

Sports

This weekend

Grid coaches look for 'psychological' wins

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Correspondent

Dallas High School football coach Ron Rybak and Lake-Lehman grid coach Mark Kirk have similar hopes for their football teams this weekend — a win over their opponents. Both coaches agree that a win would have a great psychological effect on their boys.

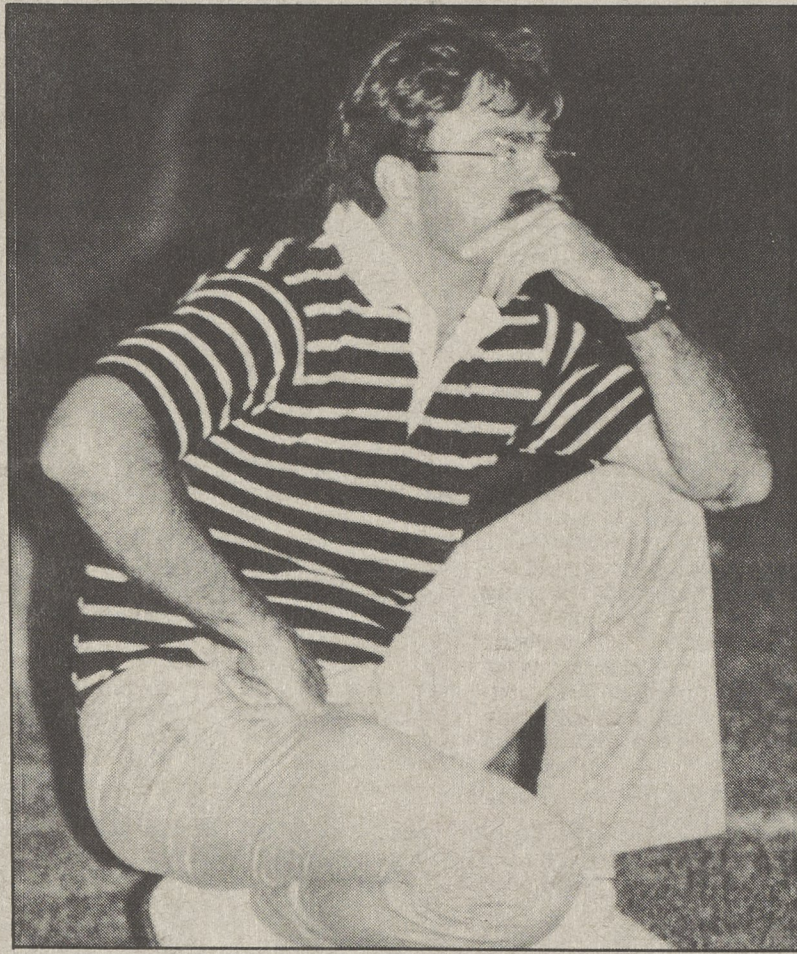
Dallas Mountaineers are scheduled to play the Crestwood Comets Saturday afternoon at 2 p.m. at the Dallas High School Stadium. Lake-Lehman Knights have a slightly tougher contest, however, when they meet GAR Friday night at 7:45 p.m. on the turf at Wilkes-Barre Memorial Stadium.

The Grenadiers are tied with Hanover and Meyers at 3-0 for the lead in Division II of the Wyoming Valley Conference while Lake-Lehman has a 1-2 record in the same division, their only win being a victory over Bishop Hoban in the opening game of the conference.

The Mountaineers are 0-3 in Division II, having lost to Hanover, G.A.R. and Bishop Hoban, all in Division II.

"The Grenadiers are a very, very good football team," said Kirk. "I saw them play and, in my opinion, their backfield is probably the best in the league. They dress only 27 kids, but that's all they need. They are a good size and they have experience. With kids like Maharty, Kubicki, Wielgopolski and Macko, they need only 27."

Kirk believes his Knights have one good thing going for them. G.A.R. is the first team they have played this season with a number of players comparable to Lake-Lehman. They won't tire out the Knights as the other teams did. He admitted, however, that Kubicki is accurate in passing and the Grenadiers ends are excellent.



MARK KIRK
Lake-Lehman coach

"I believe we can beat them if our kids play up to their potential," said Kirk.

The week layoff helped the Knights since they had several boys out with injuries. The extra week helped in healing their injuries and it also helped the entire team and

the coaching staff concentrate on correcting past mistakes. Now that the Knights have four games behind them, the kids know what they can do.

"A win would be a great psychological boost. If the boys play as well I know they can, we will give them a good battle and maybe we

can pull off an upset. All we need to do is play two good halves instead of one."

Before the end of the season, Kirk believes his Knights will be playing good football. He has only 33 players, 10 seniors, seven juniors, five sophomores and 11 freshmen, but they are improving each week.

Like Kirk, Rybak believes a win would be great psychologically for his kids. He dresses 55 players, but most of them are young and inexperienced.

The Mountaineers' roster includes 29 sophomores, 15 juniors and 13 seniors. Only three of those seniors were starters last year. Rybak has three quarterbacks, Tim Lyons and Mark Konopki, both juniors, and Scott Francis, a sophomore. Lyons and Konopki split playing time each game.

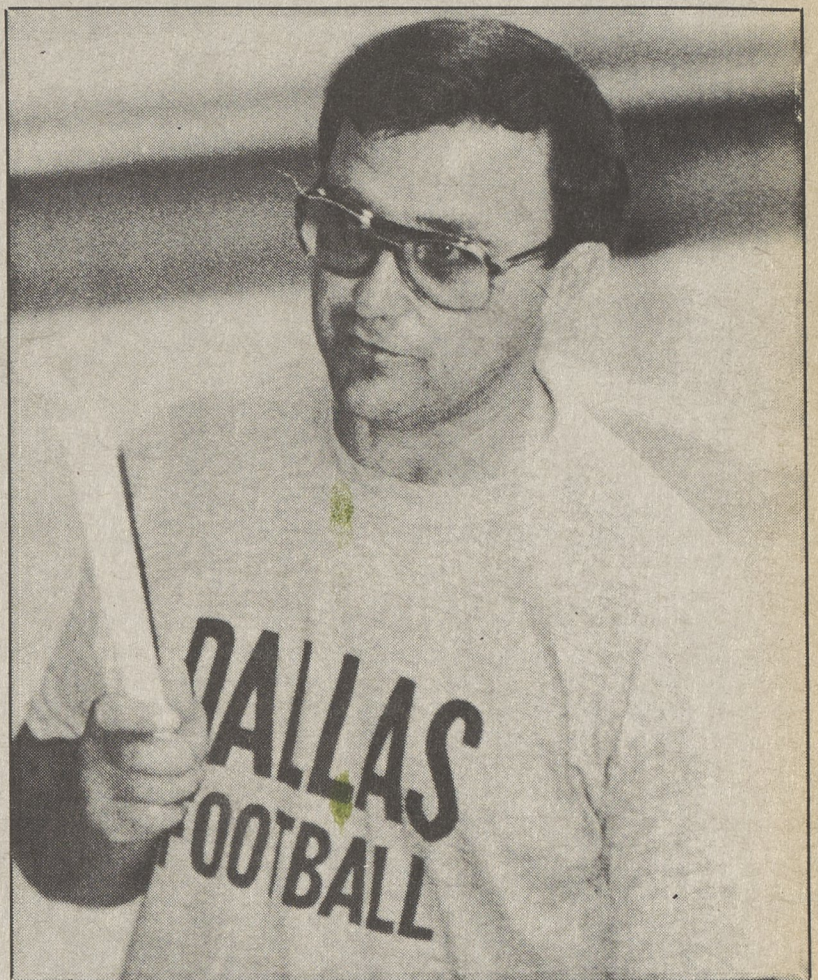
"The week layoff helped us," said Rybak. "Stan Koprowski, Ron Ostrowski, and Gary Vincelli were injured and the time off game them chance to recover. Some of our kids had some bad bumps and bruises in the G.A.R. game and they have healed."

Rybak said he was pleased with the workouts during last week and this week and the coaching staff has been dividing its time working between offense and defense. He is exceptionally pleased with the improvement in his sophomores and said they are beginning to push some of the seniors for starting positions.

Pat DePaulo, Ryan Holthaus, Jamie Opalicki and John Harris are showing great potential. Holthaus was back up in the G.A.R. game when Koprowski was out.

Lyons showed great leadership in the G.A.R. game and Konopki threw some good passes when he came in.

Rybak believes Dallas and Crestwood are pretty equally matched with Crestwood having one or two



RON RYBAK
Dallas coach

kids a little larger, but he believes his Mountaineers can win if they play up to their potential.

"We should have defeated Bishop Hoban. It was one mistake that cost us that game and, in the Pittston game, the kids didn't take advantage of the opportunities."

"We have the home field advan-

tage and despite losing the kids aren't giving up," Rybak added. "We have more kids joining the squad and they're determined to win. I'm proud of these kids; it's amazing the way they're beginning to improve. A win would be great for them on Saturday and they can do it."

Wilkes-Barre Fats

Grid layoff came at good time

By LEE L. RICHARDS
Sports Columnist

The open date for Dallas and Lake-Lehman football teams couldn't have come at a better time. Both teams have been struggling offensively and seem to be having too many mental breakdowns on both sides of the football.

Both coaches Ron Rybak and Mark Kirk have indicated that they're going to review everything and perhaps even make some personal changes in an effort to put some fire-power in the offense.



Immediate concern is the sorry play of the special teams. Both teams are guilty of being to gunshy on kickoff and punt coverages.

This area led to Dallas getting beat like a drum against GAR. The Mountaineers didn't stay in their lanes on the punts and kickoffs and consequently, left huge alleys for GAR's return people to run at will.

Lake-Lehman has been going downfield at half speed or very tentatively on its coverages.

Heck, when you allow a team to run back punts for big gains your giving them field position and putting your defensive folks in a no-win situation.

What's more disturbing is Lake-Lehman's Chris VanGorder and Dallas' Gerald Mihalick have been punting pretty consistently. Good hang time, but the coverages have been sorry.

Another aspect which is in

need of immediate attention is the blocking offensively. Neither line has really exerted itself in coming off the football and knocking someone off the football.

Watching Dallas it was apparent when given the protection QB Tim Lyons can deliver the football. He's got better than average arm and Ritchie Long has the ability to catch the football even in traffic.

Both teams have averaged only about a TD or less in the first four games which is not going to win many football games. Defensively, both teams are allowing around 24 points.

It's obvious both teams have had some mental breakdowns in crucial situations. Concentration is a key element to the success of any athletic team. You've got to be smart, alert and have that awareness to make something happen. This has been lacking on the part of both squads.

On the positive side of the ledger, there's still a long way to go this season and still plenty of time for our two local teams to get some continuity and make something happen defensively and win some football games. Both teams haven't quit. These young men play every down and they want to excel.

I've seen a lot of football teams come together and turn things around during a break in the season.

When you're out personneled, that's something different. In some instances that's been the case. However, a hustling and hard hitting team can sometimes offset it.

CLIPBOARD NOTES: Lake-Lehman roundball coach Rodger Bearde informed me recently

he's hoping to have the services of Bob Langan this season. Bob is very knowledgeable young man and is one of Paul Marranca's top aides with the Wyoming Area grid team. Bob was a standout griddier and basketball star for the Warriors during his school-boy days. He was Bucknell's leading rusher a couple of seasons, too. If I was putting together a staff locally, Bob would be one of the first people I'd hire.

The most consistent performer for Lake-Lehman's football thus far this season has been Chris Kukosky. He's really laid the bonnet on some folks from his defensive end slot.

Some of the coaches I've talked with believe GAR has the ability to deal Wyoming Area an 'L' when they collide. While most are claiming the Warriors are in the drivers seat for the grid crown, don't overlook the Trojans of Nanticoke Area and the Hawks of Hanover.

After re-evaluating the leading collegiate grid teams Penn State has an outside shot at winning the national championship. So does Boston College with the incomparable Doug Flutie pulling the trigger.

My congratulations to Temple Coach Bruce Arians and the professional way he handled his teams' triumph over Pitt. It was bound to happen sooner or later. Temple has extended both Pitt and Penn State to the limit on several occasions only to have some bad calls or big plays prevent the Owls from winning.

Irem Temple Country Club had three youngsters working around the pro shop this season that did a superb job. They were Derek Tamburro, Alex Ostrowski and John Spencer.

	Joe GULA (21-15)	Dotty MARTIN (26-10)	Lee RICHARDS (25-11)	Ed CAMPBELL (21-15)	Charlot DENMON (25-11)	GoalPOST PETIE (26-10)
Lehman/GAR	GAR 28-7	GAR 21-6	GAR 28-7	GAR 14-10	GAR 35-7	GAR 28-0
Dallas/Crestwood	Dallas 14-10	Dallas 9-6	Dallas 14-7	Dallas 21-14	Dallas 14-6	Dallas 7-6
WVW/Hazleton	WVW 19-12	WVW 21-7	WVW 21-7	WVW 10-7	WVW 24-6	WVW 19-18
O'Reilly/Freeland	O'Reilly 13-12	O'Reilly 12-7	O'Reilly 21-7	O'Reilly 13-6	Freeland 15-3	Freeland 18-6
Tech/Trail	Trail 24-13	Trail 21-6	Trail 28-7	Trail 27-10	Trail 35-13	Trail 19-6
Sem/Blair	Blair 27-12	Sem 7-6	Sem 14-13	Blair 21-7	Blair 21-7	Blair 21-7
PSU/Maryland	PSU 32-14	PSU 21-14	PSU 21-17	PSU 27-10	PSU 24-16	PSU 24-19
Pitt/E. Carolina	Pitt 17-12	Pitt 14-12	Pitt 7-3	Pitt 17-6	Pitt 17-9	Pitt 24-7
Notre Dame/Miami	Miami 18-16	Miami 21-10	Miami 27-24	Miami 14-6	Miami 14-12	Miami 19-13

Dallas expected to get first win

The Dallas Post prognosticators are all putting their money on the Dallas Mountaineers to pick up their first win this week as the Back Mountain boys go against Crestwood. Although most of the Post prognosticators predict a rather close score, all six of them are putting their faith in the locals to pull out a victory.

The Lake-Lehman Knights, however, are in a different predicament as they go up against last year's champs, the Grenadiers of GAR. The prognosticators are unanimous in their choice of GAR as the winner in that game.

Valley West gets the nod over Hazleton as does Lackawanna Trail over West Side Tech. The prognosticators are split on the O'Reilly-Freeland game with sports writer Charlot Denmon and GoalPOST Petie going with Freeland while editor Dotty Martin and sports columnist Lee Richards are the only two taking Wyoming Seminary over Blair Academy.

The prognosticators are unanimous on all three college games this week as Penn State gets the nod over Maryland in what should be a close game, Pitt is expected to get its first win of the season over East Carolina and Miami of Florida should squeak by Notre Dame.

The prognosticators took a beating last week with Martin, Richards and GoalPOST Petie leading the way with four wins apiece. Martin and Petie picked the Penn State-Texas game correctly, siding with the Longhorns while Richards was on the money when he chose West Virginia to defeat Pitt.

Photographer Ed Campbell was the only one to pick the Meyers-Wyoming Valley West game correctly as he went with the Mohawks, but lost a point when he favored O'Reilly to defeat Wallenpaupack.

Denmon slips to second place this week with a 25-11 record while Martin and Petie share the top position with identical 26-10 slates.

Raiders get pair of wins

Kingston Township Raiders Junior Football squads tallied another pair of wins Sunday, shutting out the Northeast Junior Crusaders in both games at their own field.

The "B" team won 14-0, on a four-yard touchdown run by running back Bernie Ryan, a two-point conversion pass from Brian Gouger to Jamie Donnelly, and a 51-yard scamper to the end zone by Gouger. Gouger, the Raiders' quarterback, finished the day as the team's first triple figure rusher this season with a game-high 116 yards.

The "A" team won handily, 24-0. In the first half the Raiders scored on a 26-yard pass from Steve Shottwell to Billy Janosky and on a 49-yard Shotwell run. In the second half, reserve quarterback Eric Zimmerman ran 20-yards to the end zone and Shotwell completed a 31-yard halfback option pass to Janosky.

Both teams will be in action this Sunday at Dallas Senior High

School, hosting the Dallas Cowboys beginning at 1:30.

COWBOYS WIN
The Dallas Cowboys picked up a victory by defeating the Northwest Jets, 20-8, in Suburban Football League action Saturday.

Northwest scored first by blocking a Dallas punt and Tim Yarnell recovered the ball in the end zone. Bob McCoy ran the ball in for two extra points.

Dallas' scoring came when J.J. Straigs intercepted a pass and ran 25 yards for a touchdown. Clark VanOrden ran for two extra points.

Bob Barbacci recovered a fumble in the end zone for the second touchdown, but the try for extra point was stopped. Straigs ran 55 yards for the third Cowboy touchdown.

Offensively for Dallas, Jim Farrell intercepted a pass. Fumbles were recovered by George Ladamus and Dave Moyers.

On the line for Dallas were Joseph and Jason Bealla, Doug Fulton, Jim Fry, Robert Morris who all made great contributions toward the win.

In B team action, the Cowboys squeaked by the Jets, 8-6, to take over first place with a 5-1 record.

Registration set for ice hockey

Registration for ice hockey will be held Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 3 and 4, and Saturday, Oct. 6 at the Wilkes-Barre Ice-A-Rama, Coal Street Complex.

Children between the ages of five and 19 who wish to play may

register between 6 and 8 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday and between 4 and 6 p.m. on Saturday.

Anyone desiring further information may contact Bill Wiechec at 288-0057.

THIS WEEK IN SPORTS

DALLAS SCHOOL DISTRICT FOOTBALL	Saturday, Oct. 6 - Crestwood, 2 p.m.
SOCCER	Thursday, Oct. 4 - Benton, 4 p.m.
GOLF	Thursday, Oct. 4 - Wyoming Area at Irem Temple Monday, Oct. 8 - Playoffs Round I Tuesday, Oct. 9 - Playoffs Rounds I
FIELD HOCKEY	Wednesday, Oct. 3 - at Wyoming Seminary, 4 p.m. Friday, Oct. 5 - at Lake-Lehman, 4 p.m. Monday, Oct. 8 - Wyoming Seminary, 4 p.m.
GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL	Thursday, Oct. 4 - Tunkhannock, 4 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 9 - at Abington, 4 p.m.
CROSS COUNTRY	Thursday, Oct. 4 - Pittston at Bishop Hoban, 4 p.m.
LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT FOOTBALL	Friday, Oct. 5 - at GAR, 7:30 p.m.
FIELD HOCKEY	Wednesday, Oct. 3 - Coughlin, 4 p.m. Friday, Oct. 5 - Dallas, 4 p.m.
CROSS COUNTRY	Thursday, Oct. 4 - Seton and Wyoming Area, 4 p.m.
GOLF	Thursday, Oct. 4 - Wyoming Seminary, 4 p.m.
GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL	Thursday, Oct. 4 - at Bishop O'Reilly, 4 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 9 - Crestwood, 4 p.m.