combined 1,213.

"I was so concerned with doing well in the doubles at the time that I didn't even give all events a thought," said Philpott, who was scheduled for the team event the following day. "Then a few people mentioned it to me.

"I figured I'd need close to a 600 series to pass the current leader (Carol Stefanski) and I wasn't sure if that was asking too much."

Although Philpott, who was first introduced to the sport 18 years ago, was coming into the tourney with the highest average (201), she considered her past performances at the Green as "subpar."

"I really have never bowled well there," said Philpott, "and I thought my 700 series in the doubles was just a fluke."

But even her own doubts could not prevent Philpott, a past WASA (Women's All Star Association) Tournament winner, from realizing her potential as a true competitor.

Using Saturday's strategy, Philpott, playing on the Country Pro Shop team along with Keeler, Peggy Lee Endress and Margie Passarello, again positioned herself by the first two boards and fired a 202 in her first game.

Victory seemed within reach but, after starting off the second game with three straight splits, Philpott's confidence was starting to fade. That's when some key advice from her fiancee and coach, Ray Laursen, owner of the Country Pro Shop, helped turn things around for Philpott.

"I only had a 101 in the eighth frame," said Philpott. "I was in trouble but I wasn't sure what to do about it.

"Ray has a real talent when it comes to seeing what a bowler is doing wrong, and, after talking to him, I moved back to the inside lanes and made some other adjustments.

"My next ball was a little high, but I tripped out the four pin and got the strike. That was all I needed to get my confidence back."

Philpott proved that shot was for real by striking three times in the 10th frame for a 161 and then followed it up with a 234 in the final. Her 597 series not only helped her team finish third in the net, but also gave a dramatic ending to her title-winning performance.

"I'm not sure if it's better being aware of what you need to win a tournament such as this or if not knowing would make it a little less pressure filled," said Philpott, who bettered Stefanski's performance by 25 pins.

"But, like I've always told my kids (10-year-old Nazareth and eight-year-old Elizabeth), it's important that you always try your best in whatever you do.

"In the situation I was in, I felt I owed it to them as well as myself to follow that same advice."

Stefanski, who finished second in the battle for all events with an 1,820, did win the high game net (277) and tied Pearl Vukek for high game gross (299). Stefanski also went on to take the nine-game gross in 165-average-and-over division (2,018).

Joanne McClenin also had a memorable outing, capturing the singles net (659) and gross (752) while finishing fourth in all events (1,718).

In the team event, the Front Runners did it all, winning the net (2,140) and the gross (2,512). The team members included Liz Milici (534), Terry Miller (560), Judy Wood and Pat Wolyniec (both 523).

Passarello, who teammed with Adrienne Paccione to grab first in the doubles gross (1,449), also took the nine-game gross in the 134-and-under division (2,160).

Donna Saccone had the high series gross (752) as well as the most pins over entering average (97 with a 252).

Jackie Merolo and Lynn Fiume also fared well in the nine-game gross category. Merolo won the the 150-164 division (2,015) and Fiume copped the 135-149 division (2,006).

Other strong contenders for the all events were Peggy Garbarino (1,768) and Schnur (1,664), the third and fifth-place finishers, respectively.

Reservations can be made for the SIWBA Tournament's "Honor the Champions" luncheon. The Dennis Zajac/Harry Brofsky Memorial Trophy will be presented to Philpott, the all-events winner, and the other first-place finishers will also receive trophies.

The luncheon, which costs $17 per person, will be held on April 17 at the Island Chateau, Grasmere, beginning at noon. If interested, call Pat Schnur at 979-0689.

ADVANCE PHOTO/HILTON FLORES

Nazareth Philpott left no doubt who was No. 1 in the SIWBA all-events category.

SINGLES

Gross

	Net	Hcp.	Gross
Joanne McClenin*	659	93	752
Margie Passarella*	522	216	738
Linda Chappell*	575	150	725
Lynn Fiume*	544	177	721
Adrienne Paccione*	597	114	711
Carol Stefanski*	644	66	710
Mary Russo*	542	165	707
Pearl Vukek*	604	96	700
Mary Formino*	546	108	794
Joyce DePaulis*	558	135	693
Nancy Ceboli*	543	150	693

Net

Joanne McClenin*	659
Carol Stefanski*	644
Peggy Garbarino*	626
Pearl Vukek*	604
Adrienne Paccione*	597

DOUBLES

Gross

	Net	Hcp.	Gross
Passarello-Paccione*	1119	330	1449
Hoffman-Marracolo*	1073	297	1370
Fiume-Bruns*	941	411	1352
Sanjurjo-McClenin*	1131	210	1341
Rudiger-DeMartino*	1032	306	1338
Passarlino-Polidore*	1024	309	1333
Ortolano-Shearin*	1108	222	1332
Simonson-Zajac*	1108	222	1330
Rivello-Driscoll*	1155	174	1329
Simone-Priester*	1074	255	1329

Net

Philpott-Keeler*	1213
Rivello-Driscoll*	1155
Santurjo-McClenin*	1131
Passarello-Paccione*	1119
Simonson-Zajac*	1108

TEAM

Gross

	Net	Hcp.	Gross
Front Runners*	2140	372	2512
Pink Panthers*	1862	624	2482
S.S. Excavating*	2117	360	2477
Dolphins*	1645	822	2467
Colonial Ladies*	1992	474	2466
Team # 136*	1848	615	2463
Tuesday Morning*	1763	681	2444
Four Destroyers*	1868	576	2444
Charlie's Angels*	1799	642	2441
Late Four*	1902	531	2433

Net

Front Runners*	2140
S.S. Excavating*	2117
Country Pro Shop*	2061
Sunset Kaglerettes*	2061
Pizza Town*	2024

* official

All events

Nazareth Philpott: 1,845
597(1), 704(3), 544(6)

Nine-game gross

165-and over: Carol Stefanski — 1820-199-2018
150-164: Jackie Merolo — 1,610-405-2015
135-149: Lynn Fiume — 1475-531-2006
134-and under: Margie Passarello — 1512-648-2160

High game net

Carol Stefanski — 277

High game gross

Carol Stefanski — 277-22-299
Pearl Vukek — 267-32-299

High series net

Nazareth Philpott — 704

High series gross

Donna Saccone — 614-138-752

Most pins over entering average

Donna Saccone — 97 over with 252

Stillman, Prignoli hit 259 games

BY ADVANCE STAFF WRITER

Last night's noteworthy scores, by lanes:

Bowling on the Green
Barbara Curcio 199; Laura Steinbrekar 193, 244; Pat Anderson 192; Anne Ryan 225; Mary Driscoll 210-550; Ellie Schroder 204; Joan Calabrisotto 208; Sue Saxon 239, 226-615.

Country Lanes
George Stillman 259-618; Ric Prignoli 259-602; Joe Malassa 604; Joe Ciarravalli 237; Dom DiMartino 225-630; Lou Brass 234; Rob Vinci 222-635; Pat Petrocelone 234-625; Pep Certo 225-605; Tom Wilk 238-600; Tony Passaro 228; Richie Mastine 231; Carmine Proietti 224; Pat Cavucci 223; Dennis Rigatto 227; Tony Gubitosi 232; Sal Farina 225; Jerry Chiavello 223; Tom Kat 224; Tom Trabocci 230; Tony Rhodes 242; Ron Tolas 225; Fred Turk 222; Frank Pircon 246; Tony Cafiero 224; Don Knapp 623.

SIIHA stars to play Long Island Saturday

BY ADVANCE STAFF WRITER

The Staten Island Ice Hockey Association All Stars will face the Long Island Ice Hockey Association All Stars Saturday at 5:15 p.m. at the Bayonne Ice Arena in Bayonne, N.J.

The Island all stars, who earlier this month defeated the New York Stars of the Long Island league, will be led by Brian Donohue and Danny Kennedy of the Pirates, Tommy Reno of the Eagles and Joey Pia of the Lions.

Darts

Last night's noteworthy scores from the Staten Island Dart League:

Mike Nelson 100; John Seton 220; Al Kelly 116; Jimmy Walsh 113; Kevin Smith 138; Butch Jachimczuk 254; Joe Curcio 240; Eric Geidel 548; Don Dillon 200; Rich Davis 200; Joe Gibbons 200; Ray Hyland 195; Maryann Wilson 112; J.R. Archibald 102; Jim Clark 100; John Parker 100.

N.C.A.A.
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