

Husky athlete also plays ice hockey

By **RAY WILDE**
Sentinel correspondent

In 2008, Mifflin County Babe Ruth All-Star Manager Bernie Howard, said of Jack Wagner, "He has a heart of a lion."

Not only does the 17-year-old Reedsville resident have a heart of a lion, he also possesses a skill that very few people have in this area — the ability to play ice hockey.

And not only has he played the sport since he was a young boy, he has done it at a high level.

Jack is a junior at Mifflin County High School. During the spring he plays baseball, and in the fall he plays football as a starter for the Huskies in the defensive backfield.

Jack also plays ice hockey for Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School in Altoona as a co-op player. Ice hockey does not come under the umbrella of the PIAA; it is governed by regional scholastic leagues.

Guilfoyle plays its home games at Galactic Ice in downtown Altoona. Other teams in the league are Somerset, Greater Johnstown, Westmont, Forest Hills, Cen-

tral Cambria, Conenaugh Valley, Derry Area, Richland, Ferndale and Northern Cambria.

Jack has played for Bishop Guilfoyle since he was a freshman and has been a starter for the Marauders. For the first two years of his hockey career, Jack was on offense, but as a junior he now has defensive responsibilities.

Co-op teams are made up of players from more than one school district. State College, however, is not a co-op team because it has enough players from its own school district.

But, Wagner didn't just start playing when he became a freshman in high school. He has been on the ice since he was 6 years old.

Why hockey?

"It was kind of different," Jack says. "It was an alternate to other sports and it filled the void in the winter months."

He started to play in State College for the Junior Icers. It was there that he learned how to skate, backwards and forwards, and how to handle a hockey stick and get a puck into scoring position.

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Sentinel photos by JASON SIPES

Jack Wagner plays baseball and football as a junior at Mifflin County High School. But he also plays ice hockey for Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School in Altoona as a co-op player.



A junior at Mifflin County High School, Jack has played ice hockey for Bishop Guilfoyle since he was a freshman.

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