

TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT



LAUREN M. ANDERSON/Erie Times-News

Nancy Prose hits the ball back to opponent Desmond Preston during the Millcreek Open Table Tennis Tournament on Saturday.



LAUREN M. ANDERSON/Erie Times-News

Mike Halliday bats the ball back at the table tennis tournament Saturday at McDowell Intermediate High School.

Spin city

Contestants converge on Erie

By KARA RHODES
kara.rhodes@timesnews.com

The squeak of tennis shoes. The grunt of disappointment after a lost point. The sweat soaking through a T-shirt.

This isn't your basement Ping-Pong game.

This is table tennis. And 118 players — ages 9 through 81 — are gathered at McDowell Intermediate High School this weekend

COMING UP: Get complete tournament results in Your Sports. Monday's Times-News.

for the 2007 Millcreek Open Table Tennis Tournament hosted by Erie's Table Tennis Club.

Just a few players are from Erie. The rest are from cities scattered across the map — Pittsburgh; Rochester, N.Y.; Cleveland; Buffalo; and Guelph, Ontario.

► Please see TABLE TENNIS, 5B

Table tennis: Tournament contestants go for a spin

Continued from 1B

Among those in Erie from out of town is 20-year-old A.J. Carney, of Rochester, N.Y. He was the table tennis gold medal champion at the Junior Olympics when he was 10.

He still dabbles in table tennis — he's got a mean spin — and still has a respectable ranking in the sport.

But he really just drove from the State University of New York at Cortland to spend time with his father, who also plays table tennis.

It's baseball Carney is into now. The left-handed pitcher has several Major League scouts interested, his dad said.

"People in table tennis take the sport very seriously," Wayne Carney said. "But there's more money and a possible career in pitching."

Can you blame A.J. Carney for choosing baseball over table tennis?

After all, how many top table tennis players can you name?

Several stars of the game will be on hand today for the tougher competitions during the second day of the tournament. The top prize today is \$750. In all, \$3,000 in cash prizes, along with a TV and a DVD player, will be awarded.

Aaron and Nancy Prose, who drove five and a half hours from Portsmouth, Ohio, to the tournament, competed Saturday.

They're sticking around to see the battle today.

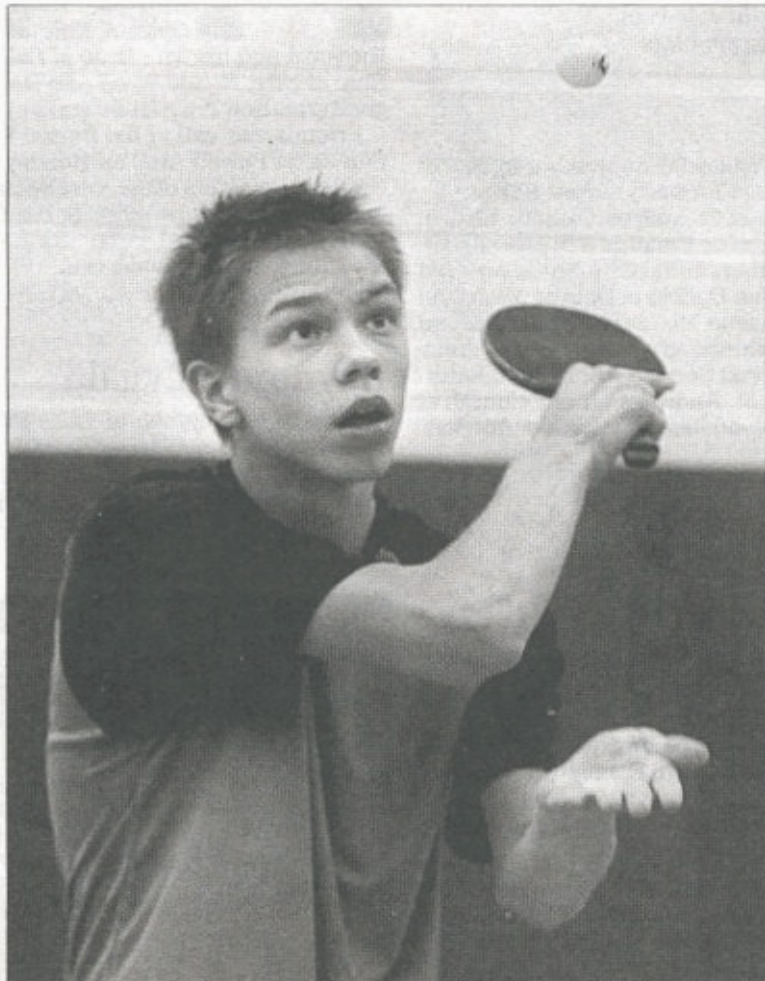
Aaron Prose, 27, a computer programmer, finds the sport fascinating.

"I'm into physics and math, and there's a lot of that in this game," he said. "It's all about angles and spin."

But trying to explain that to those who only know table tennis as, well, Ping-Pong, can be a challenge.

"Everyone has the same image of playing in the dark basement with a hard-back racket and a can of beer," Aaron Prose said. "But when they see it, they're really amazed by it. It's a sport."

KARA RHODES can be reached at 870-1858 or by e-mail.



LAUREN M. ANDERSON/Erie Times-News

Dustin Zemaitis serves the ball at the Millcreek Open Table Tennis Tournament at McDowell Intermediate High School on Saturday. The tournament, which features more than 100 players, continues today.

WANT TO SEE IT?

The 2007 Millcreek Open Table Tennis Tournament continues from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. today at McDowell Intermediate High School. The tournament is free and open to the public.



Online extra: Check out an audio slideshow of the tournament.

Go to GoErie.com/slideshow/tennis

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Dr. Sliker is a 1993 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine with an undergraduate degree in Biology from Boston College. He has practiced at Camboro since his graduation. He is in general veterinary practice with a special interest in orthopedic surgery.

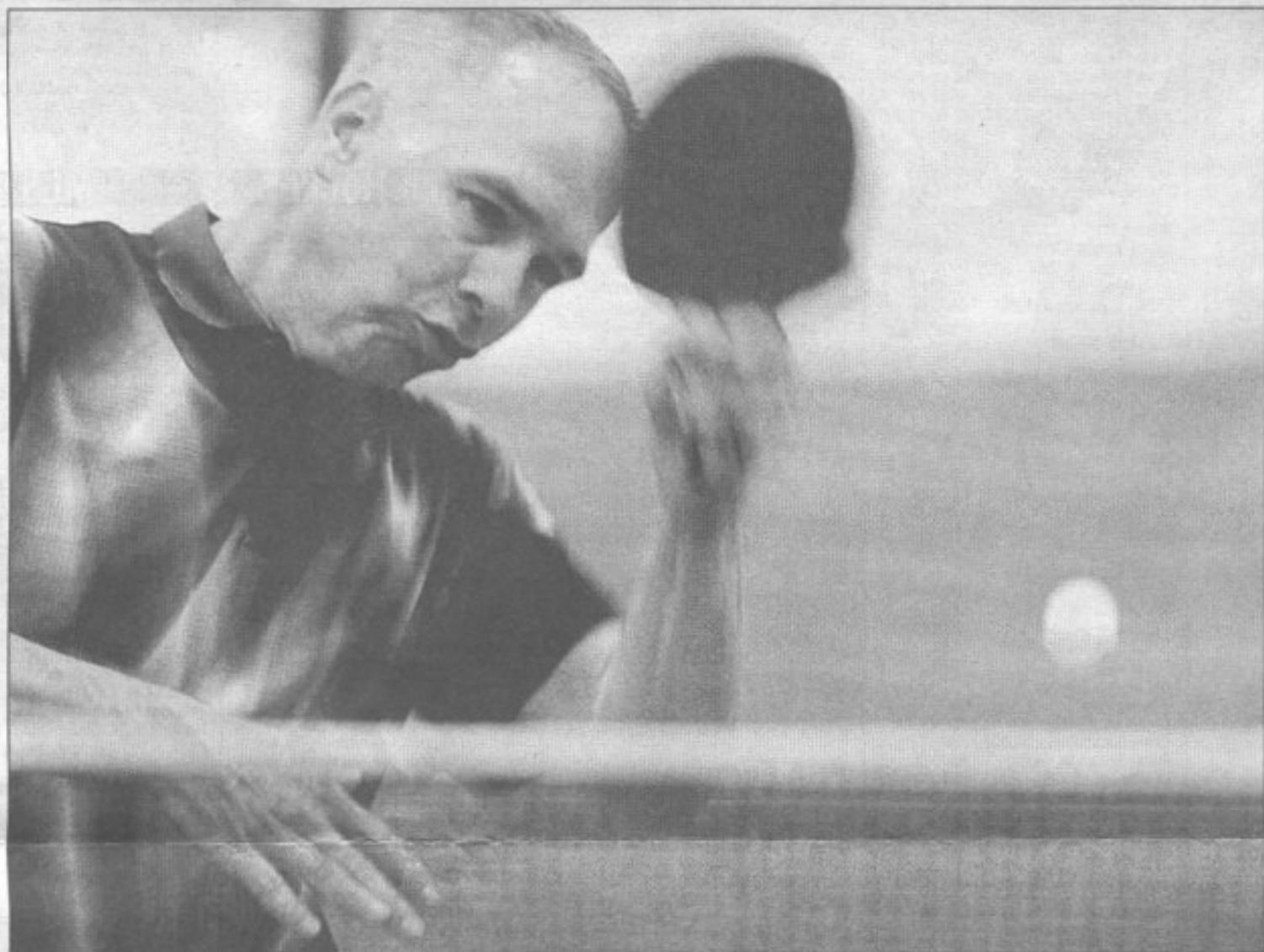


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LAUREN M. ANDERSON/Erie Times-News

Dan Seemiller Sr. of South Bend, Ind., returns a ball back to his opponent, Wayne Carney of Rochester, N.Y., during the Millcreek Open Table Tennis Tournament on Sunday at McDowell Intermediate School. Seemiller, a five-time U.S. table tennis champion, won the open singles and senior over-40 divisions.

AREA RESULTS

Table tennis

Millcreek Open

Under 900: 1. Mark Scott, Pittsburgh
 Under 1,600: 1. Ali Rezai, Pittsburgh
 Under 1,100: 1. Alex Bateman, Rochester
 Under 1,800: 1. Ray Nagel
 Under 1,300: 1. Desmond Preston
 Under 2,000: Andre Khailo, South Bend, Ind.
 Junior under-17: 1. Terence Leung, Toronto
 Senior over-40: 1. Dan Seemiller, South Bend
 3,400 doubles: 1. Ray Mack/Desmond Preston, Rochester
 Under 1,450: 1. Desmond Preston
 Senior esquire: 1. Neil Myers, Cleveland
 Open singles: 1. Dan Seemiller, South Bend
 Junior under-14: 1. Jason Leung, Toronto
 2,800 doubles: 1. Tundi Balogh/Bryan Lewis, Erie
 Under 2,200: 1. Yong Long Zhen, Cleveland
 Open hardbat: 1. A.J. Carey, Rochester
 Under 1,750: 1. Harsh Khandelwal, Akron
 Under 700: 1. Kyle Barnes, Butler
 Under 2,400: 1. Chip Coulter, Pittsburgh

Shutout goalie: Lindsey Thayer, Samantha Zack, Katy Rickard.
 Girard 12-7-0, 11-6-0; Cambridge Springs 3-16-0, 3-14-0

Boys hockey

	Non-league			
Harbor Creek	1	2	3	- 6
Cathedral Prep	5	1	3	- 9

Goals: HC — Zack Chase 3, Vinney Yacabozzi 2, Andrew Hermann; CP — Roberts Belickis 3, Tony Tebald 3, Scott Kalbfleish 2, Corey Harper.
 Cathedral Prep 5-2; Harbor Creek not reported

College

Women's hockey

Non-conference

Minn. Duluth 3
 Mercyhurst 1

Shots on Goal — Mercyhurst 12-6-10—28; Minn. Duluth 11-10-12—33.

Goaltenders — Mercyhurst, Laura Hosier 3-1-1 (33 shots, 30 saves); Minn. Duluth, Kim Martin 5-0-1 (26 shots, 27 saves).

Power play — Mercyhurst (0-5); Minn. Duluth (2-7).

Referee — Robert Ludwig. Linesmen — Karly Zufall, Krissy Langley.

Attendance — 427.

Rowing

Head of the Charles Regatta Collegiate Eights race

Men: 1. Trinity College, 14:58.705; 2. Wesleyan University; 3. Hobart College; 4. Grand Valley State; 5. Queens College of Canada; 6. Mercyhurst 15:35.992; 7. Brock University; 8. University of Rochester

Men's water polo