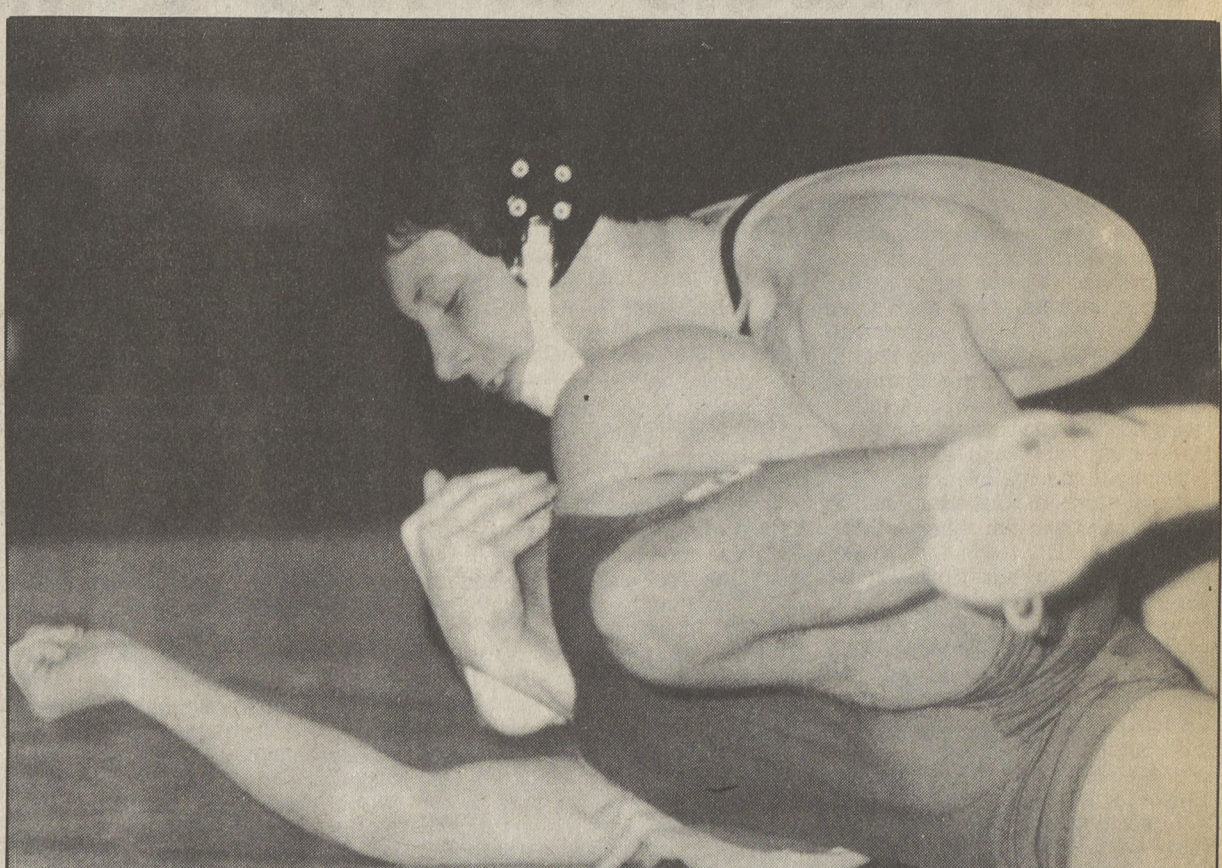
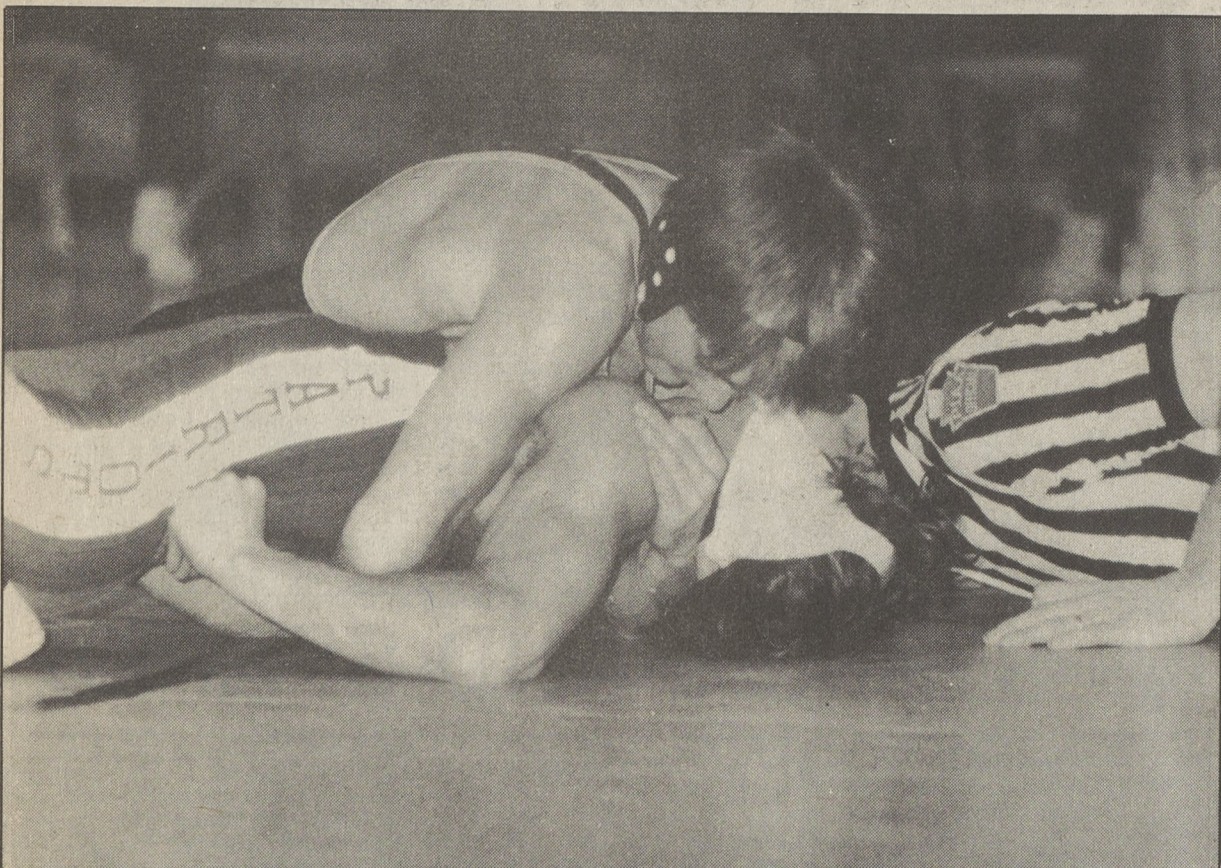


Sports

Lehman wrestlers continue to roll



Look again

No, this is not a course in CPR, but rather Lake-Lehman's Jeff Austin battling opponent Steve Reggie of Pittston Area. Action was the 105-pound weight class of a meet between the two last week.

Dallas Post/Ed Campbell

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Norm gets pin

Norman Clancy of the Lake-Lehman wrestling team got his man last week when he pinned Pittston Area's Pat Tracy in the 145 pound weight class of a meet between the two Wyoming Valley Conference contenders.

Knights dominate Pittston Area

By JOHN RODGERS
Staff Correspondent

Lake-Lehman stayed in the hunt for the Wyoming Valley wrestling championship, boosting their record to 10-1, with a 55-4 thumping over Pittston Area.

The Black Knights' only loss of the event came at 145-lb. class where Pat Tracy of Pittston super decided Mark Yaple, 17-3.

The Knights recorded five pins on the night with Dave Guzinski 112-lb. in 2:55, Norm Clancy 138-lb. in

3:13, Don Spencer 155-lb. in 1:59, Ed Stratford at 185 lb. in 1:05, and Star heavyweight Chris Van Gorder in 3:44.

Lake-Lehman also recorded three super decisions by Jeff Austin (105-lb.) 15-1 over Steve Reggie, Bob Guzinski (132-lb.) over Ed Straub 22-1.

The Black Knights next face Hanover at home tonight in a crucial W.V.C. meet.

Dallas who drew a bye last week will resume action again tonight when they face a tough Coughlin squad at home.

With John Rodgers

Defending the Patts suspension

By JOHN RODGERS
Sports Correspondent

The two-week suspension of Dallas wrestler Jim Patts drew its pros and cons, but should be seen as a fine decision and a notice.

Dr. Thomas Cypher, principal at Dallas High School, levied the suspension and with due cause and reason.

An incident took place during the Dallas/Lake-Lehman wrestling match where Patts threw a punch at Lehman wrestler Ed Stratford.

Patts states that Stratford threw the first punch and he later retaliated. Patts' father, Frank, however, claims his son received harassing phone calls and letters. I will not deny Mr. Patts' statements, however, the referee made the call and his decision (an unbiased one) stands.

Wrestling, or any other sport, is a representation of the school. It is the principal's duty to govern this reputation in which case Dr. Cypher handled the matter accordingly.

"This (decision) isn't directed at any one person," Dr. Cypher said. "We will take action whenever we have to, whether it involves students in sports or not."

On the sports level, this decision will definitely affect the Mountaineers' wrestling team. Jim Patts is

a fine wrestler and is looked up to by his teammates. This will give him time to think about the sport and realize its true value.

According to Dallas wrestling coach Larry Schuler, "Jim is a fine young man. His temper might be a bit quicker than most, but that doesn't mean no one else wouldn't react the same. He will gain something from."

And, maybe more so than someone else.

"I was going to keep him out of the lineup anyway," Schuler said. "That's not the way I expect our players to represent Dallas." Schuler forfeited the last match in the Lehman-Dallas meet to keep the situation somewhat orderly.

Another incident took place when, after the punch was thrown, Coach Ed Ladamus of Lake-Lehman held Patts in an effort to restrain the incident.

Many of those in attendance deemed this action of Ladamus' part unnecessary.

This is ridiculous. The incident took place right in front of Coach Ladamus. He reacted in the best interest of the sport and those involved.

"He (Ladamus) had the perfect right to restrain and did it in a

professional way," remarked Coach Schuler.

Some people feel it is a coach's job to build character. This is true, but only to a point. The coach's main responsibility is to teach, to teach the sport in which one is participating.

The job of character-building lies mainly on the parents, and then on the school. This is not to say the parents of Jim Patts aren't doing their job. Mr. and Mrs. Patts have two fine young men on the Dallas team (Jim's brother, Joe, is also a wrestler) but now there is a lesson to be learned, not just by Jim, but by all other athletes.

The decision of Dr. Cypher (with input from Coach Schuler and athletic director Jerry Stinson) has set precedent and is a valuable start.

On the flip side, Ed Stratford, Lehman coaches and Lehman administrators should also take a close look at this matter. Not to place the blame on anyone, but they were also a part of this incident and, if the accusations of harassing phone calls and letters have any substance, those responsible for such actions have their conscience to deal with - plus the fact that Jim Patts' individual wrestling record is now open for criticism.



Dallas Post/Ed Campbell

Wrestling winners

Shown here are members of the Back Mountain Wrestling Club who were recently awarded trophies for their performances in tournaments. From left, first row, Bob Farber, Rick Finnegan, Eric Williams, Scott Benza, Charlie Roper. Second row, Ray Rosencrans, Francis Hoover, Jason Prokopchak, Charlie Gordon, Mike Geurin, and Jason Naugle.

Kiwanis plans wrestling tournament

The Wilkes-Barre Kiwanis Club will sponsor the 18th Annual Frank Walp Junior High School Wrestling Tournament on Saturday, March 9 at the Wilkes College Gym, South Franklin St., Wilkes-Barre.

The tournament is open to all junior high school students in both private and public schools in grades 7, 8 and 9 except for those 9th grade students who have wrestled on a senior varsity team.

Weight classes are 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 100, 105, 110, 115, 120, 125, 130, 138, 145, 154, 165, 180 lbs. and heavyweight classification.

The Walp Memorial Wrestling Tournament was originally established in 1966 by the YMCA with the

intent of providing a competitive athletic event for young wrestlers. It honors Frank Walp who made a career of youth service as an educator and supporter of amateur wrestling.

The tournament has attracted thousands of wrestlers from junior

high schools in the middle Atlantic region. Any interested junior high school wrestler can obtain an entry form by contacting: Mr. Bernard Hargadon, YMCA Wilkes-Barre, 40 West Northampton Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18701 or by calling 823-2191.

Club lists weekend winners

Members of the Back Mountain Wrestling Club travelled to Hegins Tri-Valley Tournament this past weekend.

Those placing include Bobby Farber, first place, bantam division, 65 pounds; Michael Guerin,

first place, junior division, 80 pounds; Jason Prokopchak, second place, junior division, 85 pounds; Roy Rosencrans, first place, junior division, 105 pounds; and Charlie Gordon, third place, junior division, 115 pounds.

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