

L-L matmen prove they're the best

Lake-Lehman wrestlers proved they were the best in the Wyoming Valley Conference Wednesday night when they went against Meyers in the wrestle-off for the championship and won. The Knights pulled off a 25-22 victory to win the first wrestling crown in the history of the Lake-Lehman jointure. The meet was held before a capacity crowd in King's College gym.

Both schools went into the wrestle-off with a 12-0-1 having tied each other in their first meet of the league season.

Coach Shorty Hitchcock brought a well-conditioned group of athletes to the mats, a group determined to take home the championship trophy to their Back Mountain school in Lehman.

The Mohawks took an early 10-0 lead, taking the first three bouts before the Knights 119-lb. Ricky Bonomo put his team on the scoreboard with a 21-6 superior decision over John Nagorski.

The meet stated off with the Mohawks Mark Kornfeld's 7-3 decision over 98-lb. Brad Hontz. In a close

match 105-lb. Jon Patterson took Darren Barbacci 7-6 in the final seconds of the third bout. Patterson trailed 6-2 going into the third period but escaped for one point then earned two more on a takedown to put the score at 6-5. In the final seconds Patterson received two back points to take the bout 7-6.

At 112-lb. Vince Macri expected to meet Ricky Bonomo but Bonomo moved up a weight class and macri took a major 17-6 decision from Kevin Bonham to give the Mohawks a 10-0 lead.

Following Ricky Bonomo's superior win over Nagorski, his 126-lb. twin Rocky Bonomo put the team score at 10-9 by taking a 13-2 bout from Lee Miller.

Fans saw one of the most exciting bouts of the meet in the 132-lb. class when Knight Ron Swingle and Mohawk Tom Schwab fought through six minutes of tough wrestling. Schwab won 4-3 to give Meyers a 13-9 lead.

Jim Casey defeated 138-lb. Knight Mike Scavone 7-1 to give Meyers a 16-9 lead.

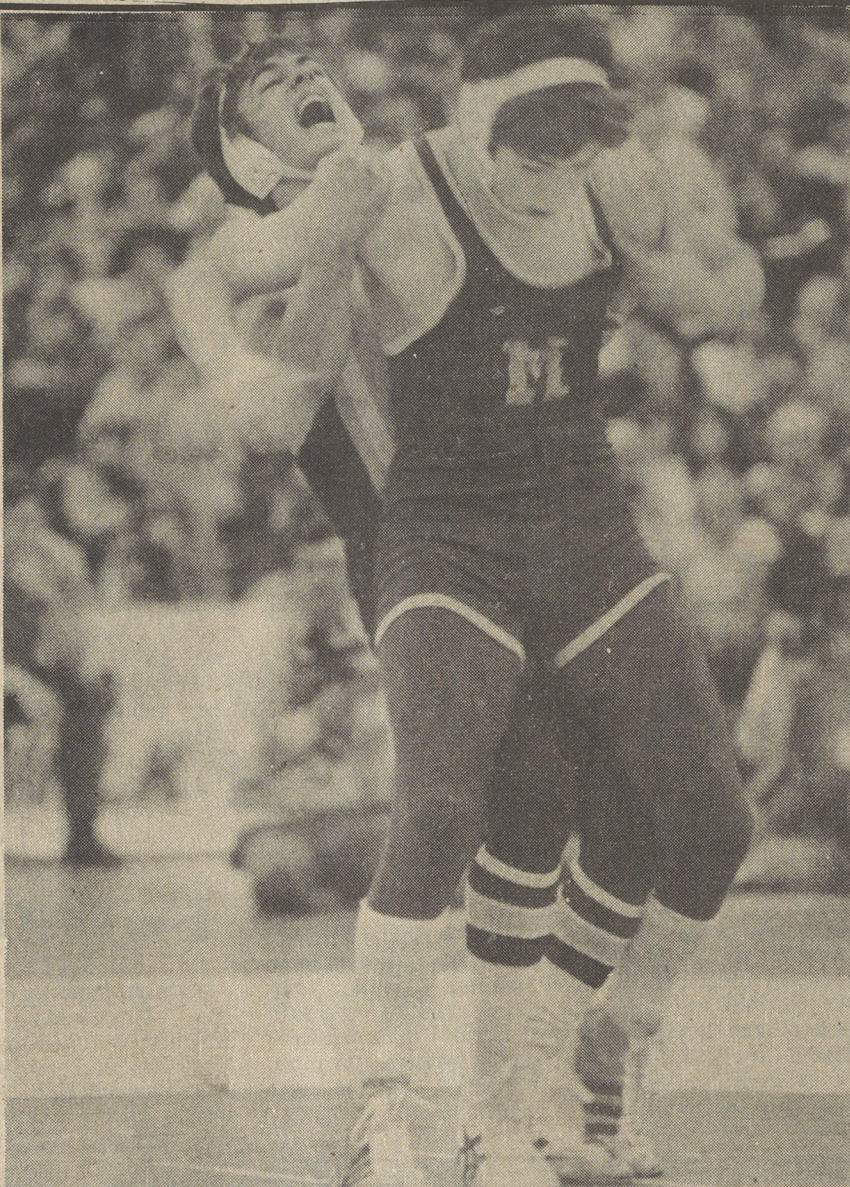
With five bouts remaining in the meet, Hitchcock's Knights went to work at wrapping up the rest of the results. 145-lb. Bernie Janusz clamped Paul Johnson in 1:58 for the only fall of the meet and moved his Lake-Lehman team score to 16-15, only one point behind the Mohawks.

Knight Tracy Slocum took the 155-lb. bout over Rick Kozick with an 8-4 decision and Lake-Lehman went into the lead 18-16. 167-lb. Mark Harshbarger decided Mohawk Mike Woods 6-2 to move the team score to 21-16.

185-lb. Dave Wolfe decided the championship for the Knights when he had little trouble in taking a 13-4 major decision from Mike Farrell to give his team a 25-16 lead.

With the Knights assured of the win, Coach Hitchcock forfeited the heavyweight bout rather than send Mike Leskowsky to the mat. Leskowsky is recuperating from an injury suffered in an earlier meet and minor surgery. Hitchcock stated prior to the meet that he would not use Leskowsky unless absolutely necessary. The Knight coach prefers that his athlete prepare for the upcoming competition in districts, regionals and states.

Post Sports



THAT'S LEVERAGE—Knight Rick Bonomo uses a lot of leverage to take down his Meyers opponent in the title meet last week. Bonomo won by a big decision. (Mark Moran Photo)

WILKES-BARRE FATS

Shorty was right

Pitt Coach Jackie Sherrill on his overall evaluation of the Panther signees: "We had a superb group of recruits. We went after linemen and linebackers. I've gotta believe we accomplished our needs. We've added the necessary speed and size we felt is necessary to sustain our program. I'm elated with the incoming group."

—The Eastern Wrestling League recently completed its sixth season and I'm quite optimistic about the overall strength of the loop in the future with the outstanding crop of freshmen. Several of the coaches believe this current group is the best to come into the EWL.

—I had several lengthy conversations with Coach John Majors in the past week and it appears we've resolved some of our differences. Despite some of his actions, I still have liking for the guy that restored the Pitt program to the 1976 national championship.

—While it was mentioned in the local press, former Army coach Earl Blaik sent a \$100,000.00 contribution to West Point recently for use toward the new athletic complex. Col. Blaik is still one of classiest sports figures I've ever met.

—I still can't believe Valley View realistically wants to compete in the Wyoming Valley Football Conference. The Cougars have been a powerhouse in the Scranton area for years and has too much tradition in that area to make a jump down this way.

—It came as a surprise when I learned Dallas mat boss Larry Schuler was going to resign at the end of the season. It's no secret Larry became a bit disenchanting over the last couple of years. It's going to again put the Dallas school board in a situation where they're faced with a sagging program that needs someone to inject some instant enthusiasm. Mounts have had too many good wrestlers in the past to ignore the program.

—Several mat buffs inquired last week as to whom I thought was the best collegiate heavyweight wrestler I've seen? My favorite is Jim Nance, a two-time NCAA champ from Syracuse. The Indiana, Pa. native had it all and was slick and overpowering.

—Coach Shorty Hitchcock's Lake-Lehman matmen came through against Meyers as we predicted previously. My congratulations to the team and coaching staff for a superb performance and season. I'm only sorry I couldn't have been there, but I was preparing for the EWL Tournament in Cleveland over the weekend. When I discussed the return meet with Coach Hitchcock, he was quite confident and told me where the difference would occur this time around. Shorty was right on the button.

—Already putting together my list of the Eleven Elite Schoolboy grid prospects for Eastern Football. We check with various coaches and ask them to rate the prospects. Then we sort of do a cross check. In the three previous years we've been quite successful. Bill Fralic of Penn Hills, who signed with Pitt, is obviously the top player in the East and some parts of the country this season. Judging from the early returns, Pitt is going to dominate the list.

—Football News, which is ever so pro Big 10, listed Michigan as the pre-season No. 1 team. That's nice, but if I recall the Wolverines need a QB? If I was forced to select a Super Seven right now the following teams would be in it: USC, Alabama, Oklahoma, UCLA, Michigan, Penn State and Nebraska. Don't underestimate the Pitt Panthers either.

—Irem Golfers getting a mite uneasy about not having a pro and the season only several weeks away. One thing is for sure, they're not short on applicants.

Penkrot scores 2,000th point

Lake-Lehman's Dave Penkrot canned 52 points against West Side Tech Tuesday night to hit a career mark of 2,000 points. The big senior not only collected the 52 points in the final game of the league season but picked them up in less than three quarters of the 105-63 win over the Titans.

With less than two minutes remaining in the third quarter, Penkrot hit

the 2,000 mark when he fouled in a point from the foul line. Penkrot hit 14 for 15 from the charity stripe and connected 19 baskets from the field. Joe Kishkill followed with 16 points, seven hits from the court and two for two from the foul line.

The Knights took an early lead ending the first quarter in front of the Titans 35-9. They continued to hit in the second

quarter, outscoring West Side Tech 18-11, to go into the lockerroom at half-time with a 53-20 lead.

The Knights used nine players in the game with all nine hitting the scoring column. In the third quarter the Lake-Lehman cagers outscored the West Side team 32-19 to go in front 85-39. The Titans outscored the Knights 24-20 in the fourth quarter but were unable to come

anywhere near overtaking their opponents.

The win gave Lake-Lehman a 6-1 record for the second half. The first half champs will now play Hanover, winners of the second half for the league title. Hanover took the second half with a 7-0 record after defeating Dallas Tuesday night in a close 52-59 contest.

Mountaineers give Hanover a real scare

Dallas Mountaineers took an early lead in the final game of the season with Hanover Tuesday night and held them to a two point advantage at the end of the third quarter before losing a thrilling 62-59 game to the Hawkeyes.

Jim Thomas, Bill Allen, Paul Darling and Brian Cutter paced the Mountaineers to a 30-27 lead at halftime and continued to

lead until the final quarter, giving the Hawkeyes a scare down to the final seconds of the game.

The game went back and forth between the two teams until the final 40 seconds when George Prontko scored to put Hanover in the lead 60-57. Dallas' Bill Allen connected for a basket to bring the Mountaineers to within one point of Hanover.

Down by one point, Dallas took possession of the ball and went for two points with less than 10 seconds remaining in the game, but the ball rolled round the rim and dropped away from the basket.

Hanover's Steve Gavel went up for the rebound and was fouled on the play giving him two throws from the foul line. Gavel tossed in both throws to

give his team the 62-59 win.

"Hanover pressed man to man the entire game," said Dallas Coach Clint Brobst. "But Allen, Thomas and Cutter broke their press with no problem. In fact, with that kind of press we could expect 18-20 turnovers but we ended up with just eight, four in each half." "Manusky, Darling and Mike Smith controlled the boards against the bigger Hanover team. They had 25 rebounds among the three of them. Cutter had nine assists. Allen, Thomas and Cutter loosened up the defense the first half with some real good outside shooting while Manusky and Darling worked for position inside.

"We were able to go inside the second half and Darling got nine of his 13

points while Smith connected for six of eight team points. Manusky played his finest game of the season hauling down 10 rebounds, blocking two shots and scoring six points in just half of the ball game. He fouled out early in the third quarter.

"We played a two-three zone throughout the game and went man-to-man only at the close of the game when Hanover tried to hold the ball outside to protect their one point lead.

"It was then we missed the shot with only 10 seconds remaining and fouled Hanover when they pulled down the rebound.

"It was a fantastic team effort and the best spirit our boys have shown the entire season. It was a good way to close out the season even if it wasn't a win.

"I'm proud of the job the boys did. We're going to miss the seniors who gave so much this year. Mike Wayne has been outstanding in his first year of high school coaching. I appreciate his many contributions in working with the boys.

"I express a special thanks to the team managers, statisticians, cheerleaders and the fans who supported us all season."

Booster Club to meet

Members of the Lake-Lehman Booster Club will meet March 5, 7:30 p.m., at the Castle Inn, Dallas. All club members and others interested in becoming members are

urged to attend. Meetings will be held the first and third Thursday of every month, 7:30 p.m., at the Castle Inn, Dallas.

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