mindset of a starting pitcher." right, a two-run blast for his half. son on a high note.

Tournament is all about family

BY ASHLEY TEATUM
STAFF WRITER

HS SOCCER

Everyone in the family played soccer.

It started with John Kotula, the oldest of three brothers, who played at Bishop Hannan.

Jeff was next in line, followed by a host of cousins — Chris, Colin and Michael Kanavy, to name a few — and finally, the youngest brother Jamie Kotula, who played at Holy Cross.

An uncle, Chris Kanavy, coached them through youth programs in Scranton. Whenever someone graduated from his high school team, another member of the family seemed to fill the roster spot.

For this family, soccer didn't just stop at the field. Saturday mornings in the Kotula home had Premier League soccer on the television, their father John recalled.

"It was all part of our house growing up," John said. "If you ranked it, soccer came first, football second. All these guys were watching soccer at 9:30 in the morning on a Saturday, and I was wanting them to do chores."

But since Jamie's death in January 2011 following a car accident, that connection has extended outside the family and into the community.

Today and Saturday, the third annual Jamie Kotula Kickoff Classic will be at Marywood from 10 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. Competing in the boys bracket are Holy Cross, Mid Valley, Western Wayne, Old Forge, North Pocono and West Scranton. Girls teams competing are Holy Cross, North Pocono, Wallenpaupack and Scranton Prep.

There is no admission fee, but fans can purchase food from stands run by Marywood University lacrosse and soccer clubs as well as raffle tickets for baskets that will be up for auction. There also will be stands set up to make donations to the foundation.

All proceeds will go to the Jamie Kotula Foundation, which, to date, has raised and distributed more than $100,000 as scholarships and donations to local charitable organizations.

"Jamie was all about this," John said. "From his brothers he got it. He really loved soccer, as much as his brothers. That was the connection.

"It really helped us deal with this tragedy, putting us all together. The reason we're doing this is to honor Jamie's memory for something he really, truly loved."

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Jamie Kotula Kickoff Classic

at Marywood University

Today's games

Boys

Holy Cross vs. Mid Valley, noon
Western Wayne vs. Old Forge, 1:45
North Pocono vs. West Scranton, 5:45

Girls

Holy Cross vs. North Pocono, 10 a.m.
Wallenpaupack vs. Scranton Prep, 4 p.m.

Saturday's games

Boys

Western Wayne-Old Forge winner vs. North Pocono-West Scranton winner, 10 a.m.
Holy Cross-Mid Valley winner vs. team with fewest goals against, noon
Consolation game, 4 p.m.
Championship game, 7:30 p.m.

Girls

Consolation: Holy Cross-North Pocono loser vs. Wallenpaupack-Scranton Prep loser, 1:45 p.m.
Championship: Holy Cross-North Pocono winner vs. Wallenpaupack-Scranton Prep winner, 5:45 p.m.

PSU: Running back not afraid of contact

FROM PAGE B1

against Ohio. Through three games, during which the Penn State offense largely struggled to put the ball in the end zone, Zwinak had just three carries.

But once he got the chance, Zwinak proved as reliable as a four-wheel drive truck. Six times, he rushed for more than 100 yards. Seven times, once the games were starting, he was playing.

"No matter what happened, I was going to work hard enough to play," he said. "Because I wanted to play."

One of the iconic images of the 2012 team came from an opposing equipment manager, who sent a picture of a mangled facemask to the Nittany Lions.

Evidently it was the result

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