

how improved the Long Branch squad is this season. They are coached by Rosalie Guzzi, who is in her eighth season. Last year the Green Wave finished 2-22 and was 0-12 in the division. "Our pitcher, Stephanie Tornquist, is in her fourth year on varsity. During the off season she worked with a pitching coach and has made several improvements," said Guzzi.

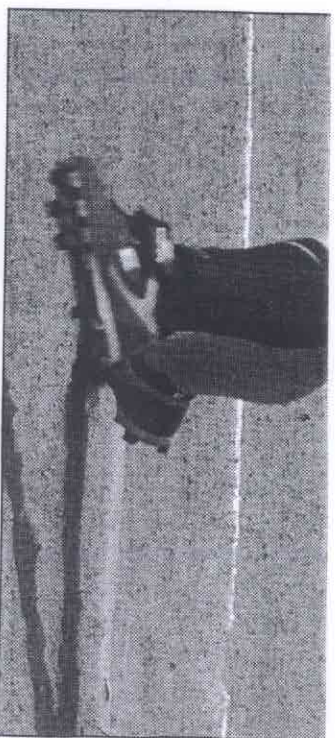
With the loss Long Branch is now 1-2 overall and 0-2 in the division. "I expect the girls to improve over last season. They work hard in practice and are



Pitching all four years of her scholastic career at Long Branch High School is Stephanie Tornquist. During the off-season, she worked with a pitching coach and developed a new style with more control.

starting to understand the dynamics of the game," said Guzzi.

Monmouth Regional is now 2-2 overall and 2-1 in the division.



Pitching an almost perfect game for Monmouth Regional was Kourtney Smith (20) a junior, who struck out 8 Long Branch batters and allowed only 1 hit in five innings.

Walter J. O'Neill LINKSports

A Different View

TV Shows

About seven years ago, approximately the same time I started writing this column, I was asked to host a local cable TV show. The cable commission had been offered time and production assistance at the then new television studio at Monmouth University. The facility is located in the Plangere Center, a building donated to the University by Jules Plangere, former publisher of the Asbury Park Press. Robin Levin was on the commission, along with Cornelius Williams, Howie Martin, and Don Swanson. Don is the head of the School of Communications and was the connection to the school.

Students signed up to be part of the crew, received one credit for their effort, and the show hit the air. I think Joe Ferraina, Long Branch superintendent of

schools, was the first guest. Guests have included every member of council, representatives of the library, Tyrone Garrett, executive director of the LB Housing Authority, city department heads, organizers of various local events, and Jules Plangere, who made all this possible.

There's been turnover on the cable commission. Robin Kampf, Kevin Cieri, Phil Faccone, and Howie Martin show up and work the board or cameras at most shoots. Kevin's kids Ann Marie and Christian, and my daughter Amy, volunteer when their school schedule allows. Kevin arranges for the guests most weeks, and sends out the emails reminding us to show up. Nobody is getting paid, except for getting their names in the credits.

During the last two municipal elections, the commission takes the show off the air for about 45

days, lest any one complain about politic influence. Still with no election in sight for two more years, there are people at council and cable commission meetings complaining about the show, trying to stir up controversy. They claim there is something wrong with me, as the mayor, hosting a TV show. The complainers claim the show might be political. Or maybe I misunderstand the complaint, and what people are saying is that we've focused on sports too much this year.

First up we had former LB basketball coaches Gerry Matthews and Don Govin as guests. They had been on the show two years ago but the tape has been lost. Don coached as many state title winners as Coach Matthews, but he deferred throughout the show to let his former coach and mentor talk more. Matthews remembers every detail of almost every game he's ever coached. I asked

a question about the double overtime LB victory over St. Rose thirty years ago, and got a detailed description of every key play of the game, including the Alex Bradley rebound and put back that sent the game into overtime, and the plays that led to an LB win in double overtime. The disc of this show wasn't lost and Kevin Cieri made sure that Don and Coach Matthews got copies.

Our next sporting guest was New Jersey Shore Marathon and Long Branch Half Marathon race director Art Castellano. Art has been on the show 3 or 4 times, discussing improvements in the race from previous years as it has become one of the top running events in the state. We discussed the multi-million dollar economic impact the race will have on the region, and the various local charities that will benefit from the event. Art and I have become good friends over the last 12 years and after the

show we talked for another hour and a half about various things. Danny George was the guest the next week and naturally we talked about football and wrestling, and how much fun it was to have a combined 36-2 record this fall and winter. Maybe the highlight of that show was Danny's son DG getting a thrill watching his father on the three monitors on the control panel.

This week I'm interviewing former LB basketball coach Joe Whalen. Joe is now the assistant coach at St. Anthony's of Jersey City, this year's number one team in the country.

Figuring that too much sports talk is possible, last week Kevin arranged for me to interview Neil Schulman, the editor of The Link. Getting away from sports we talked about crowd control at council meetings. I hope that stems the complaints about too much sports talk.