

Sports

Board votes for reinstatement

Rybak expected to return

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Correspondent

Dallas High School head football coach Ron Rybak has been doing a great deal of serious thinking since last week when the Dallas School directors voted 9-1 to reappoint him as head coach for the next season. Prior to last week's meeting, the board voted 5-4 not to reappoint Rybak, but that action by the board drew sharp criticism from students, football players, past and present, parents and fans.

Before last week's meeting, some of the players had circulated a petition requesting Rybak's reinstatement and many residents had publicly denounced those directors who voted not to rehire Rybak.

When asked if he planned to return to the head coaching position, Rybak said he appreciated the support of the kids and their parents as well as Dallas fans.

"I want to meet with the kids first, this Monday (April 16) and discuss the entire subject. My first concern is for those kids and the Dallas residents, but there are some things that I feel need to be set straight. Some incidents happened during this entire matter and I hate to think that any of them were caused by 'my' kids.

"Dallas School District and the football program is my life and I want everything in its proper perspective. If I am going to coach, I don't want the football field to become a police state where the

players and the coaches have to worry about every action. Every coach and every athlete wants to do his best to turn in a successful season for the school. But, more important, every coach and every athlete has to put forth their best efforts to play fair and square, to accept discipline and to work as a team."

Rybak said he hopes that out of the recent incident has come to the attention of the public that uppermost in the program is the fact that athletes are there to learn good sportsmanship, how to win or lose graciously, that each one is expected to give his utmost but realize that not each one can be an All-Star.

"The name of the game is fair

play, good sportsmanship, discipline and respect for one another," said Rybak. "I want Dallas to have a winning season, but, above all, I want Dallas to have a squad of fine young men out on that field, working together, giving their all every game. That's a coach's first priority. If the kids learn that, they are winners."

At the time, The Dallas Post went to press, it was expected by most players, parents and residents that Rybak would return to his position as head football coach. A quick survey around the area showed, with the exception of a very few, all were hoping for his return.

As one father said, "Rybak is the football program, without him there's nothing."



Dallas Post/Ed Campbell

Winning pitcher

Sandi Shone displays her winning pitcher style as she prepares to release the softball during last Thursday's game between Dallas and GAR. Shone led the Lady Mountaineers to a 5-1 victory over the visiting Grenadiers.

Sandi Shone leads Mountaineer victory

Sandi Shone earned the pitching win as the Dallas girls' softball team defeated GAR, 5-1, on its own field Thursday afternoon.

The Lady Mountaineers who enjoyed a 2-1 lead entering the fifth inning put the game on ice with a

three-run rally in that inning. Shone, who recorded 13 strikeouts in Dallas' opening day victory over Pittston Area the previous week, allowed just three hits. Teammate Sherri Ciccarelli had two hits as the Back Mountain girls upped their record to 2-0.

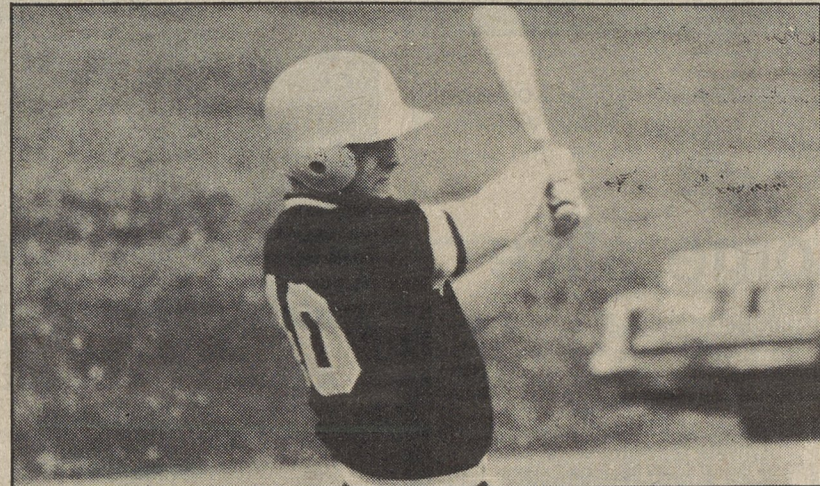
Finn, Solinski spark Lady Knights' win

Behind the two-hit pitching of senior Jill Solinski and freshman Beth Finn, the Lake-Lehman girls' softball team took a 12-2 victory over Hazleton Thursday on the Lady Knights home field.

The Lehman girls, who ran their record to 2-0 on the season, got

three hits each from Kim Fey, Cindy Slocum and Kelly Wandel.

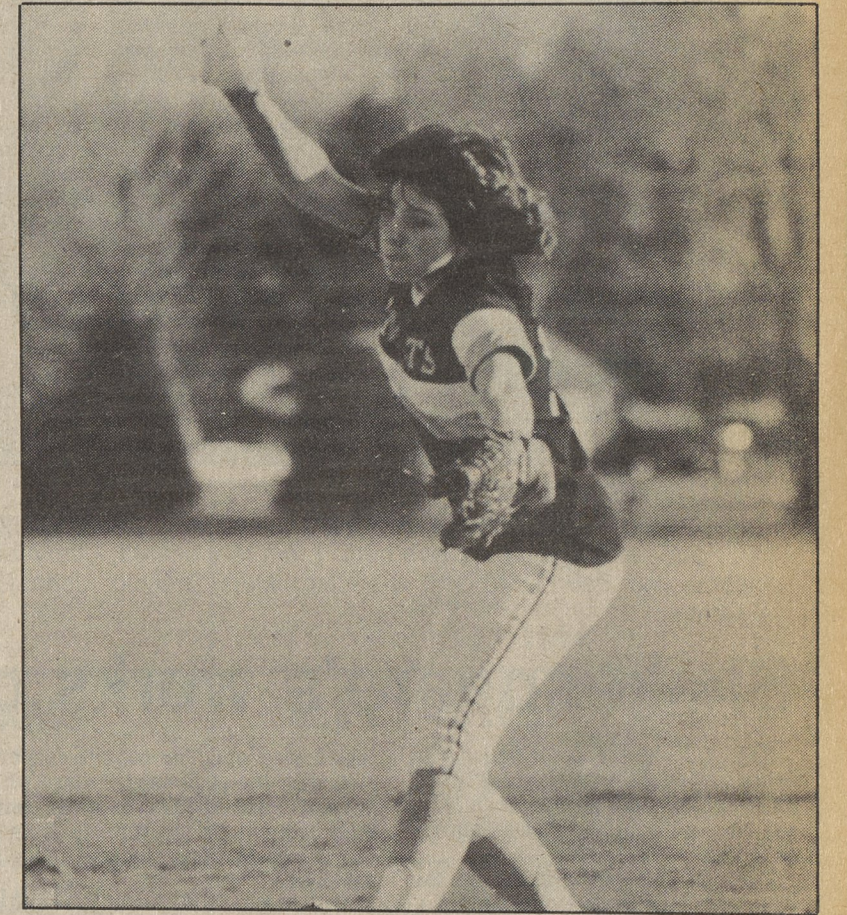
Fey hit a single, a double, drove in one run and scored two more for the Back Mountain girls before the game was ended due to the 10-run rule.



Dallas Post/Ed Campbell

Way to go, Al!

Al Michaels of the Lake-Lehman baseball team is shown here taking a swing in last week's Wyoming Valley Conference game against Crestwood. The Mountaintop boys proved too much for the Knights, however, as the locals suffered a 9-0 defeat.



Dallas Post/Ed Campbell

Let 'er rip!

Lake-Lehman pitcher Beth Finn is shown here as she prepares to let one fly during last Thursday's game against Hazleton. Finn combined with senior Jill Solinski for a two-hitter, leading the Lady Knights to a 12-2 victory.

Dallas boys defeat GAR, 5-1

Dallas and GAR boys' baseball teams each scored one run in the first inning of a game between the two Thursday afternoon, but the Dallas scoring ended there as GAR

recorded a 5-1 victory. GAR freshman Greg Skrepenak drove in two runs with a single and Keith Wren had six hits to lead the Grenadiers' victory.

Wilkes-Barre Fats

Rehiring Rybak was just 'good business'

By LEE L. RICHARDS
Sports Correspondent

When the Dallas School Board reversed its decision and rehired Coach Rybak, it was good business.

I think the people who showed their support to Rybak indicated to the Board they approved of the way he's running the program.

Now I'd like to see the board express more of an interest in not only the football program, but in all of the athletics, boys and girls. I'd like to see more emphasis on the little things needed for successful programs.

That can be accomplished by meeting with the various coaches and asking them what their needs are on a reasonable basis.

Meanwhile, Dallas needs a solid off-season program. Perhaps more free weights. What a team does in the off-season is most significant. The weight room, a first-rate one, can be put to use by all of the other athletic teams.

I'm a firm believer that a school board willing to make a reasonable commitment to its athletic pro-

grams will reap the benefits down the road with championships, recognition and scholarships.

No athletic program can be a winner without the complete support of the administration. It all starts with the top and that's the Dallas School Board. Mountaineer fans will be very cognizant of any action by the board now after the recent fiasco. The board can overcome the negative publicity by lending its support.

CLIPBOARD NOTES:

— It was one of the most exciting hockey games I've seen. The fifth and final clash between the Islanders and Rangers, won by the defending Stanley Cup champs in overtime. Ken Morrow, one of the best clutch athletes in pro sports today, scored the winning goal. The Rangers performed superbly behind goalie Glen Hanlon.

— The Islanders are a remarkable team. When the chips are on the line they always seem to find a way to meet the challenge and emerge with a victory when it appears they're going down.

— There was quite a commotion in State College last week when State champ Rob Koll accepted a scholarship to attend North Carolina instead of Penn State. Rob's dad, Bill, was the former coach of the Nittany Lions matmen. Koll simply wanted to go away to finish his education. He was voted the out-

standing wrestler in recent state tournament.

— Shed no tears for the Nittany Lions and Coach Rich Lorenzo. Matt Gerhard, four-time state champ from Catawba signed with PSU. Allentown's Andy Voit, 185, is also headed to State. Both are quality performers.

— Most college football teams are well into spring practice. Here in the East Pitt could be the front-runner next season. However, the Panthers need some solid performers in the secondary and one of their outstanding freshmen tailbacks to step in and perform. Penn State must replace three key people in its offense in Kevin Baugh, Ken Jackson and Jon Williams. They were productive in moving the football to say the least.

— I look for Pitt and Penn State, along with Boston College and perhaps West Virginia to be ranked in the top 20. Pitt and PSU may make the top 10.

— Alabama has already circled two dates on its schedule when BC and PSU pay visits. The Tide has a score to settle with both teams.

— Early indications has Auburn as the pre-season No. 1 team. There's five teams in the SEC that must find new quarterbacks for next season.

— Hazleton's Bob Fisher, 185-pound District champ, is headed to Lock Haven to continue his career

with Coach Neil Turner.

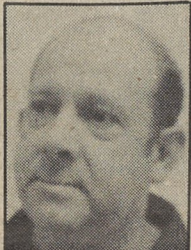
— Penn State's wrestling co-captains for next season will be heavyweight Steve Sefer and Eric Brugel (167). Both are fine young men. Sefer was an All-American wrestler as a freshman, while Brugel placed eighth in the recent tourney at the Meadowlands.

— Close to 300 fans attended the recent PSU banquet honoring Coach Rich Lorenzo and his squad for their superb season. Nittany Lions finished third in the NCAA Tournament.

— NCAA champs Carl DeStefanis and Scott Lynch collected so many awards at the affair they need a van to haul all of the hardware away. I'll miss both wrestlers.

— Coughlin and Williamsport will participate in the 1984 Fez Bowl, sponsored by the Williamsport Shrine Club of Irem Temple. They always do it up with a lot of style.

— According to pro Barry Fies, Irem Temple Country Club will receive some much needed attention to its greens this year. They hope to manicure them more and make the surface slicker for putting. I'll buy that!



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