

WILKES-BARRE FATS

Win Five individual titles

by Lee L. Richards

They say class and quality always comes to the fore in tournaments. This was the case for both Dallas and Lake-Lehman in the District 2 mat championships over the weekend.

Lake-Lehman captured its second straight double A title with five of Coach Shorty Hitchcock's matmen winning titles. They were: Rick Bonomo (112), Rocky Bonomo (119), Joe Parsons (126), Bernie Janusz (138), and Mike Leskowsky at Heavyweight.

Dallas had its share of excitement, especially Friday when Bill Rudick (98) knocked off Coughlin's Lou Ercolani, who had beaten Bill in two previous meetings.

Heavyweight Jeff Sodrosky reached the finals in triple A only to bow again to Coughlin's Ron Solt, 2-zip. Jeff has improved over the course of the season.

Meanwhile, Andy Pinter (132) and Sean Kavanagh (155) both scored falls in the finals to capture individual crowns and pace Coach Larry Schuler's matmen to a rather impressive second place.

Now the grind begins for area wrestlers as they advance to the regionals this weekend. If they can keep the winning beat it's on to the PIAA finals.

It's tough to say just how far our wrestlers can go because the caliber of competition increases with each win from here on. According to many of the collegiate coaches we conversed with at Clatrim over the weekend, Pennsylvania has an outstanding crop of schoolboy grapplers again this year.

While wrestlers from the Eastern Wrestling League and head coaches advance on to Oregon State for the NCAAAs, many are leaving assistant coaches behind to keep tabs on the schoolboy wrestlers competing in the state tourney.

Conditioning and the right mental attitude are two keys to winning on the level this weekend.

We held our final Eastern Mat Poll of the season last week and nothing really changed in the first five teams. Lehigh won the distinction of being the top dual meet team in the East for 1980. Clarion was second, Wilkes third, Bloomsburg fourth and Penn State fifth.

Many wrestling buffs are curious as to why Lehigh can't find a date to wrestle Clarion and Wilkes is always ducking Bloomsburg?

The rest of the top 10 looked like this: Navy sixth, Hofstra seventh, Rhode Island eighth, Trenton St. ninth and Franklin and Marshall 10th. This was the highest finish ever for Wilkes and only because of Syracuse nipping Bloom by a point.

Clarion showed its true ability in the recent Eastern Wrestling League championships when Coach Bob Bubb's Golden Eagles captured five titles. The 1980 champions are: 118-Dan Foldes, Cleve. St.; 126-Dan Reese, Bloomsburg; 134-Randy Miller, Clarion; 142-Bill Walsh, Cleve. St.; 150-Tony Caravella, Bloomsburg; 158-Dale Gilbert, Clarion; 167-Dom DiGiacchino, Bloomsburg; 177-Charlie Heller, Clarion; 190-Mark Downing, Clarion, and Heavyweight Jack Campbell of Clarion.

On the EWL tourney, we enjoyed working with the coaches and doing the bout-by-bout results. The league is becoming stronger and the quality of wrestling was hard-nosed and should prepare the wrestlers for the coming NCAA war next weekend.

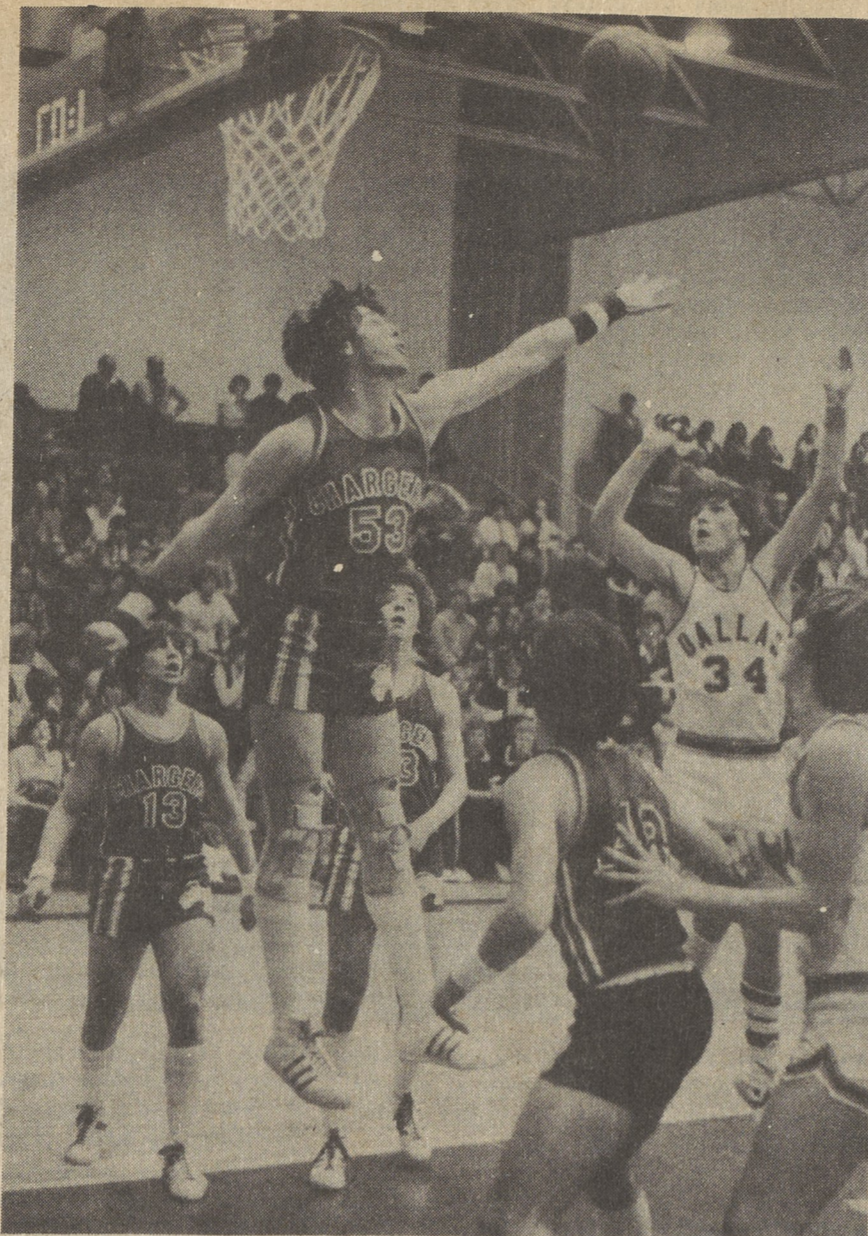
I've mentioned John Brunner's name here many times while he was coaching at Temple. He's been a good friend since his days at Middletown H.S. in New York state. John recently joined the Detroit Lions staff as backfield coach. I'm confident he'll make the most of his opportunity with the pros. He's got a solid knowledge of the passing game which Temple boss Wayne Hardin is noted for and the Lions should benefit his savvy.

A couple of weeks back I mentioned to look out for the Hoosiers of Bob Knight down the stretch in the Big Ten. Sunday's clash with Ohio State was a beaut. Buckeyes have some talent and I look for both teams to make a legitimate run for the NCAA title.

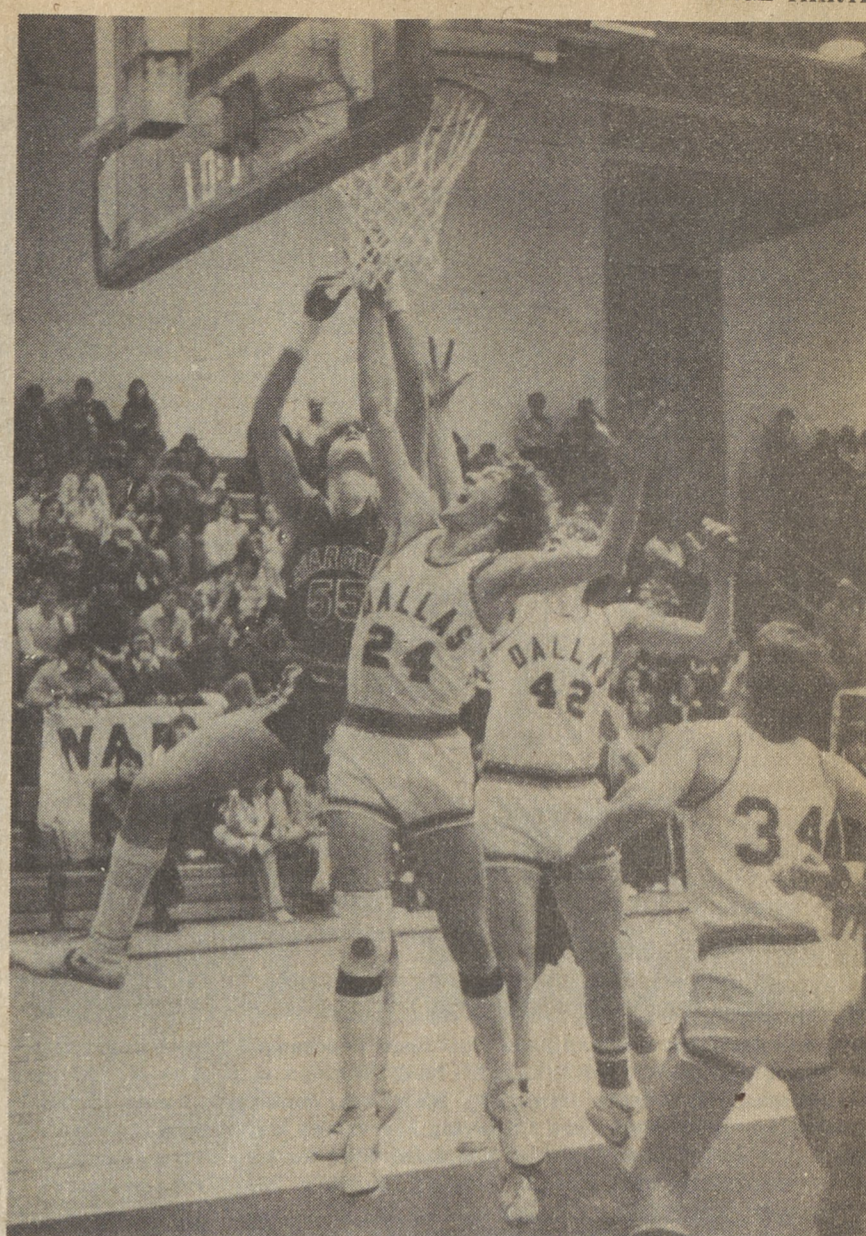
When I stated Syracuse and St. John's weren't top 10 caliber teams I wasn't kidding. I see Georgetown put it to the Orange and St. John's lost to another ordinary club.

Notre Dame they tell me signed some more top-notch gridgers, despite Dan Devine being the coach. Can't help but wonder how many more they'd get if he wasn't running the show?

Had a good visit on the phone with Joe Avezzano, head coach of the Oregon State Beavers, last week. Joe was one of our favorite people when coaching the offense at Pitt and Tennessee. If anyone can turn the Beavers around it's Joe. He's a smart coach and can handle young people.



TWO POINTS--Mount Scott Keller (34) hits for two on a short jumper over the reaching arm of a Carbondale defender in Monday night's game at Valley View. (Photo by Mark Moran)



JOBSON SCORES--Dallas player Paul Jobson (24) gets in front of a Carbondale man to score two points on a layup. In on the action are Walt Weir (42) and Scott Keller (34). (Photo by Mark Moran)

Mounts advance by smashing Mohawks

Coach C.int Brobst's Dallas Mountaineers defeated the Meyers Mohawks 77-63 in the

playoff game to determine the fourth place team in the Division AA District 2 playoffs. The win pitted Dallas

with a 16-11 record against Scranton's No. One team, Carbondale, with a 20-9 record, in Monday's game at Valley View.

Meyers jumped out to an early 2-0 lead while Dallas missed the first four shots. Then the Mountaineers got hot hands and scored the next 11 and went on to lead by 20 points, 28-8 at the end of the first period.

The first half ended with the Mounts in front 46-24 as 10 players saw action for Dallas. The first half action displayed some of the finest long range shooting ever seen

in King's gym.

In the third period Dallas continued its shooting hitting eight for 12 for a total of 26 for 43 (60 percent shooting average for three quarters). The reserves finished the last part of the game for the 77-63 outcome.

Good rebounding by Scott Keller and Walt Weir started numerous fast break situations for easy scores.

Meyers defense was kept busy collapsing Weir in the high post which enabled Paul Jobson and Jim Thomas to display uncanny long range shooting.

Keller made some excellent inside moves while Tim Brennan showed great leadership in controlling the game from point guard position.

"Once again I'm proud of the unselfish play and team spirit which gave us four players in double figures and another with eight points and five assists," said Brobst.

"I feel our team has overcome a temporary slump which most teams experience at one time or another during the long season. Our shooting percentage dropped from 48 to 28 percent for a period of three or four games

during the second half of league play.

"Perhaps it came at the best time possible since now it's sudden death and we have to be at our best if we are to survive in playoff competition."

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3 1/2 good quarters not enough for L-L

Crestwood defeated the Lake-Lehman Knights 55-49 to take the second seed from the Wyoming Valley Basketball conference in the AA District 2 playoffs which opened Monday night with Lake-Lehman playing Scranton Prep.

"We played well for the first three and a half periods," said Knight Coach Rodger Bearde. "Then the Comets went to the press which bothered the boys. We had too many turnovers against the press. When we beat the press the kids forced the ball to Dave Penkrot. In the fourth period they were leading 49-47 then we turned the ball over and Crestwood scored with one minute to go. That was the ball game. We controlled the tempo most of the game

until the end of the fourth quarter. Then we made too many mistakes. Defensively until that point we kept the score where we wanted it."

Penkrot paced all the scorers with 24 points and Rodger Bearde netted 12 points in the game which put the Knights into the district playoffs as Wyoming Valley's No. 3 AA team.

Pat Flanagan and Mike Jones led the Comets with 17 points each as their team outscored the Knights 15-6 in the final period.

In the third period, the Knights were in front by a 10-point span and held the lead until the Comets went to the press.

The Knights were to meet Scranton Prep at Lakeland on Monday night.

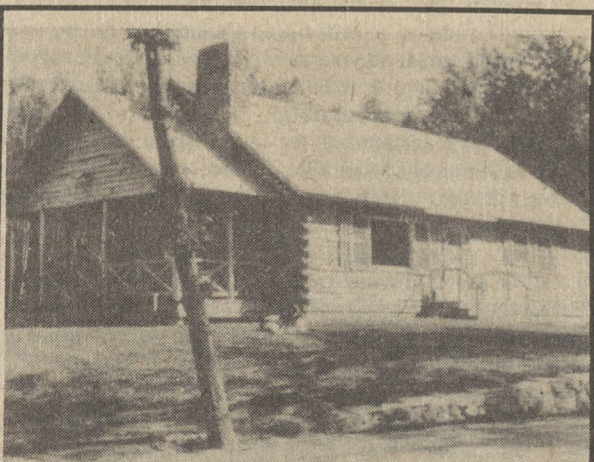
L-L grid mothers sell pasties

The Lake-Lehman Football Mothers will meet on March 10th at 8 p.m. at the Senior High School.

Final plans will be discussed for the bake

sale to be held at the Junior High on March 13.

A pasty sale is scheduled for March 25. All orders should be given to Mrs. Maryann Williams by March 21.



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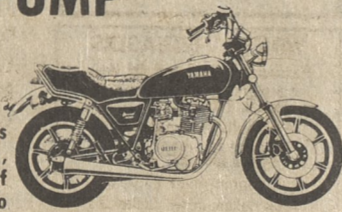
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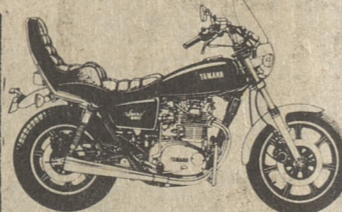
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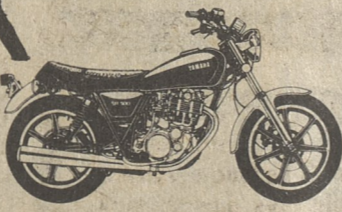
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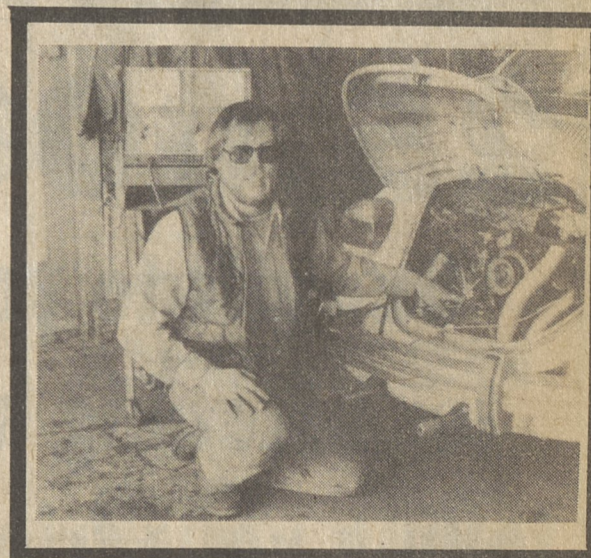


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