

► NORTH PENN

Wurster, five others form alumni group

By KEV HUNTER
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TOWAMENCIN — Tom Strickland compared it to coming home. Of course, there would be a lot more brothers and sisters.

"It would be nice to come home," Strickland said Monday night at his alma mater, North Penn High School. "Once you have graduated, it would be nice to come to a nice social environment where you see old friends and people that played here. A few of us have often talked about how there is no sense of alumni community."

Strickland, who ran track and played football for the Knights before graduating in 1962, is helping five other alumni form The North Penn Athletic Alumni Association.

Headed by Art Wurster, the group met Monday evening for the first time. The second meeting is scheduled for Jan. 10.

The group hopes to attract all former North Penn athletes that competed in any of

the 29 sports the school offers. There are about 30,000 graduates dating back to 1956, so there is a huge base to draw from.

The goal is to reunite the former athletes and help build up the present-day sports programs, including raising money for scholarships.

"We want to have the members involved with social activities," Wurster said. "We also want to preserve the memories of North Penn athletics."

The association is now operating independently, but hopes to operate in conjunction with the school board within the next year.

Joining Wurster and Strickland at the first meeting were former North Penn football coach Al Brodhag and former principal Ken Schmidt.

Local sports commentator Jim Church and *The Reporter's* Dick Shearer were not present Monday but are also involved in forming the association.