



Sports



Mountaineers come alive

The magic of the Dallas basketball team

By DAVID KONOPKI
Special to The Dallas Post

Four years ago the Dallas High School basketball program was having its share of problems and there was little doubt that the program had hit rock bottom.

With the firing and subsequent rehiring of then head coach Clint Brobst, the famous "Jobson Saga", and the general lack of student interest in the program, it looked as though it would be some time before Dallas basketball could get the sour taste out of its mouth.

But the 1982-83 basketball season brought with it a rebirth of enthusiasm in Dallas.

New life in the form of Clarence Ozgo.

Ozgo, now in his third year of coaching at Dallas, has turned the program around, guiding the Mountaineers to their first-ever District Championship last year. But Ozgo is quick to point out that he has only played a small role in Dallas' success on the hardwoods.

"It's definitely the kids," said Ozgo, when asked for the reason of the turn-around. "In the three years that I have been here, we've had kids that are willing to make a commitment. That's all we ask of the kids. We wanted to get them to work hard and they responded well. The kids have turned this program around."

The student interest is back. The days when Dallas dresses five or six players for a junior varsity game are over. This year's team boasts 11 players on the junior varsity and no less than 12 players suit up for varsity action.

"I have to give credit to our Junior High people," said Ozgo.

"Bob Cicon and Bob Mitkus do a fine job of keeping a number of people involved down there. We've been fortunate, at least since I've been here, to have enough people who want to play basketball. We also get help from the community in running a DBO (Dallas Basketball Organization) league for elementary students on Wednesday nights."

It's funny sometimes how somebody else's loss could turn out to be another's gain. Such was the case in the hiring of Ozgo. Just how did the "Ozgo-Dallas" courtship ever begin?

Why would Ozgo, of Plains, and a school teacher at Meyers, want to coach at Dallas in the first place.

"Oh, that's an easy answer," explained Ozgo. "I think they were the only team that would hire me."

It's hard to follow-up on a championship season, but this year's team has been holding its own, thus far, in the Wyoming Valley Conference as the Mountaineers finished in a tie for second place in the first half.

But their two losses in the first half could turn out to be "blessings in disguise" as they lost both games in overtime to two powerful GAR and Northwest teams.

The losses, however, gave the Mountaineers first hand experience in pressure situations and that will come in handy when, and if, they should gain a berth in this year's playoffs.

The backcourt is the Mountaineers' strong point as this year's quintet features two of the premier guards in the Wyoming Valley in seniors Steve Wilson and Mark "Pearl" Washington has nothing on me" Farrell.

Farrell is one of the top scorers in the conference averaging 16 points



Dallas Post/Ed Campbell

Plenty to cheer about

Cheerleaders and fans of the Dallas High School basketball team have plenty to cheer about these days as the Mountaineers continue to make a name for themselves on the hardwoods in the Wyoming Valley Conference. Head Coach Clarence Ozgo, shown here seated on the bench in the extreme right of the photo, is the main character of the "rags to riches" story of the Dallas cagers.

per contest. He is also the third top rebounder on the squad, hauling in four rebounds per game. On the other side of the court is

Wilson, better known around the Dallas circles as Mr. Goodwrench. Mr. Goodwrench? Nothing could be more appropri-

ate because this season Wilson has been good in the clutch. Wilson (11 points per game) has made the tying and winning baskets

with less than five seconds remaining in the game against Northwest and Crestwood respectively.

Going inside the Mounts feature 6'6" senior center Joe Darling (30 blocked shots per game - 237 intimidations) who has proven that his 165-pound frame can mix it up with the bigger centers in the league. Darling is also, top rebounder on the team averages eight points per game for rebounds and also tosses in an average of 10 points per game.

The Mounts have a set of "Tims" at the forward positions in juniors Tim Lyons (seven points per game and five rebounds) and Tim Moyer (six points per game and 6 rebounds.)

Let's not forget Dallas' answer to the Philadelphia 76'ers Bobby Jones, senior Tim Cotter.

The 6'5" sixth man is averaging seven points per game while seeing very limited playing time.

Gone this season are the Dave Thomas', the Ed Goreys', and the Greg Manuskys' of last year's team.

But with the way things are going for the Dallas basketball program these days, you can bet that the days when the rest of the Wyoming Valley laughed at Dallas basketball are over.

So what was all the laughing going on at the high school back in November?

Well in November, while the Mounts were preparing for the upcoming season, President Ronald Reagan was asking America if they were better off today than when they were four years ago.

The noise you heard was just Ozgo and the rest of the Dallas Basketball Program enjoying a good laugh.



Dallas Post/Joan Kingsbury

Contest held

The Lake Silkworth Knights of Columbus recently sponsored their annual basketball free throw competition for girls and boys ages 9 through 14. An annual event, the free throw encourages competition and involvement during the winter months and provides opportunity for further competition to winners in their categories. Youth chairman Ed Patla organized the event for the second year. He awarded plaques to the following Angela Patla, Rebecca Stark, Lynn Gabel, Pauline Patla, Robert Jones, Andrew Sorber, Rob Wilson and Andrew Sabalusk.

Mountaineers get three wins

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Correspondent

Dallas Mountaineers added three wins to their record last week by downing Wyoming Seminary 57-40, Tuesday defeating Lake-Lehman 79-55 Thursday and taking a 56-48 win from Hanover Area, Saturday night.

FARRELL LEADS

In Saturday's game against the Hawkeyes, Mark Farrell led the Mountaineers with 25 points for the second consecutive time during the week. Combined with Steve Wilson's 14, the Mountaineers moved into a second place tie with Northwest, who were upset on Saturday by Crestwood.

Dallas was in front 26-23 at half-time and outscored Hanover 11-9 in the third period. Hanover rallied trying to close the lead but Farrell took over control of the board to keep Dallas in the lead and give them the 56-48 win.

"Farrell came off a poor scoring game the week previous," said Dallas Coach Clarence Ozgo. "But during the past week he gave us a lot of points averaging about 24 points per game. Wilson also gave us points hitting in the double figures each game."

"We've also been getting some great inside play from Joe Darling and Tim Moyer and Tim Lyons have started giving us points. We have some tough games ahead and we have to have a solid game out of everybody," Ozgo continued.

Ozgo said his team can't look any farther ahead than Tuesday's game with Crestwood, who played them tough the first half.

BEARDE CONTAINED

In Thursday's game with Lake-Lehman on the Mountaineers court, the Knights high scorer Bill Bearde was held to only nine points following the ace scorer's 43 points earlier in the week against Crestwood.

Farrell hit 25 points and Wilson added 18 for the Mountaineers to lead them to the 79-55 win. Dallas

outscored Lake-Lehman 19-9 in the first period and 18-6 in the second period to take a 37-15 lead at the half. In the third period the Mountaineers outscored the Knights 23-19 but in the final period the Knights turned the scoring around 21-19.

The key in the Dallas win was holding down Bearde's scoring and closing out Earl Weidner, who hit only three shots from the playing field. Ozgo emptied his bench with 11 of the 12 players hitting the scoring column. Darling, Moyer and Long scored six points each, Lyons scored seven, Cotter four and the other players scored from one to three points.

T. Willy Cadwalader led the Knights with 10 points and Boyle joined Bearde with nine.

LEHMAN FALLS

Lake-Lehman's record fell to 2-4 for the second half, Saturday, when they were edged 55-51 by Seton Catholic. The Knights were leading until the fourth period when Seton's Joe Lavelle tossed in eight of his total points to pace the Eagles to their four point win. Lavelle had a total of 12 points for the Eagles whose top scorer was Ed Farrell with 15 points.

Bill Bearde was high scorer for Lake-Lehman with 19 points and T. Willy Cadwalader hit for 12 points.

The Knights were unable to overcome the Mountaineers throughout the entire game, Thursday night, as they were overpowered 79-55 at the Dallas gym.

SEASON-HIGH

Bill Bearde hit a season high Tuesday night at Crestwood when he scored 43 points for the Knights but Lake-Lehman still went down 77-66 to the Comets, whose Rich Loomis scored 25 points to hit 1,000 career points. Bearde hit 16 shots from the field and dumped in 11-for-17 from the foul line.

The Lake-Lehman senior scored two points in the first period and eight points in the second then tossed in 11 in the third period and 22 points in the final period in chalking up his total. He scored 33 of the Knights total of 47 points in the second half. He also accounted for 16 of the Knights 23 goals from the field and 11 of their 20-for-28 shots from the charity stripe.

Cadwalader added eight points for the Knights, Weidner five, Janiczek and Andes each four and James two.

The Knights are scheduled to play Meyers at home, Tuesday, and Northwest, away, Friday.

Rod Club sets Shoot

The Nuangola Rod and Gun Club announces that its annual Ham Shoot will be held on Sunday, March 24. This shoot will start at noon on the club grounds in Nuangola.

Trap shooting events will be held and prizes will be awarded. Food and refreshments and shot gun shells will be available.

An Open Shoot will also be held on Sunday, Feb. 17. The public is invited to attend.

Subscribe To The Post

THE DALLAS POST

ADVERTISING DEADLINE
MONDAY 11 a.m.

Call 675-5211

or mail to:

The Dallas Post
P.O. Box 366
61 Gerald Avenue
Dallas, Pa. 18612

WEEK IN SPORTS

DALLAS SCHOOL DISTRICT BOYS BASKETBALL

Friday, Feb. 15 West Side Tech (Junior varsity game begins at 6:30 p.m., with varsity game scheduled to begin at 8 p.m.)

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Friday, Feb. 15 at West Side Tech (Varsity game is scheduled to begin at 4 p.m., with the junior varsity game immediately following)

WRESTLING

Wednesday, Feb. 13 Coughlin Saturday, Feb. 16 Pittston Area (Junior varsity meets begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by varsity meets at 7:30 p.m.)

LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT BOYS BASKETBALL

Friday, Feb. 15 at Northwest (Junior varsity game begins at 6:30 p.m., followed by varsity game at 8 p.m.)

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Friday, Feb. 15 Northwest (Varsity game begins at 4 p.m., with junior varsity game immediately following)

WRESTLING

Wednesday, Feb. 13 Hanover Area Saturday, Feb. 16 Wyoming Valley West (Junior varsity meets begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by varsity meets at 7:30 p.m.)



HI THERE!
Are you informed of all the local news and upcoming events of your community?

IF NOT—
"WE'VE GOT NEWS FOR YOU." All you need to do is subscribe to THE DALLAS POST.

WE'RE HERE TO SERVE YOU!
SUBSCRIBE NOW AND QUALIFY FOR A \$2 DISCOUNT.

Just Fill Out The Coupon and Mail It With Your Check or Money Order To:

The Dallas Post
P.O. Box 366
Dallas, Pa. 18612

\$10 1 year
\$19 2 years
\$28 3 years
\$12 1 year out of state

Or Call Jean 675-5211 For Assistance

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE ZIP