Sports

Wilkes-Barre Fats

Back Mountain still simmering over Rybak move

By LEE L. RICHARDS Sports Columnist

There's a lot of folks here in the Back Mountain still simmering over the ouster of Dallas grid

Coach Ron Rybak. What puzzles most of us, including Coach Rybak, is the fact that there was no previous indication of any dissatisfaction with his (Rybak's) han-

dling of the program. While there was some grumbling from frustrated parents, that only goes with the territory.

In reviewing the reasons, it reflects a rash decision, lack of stability and knowledge of athletics and football in general by the members of the Dallas School

What is sorry about the scenario is the athletes and students are the ones that got shortchanged.

"The Fauxpas Five" that maneuvered Rybak out should sit back and reconsider their unpopular and highly unprofessional decision. Their reasoning is bilge-water!

It was amusing to read that Rybak didn't get his players any scholarships. That statement showed the "Fauxpas Five's" ignorance regarding football. I feel I'm in a much better position to comment on that aspect since I'm involved in writing various recruiting stories and in contact with various college teams for Eastern Football Magazine.

Last week I exchanged names and received comments concerning future prospects with Syracuse, Maryland and Boston

At the present time I'm acting like a clearing house, compiling names of the top players that will be seniors in the fall. When the list is complete, I'll send it to the teams which have had an

There's a constant evaluation process concerning all of the suspects.' Scholarships just aren't offered because of a coach at some high school giving a player a high recommendation. That player has to have the necessary size, speed and strength to perform on a Division 1 level

I've been involved in football just about my whole life, thanks to my Dad, who put his share of players in every type of program. I have a pretty good idea what it takes to play at a school like Maryland, Pitt or Tennessee.

However, when I recommend a player, that's the extent of it. The final decision rests with the coach recruiting the youngster. The coach will evaluate film and he'll present his findings to his whole staff. They, in turn, will grade the prospect and put his name on a board by the position he could help that particular program. They may have alloted two or three scholarships for that position. If he's one of the final three, then and only then will he receive an offer. If he's questionable, then they'll backoff and go for someone else.

One thing is certain, when there's a player with legitimate ability to play at the level of one of your major programs, everyone knows about him. Most recently it was Matt LaVigna of Crestwood. Penn State, Nortre Dame, Florida State and a host of others made their way to his

Matt finally decided on Pitt.

Matt's Coach Sam Elias never oversold his player's ability. He didn't have to. All you had to do was turn on a projector and watch his performance and you knew he was a player.

Dallas hasn't had that type of athlete in recent years. To blame Coach Rybak is absurd.

When the Mountaineers had their great team back in 1972, I personally took then Pitt Coach John Majors to Dallas School to meet Gary Arcuri and Bob Spears. Majors had a bunch of scholarships at the time. There was no 30 limit like the present.

Arcuri and Spears accepted Majors' offer and were members of Pitt's 1976 national championship team. While they weren't stars, they lined up every day in practice. Major always asks about them when we visit.

My association with various college coaches has given me some insight into what it takes to be a solid football coach. One of the key aspects to any successful athletic program is having the athletes to work with. The wins and losses take care of themselves. The good coaches are the ones that can take an ordinary group of players and make them perform above the level of their ability. He's got to sell them on the belief that they can win when they lineup.

The good football coaches have strong support from their administrations, something that hasn't been evident at Dallas. They had a heckuva Coach in Jack Jones and never appreciated his effort and still haven't.

I've seen Dalls practice and I've seen them play. When I've seen them, the Mountaineers always played hard. Maybe they were a bit short on ability, but they still got after people and didn't quit. A prime example was last year's Meyers game. It wasn't pretty, but the Mountaineers played hard on every down and prevailed.

All high school teams are limited in ability, which the average fan can't recognize. In a situation like this one the coach has to recognize his teams' strengths and weaknesses and make the necessary adjustments. There's going to be games where you can have the best gameplan conceivable, but if the other guy has more athletes with better execution there's no-way you're going to win. It's called being out personneled.

Another board member cited Rybak's record which is 25-27-2. He's had five years. During that time he's had make-shift staffs and an off-season program that was from hunger. This can be attributed to a lack of commitment from the Board, which has never shown strong support toward athletics.

Giving Rybak the hook isn't the answer. The fault lies with the "Fauxpas Five" for not providing the proper leadership.

Instead of disrupting the foot-ball program, they should have attempted to be more supportive and do a lot of the little things to make the program more attractive to the students.

When you put things in prospective schoolboy athletics runs in cycles. Look at Hanover's team last season. The Hawkeyes won everything in sight. The coach down there didn't do anything different than he did when the Hawks were taking it on the chin. He had some talented playAt Dallas

Who will be the next grid coach?

By CHARLOT M. DENMON Staff Correspondent

The recent action of the Dallas School Board not to rehire head football coach Ronald Rybak for the fall season came as a shock to most high school athletes, parents and

With all but a few of the players and their parents very satisfied with Rybak's performance over the past five years, no one can understand the action of the five board members - Joseph O'Donnell, Al Pisaneschi, John George, Ernest Ashbridge and newwly-appointed member, Barbara Mead.

Analysis

While the majority of the juniors and many of the sophomore are doubtful about going out for the team next year if Rybak is not head coach, there is much speculation among Dallas Fans about whether or not Rybak will be reappointed by the board or whether there is truth in any of the rumors circulating around town.

A report that J.P. Meck, former head football coach at Coughlin High School and recently-appointed assistant football coach at Wilkes College, had been approached by two of the directors to coach next year's Mountaineers was denied by

Meck in a recent interview.,
"I was never approached about

the position prior to the board's action in March," said Meck. "Nor have they approached me since that time. I enjoy coaching high school football, but there is doubt in my mind about getting involved in a situation such as exists out there (at Dallas).'

More recently, The Dallas Post received a report that Frank Galicki, assistant high school principal, would be the head coach of next year's team. When contacted at the Dallas High School, Galicki stated there is no truth to that report, either. The Dallas administrator stated that, as of Friday, March 30, the position of head footall coach at the school was not open.

Galicki explained that by a 5-4 vote at the March meeting, the Dallas Board had vetoed rehiring Rybak, but that students and adults in the audience had asked the board to reconsider its action.

Dallas school directors were scheduled to hold a work session Monday night, April 2, at which time Galicki stated it was very likely the coaching subject would be discussed. However, Galicki said he did not believe any official decision would be forthcoming until the regular meeting of the board which is scheduled for Monday, April 9.

"Until such time as an official action has been taken by the board at an open meeting and the position declared open for applicants, no one will be named as head football coach," said Galicki.

Strikes & Spares

D. Purvin hit the pins for 222-254 (612), C. Kazokas, rolled 555 and M. Whiting posted 221 to lead G. H. Harris to three points from Charlies All Stars in Bonomo's Major League. The Beach Combers took three points from Back Mt. Sporting Goods while the Hambos were dividing evenly with Sweet Valley Outfitters. R. Bonomo, Jr. rolled 221 (597), B. Mazer scattered pins for 216 (580) and Gary Mazer hit them for 547. M. Rudick posted 564 and S. Bonomo knoced down pins for 548 for the Hambos. D. Thomas walloped pins for 254 (585) and R. Bonomo scattered them for 229 (578) to pace Brown's Oil to a 2-2 split with ther Bermudas.

Lombardo's Bakery continued to lead the Imperialette League by picking up three points from American Building. J. Clark registered 176 (500). The losing five were led by W. Harrington's 171. Scavone Motors took three points from the Jean Shop while Humphrey's Apparel and Mahaffey Oil divided equally. C. Smith slammed pins for 217-186 (558) for the oil dealer and J. Wortman, rolled 207 (402) for the Wertman rolled 207 (493) for the

apparel shop.
In the Bowlerette League N. Moser's 179 (494) showed the way for Brent Long's three points from Tom Reese. C. Badman rolled 171 for Tom Reese. Franklin's picked up three from the Hoagie Bar with no one able to hit high scores.

Ken Spencer's 564 and Nadine Katyl's 177 paced Kenny's Maniacs to three points from the Halfbreeds in Bonomo's Mixed League. Irene Katyl's hit 173 for the losing five. The A Team shut out the Halfwits led by Carol Exarhopoulis' 210 (510). Dale Wright rolled 566 for the

In the Back Mt. Church League, Orange B blanked Trucksville B sparked by T. Sponseller's 542. Trucksville took all from Shavertown A aided by F. Hughes 531 and B. Hospodar's 525. Carverton A copped three from East Dallas and Shavertown B picked up three from Dallas A. The Lutherans split 2-2 with Maple Grove and Orange A did the same with Carverton B.

Grotto Pizza shut out the Castlettes in the Ladies Country League and Fashion Vending took four from Daring's Market. G. H. Harris made it three over Gordon Insurance. High scorers were Grotto's A Hospodar with 189-192 (524) and G. H. Harris' C. Smith with 177-186

In the George Shupp League, Katyl Tv blanked Dallas Nursery led by Coury's 233-216 (641) and Maculis' 535. Roberts Oil copped three points from Fino's Pharmacy paced by Barkowski's 534. R. Bonomo roled 537, K. Younglbood hit 527 and K. Orkwis posted 525 for the druggist. A. Wendel's 218 (568) showed the way for Harris Associates three points from Endless Mountains. H. Bennett added 212 (517) and D. Purvin gave 516. Gino's Shoe Store took three from Disque Funeral Home aided by C. Kazokas' 564. L. Yankowski hit 539 for Disque.

C. Searfoss knocked down pins for 523 to lead the Lucky Strikes to three points from Half 'O Nickels in Our Gang League. V. Hudak's 512 helped the Barn Owls shut out the Mold 'N Oldies while the Buckwheats earned three from the Suds

Now you can fish without a license

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FREE WRANGLER JEANS CONTEST

Legislation permitting Pennsylvania to go fishing without a license on two days each year has been unanimously approved by the

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rest of his or her life." He said the designation of free fishing days would encourage families to go on fishings outings together while camping or just for a day trip to enjoy Pennsylvania's beautiful outdoors.

"It's unfortunate that today's fastpaced lifestyle deprives many individuals of the joys of catching a fish or spending a special day with family members in a healthy outdoors environment.

Wrangler

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