

# TORNADO SPORTS WATCH

## For Alumni



by Jose Gonzalo, Class of '64

**It is hoped that Tornado Sports Watch for Alumni will be a three-time per year report of the sports programs at Mount Carmel Area High School. Editions in January, March and June are planned.**

***This edition of the Tornado Sports Watch will be dedicated to Robert Sowa, a junior at MCA, who lost his life in an auto accident on December 17, 2008. Robert was an outstanding young man who represented MCA as a member of the Tornado Marching Band.***

### **FALL 2008: Volume VII**

#### **BOYS CROSS COUNTRY (3-12)**

The boys, under coach Angela Farronato began the season in the new Heartland Conference with only 8 available members. The boys previously had won 7 consecutive Schuylkill League Division titles. The boys only three victories with wins over Shamokin, Montoursville, and Midwest.

Chris Monaghan was the only top ten finisher for the Red Tornadoes with his 6th place finish in the inaugural Heartland Conference Meet at Shikellamy. His finish did help the boys to a 10th place finish out of 13 teams. Shane Fletcher, Vinny Matalavage, Andrew Gushen, Luke Vaughan, Dylan Lawrence, Cody Yeager, Justin Latorre, Mikael Hauze, and Jon Vanasky round out the team.

At the District IV Championships, sophomore Chris Monaghan registered a 16th place finish, missing out on state qualifying by 7 seconds. Other finishers were Mikael Hauze, 64th, Jonathan Vanaskie, 69th, Vinnie Matalavage, 89th, Dylan Lawrence, 108th, and Justin Latorre, 118th. The team finished 14th out of 17 District IV AA teams. Chris Monahan was named to the first team PHAC Div II Cross Country All Star Team. Monahan was also named to the Press Enterprise All Area team.

### **GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY (1-14)**

The MCA girls, under Farronato, had the difficult task of competing in the Heartland with only 5 runners - none of them seniors. Marisa Farronato, Cara Sinopoli, Kelsey Kraynak, Rachel Fletcher, and Alyssa Buggy make up the team. The girls' lone victory was over arch-rival Shamokin Area.

Alyssa Buggy was the top Red Tornado finisher at the District IV championships with a 66th place finish, Rachael Fletcher at 77th, and Kelsey Kraynak, 100th also finished

### **BOYS SOCCER (2-16)**

A very young boys team struggled through the 2008 season with a 2 - 16 record. **Chris Kanezo, MCA goalkeeper did manage to lead the area in saves with 134.**

### **GIRLS SOCCER (13-7)**

The Red Tornado girls, with 7 starters from the freshman and sophomore classes, were somewhat of a surprise in their first year in the Heartland Conference. They finished the regular season with a fine 12 - 6 record and qualified for District IV play as a 10th seed. The girls opened play with a 2-0 win over 7th seed Towanda. Their 1/4 final game with Southern Columbia did not go as well, as they lost 3-2 in double overtime. Freshman standout Ahrensfield did manage to score two goals in pacing the Lady Tornados to their fine 13-7 mark.

Freshman Ranotta Ahrensfield was one of the area's leading scorers with close to 30 goals and over 50 total points. Megan VanDoren posted over 100 saves in goal, while the defense was lead by senior captain Jenelle Williams.

With only three seniors - Jenelle Williams, Kelsey Latovich, and Kareana Gerrity - the girls should be a force next season in their second go round in the Heartland Conference. Freshman standout Ranotta Ahrensfield was named a first team forward in Division II of the Heartland Conference, while senior leader Jenelle Williams was named as a first team defender.

Ahrensfield was named the Player of the Year by the news Item, as well as a first team performer at forward. She was joined by senior Jenelle Williams as a first team defender. Ahrensfield and Williams were named to the Press Enterprise First Team while Val Bendas was given an honorable mention.

### **VOLLEYBALL (2-15)**

Coached by Tina McClay and Ana Ditchey, the girls managed only 2 wins over Halifax and Jim Thorpe. Following the season, Steph Williams was recognized as an honorable mention athlete by the Schuylkill League. Karissa Cichon was given the Spirit Award, Cassie Mace, Most Improved;

Megan Minnig and Casey Kane, Senior All Stars; and Nicole Kiley, Coaches Award/Most Improved.

### **BOYS GOLF**

Once again, MCA was unable to field a team for golf. Billy Ditchey was again allowed to compete with Lourdes Regional under a co-op program. Billy was the low medalist in 9 out of 10 league matches with a low score of 72 for the year. He tied for first place at the Schuylkill League Individual Championships, only to lose in a sudden death playoff. He registered an 8th place finish at the District IV Championships and was named to the Bloomsburg Press Enterprise and Schuylkill League all star teams. He will continue his career at Penn State University where he will be enrolled in the Professional Golf Management School.

### **FOOTBALL (13-1)**

MCA completed an outstanding season with a 13-1 record. The Tornadoes won 13 straight before losing to Lancaster Catholic in the Eastern Semi-final. Big Red had significant wins over Selinsgrove, the AAA Eastern finalist and Southern Columbia, the District IV AA Champion. The Tornadoes won their 7th District Championship in its win over Montoursville in the title game.

Noteworthy accomplishments were running and passing for over 100 yards in each of our 14 games in 2008. 1966 was the last time that an MCA team was able to accomplish this, as well as, throw for TD's in each of the 14 games. Following the season, Chris Steck became MCA's 38th first team all-stater. Marcus Wasilewski and Trevor Demko were named to the second team squad.

MCA was able to place 11 members on the first-ever Heartland Conference All-Star Team. Named to the offensive unit were Colin Menapace - TE and Kicker, Matt Moroz - WR, Chris Steck, Kyle Higgins, and James Goins - Offensive linemen, Justin Pellowski - RB, Marcus Wasilewski - QB. Goins and Kyle Savitsky were named as defensive linemen, Sean McCollum - LB, Jared Morgan and Kevin Demko - DB's. Named to the second team were Trevor Demko and Zack Lutz - offensive linemen, and Julius Demetrius as a RB. Trevor Demko - DL and Matt Koveleski - DB were named to the second team, as well as Wasilewski - punter. Coach Mike Brennan was tabbed as the Coach of the Year. Nine players were named to the Reading Eagle All Anthracite Team after being shut out last season for the first time in the 41 years of the team being named.

Moroz, Steck, Goins, Pellowski, Wasilewski, McCollum, Demetrius, and the Demko brothers were all named to first unit.

Wasilewski put himself at the top of the statistical charts with 408 completions and 64 TD's in his career, surpassing David Shinskie's 400 and 57 respectively. He also finished with 14 consecutive games with a touchdown and pass and 23 consecutive 100 yard games, en route to his 6145 yards passing, Menapace also established a new season record for PAT's with 64, besting Mike Sinkovich's 50 in 1998. Colin also finished his career by kicking 34 consecutive PAT's. Matt Moroz became only the 4th receiver to top the century mark with 109 receptions, joining Joel Gonzalo, Tim Wargo, and Steve Matzura. Sean McCollum joined an elite group to go over the 100 tackle mark with 112, while Justin Pellowski averaged 11.4 yards each time he touched the football (rushing, receptions, and kick returns). Coach Mike Brennan was also named coach of the year in District IV and improved his record to 84 and 26 in his 9 years at MCA.

Although we lost 25 seniors, prospects are bright for next season as we return many players who gained valuable experience during the '08 campaign

**MCA NEEDS YOUR HELP! - CHECK OUT HOW YOU CAN HELP BY GOING TO THE MOUNT CARMEL AREA EDUCATION FOUNDATION WEBSITE:**

**<http://www.mca.k12.pa.us/mcaef/index.html>**

## **Past Editions of Sports Watch**

**[Volume 6 \(Spring 2008\)](#)**

**[Volume 5 \(Winter 2007-2008\)](#)**

**[Volume 4 \(Fall 2007\)](#)**

**[Volume 3 \(Spring 2007\)](#)**

**[Volume 2 \(Winter 2006-2007\)](#)**

**[Volume 1 \(Fall 2006\)](#)**

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