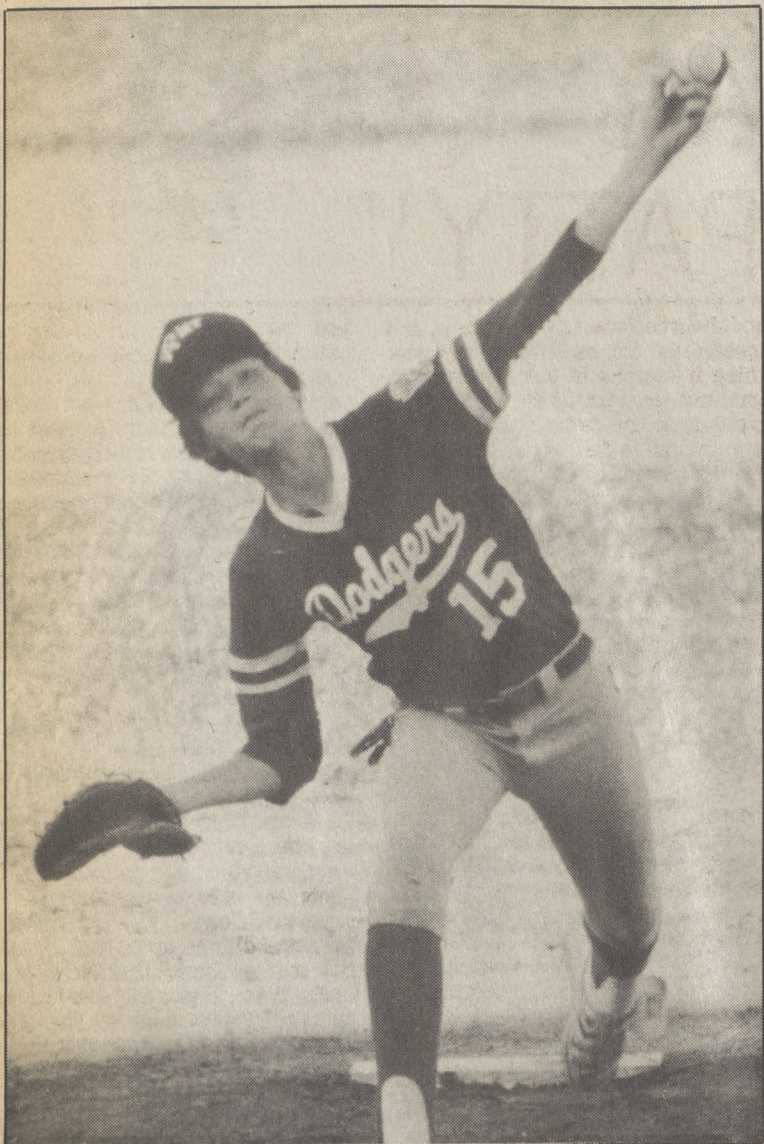
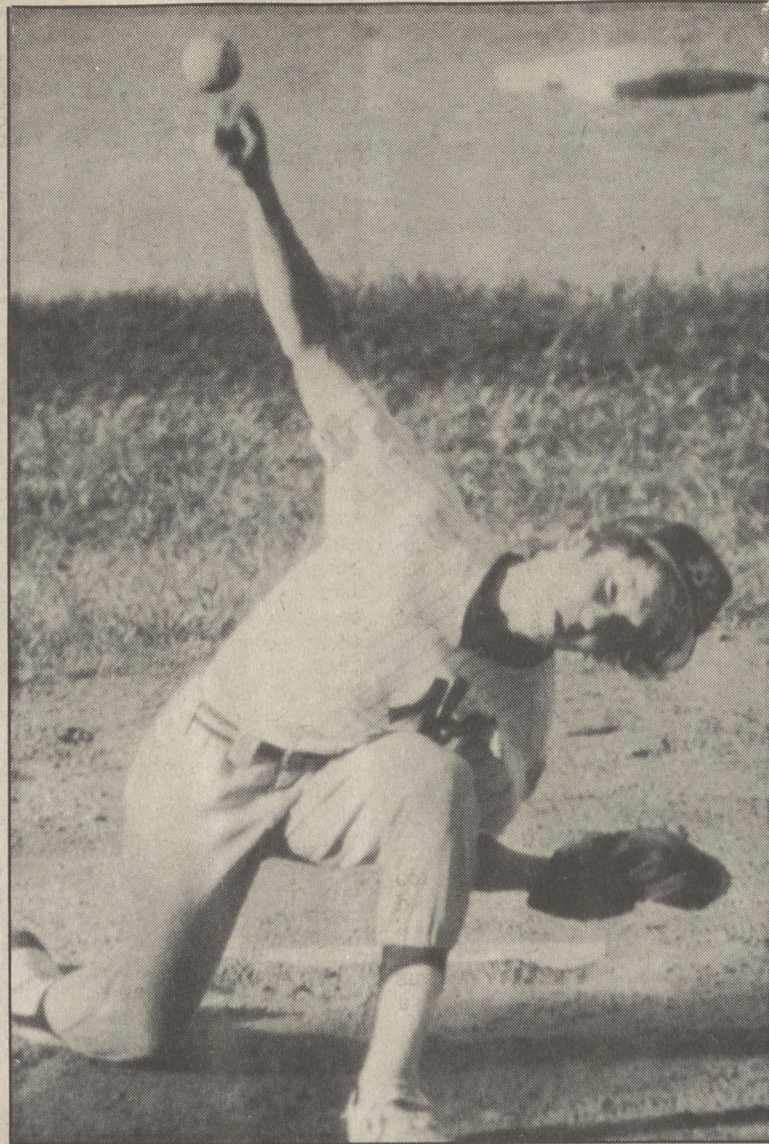


# Sports



Dallas Post/Ed Campbell



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## Opposing pitchers

Brett Gauntlett shows us one of the reasons why his Dodgers team finished on top of a 2-0 score in a game against the Yankees in Major League competition in the Back Mountain

Little League last week. Brett, shown here in the left photo, went against Yankees pitcher Ray Russin, depicted in the photo at right. The Dodgers, who had only lost one game to the Yankees before last week's meeting, managed to move into a tie for first place with the Yankees with the 2-0 victory.

## Gorgone is thrilled to return

By CHARLOT M. DENMON  
Staff Correspondent

An hour or so spent with the Gorgone family of Shavertown and it's easy to understand why Rich Gorgone is so well-respected in coaching circles. There is a special camaraderie among Rich, his wife, Drena, and their four children, one seldom finds today.

The love, respect and admiration are obvious but, above all, is the warm sense of humor and the consideration one has for the other. Topping all this, presently, is the excitement over Gorgone being named head coach of the Lake-Lehman varsity football team.

There was little doubt among most people in the Back Mountain that Gorgone was the right candidate for the position but his appointment needed board approval — approval he received unanimously last Tuesday night at the District's board meeting.

"I was delighted when I heard that the directors approved my appointment by a 9-0 vote," said Gorgone. "I was ready to come back to high school coaching and I wanted to coach were I taught."

Gorgone was head coach at Lake-Lehman for five years, resigning seven years ago because of personal problems, and he decided perhaps he had better do some other things.

Gorgone did just that. He took some time off and spent a year just teaching and spending time with his family. Then he went to Coughlin as an assistant coach under J.P. Meek, head coach at the time. Then he had an opportunity to coach under Coach Bill Unsworth at Wilkes College where he stayed for four years.

"That was a great learning experience," said Gorgone. "Unsworth made me defensive coach and every Saturday I matched wits with some excellent coaches. They are four memorable years, years I will never forget. They gave me an entire new perspective on coaching. My experience at Wilkes will help me get some of our Lake-Lehman athletes into college."

Rich Gorgone wanted to coach where he taught and now he will be doing just that. He missed being a part of the program at Lake-Lehman and is excited about resuming the coaching position. He was quick to tell this writer that he loves the Back Mountain, owns his home here and intends to stay here.

"I love to see the Back Mountain kids win. When Lake-Lehman plays Dallas, I want Lake-Lehman to win, of course, but all the other times I want both Back Mountain schools to win. And imagine my position now. I have a daughter, who is a varsity cheerleader at Dallas and believe me, she is an ardent Dallas fan. I also have three younger children in the Dallas schools. Imagine my position," Gorgone said jokingly.

He speaks highly of both high school principal Jay Zaleskas and junior high school John Oliver. He has the utmost admiration for both



Dallas Post/Charlot M. Denmon

## Coach and his family

Rich Gorgone, newly-appointed football coach at Lake-Lehman High School, spends some time discussing his plans with his family. Left to right, are daughters Meg and Sara-Beth; wife, Drena; Rich; daughter Toni and son Sam.

of them.

He has surrounded himself with excellent assistants, Bob Roberts, who was with Gorgone at Wilkes and a former assistant coach at Lake-Lehman; Bob Langan, assistant coach at Valley West last year; Mark Boyle and Jeff Smith, both graduates of Lake-Lehman before going on to college. Gorgone said he needs one more assistant and knows the one he wants but prefers not to release his name until he is successful in getting that individual.

He is also pleased that the Knights have Jeff Pace, full-time therapist since injuries and safety are two important factors in football. Gorgone said that having a trainer and therapist frees the coach to teach the athletes the basics.

Basics is the program Gorgone plans to emphasize—basic fundamentals such as blocking, kicking and passing. With losing a number of students through graduation, he has only seven seniors and four juniors returning. This means that he and his assistants will have to do some recruiting among the kids who are athletes but haven't been out for football.

Gorgone also plans to re-establish the junior high program. He realizes this will cut numbers from the squad for this year but it will mean more experience and more numbers in future years. He also hopes to have a year-round weight-lifting and physical fitness program for all athletes approved by the board.

During the five years Gorgone coached at Lake-Lehman, he fielded competitive, well-disciplined athletes. He was successful in recruiting 45-50 athletes and produced teams, who gave their opponents strong competition.

With the experience he has gained during the past five years at Coughlin and Wilkes College, there is little doubt Wyoming Valley Conference teams will be hearing from the Black Knights in the future. Just give Gorgone and his assistants time.

## BACK MOUNTAIN BASEBALL WIND-UP

The Dodgers downed the Yankees 2-0 in the battle for top honors and then clinched the pennant when the Pirates beat the Yankees 3-1 and they shut out the Tigers. The big game saw Brett Gauntlett mow down 10 Yankee batters allowing four hits to raise his season record to 9-1. Neil Keiser and Jeff Bankovich knocked in a run apiece in the first inning for all the scoring the Dodgers would need. Pete Kerdesky, Ray Russin and Jamie Janosky came up with hits for the Yankees. Defensive plays by Mike Schrlau and Billy Sarley ended any comeback hopes for the losers.

The Dodgers went to Hugo Seleniski for their final game of the season coming away with an 8-0 victory and the title in hand. Seleniski, Neil Keiser and Bankovich uncorked two hits each for the winners while Shane Williams, Jay Van Orden and Pat Morris each collected hits for the Tigers.

The Indians downed the Phillies 16-2 when Steve Oliver ripped two doubles and a triple and Sam Gorgone hammered a single, double and a triple. Other Indian key hits came off the bats of John Gossart, Mike Tomaine and Emery Yurko with two hits each. Lenny Kelley banged out two doubles for the Phillies.

The Orioles squeaked past the Indians 5-4 when Jeff Masley laced a hit in the fifth, bringing home the winning run of the game and then made an outstanding play for an out in the sixth to seal the Oriole victory. Big bats for the winning O's were Scott Bearley and Larry Dymond with two hits apiece to aide Jeff Dover in winning his sixth game of the year on the mound. Indian hitters were Emery Yurko, Brian Byrd and Bobby Luke.

The Phillies blasted the Tigers 14-5 with Joe Kelley on the hill recording 9k's allowing only two hits in the contest. Matt Buss drove in 3 runs with Joe Kelley bringing home two with a two for three day at the plate. Other hits came from Jon Pomrinke, Fred Rosencrans, Scott Kern, Chris Orloski, Lenny Kelley, Bob Casterline, Brendon McGovern, Dave Wojochewski and Sumner Bachman. Shane Williams picked up the only two hits for the Tigers.

**MAJORS**  
L.A.D. Dodgers 17-1  
Mahaffey Oil Yankees 16-2  
Rita Busch Salon Pirates 13-5  
R.N. Fitch & Sons Orioles 8-10  
Drydene Oil Co. Astros 7-10  
Arthur Shelley Inc. Reds 7-10

(See BALL, page 11)

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