

# Bone

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football could take him. In the end, he opted to play baseball anyway, but doesn't regret his time in school.

Despite missing multiple football games last season due to the donation and an ankle injury, Szczur said he was still a prospect for the NFL, possibly a third round pick. He ended up turning down the opportunity when he was offered a \$1.5 million contract with the Chicago Cubs to play center field. That deal also includes a \$100,000 signing bonus.

"I had no idea what I was going to do at first," he said, "but once the Cubs made their offer, I couldn't turn it down."

Szczur said he felt a career in baseball has the potential to last a lot longer than in football, so when the Cubs increased their contract deal from \$500,000 in June to \$1.5 million last month, he took the offer quickly.

He was a catcher in high school when his brother played pitcher, but when he attended Villanova, he was put in the outfield. His former high school held

a bone marrow sign-up and blood drive last Wednesday in honor of Szczur's story and success. Over 200 people came to have their mouth swabbed as part of the bone marrow registry and over 100 people donated blood.

"It was a really good turnout," Szczur said. "Hopefully it keeps going every year and inspires more people to do it."

The school gives the faculty and students the chance to donate blood three times a year, but this was the first time they ever had a bone marrow registry, in which the

entire community was invited to participate. Participants had to be 18 to register.

Szczur gave all the credit to his mother, Kathy, and former LCMR football coach Lance Bailey for setting up the "Szczur Swab Campaign."

"I've got a busy schedule right now, but I made time to come down and help out at the drive - they did all the work though," he said.

Szczur's former assistant principal Bert Kern was also in attendance and received an autographed baseball from Szczur.

"Even if you take away all

the athletic ability, he's still just a great kid," Kern said. "I used to make it a point to go watch him play football and baseball."

Kern was especially happy with Szczur's choice to accept the Chicago contract, considering he has been a Cubs fan all of his life.

Szczur is currently finishing up classes at Villanova and will take an online course to speed up the process so he is done in time for spring training in Mesa, Ariz., which begins in late February.

He spent last summer playing for three different teams

in the Cubs minor league organization, but now has a bright and successful career ahead of him in the majors.

"I'm very happy he chose to play baseball," his father Marc said. "He had much smaller chance of getting injured."

He said throughout all his son's athletic achievements, he believes donating marrow to that little girl was Szczur's greatest accomplishment.

# Science

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them to one place on the basis of a watershed."

Throughout the three-day event, there were 130 oral and poster presentations were given to explain the science of the estuary and how vital it is to the environment and to the estimated five million people who live around it.

The group asked New Jersey's 2nd District State Representative Frank

LoBiondo to speak Monday morning about his present and future plans for the Delaware estuary.

According to Executive Director of the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, Jennifer Adkins, LoBiondo has been a "tremendous" supporter of the group and takes a strong stand on environmental issues.

LoBiondo made it clear that groups of all kinds, such as environmental organizations will find it to be even more

difficult to receive funding and accomplish goals as the economy worsens.

"The national deficit grew to a trillion and half dollars this year," he said. "Government agencies have no idea what their budget will be."

"I don't know what the ultimate result will be, but it's going to be more challenging."

LoBiondo praised the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary for their efforts, as well as the EPA and DEP. He said that it was important for people to express their concerns and passions to their state leaders to make sure programs like this stay intact and receive as much funding as possible.

During the question and answer portion, LoBiondo was asked if the Delaware estuary projects should sometimes link up with other projects when it comes to clean up or restoration projects, such as the ones that take

place in the Chesapeake Bay.

"Think outside the box and think creatively," he said. "Create all the partnerships possible."

LoBiondo has not only been involved with the Delaware estuary, but also in environmental work with the Audubon Society, and the League of Conservation Voters. He said he has striven to protect fragile wildlife and wetlands in New Jersey as well, while standing up for projects that clean up the coastline.

The keynote speaker of the morning, NJDEP Commissioner Bob Martin discussed the efforts of his organization and Gov. Chris Christie to bring funding to the restoration of the estuary.

"It's a rich, ecological system," Martin said. "It's imperative we keep that ecological system healthy - long term."

"The governor has a very aggressive environmental agenda," he said.

He said over the past year since he and Christie took office, there have been big achievements in regards to the environment.

He discussed keeping offshore drilling out of the New Jersey ocean waters and Christie's Barnegat Bay initiative, which involved closing down the Oyster Creek nuclear power plant. Martin also discussed the commitment to putting a hold on dredging in the Delaware River until more testing and studies are done in order to find its long-term effect on the ecosystem.

He said the protection of the estuary is a tri-state effort.

"New Jersey is trying to do their part," he said. "We all need to work together."

Possible threats to the estuary and Delaware River in general, such as the Marcellus shale drilling and hydro-fracking were also discussed at the conference.

Martin said New Jersey, unlike Pennsylvania and New

York, would not take part in it until rules and regulations were put in place for the corporations responsible for the drilling.

"We want nothing to do with it if there are no laws in place to protect people's drinking water," he said. "Both New York and Pennsylvania need to make those regulations to protect their water."

The Delaware River and Estuary provides drinking water to thousands of people according to Shawn Garvin, Region 3 Administrator for the EPA.

"People tend to think of it as just a transportation source," he said. "It's a unique and significant value to the environment and the people around it."

As a lifelong resident of the Delaware Estuary, Garvin said he understands the importance of it. He said everyone must take action to minimize threats to the estuary.

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# Car

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will go into the borough's

general fund. The paperwork for each vehicle was turned over to the clerk about two weeks ago and the board will establish a process in which to sell or auction them off.

In other business, the borough appointed two new fire fighters to the volunteer fire company. According to Geyer, the new members are

James Cox of West Cape May and Jerry Harper of Cape May City.

Geyer said Harper is already a trained fireman and served in the Townbank area, while Cox will need to attend fire fighter school sometime in the near future.

Kaithern wanted to remind the public of the West Cape

May American Red Cross blood drive on March 2 from noon to 6 p.m. All are encouraged to come and donate.

In another report, she said planning has gone underway for the farmers market and borough activities for 2011.

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