

Sports

Rotary started tradition

Old Shoe idea dates back to very first game in 1948

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Correspondent

It was in 1948 that Francis "Red" Ambrose, member and president of Dallas Rotary Club, approached then Dallas Township High School football coach Robert Dolbear with an idea suggested by the Club to promote a friendly rivalry between the teams of the Back Mountain schools.

The 1940's were a time of intense rivalry between Kingston Township, Lehman Township and Dallas Township, and the Rotary Club decided they wanted to honor the Back Mountain Football team that won the championship. That was before the time of mergers or jointures.

Ambrose discussed the idea with Dolbear, who took the subject to the coaches of the other schools and it was decided to go along with the Rotary Club's suggestion.

Dallas Township football players shoes were put in a pile and members of the Rotary Club had the coaches pull a shoe from that pile of shoes. Then the club had the shoe bronzed and attached to a plate.

In 1948, Kingston Township, now a part of the Dallas School District, won the trophy. At that time, the shoe was displayed on the field throughout the game so it could be seen by players and fans. The awards ceremony came later when the Shoe was presented to the winning team at a dinner and program held at the Irem Temple Country Club. This dinner, to which members of the winning and losing teams were invited, was sponsored by the Dallas Rotary Club until 1959. The next year the Dallas Kiwanis Club sponsored the Old Shoe game and dinner.

Originally, the team who won the

Shoe for three consecutive years was to keep the Shoe. It was not until 1957 that one school won the Shoe for three consecutive years.

In 1957, what was then Lehman-Jackson-Ross defeated Westmoreland (now Dallas Senior High School). In 1958 and 1959, Lake-Lehman (formerly Lehman-Jackson-Ross) won the games, but by then the idea of keeping the shoe after three consecutive wins had been discarded.

During the years 1948 through 1959, Kingston Township won the Shoe once; Lehman Township won it twice; Dallas Township won it once; Westmoreland won it twice; Lehman-Jackson-Ross won it three times; Lake-Lehman won it twice; and there was a three-way tie in 1956 between Lehman-Jackson, Westmoreland and Dallas-Franklin.

There is no official record declaring when Dallas Kiwanis gave up sponsoring a dinner for the winning and losing teams but one or two former members of the club do know that it has been since the jointure that the exchange of the Old Shoe has been done by the school and although there is to be a formal presentation that is not always the case.

Since 1960, when Westmoreland won the Old Shoe, the games were between Dallas Senior High School and Lake-Lehman Senior High. Dallas won the Shoe consecutively from 1961 through 1966; Lake-Lehman won the Shoe from 1967 through 1969. Dallas reclaimed it in 1970 and kept it in their display case from that year through 1977. In 1977, Lake-Lehman took it back and kept it through 1979.

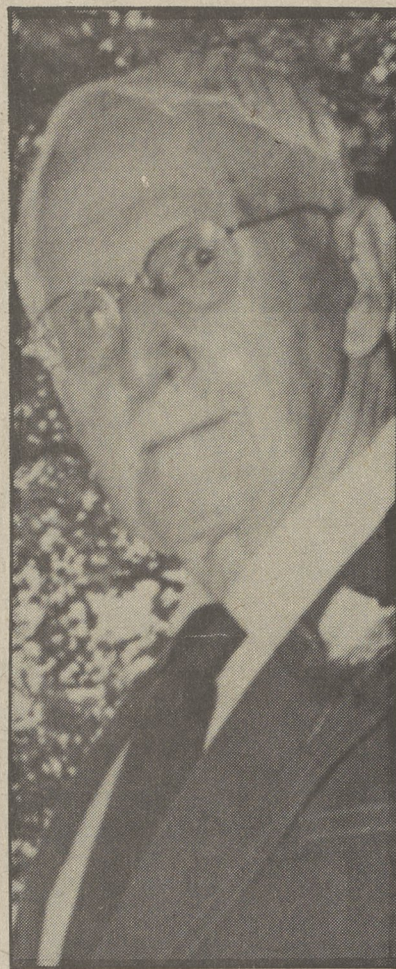
Dallas won the games in 1980 and 1981 and had the Shoe but, in 1982, the teams played to a tie and each school had the Shoe for six months

which was according to the original stipulation by the Rotary Club. Dallas won the Shoe last year and, until this Saturday, the Shoe is on display in the high school office. Saturday's game will decide where the Shoe will make its home throughout the coming year.

On the Shoe is a plate on which are listed the years the trophy was won by the various schools.

"I believe there was a lot more camaraderie among the players in the earlier years," said Robert Dolbear, former coach and retired principal of Dallas Senior High School. "All of the players used to gather at the Town House in Dallas after the games and talk over the game-why they won or why they lost. That feeling is gone today."

"The kids from both schools get up for the game but I hope they keep in mind the principle behind the Old Shoe is a friendly rivalry behind two great Back Mountain Schools," Dolbear added.



FRANCIS "RED" AMBROSE

Here's what other coaches predict!

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Correspondent

With the Wyoming Valley Football Conference season coming down to the wire, the most important game of the year for Dallas and Lake-Lehman will be played this Saturday at 2 p.m. at the Black Knights Stadium.

The contest for the Old Shoe trophy will end the season for the Back Mountain Schools with the winning team taking over the Shoe until they meet again next year.

Who will win the Old Shoe this year? With the Knights holding a 3-3 record and the Mountaineers a 1-5 record, both in Division AA, it appears to be a sure thing to bet on Lake-Lehman, but most fans are reluctant to predict. They know only too well the emotion and rivalry between the two schools for this traditional contest.

Over the past 36 years, the Old Shoe trophy has often been won by the team picked less likely to do so. Spirits run high, teams sporting mediocre or poor records are looking down the road to this game to redeem themselves for the season. Coaches of both teams have to play the role of psychologists to keep the contest in proper perspective for the players.

Other coaches in Division AA are familiar with both Lake-Lehman and Dallas, having played them during the season. They know the potential of both teams but they also know what the Old Shoe game means to both schools and, as a result, they are not too definite in predicting a winner.

Crestwood Coach Sam Elias said in a game such as the traditional Old Shoe game one can throw away the record books. "The kids are fired up and who knows what can happen?" he said. "Take away the emotional atmosphere then I would have to pick Lehman as the favorite."

Elias said the Knights had a better record for the season and they have a better group of athletes, athletes who have had more experience. However, Elias believes Dallas is capable of winning and said the Mountaineers played his Comets better in the second half.

"But Dallas has a lot of young boys this season with little experience. They will be an up and coming team next year, one to be reckoned with. It will be a tossup because of the emotion," said Elias.

Coach Charlie Fick of GAR, like Elias, said one could throw the records out the window, that the traditional Old Shoe game makes it a one-game season for the Back Mountain schools.

"Going by statistics I have to give Lake-Lehman the edge because of their kicking and their speed. They also moved the ball better against us. They did a good job against Meyers."

Fick said the Knights played tough the first half against his team, but the Dallas kids didn't quit when they played GAR. Fick said the Mountaineers have a lot of young, inexperienced kids and that needs to be taken into consideration. Like Elias, Fick said it's a difficult game to predict.

Hanover's Coach Al Kopacz said that his team played Dallas in the first game of the season and that the Mountaineers have a lot of young inexperienced boys. He stated that from the papers he sees that Rybak has been playing a lot of young boys and they will be a team to reckon with next season.

"Lake-Lehman has more experienced kids; they played Meyers and GAR tough and knocked off Crestwood," said Kopacz.

Kopacz pointed out that the Knights VanGorder plays a good running game and figures he will come right at the Mountaineers. On the other hand, he said Dallas is improving its passing game and has

(See OTHER, page 13)

OLD SHOE WINNERS

1948 - Kingston Twp.	1965 - Dallas Senior High
1949 - Lehman Twp.	1966 - Dallas Senior High
1950 - Lehman Twp.	1967 - Lake-Lehman
1951 - Dallas Twp.	1968 - Lake-Lehman
1952 - Westmoreland	1969 - Lake-Lehman
1953 - Lehman-Jackson-Ross	1970 - Dallas Senior High
1954 - Lehman-Jackson-Ross	1971 - Dallas Senior High
1955 - Westmoreland	1972 - Dallas Senior High
1956 - Three Way Tie (Lehman Jackson, Westmoreland, Dallas-Franklin)	1973 - Dallas Senior High
1957 - Lehman-Jackson-Ross	1974 - Dallas Senior High
1958 - Lake-Lehman	1975 - Dallas Senior High
1959 - Lake-Lehman	1976 - Dallas Senior High
1960 - Westmoreland	1977 - Dallas Senior High
1961 - Dallas Senior High	1978 - Lake-Lehman
1962 - Dallas Senior High	1979 - Lake-Lehman
1963 - Dallas Senior High	1980 - Dallas Senior High
1964 - Dallas Senior High	1981 - Dallas Senior High
	1982 - Tie
	1983 - Dallas Senior High

LEONARD KOZICK

Dallas Township Tax Collector
Dallas Township Municipal Building
Dallas
675-5217

BACK MOUNTAIN WOOD STOVES

Coal & Wood Stoves, Multi-Fuel Systems
For Hot Air/Hot Water/Steam
Market Street
Lehman, Pa.
675-4232

STATE FARM INSURANCE

Don Olsen, Agent
Wyoming Free Library
Wyoming
287-4238

DALLAS AGWAY

36 Mill Street
Dallas
Lawn & Garden Power Equipment,
Pool Supplies
675-0660

NATIVE TEXTILES

Memorial Highway
Dallas
675-2123

DYMOND'S FARM MARKET & BAKERY

Shavertown
Produce Open 7 Days A Week
Weekdays 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Fri., Sat., Sun., 8 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.
HARD ICE CREAM
675-1696

MERCY MEDICAL OFFICES

Lake Street
Dallas
675-8599

DESIGNED SECURITY SYSTEMS

Leo Stanislaw
717-675-2899
Your Complete Security Needs
FIRE & BURGLAR ALARMS

JAMES C. THOMAS & SONS

Jim - Jon Tomatoes
Luzerne
288-3681

THE JEAN SHOP

Memorial Highway
Dallas
Daily 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Sun. 1 p.m.-6 p.m.
675-5069

BARGAIN BAKERY OUTLET

Memorial Highway
Dallas
675-8608
(Next To Towel Outlet)
Name Brands, Savings Up To 50%
Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., Sat. 9-6
Fri. 9-8 CLOSED SUNDAY

CHUCK ROBBINS SPORTING GOODS CO.

39 W. Market St.
Wilkes-Barre
822-1333

TAFT'S MARKET

Old Sandy Bottom
Harveys Lake
639-5216

STUCCIO'S PIZZA

Cor. Church & Market
Nanticoke
Featuring Our Famous Pizza & Homemade Stromboli
We Deliver 7 Days A Week
735-5150

Good Luck & Stay Healthy VERA & GIL TOUGH

SCHMID'S AMOCO

155 N. Memorial Highway
Shavertown
675-2209
24 Hour Towing

BALUT'S FURS

Hotel Sterling
Wilkes-Barre
822-1454
If You Don't Know Furs, Know Your Furrier.

Congratulations From VIDEO WORLD

200 Wyoming Ave.
Kingston
288-7597