

Troy Smith

Athlete of the Week

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Delaware Valley senior goalie Troy Smith posted a pair of shutouts in the PIAA Class AAA soccer playoffs, helping the Warriors advance to the state semifinals for the first time.

Age: 17

Family: Mother, Carolyn Visaggio; father, Glen Smith; twin brothers, Tyler and Trevor.

Other sports you play: Basketball

Sports teams you follow?

Duke Blue Devils basketball and the New York Giants.

Favorite athlete?

LeBron James. I just love the way he plays the game like no other.

Any superstitions or pre-game rituals?

I don't really think like that too much. I just go out there and play my game.

How did you get started as a

goalie? One of my best friends was always into soccer. We'd always be playing at his house. He was really into it and I wasn't, and he said I should be go out for soccer. Ever since sixth grade I've been playing on the soccer team.

Have you always been

a goalie? Yes. I can't kick very well, but I have pretty good hands and my athleticism helps a lot, too.

What kind of camps have you attended to

help hone your skills? I've never been to a soccer camp in my life. A lot of the big keepers being recruited by the colleges get a lot of attention at the camps. I've never really been taught. I've just done it by experiencing it. Over time, I've gotten used to getting the right angles and what not.

So where did you get your keeper skills, especially your ability to go get the ball in the air? Definitely that's from playing basketball my whole life. That's one of my number-one sports and I've always worked hard at it and jumping high was just something I was always good at.

What has this run been like? It's been absolutely amazing. We knew we were really good. I don't know if we knew we'd be this good, but after we won the district championship against Abington (Heights), we knew we could make a good run at the state championship. To be the best, you have to beat the best, and we definitely showed that this year, beating them three times.

What's been the most special moment so far? Winning the district championship and going on to the state tournament. I did that in basketball, too, but doing it in soccer is great.

How about three people you would like to have dinner with? Probably LeBron James, my dad and Victor Cruz.

What plans do you have after high school? I plan to go to college for four years and get a degree in sports management.

In its 63rd season, **ATHLETE OF THE WEEK** appears every Monday in The Times-Tribune. A radio interview will air today at 5:20 p.m. on "In the Zone" with Icky Fawcett on ESPN.

